

What would today's Christians gain from studying Old Testament books like Leviticus? After all, the ceremonial law was never intended for use after Christ fulfilled His mission on Earth. And since animal sacrifices, sanctuary rituals, and "unclean" food no longer apply to Believers today, why bother reading about such archaic practices?

Think of it this way. The God of the universe planned to send His only Son to rescue sinners like you and me. How might He prepare His people for such a monumental sacrifice? How might the Lord teach His people about His holiness, man's sinfulness, and our need for atonement in order to be reconciled to our Creator?

Imagine that you wrote seven letters to your beloved while you were engaged, and then wrote five more letters during your first

#### REMEMBER:

Israel's 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) begins at sunset on Wednesday, May 1 and ends at sunset on Thursday, May 2 (see p. 30) Why Young Evangelicals Sour on Israel

By Brandon Showalter ChristianPost.com

Survey data from LifeWay (December 2017) revealed that 77% of Evangelicals ages 65 and older said they support the existence, security, and prosperity of Israel, whereas only 58% of Evangelicals ages 18 to 34 said the same. "For the most part, younger Evangelicals are indifferent about Israel," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

The shift is not just political but theological, as younger Christians don't see a Biblical connection between the land of Israel and the modern nation-state, in addition to the ongoing role of the Jewish people in salvation history.

(continued p.3)

### Who Needs Leviticus? continued from cover

10 years of marriage. Would the first seven letters still have meaning for your relationship today? Would cherishing those early letters for the sake of remembering all that took place as the two of you were falling in love have value? Or would you consider only the last five letters important?

What if God sent 39 love letters to His people prior to His Son's walking down the aisle to the altar of the cross? In other words, what if the Church (the bride of Christ) received 39 love letters during the courtship phase, and 27 letters after the marriage was sealed? Would you discard the older letters written prior to the union of Christ and His bride? (The marriage, of course, is still a future event.)



Say that studying Leviticus and all of the Old Testament gave you a much deeper appreciation for God's love, holiness, mercy, faithfulness, and eternal plan of salvation for His people. Then what? Would it change the way you view all of God's love letters in the Bible? Would it lead you to hold on to those early letters and refer to them often as a reminder of everything that God has done for His people?

Truth be told, the Book of Leviticus has much to say about God's nature, man's nature, and the critical need for atonement between God and man. So before you decide to do away with those early letters from the Lord, stop and ask yourself why God delivered them in the first place. Unless you are



John Sees the New Jerusalem, by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld Hathi Digital Trust Library online version of a Getty Library copy

basking in the grace that God demonstrated in the sacrifice of His only Son, you may lack the motivation to continually read all of God's love letters to His people.

It boils down to a loving relationship between a husband and wife, and between Christ and His bride, the Church. Perhaps you would like to fall in love with God all over again—or maybe for the first time. Perhaps you would like to get to know the Lord better. If so, you can fill your heart, soul, and

mind with the content of those 66 love letters. And as you delight in the Word of God, be assured that your Redeemer paid the ultimate price in order to be with you forever.

When we think of Leviticus, we think of ancient Jewish *law*. God gave us 613 laws. Pomegranates (<u>January 2019 Levitt Letter</u>, p. 6) have about 613 *seeds* and are one of the seven species promised to be in the Holy Land. God is very symbolic; there are few "coincidences." — Kirsten





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Millennial Evangelicals are also more concerned with social justice than their parents, hearing the storyline pushed in much of the mainstream and social media that Israel is the bad guy and that Palestinians are helpless victims of an evil Israeli state.

Gerald McDermott, Anglican Chair of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama, recounted recently that during a sabbatical to the Holy Land several years ago, he interviewed both Jews and Arabs about day-to-day life in Israel.

"Whenever I talked to Arab Christians, each one pulled me aside, around a corner where we couldn't be overheard. And the first thing they'd say was 'Don't use my name.' Then they would whisper confidentially: 'Don't believe what you read

in the media, that our enemy is the Israeli government. It is not. We wish the Israeli government would do more to protect us from our real enemy, which is our Muslim cousins. They are out to destroy us."



McDermott heard a version of that same story all over Israel, but they were afraid to say so publicly, fearing repercussions for them and their families.

Witnessing many Palestinians' affinity for Israel is one among many reasons you might bring or send your younger family members to Israel. Let them see firsthand the correlation between their faith and our Jewish Messiah! — David

# Born Again, Again



BY ZOLA LEVITT / Classic Zola from 1991—28 years ago



Thank you most sincerely for your prayers about my health. Many of you know that I had bypass surgery in 1982 (to the tune of six bypasses) to cope with serious and advanced coronary artery disease. Since then, I have asked for prayer from time to time and had times when I thought I was about to meet the Lord face to face. During one of those moments, I composed "Father, I'm Coming Home" (on the *Messiah* album). Two people I knew personally died within nine years of their bypass operations. I recently learned of another, much younger than I, who went to be with the Lord in this way. Naturally, this gave me some pause.

#### ZOLA'S MEDICAL TIMELINE:

**1982:** Zola has 1st bypass surgery

**1991:** PET scan and 13-day program

2005: Zola has 2<sup>nd</sup> bypass surgery

2006: Zola succumbs to lung cancer



I know now that many of you did pray for me, and that the fervent prayers of righteous men avail much indeed (James 5:16). I'm currently in very good condition. I recently underwent a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan of my heart and the results were nothing short of amazing. My doctor was as surprised as I was to see my heart with clear arteries and bypasses this long after the operation. The minor arterial blockage that we did see was typical—or even less than expected—for any man of my age. The results gave me quite a lift and a new lease on life. I feel like I've been "born again, again."

It all started when I had a total physical workup. My stress test came out suspiciously good for a man we all supposed was deteriorating or heading for another bypass operation. My doctor requested the PET scan and enrolled me in his remarkable thirteen-day in-residence program. That involved residence at the Center with long days of nutritious, low-calorie meals, repeated exercise sessions, and lectures on nutrition, various lifestyle diseases, learning to relax, and the art of buying running shoes and other exercise gear. It was a most thorough re-education on how to live properly — physically, mentally, and emotionally — and it was among my most spiritual experiences that concerned taking care of this "temple of God." Our bodies, after all, are





not our own: "For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:20). These bodies made by God were given to us for transporting our spirits around in this earthly realm during this temporal age, and we should return them in reasonable condition. Job, after all, anticipated that "in my flesh will I see God" (Job 19:26) and we must assume that he took reasonable care of that flesh.

The PET scan occurred during my residence at the Center, so I was two different people during those strenuous 13 days. Before the test, I had reason to believe that I could drop dead from too much exertion, so I tried to beg off the more strenuous conditioning and fitness sessions and to skip the occasional lecture for a nap. After the test, needless to say, I was the first to show up every time. I lost five pounds during the program and achieved virtual miracles with my blood chemistry. My cholesterol fell from 247 to 219 and the HDL/total cholesterol ratio dropped from 9.1 to 6.6. For those familiar with these figures, that's an amazing recovery in such a short time. Dedicated exercisers and nutritionists count on results like those over a period of *months*, not days.

Prayers about my heart are no longer necessary, since they apparently had the desired effect. And I really do want to emphasize how they worked: It's very unusual for a man in my stressful circumstances — traveling constantly, operating a large international ministry on a shoestring, and having the gravest coronary artery disease — to have such a good report. The three major arteries were so clogged in 1982 that they had to be bypassed six(!) times with grafts from a vein in my leg, a tedious, delicate and debilitating surgery from which it took months to recover, followed by a number of years to become fully active again. Well, those arteries (along with their bypasses) ought to be filled up again by this time since that's the disease I have, and it was not actually cured. Nevertheless, my heart is clean and the blood flow is virtually normal — even exceptional — for my stage of life.

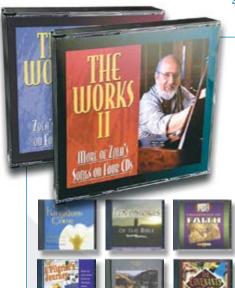
Zola's bypasses lasted until 2005 (23 years!), at which point he had a second bypass surgery before succumbing to lung cancer in 2006. The seeds of teaching that he sowed continue to yield bountiful harvests; his music











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Order on p. 19

### As the Deer

Kirsten Hart Studio co-host of Zola Levitt Presents



Every time we tour Israel, we uncover gems of insight. God's Word and Land are never stagnant. They're alive and brimming with wisdom and truth—we just have to "ready ourselves" to hear and experience them.

David and I grew up in the Church, heavily involved in its music. (Although we grew up on opposite coasts, Church music drew us together.) At camps, in youth groups, and on Sunday mornings, we sang "As the Deer." Martin J. Nystrom wrote the music in 1984; the *lyrics* (Psalm 42) were penned by the future King David thousands of years ago.

As I've sung the song over the years, I always imagined Bambi-like deer drinking from a stream in a lush forest glade. Until we visited Ein Gedi, David's countryside, I never realized that the deer he wrote about don't resemble Bambi... nor do they live in a lush forest.

Our Zola Tours Petra extension stops at Ein Gedi, the desert site where David hid from Saul in caves. *Ein Gedi* means "place of the spring goat," referring to a fresh water spring and not the season. The "deer" in David's psalm are mountain goats called ibex. (I think something was lost in translation down the line.)





top & bottom: photos of ibexes resting

#### **Living in the Desert**

Why do I write about the ibex at Ein Gedi? Because these "deer" were *not* in a rich forest. Ibex live in the desert. David

mentioned them because every day, as he hid from someone who was threatening to kill him, David saw ibex descend the surrounding cliffs and mountains to drink from the steady (miraculous) supply of fresh water in the middle of a dry, barren desert. In the cool of the mornings, ibex can be found even today drinking from the steady spring.

David watched these ibex and knew their eating and drinking patterns. Just as the thirsty ibex longed for their morning drink, so David's soul longed for God. David's soul was thirsty to be revived daily by his Creator.

If you go with us to Israel, you'll likely see ibex for yourself. They're really cute, and even like to climb trees! Catch a glimpse of what David's life was like as he hid in the Ein Gedi caves. Contrast the barrenness of that wilderness with a tropical oasis dense with vegetation and a constant stream of vital water tucked into the rough landscape.

#### **Thirst for Righteousness**

Even as these ibex long for their daily drink, may you continually thirst for truth, righteousness, and the presence of the Almighty. God remains faithful in providing for these ibex. If He meets their needs, know that He desires to take care of *your* needs. Even if on the outside your life looks barren and dry, the Lord's fountain is ready to quench your thirst. Enjoy that truth today.

# The Day | Wet an Ange | Sarah Liberman Sarah Liberman .com ZLP Contributor

On the Ground in Israel

Tiberias SEA OF Haita . TERRANEAN Nazareth . GALILEE Hadera OJERUSALEM Rethlehem . Gaza

Do you recall the Bible's stories in which people met angels but didn't realize it? Like Abraham, who didn't grasp that he had asked three angels to dine with him. I've often wondered what that would feel like: If I were to meet an angel, would I recognize him as such?

During a recent trip to Jerusalem, while driving in the fast lane, I suddenly heard a horrible sound coming from beneath my car. It was so rackety that I had to immediately pull off onto the narrow shoulder to my left. Stepping out of the car into the even narrower space between the car and the center divider, I found the left side of the car in perfect condition. To inspect the right side, however, I would have to step into oncoming, high-speed traffic.

Carefully, I managed to peek at the tires and found that the right rear was completely flat. The fast-moving traffic, coming at me around a bend, made it clear that changing that tire would risk an accident... or worse. Already late for an important meeting, I frantically considered my options. Just ahead of me, I could see that the shoulder slightly widened, so I slowly drove the car there. Stepping out next to the noisy traffic, I looked down and realized that I was wearing the most impractical pair of heels. There was no way to change the tire in those shoes, and to make matters worse, it started raining. I became desperate. Getting the red triangle out of the trunk, I shot a prayer upward: "Oh Lord, help me!"

I turned around, surprised to see a man standing directly behind me. He was dressed in an Israel Police special forces uniform. He told me to stand guard to make sure no car hit us, then he started changing the tire without another word. Within minutes, he had finished and began walking back to his car. I stood there, still stunned. Help had come instantly and so unexpectedly. I wanted to find a way to thank him. I suddenly thought of our CD sponsorship program, where we give Hebrew worship music to Israelis, so I ran after him and, thanking him, I gave him my CDs. I asked for his name, but he said it didn't matter and promptly vanished into the traffic.

Who he is I will never know, but he was my answer, sent from Heaven. I learned something that day: God has the help we need, for every situation, already lined up for us. All we need to do is ask. "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24).





## **Escaping Auschwitz to Warn the World**



BY JACKSON RICHMAN (r) TabletMag.com

Alfred Wetzler and his friend Rudolf Vrba, both from the Slovakian town of Trnava, risked their lives and escaped Auschwitz so they could warn other Jews and the world what was happening behind the gates of the Nazi extermination camp. Although they were not successful in their attempt to save Hungary's Jews from marching to their deaths at Auschwitz, Vrba and Wetzler did manage to save some Jews as well as compiling and publicizing the first record of the Nazis' systematic atrocities at the camp.



Alfred Wetzler (1918-1988)



Rudolf Vrba (1924-2006)

Vrba worked as a laborer in Trnava until March 1942,

when he was arrested; in June 1942, he was deported to the Maidanek concentration camp and later to Auschwitz. Alfred Wetzler was sent to Birkenau in April 1942. Later, he too was sent to Auschwitz.

Both Vrba and Wetzler held administrative jobs in Auschwitz, which allowed them access to many areas of the camp and finally to plan their escape. "There had been a number of escapes from Auschwitz and in every case, the escapee had been caught, sometimes within hours, sometimes within a few days," British historian Martin Gilbert said in a 2011 episode about



Vrba and Wetzler's escape in the PBS series Secrets of the Dead. As English historian David Cesarani added, "The consequences of failure were torture and public execution. Anyone connected with the escape would also be tortured and murdered."

In his book *I Escaped From Auschwitz*, Vrba wrote, "It was a simple plan and I literally stumbled across it by accident." When an escape occurred, the two men noticed, the Nazis would look for the escapee for three days, after which they would give up the search. If Vrba and Wetzler could survive the initial search period, they reasoned, their chances of survival would increase.

On April 7, 1944, Wetzler and Vrba hid in a woodpile's cavity in the camp's area of new construction for the Hungarian Jews. They covered themselves with gasoline-soaked Russian tobacco, hoping it would mask their scent from the SS dogs. After remaining immobile for three days, they sprinted for the woods. But even though they were outside the hellish place, they were still not safe. The Germans had expelled the Poles from all the towns in the Auschwitz region and replaced them with ethnic German *Volksdeutsch*.

"Outside, you were a marked person. You had a shaved head, you were filthy, you stank. Anyone seeing one of these figures knew exactly who they were and where they were from," Cesarani said. "The Nazis were searching with dogs; SS teams scoured the countryside. It was covered with police, German troops, military installations, and military convoys on the move. Very few friends."

Vrba and Wetzler were careful, but on the third day, they accidentally wandered into a town. They tried to find their way out by stumbling down alleyways and back streets. Exhausted, starving, and lost, they asked for help and were welcomed by a peasant woman who agreed to assist them. Another close mishap occurred when they were less than halfway to the Slovakian border,

running into a woman tending to her crops. Although suspicious, the woman introduced them to a sympathetic Polish farmer, who offered to drive them to the border and direct them where they could cross to avoid the Germans.

On April 25, 1944, 15 days after fleeing and after walking more than 85 miles through occupied Poland, Vrba and Wetzler finally arrived at the headquarters of the Jewish Council in Zilina, Slovakia. There, Vrba described to the Council the atrocities taking place at Auschwitz. The Council was horrified. At the time, there were rumors the conditions in these camps were ap-

The two men revealed detail after detail about the systematic murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews. But it began to dawn on them that the Council didn't believe a word they were saying. According to Gilbert, the people at the Jewish Council couldn't imagine something systematic where, out of 1,000 people, half of them would be taken off a train and gassed within a few hours.

palling. But few could imagine the Jews being exterminated en masse.

Vrba, who had a phenomenal memory, told the councilmen the names of the people with whom he had been imprisoned. "[Vrba] memorized every transport, every train that came in, how many people were on it, and how many of those people who were on it were immediately sent to the gas chamber," Gilbert explained. The Council asked them to recall all they could about what was transpiring at Auschwitz. Vrba warned them that Hungary's Jews would be next and that the camp was ready for their arrival.

The process of writing and translating the reports and sending them to places such as the Vatican, the Jewish community and American representatives in Switzerland, and the Red Cross took time. By the time the report had been compiled and translated, Germany had occupied Hungary and had begun preparing for mass deportations of its Jews.

However, the leader of the Jewish Council in Budapest did not release the Vrba-Wetzler report for fear it would derail a deal the Council was trying to make with the Nazis to buy Jewish lives in exchange for trucks loaded with supplies. A member of the Hungarian Jewish Council met personally with

(continued next page)

I Escaped

From

Auschwitz

Rudolf

shading the Text of the Austhr



Auschwitz II-Birkenau gate from inside the camp (2007)



Adolf Eichmann to make a deal, but the Allies wanted no part of it.

On May 15, 1944, over a month after the escape, Vrba learned that despite risking his life to tell the world what was happening at Auschwitz, despite his pages and pages of detailed accounts, the Hungarian deportations were underway. He believed he had failed.

Two days later, approximately 4,000 Hungarian Jews arrived at Auschwitz. The Nazis bypassed the selection process and almost all of them were led immediately to the gas chambers. "The extermination of 600,000 Hungarian Jews was the fastest campaign during the entire Holocaust," said George Klein, a junior secretary of the Jewish Council at the time.

Vrba and Wetzler were devastated. Fearful of being recaptured, they fled to the Slovakian mountains. Now in hiding, Vrba and Wetzler felt there was nothing more they could do to help the Jews of Hungary.

In June of 1944, the Nazi secret was finally exposed as a copy of the Vrba-Wetzler report was received by British Intelligence. The document was forwarded to top British and American officials. The BBC broadcast the horrific details of the report, and *The New York Times* published extracts.

On July 2, the U.S. Air Force attacked Budapest, raining bombs on the Hungarian capital. At the time, more than 300,000 Hungarian Jews had been sent to the gas chambers.

Vrba and Wetzler joined the Czechoslovak partisan resistance and fought the Nazis until the end of the war. By the time the Americans, British, and Russians advanced into Germany, the Nazis' reign of terror began to collapse. On January 27, 1945, the Russians liberated Auschwitz. By then, the Nazis had killed an estimated 1.5 million people there in a span of under five years.

After the War, Wetzler stayed in Slovakia and married a fellow survivor from Auschwitz. He became a journalist and newspaper editor. Vrba married his childhood sweetheart, Gerta Sidonova, and moved to Canada, where he became an associate professor of pharmacology at the University of British Columbia. Both men were heroes who used their ingenuity under terrible circumstances to expose a ghastly story to a world that was largely indifferent to their plight.



Hungarian Jews from the Tét ghetto arriving at Auschwitz II, May/June 1944



## **Rescuers** (continued from last month)

#### BY JONATHAN BLAUSTEIN (r) NYTimes.com

Our profiles of "Rescuers," non-Jewish Europeans who risked torture and death to save Jews during the Holocaust, continue. We hope that these stories documented by Malka Drucker, a children's book author, and Gay Block, a portrait photographer, will inspire others to stand strong in difficult times. (Our monthly series began in the November 2018 Levitt Letter, p. 10.)

#### Rescuers Johannes and Janke de Vries



Janke and Johannes (1939)

Coal miner Johannes de Vries and his wife, Janke (van der Veen), took two Jewish children—a brother and sister, Salomon and Eva Haringman— into their home in southern Holland in 1942. They raised them alongside their own two children, and were also short-term foster parents for other refugees as a part of an underground railroad. Johannes and Janke sheltered about 15 other Jewish children during the war.

Eventually, the Haringman children were reunited with their mother in Amsterdam after the war. Their mother died in 1947, and the children moved to Israel in 1949.

By the time Gay Block and Malka Drucker interviewed Mr. de Vries, he was living in Canada and going by the nickname Joe. Recalling Mrs. Haringman's original predicament, he said, "What it must have been like for that mother to give up her children to someone she didn't know!"

The 1988 interview with Johannes can be viewed at collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn506500.

When Zola Tours pilgrims visit Yad Vashem's area honoring the Righteous Among the Nations, we remember our indebtedness to these brave souls. Johannes and Janke are recognized there. —David



Johannes de Vries (b. 1911)

#### Ask the Chaplain

# **Israel In Prophecy**

**Dr. Todd Baker**Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian





What is God's prophetic plan for Israel?

A Biblical outlin

A Biblical outline is the best way to provide an overview:

#### Israel In Prophecy: A Brief Overview

The God of the Bible proves His existence through the supernatural characteristic of prophecy (Isaiah 42:8–9; 46:9–10). Israel's history as foretold in Scripture provides a conspicuous example, even up to the present day.

#### I. Israel's past foretold and fulfilled

- A. God chose the Jews to fulfill His plan of redemption for man. Through their founding father, Abraham, the Jews would become a great blessing to the world (Genesis 12:1–3).
- B. God chose Israel to produce and protect the Scriptures (Romans 3:2).
- C. God chose Israel to bring forth the Messiah (Genesis 22:18; John 4:22).
- D. God chose Israel to proclaim His message of redemption to the world (Exodus 4:22; Isaiah 43:11-12; Acts 1:8).

#### II. Israel's present condition foretold and being fulfilled today

- A. Because of their unbelief, God scattered the Jews from their land (Deuteronomy 28:62–66). This was fulfilled in A.D. 70 and continues today. Hosea 3:4–5 prophesied that the Jews would be in the Diaspora for a long period of time.
- B. The Jewish people will be partially and progressively regathered back to their land in unbelief right before Christ's return. This prophecy is being fulfilled in the modern State of Israel since May 1948 (Isaiah 11:11–12; Ezekiel 36–37).
- C. Most of Israel will remain in unbelief toward Yeshua as Messiah during the present age (Romans 9–11).
- D. Psalm 83 prophesied that once they returned to the Land, the

Jews would be surrounded by hostile nations who want nothing less than their land and destruction. Today the State of Israel is surrounded by twenty-two Arab/Muslim dictatorships (plus Persian Iran) that seek to destroy it.

#### III. Israel's future foretold that will be fulfilled

- A. Israel will enter into a seven-year ("one week") peace treaty with the antiChrist (Daniel 9:26–27). A precursor to this is seen in the failed peace plans—e.g. Oslo Accords (1993, 1995), Wye River Memorandum (1998), and the Road Map for Peace (2003 but never went into effect)—in which Israel was pressured to give away land and got nothing in return except more terrorism.
- B. Israel will build a third Temple in Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25–27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11:1–3). The Orthodox Jewish organization The Temple Institute is actively preparing for this eventuality.
- C. The Messiah will return to Israel and save the Jewish nation from the calamity of Armageddon. At that time, He will restore and redeem them in full to the Land. The Jewish people will corporately (as a nation) accept and recognize Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel (Zechariah 12:10; 14:3–21).



This lesson would make a wonderful Bible study for personal use or in small groups. Knowing the past, present, and future of Israel is vitally important for Believers. — Kirsten

#### **Shaliach**Report

# Losing for Israel's Gain

**To The Jew First** team member August Rosado and I landed in the glorious Land only to discover that my luggage was lost. I had only the clothes I was wearing on the flight.



As I fought the Enemy's urging to blow a gasket at the airline's Lost and Found attendant Nir, God gave me the victory by reminding me of a past experience: When a previous travel agency failed to make our team's hotel arrangements in Israel, it looked like we would be ministering out of the rental car for two weeks. I had been willing to accept this situation because, after all, the Apostles had it much worse. (In 1 Cor. 4:11, Paul wrote that he and Apollos "both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.")

Now God allowed this considerable inconvenience to me so that Nir could receive a witness for Yeshua being the Messiah. I told Nir that if losing my luggage meant giving him an opportunity to obtain a copy of the Scriptures, I praised God for it. Nir was blown away by my declaration! He stammered his amazement at our attitude and happily received the Complete Hebrew Scriptures (both Testaments) that we offered.

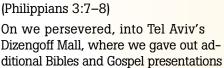
The airline provided me with shirts, toiletries, and undergarments to last two days, giving them time to locate and deliver my luggage.

If Nir heard about Yeshua the Messiah because of my personal loss, then so be it. I would lose everything to

#### To The Jew First

Dr. Todd Baker ZLM Staff Theologian TJF Team Leader

help Israel hear the Gospel and be saved, and count it my gain! (Philippians 3:7–8)



to even more open-hearted Israelis.

Witnessing the next day in Netanya and Nazareth produced a memorable encounter with **Shirel**. Amazingly, this young Israeli woman understood this logic: Both Testaments of the Hebrew Bible center on the Jewish Messiah and the clear Messianic prophecies offer the means to identify Him when He comes. If history proves that this Person is Jesus of Nazareth, then He should be accepted as the Messiah, the Son of the living God.



Praise the Lord, once Shirel's humble soul accepted this, the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) opened her heart to recognize that the central Person of Biblical revelation is Jesus of Nazareth. We gave her a pamphlet that explains this



Scriptural concept in Hebrew and English. She also agreed that since Yeshua is the greatest Jew of all, then every Jewish person needs to read the Jewish New Testament to discover the works and words of our marvelous Messiah. Now possessing a Complete Hebrew study Bible, Shirel will start this saving journey with the One who bids both Jew and gentile to come and follow Him.

If Todd ever becomes homeless with nothing but the clothes on his back, I will credit the airlines for toughening him... and Yeshua for giving him the resilience to testify to God's glory regardless of the circumstances. P.S. His luggage arrived shortly afterward. God works mysteriously indeed! —Mark

## A Numbers Whisperer?

A Note from Mark by **Mark Levitt** ZLM Director



My father Zola reminisced now and then about once spotting the actor-director Robert Redford at a Los Angeles restaurant in the mid-'80s. Even today, most ZLMers would appreciate Zola's assessment of how the amiable movie superstar lit up a room with his natural good looks and charisma. Zola periodically joked about resisting the temptation to approach Redford's table and declare, "I, too, am a star and know how wearisome it can be!"

In the 1998 drama/romance movie *The Horse Whisperer*, Redford was a perfect choice to portray Tom Booker, a

Montana rancher, gifted equestrian, and mystically talented horse healer. Asked to help with a horse problem, the beguiling cowboy replied, "The truth is, I help horses with people problems."

"Figures don't lie, but liars do figure." (Often mistakenly attributed to Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain.)

As a business school graduate who majored in management, I've taken accounting, finance, and statistics courses. I have mastered a couple of bookkeeping software programs and become somewhat astute at trend analysis. Beyond that, over the thirty years of managing this ministry's business aspects, I have pored over hundreds and hundreds of financial reports, including profit & loss statements, balance sheets, tax returns, inventory reports... and the list goes on.

Rather than imagining I might be a "numbers whisperer," I have learned

enough about how numbers work to suppose that they speak to me. (No, not in tongues — ha!) In fact, numbers can virtually *scream* what should be obvious — even to someone who is in denial.

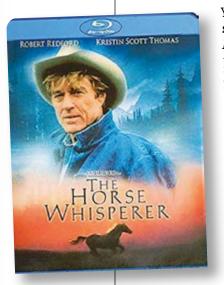
For several years, and last year in particular, ZLM's numbers on its financial statements were all but yelling that our multi-year, downward revenue trend was perilously unstoppable. Movie scenes of platoon commanders, under direct orders, leading their soldiers into losing battles played in my mind repeatedly as I began a series of articles to make this ministry's needs known.

You may remember some of those Levitt Letter titles from last year: "Letting Go & Letting God" (May), "Have Faith: Death is Not the End" (June), "Making it to the Other Side" (August), "Weighing and Praying" (October), and "A Coward Dies Many Times" (December).

Before our circumstances became too dire, I felt compelled to caution

some of our donors not to go overboard with their generosity. Thus, I wrote "Pray About Your Two Pence" (July).

The bottom line is this: We are holding our own; we aren't having to give up key airtimes... yet. Soon, as more viewers turn to the internet, it may make sense for ZLM to spend less on television broadcasting. For now, however, thank you — thank you — thank you so very much for continuing to help us persevere. It really is a good, though sometimes scary, fight. (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7)





## ZLM Bulletin Board

#### How to Recognize a Jew

Did Polish lawmakers turn a blind eye to anti-Semitism right on their premises? A news kiosk inside Warsaw's parliament building sold *Tylko Polska* ("Only Poland"), a low-circulation, nationally distributed, right-wing, weekly newspaper that advised how to spot a Jew. The article asserts that Jewish women "lack

the delicacy, modesty and sense of shame that are innate to Polish women." There's more. "Because the whole world belongs to [Jews] ... they are supposed to exist in every country, take power over nations and lead to the creation of one worldwide Jewish state." Parliament said it would request the publication's removal.



GIVING THROUGH RETIREMENT PLANS

#### **Imposter Pastors Soliciting**

Churches nationwide have issued an urgent warning: Scammers impersonating local pastors are tricking congregants via email, text, and telephone out of hundreds of dollars. Some of the tricksters use church website information to appear legit. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton advises to be on the alert for deceptive messages or emails that ask donors to buy gift cards and provide access codes for a supposedly charitable cause. An initial email often asks for "a very important favor" followed by the request for Google Play or iTunes gift cards and promising to quickly refund the purchaser.

## Free Levitt Letter Overages

Would you like 7, 14, or 21 recent *Levitt*Letters to give away at your church, health club, or doctor's office?

We have been printing extras for

subscribers who want to serve as Newsletter Ambassadors. Imagine delivering this ministry's anointed teaching to those who don't know it even exists—FREE. Please help us reach more people by periodically letting us know how many newsletters you can put to good use.

#### FREE ITEM

### Pamphlet of the Month

The 16-page booklet Giving **Through Retirement Plans** states the importance of planning carefully for financial well-being during retirement. Its main section, "Tax-favored Savings Plans," includes these topics: 1) Making gifts today, 2) Give from mandatory withdrawals, 3) Special tax-free gift option, and 4) Making future gifts. The "Technical Advisory Section" provides an example of making testamentary gifts from retirement accounts and concludes with special considerations. To receive this free booklet, please email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

#### "Come Homel"





#### **Hebrew**Lesson

#### **Our True Neighbor**

by **John Parsons** Hebrew for Christians Hebrew4Christians.com



#### אָכֵן חֶלְיֵנוּ הוּא נָשָּׁא וּמַכְאֹבֵינוּ סְבָלְם

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isa. 53:4)

סְ בָּ לָּם	וּ מַכְ אֹ בִּי נוּ	הוא נְשָּׁא	חַ לְ וֹ נוּ	אָ כֹן
(3) (2) (1)	(5) (4) (3) (2) (1)	(2) (1) (1)	(4) (3) (2) (1)	(2) (1)
se-vah-lahm oo-makh-oh-vey-nu		nah-sah hoo	kho-lah-yei-noo	ah-khein
He has carried	and our sorrows	has borne He	our griefs	truly

You may consider Yeshua's parable of the "Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:25–37) a moral lesson about how we should love others; however, we need to realize that the parable actually focuses on God's love. To see this deeper meaning, recall that a "lawyer" (a Torah scholar) asked Yeshua, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Yeshua asked him to answer his own question: "What is written in the Torah? How do you understand it?"

Now this is the whole question of life, right? How do we get right with God, how do we attain eternal life? Yeshua here presses the man for his reasoning: "What do *you* think is the essential meaning and goal of divine revelation? What's the substance of your hope?"

The lawyer answered by citing the commandments to love God wholeheartedly and to love your neighbor as yourself (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18). While Yeshua readily agreed that the meaning of life is about love, He forcefully added, "Now do this, and you will live" (Luke 10:28).

But the man wanted to define the scope of his obligation: Was he to love only his fellow Jew, or did the obligation extend farther? In other words, who, exactly, is "my neighbor" — and by implication, who isn't? In other words, from whom may I withhold love and still "inherit" eternal life?

In response to the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor," Yeshua told the story of a traveler who was viciously attacked and left half dead alongside the road. First a priest and then a Levite came by, but each carefully avoided the man. Then, a despised Samaritan came upon the traveler and spontaneously helped him. The surprising twist to this story is that the true neighbor was a "rejected outsider" who compassionately intervened to help the helpless, heal the wounded, and save the dying.

By this parable, Yeshua explained that a "strange grace"—an unexpected and even scandalous love from a "Stranger"—signifies God's love. Apart from contrasting those who knew the law with those who actually lived it, the parable's deeper point revealed that we (the hearers) often act like the priest and Levite who disregarded the needs of others, or worse, justified their inaction based on

their "religion." In this telling, Yeshua moves us to identify with the traveler who was stripped of clothing, beaten, and left half dead on the roadside. The moral of the story is that when we realize our own helplessness and need for God's unconditional love, we will encounter the heart of our True Neighbor, the One who "bears our sorrows and pains" (Isa. 53:3-4).





Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connec

## **ZLM** Store

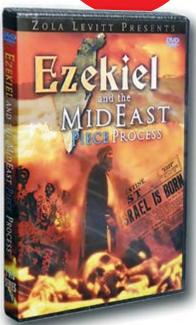


# **Ezekiel and the MidEast "Piece" Process**DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

In this eight-part television series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif and Mrs. Sandra Levitt take viewers into one of the Bible's most mysterious and fascinating books. Ezekiel forcefully predicts Israel's re-emergence as a nation-state at "day's end," and prophesies that neighboring nation-states will marshal military resources to annihilate the fledgling state. Let's consider pieces to Ezekiel's End Time puzzle.

Ezekiel: The Man, His Time, His Message—Then and Now His name means "God strengthens." Reared as a priest in Jerusalem, Ezekiel finds himself among the exiles who are taken to Babylon. His encounter with God in a heavenly vision launches his prophetic message to a wayward people.



**Overview—Destructive and Constructive Prophecy** A survey of the entire Book of Ezekiel—judgment on Judah and the nations around it, Israel's re-emergence, a climactic war, and a restored Temple—with emphasis on prophecy fulfillment today.



**Judah's Demise** This segment examines particular pieces of prophecy, noting Judah's painful downfall and God's everlasting mercy nevertheless through His promise to gather and rebuild Israel—something that is happening today.

**Prophecies of Israel's Last Days Rise** A major piece in God's prophetic End Times puzzle consists of subsequent predictions of Israel's rise in the Last Days. A once-desolate land has become like Eden.

**Israel's Neighbor States** Israel will rally against its hostile neighbors. This program highlights Ezekiel's predictions that larger regional forces will mobilize against Israel in a climactic war that the aggressors will lose.

**The Valley of the Dry Bones** Israel's re-emergence as a nation is dramatized through a startling vision of skeletons rising from their graves, forming a mighty nation. Independence Hall in Tel Aviv serves as the backdrop to a remarkable prophecy fulfilled in our generation.

**The Battle of Gog and Magog** The nations surrounding Israel are bent on its destruction. Thousands of years ago, Ezekiel foretold an end-times war, but also predicted a miraculous Israelite triumph.

**The Restored Temple** Ezekiel prophesied a restored Earth and a new Jerusalem Temple from which miraculous healing waters will spring forth. Ultimately, God's ways are known on planet Earth.

#### **ZLM product ORDER FORM**



Order online at <a href="https://store.levitt.com">https://store.levitt.com</a>
By phone call 24/7: 800-966-3377, or ZLM Dallas office: 214-696-8844, or print/tear out this 2-pg. form, fill out box at right, mail to ZLM, Box 12268 Dallas TX 75225

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library		
Qty. Title	Price	Total
A Christian Love Story	\$3	
Glory! The Future of the Believers		
How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	
In My Father's House	\$3	
Israel, My Promised (pictured)	\$3	
The Miracle of Passover	\$3	
The Promised Land	\$3	
The Second Coming	\$3	
Seven Churches		
The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	
Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	
Jerusalem Forever (pictured)	\$4	
Mix or Match:50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	
Books		
Qty. Title	Price	Total
An Enic Love Story (Part of 50-hook offer above)	¢З	

The Beginning of The End	\$8_	
The Bible Jesus Read	\$10_	
Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel?		
(Zola on Replacement Theology) (pictured)	\$6_	
Coming: The End! Russia/Israel in Prophecy	\$10_	
Genesis One	<b>\$</b> 5_	
Heaven and Earth (p.27)	\$18_	
The Iranian Menace	\$8_	
Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$2_	
Once Through the New Testament	<b>\$9</b> _	
Our Hands are Stained with Blood	\$16_	
The Messianic Passover Haggadah	\$6_	
Raptured	\$10_	
Signs of the End: Millennium	\$7_	
The Warrior King (p.25)	\$12_	
What About Us? (p.23)	\$8_	
Whose Land Is It?	\$6_	

Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (pictured).....





\$39 \_\_

#### **Featured DVDs**

LCC	atureu DVD3		
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
	Abraham: Father of Faith (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Bad Moon Rising (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Beauty for Ashes (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	
	Called Together(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	The Dark Prince (p.20) (10 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	
	Eretz Israel (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" (p.17) (8 progs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Journey of Restoration (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	
	The Miracle of Passover(3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	
	Return to Eden (pictured)(10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	
	The Seven Feasts of Israel (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Thy Kingdom Come(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	
	The Warrior King (p.25) (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	
	Zion Forever (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	

#### **ORDER FORM continued**

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!		
Studies, Specialty, Etc.		
Qty. Item	Price	Total
2-flag Collar Pin (pictured)	\$2_	
AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$37.50	
AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.	\$22	
AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz	\$23_	
Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10_	
Genealogy Chart	\$10_	
Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut) (p.36)	\$2	
Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured)		
Jewish Heritage Calendar (5779 / 2019) (pictured)	\$6	
Matzoh Postcards (pack of 12)	\$8_	
Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Necklace	\$39	
Names of God Notecards (set of 12)		
Pictorial Map of Jerusalem	\$12	

#### **Teaching CDs**

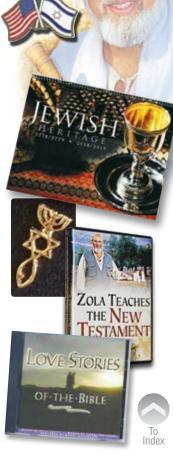
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The Spirit of Pentecost	\$7	
The Tribulation Temple	\$7	
<b>Zola Teaches the New Testament</b> (pictured) (6 CDs)		

Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land \$6 FREE Airing Schedule no charge Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only) .... no charge

#### Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

Love Stories of the Bible (pictured) (Music CD)	\$12
Unto the Gentiles(Music CD)	\$12
The Works(Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49
The Works II(Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49
"22 Alhum Snecial" (n.5)	\$98



#### PLEASE SEND THIS ENTIRE 2-PAGE ORDER FORM—THANKS.

Cardholder Signature:

Exp. / Card ID# required

Subtotal Please fill out area below and send the entire page. **Shipping & Handling Chart** Shipping (See left chart) up to \$15.99, add \$5 For shipments outside the United UPS shipping (\$4 extra) \_\_\_\_\_ States, please DOUBLE shipping. Please send U.S. funds. \$16 to \$30.99, add \$7 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9 Rush! (\$5 extra) \_\_\_\_\_ \$61 to \$97.99, add \$10 (Please allow about 2-3 weeks **8.25% Tax** (Texas only) \_\_\_\_\_ \$98 and over, FREE SHIPPING for delivery.) Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry. Donation? Total \_\_\_\_ Name (please print) Shipping Address \_\_\_\_ Billing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_ City Email Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs? Phone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ or, Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_\_to: My check is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_





## **ZLM Store**

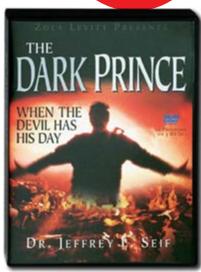


# The Dark Prince: When The Devil Has His Day DVD Set

Ten 30-minute TV programs on three DVDs

In this made-for-TV miniseries, Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes viewers through Bible texts that speak about the devil. The Dark Prince gives a behind-the-scenes look at Evil's workings and its ultimate uprooting when Christ returns.

**Satan's Rise and Demise in Genesis** Genesis focuses on how Creation strayed and who is responsible. We discuss Satan's emergence and God's plan to crush him when Satan rises to rule the world at the dusk of human history.



**Satan in Biblical History** Biblical history's bookends—the paradise lost story in Genesis and the paradise restored story in Revelation—illustrate Satan's rise and demise. These lessons should encourage people to position themselves on the right side of the battle line.

**The Ruler of This World** Isaiah describes the "ruler of this world"—Satan—through an actual ruler of the ancient world; Matthew relates how Satan once offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world. The temptations that the Lord avoided are ones that we should avoid as well.



**To Steal, Kill, and Destroy** Daniel and Revelation describe unimaginable beasts that would wreak havoc upon a decaying world. We examine their application to end-time Bible prophecy.

**Deceit, Betrayal, and Coming Miseries** The devil's tools—deceit and betrayal—were first displayed in the Garden of Eden. We look at Jesus' agony and betrayal—also in a garden—and the flurry of miseries that will be unleashed on this planet before the garden paradise is restored.

**Armageddon and the Final Conflict** We look at Job as evidence that Satan attacks individuals. In Revelation, Satan's assaults culminate in the Battle of Armageddon.

**The Collapse of an Intoxicated World** Revelation vividly relates how the world will lament the evil prince of this world, whose demise is brought about by the Lord's return.

**The Second Coming!** We look at the return of Jesus and the restoration of paradise.

**The Experts Speak, Part 1** Jeff interviews Paul Wilkinson, Wayne House, Tom McCall, and Chuck Missler about the End Times—specifically, the rise of the antiChrist and the European Union.

**The Experts Speak, Part 2** Jeff interviews Thomas Ice, Wilfred Hahn, William Koenig, Todd Strandberg, Joel Rosenberg, and Tim LaHaye about the End Times—specifically, the rise of the antiChrist and a global government.

## If You Hate Jews, You Hate Jesus



BY RUSSELL MOORE (r) RussellMoore.com

What do attacks on Jews mean for us as Christians? As the world surges with "blood-and-soil" ethno-nationalism, much of it anti-Semitic in nature, Christians should clearly reject every kind of bigotry and hatred. But we should especially note what anti-Semitism means for people who are followers of Jesus Christ. To anyone who claims the name "Christian," we should say: "If you hate Jews, you hate Jesus."

Anti-Semitism is, by definition, a repudiation of Christianity as well as of Judaism. This ought to be obvious; but world history, even Church history, shows us this is not the case. Christians reject anti-Semitism because we love Jesus.

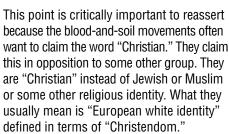


Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue, watercolor by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum

Christians often say, "Remember, Jesus was Jewish." That's true enough, but the past tense makes it sound as though Jesus sloughed off His Jewishness at the resurrection. Jesus is alive now, enthroned in Heaven. He is transfigured and glorified, yes, but He is still Jesus. This means he is still, and always will be, human. He is still, and always will be, the son of Mary. He is, and always will be, a Galilean. When Jesus appeared before Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, the resurrected Christ introduced Himself as "Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 22:8). Jesus is Jewish, present tense.

Indeed, much of the New Testament concerns that very point. Jesus is a son of Abraham. He is of the tribe of Judah. He is of the House of David. Jesus' kingship is valid because He descends from the royal line. His priesthood, though not of the tribe of Levi, is proven valid because of Melchizedek the Priest's relation to Abraham. Those of us who are joint-heirs with Christ are such only because Jesus is, Himself, the offspring and heir of Abraham (Gal. 3:29).

As Christians, all of us are adopted into a Jewish family, into an Israelite story. We who were once not a people have been grafted, in Jesus, onto the branch that is Israel (Rom. 11:17–18). That's why the New Testament can speak even to gentile Christians as though the story of their own forefathers were that of the Old Testament Scriptures. We have been brought into an Israelite story, a story that started not in first-century Bethlehem but, millennia before, in the promise that Abraham would be the father of many nations. Whatever our ethnic background, if we are in Christ, we are joined to Abraham. That means the Jewish people are, in a very real sense, our people too. An attack on the Jewish people is an attack on all of us.



A Bible with its Jewishness wrung out of it is no Bible. And a Christ with His Jewishness obscured is no Christ. We cannot even say His name "Jesus/Yeshua" without confronting our Lord's Jewishness because His Hebrew name itself translates as "Yahweh saves."

Attacks on Jews also attack Jesus. Those who hate Jews hate Jesus.

ZLM's Senior Theologian Dr. Tom McCall calls a New Testament without the Old Testament an "Amputated Bible." (See also "Who Needs Leviticus?" on p.1.)







# Letters

For ministry products and TV programs, visit the web store and video archives.

#### **Collect Hebrew Lessons in a Book?**

Dear 7LM.

Thank you for the Levitt Letter each month. My favorite part is the Hebrew Lesson by John Parsons, which seems to tug at my heart. Have you considered creating a book of his columns as a devotional, teaching opportunity, or both?

Please keep up the work for the Lord. I am sure you reach more people than you realize. God bless. — S.T.

#### Dear S.T.,

I will weigh your suggestion with John and pray about it. Incidentally, he authored our ministry's user-friendly, 400-page book Zola's Introduction to Hebrew, offered on page 18. You may want to examine his Hebrew4Christians.com website's impressive array of other Hebrew learning resources, including software, books, online training, and transliterated Hebrew Bibles. — Mark

#### **Booklets for Bible Study**

Dear ZLM,

I was blessed to see Zola present The Miracle of the Passover in person back in the 1980s at the church I attended then. I have never forgotten that experience. I have encouraged many to watch your ministry's Miracle of Passover DVD. Now my Bible study group wants to see the DVD and discuss the study booklet. Do you offer a quantity discount? - C.S.



I DIDN'T THINK THAT THIS IS WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND WHEN YOU INVITED ME OVER FOR A BIBLE STUDY

Dear C.S.,

We do offer a generous quantity discount. You may order any 50 of our \$3 study booklets (p. 18) for just \$49 (a \$150 value!) plus shipping and handling. Zola's favorite three booklets were The Miracle of Passover, The Seven Feasts of Israel, and A Christian Love Story. You might consider ordering 16 sets of those three booklets for future Bible studies, plus a couple of other titles to bring your total to an even 50. - Mark

#### **Bible Accounts vs. Stories**

Dear ZLM,

My wife and I enjoy the Levitt Letter and agreed with Kirsten Hart's article about Lot's wife (March 2019, p. 6). A suggestion: When we witness to anyone about the Bible, we refer to the "Biblical account" rather than "stories."

(continued next page)

To Index

We believe every word of the Bible is true — not a story that someone made up. A seemingly small detail, but it's vitally important that Believers emphasize the truth of God's word.

Yours in Christ, T.B. (FL)

#### Dear T.B.,

Exploring the meaning of words is a passion for me. Granted, the term story could imply "make believe." Similarly, Bible characters, as opposed to heroes, might seem like participants in a play or novel rather than a historical record. Then again, if I asked about your life's story, you wouldn't assume I sought a fabrication. Nor does Facebook when you add to your "story." Narrative is another useful synonym. And I like "Biblical account." Thanks.

Check out "About Us" at <u>levitt.com</u>: "We hold to a strictly literal and inerrant Bible interpretation."

I hope you agree that our factual context is readily apparent throughout our Bible teaching in our news magazines and television programs. The only fiction we print comes from the Falestinians! — Editor

#### **Ultimate Weapon Against Tunnels**

#### Dear ZLM,

Suggestion to defeat the Muslim tunnels: establish a Pig and Swine Squad, modeled after K-9 Units, which could be unleashed into terrorist tunnels going into Israel and chase back the anti-Zionists. Since Jews also shun this animal as unclean, the squad should be trained and handled by pro-Israel/pro-Jewish Christian Believers. This could be the ultimate weapon against terrorists in tunnels. — A.E.D. (NJ)



#### Dear A.E.D.,

Your radical suggestion resembles an urban legend regarding U.S. General John J. Pershing when helping crush an insurgency on the Philippine island of Mindanao after the Spanish-American War. Commander "Black Jack" Pershing supposedly discouraged Muslim terrorists by burying their corpses along with those of pigs—upside down and not facing Mecca. A somewhat similar tactic involved dipping bullets in pigs' blood before firing them at Muslim terrorists in combat, again with the idea of precluding "martyrs" from meeting Mohammed and collecting their virgins. — Mark

(continued next page)



#### What About Us? Book

How do the Scriptures touch on the relationship of Jews and gentiles at the end of this Age? Messianic Jewish pastor Eitan Shishkoff ("Our Man in Haifa") focuses on friendship as the answer. Personal, warm, and solid in theology.

#### No Call-in Theologian?

Question relayed by our answering service:

Why don't ministries like yours have theologians available to answer simple Biblical questions from callers like me? Having to write or email my questions and wait sometimes for weeks or months for an answer is ridiculous. —D.S. (GA)

Dear D.S.,

The bad news: 1) Cost of retaining Bible experts to sit and wait for the phone to ring. 2) Written questions tend to be better thought out than verbal, and responses also are better considered after time to research and explain.

The good news: 1) Levitt.com/faqs answers dozens of frequently asked questions that are categorized under topical headings like Jewish Holidays, Christian Holidays, Bible Prophecy, and others. (Click on "Q & A" beneath the "Information" tab.)



WHY DO YOU GUYS KEEP COMPLAINING ABOUT DOGMA? WHAT'S WRONG WITH DOGMA? MAYBE DOGMA IS A GOOD THING, EVER THINK OF THAT?

2) Clicking "ZolaBoard" (beneath the "Information" tab) lets you browse many topics or register (for free) if you would like to post a message or ask a Bible question of many astute Bible students and scholars.

I pray that your concerns will be satisfied *and* that Zola's discussion board gives you not only additional Bible insights but also a new circle of friends whose fellowship you will come to treasure. — David



#### **Appreciating ZLM Teachings**

Dear ZLM family,

We really appreciate seeing segments of Zola's classic teachings on the air. And we love the *Levitt Letter*. We read it cover to cover, dwelling on John Parsons's Hebrew Lesson. May our Lord continue to bless and keep this ministry going. —R. and G.S. (PA)

Dear R. and G.S.,

While our weekly TV program occasionally features Zola, our online library offers virtually all of his Bible teaching! Passing on to his heavenly reward, Zola left ZLMers a generous archive of Biblical insights. Our website (levitt.com) has decades of ZLP programs and other forms of teaching (such as the Personal Letters) — all with free access. Zola's books continue to be available for purchase, some as eBooks. In 2018, we refreshed the classic Zola series Thy Kingdom Come. This summer we'll air another modernized Zola classic TV series, The First Christians, so please stay tuned. — David

#### A Feast by Any Other Name...

Dear ZLM,

What is the name of the fourth Feast of the Lord? Pentecost or Weeks or ...? — H.J.DeG. (OH)

(continued next page)

Dear H.J.DeG..

The fourth feast has several names.

**Feast of Weeks**, or **Shavuot** ("weeks" in Hebrew) — The Lord instructs the Jews to count seven Sabbaths after the Feast of First Fruits and then to offer a grain sacrifice on the day after the seventh Sabbath (Leviticus 23:16). 7 weeks x 7 days/week = 49 days + 1 day = 50 days

**Pentecost** — We count 50 days. *Pente* = five, *pentekoste* = fiftieth day, in Greek

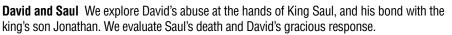
**Feast of Harvest** — The feast marked the summer harvest, the second of the year, in which many more crops were available than at First Fruits, but still not as many as would be forthcoming in the great fall harvest. —Editor ◆

#### **The Warrior King:** David-like <u>Leadership for Goliath-like Times</u> DVD set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Warrior King tells the story of King David's time; but it is also the story of our own time. With challenges larger than Goliath all around us, we need Bible-based leaders now more than ever. In this eight-part series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif speaks to that need. Dramatic re-enactments—shot on location in Israel—complement the teachings in this series.

**The Call** We consider how David captured the heart of Israel, his selection by Samuel, and the amazing battle with Goliath that catapulted him to renown.



Family We look at David's marriage and family intrigue.

**Wars** David was a warrior—a spiritual role model for us all! Philistine, Amalekite, and Ammonite wars are discussed, along with modern-day relevance.

**Celebrated Warrior King** Though anointed by God for kingship, David spent 13 years running from Israel's first king before ascending to the throne.

**A Messianic Prototype** The New Testament refers to Jesus as the "Son of David." We examine how the Old Testament predicted a coming Davidic Son.

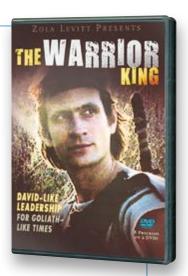
Israel's Sweet Psalmist David's gift for creating poetry and music shows a softer side.

**Messiah** We consider the Messianic parallels in David. You'll walk away saying "Messiah lives!" and, we hope, believing that He lives in you.



#### **The Warrior King** book

From the TV series of the same title, this 86-page transcript of highlights includes dozens of photos and an abundance of Hebrew with translation. Can be used with the series or independently. *The Warrior King* is a story about the Old Testament's David—Israel's greatest soldier. It's also about the Bible's "Son of David"—Jesus, and how God uses abysmal circumstances to improve those who rely on Him.



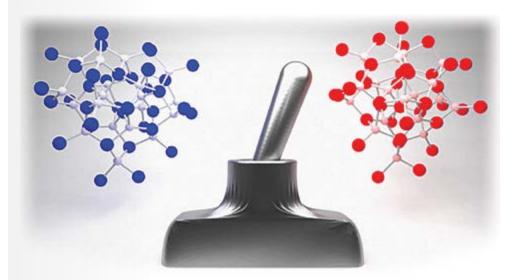


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# **Discovery Triggered by Flight to Israel**



SCIENCE: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (huji.ac.il)



Isomerization switch

When graphite becomes a diamond, it undergoes *isomerization*, the transformation of one molecule into another molecule with the same atoms, just in a different arrangement. This process is common in nature. Often it's sparked by the addition of energy, as when light causes a molecule in the retina to switch, enabling us to see; or how olive oil, when heated too high, isomerizes into the unhealthy form known as a trans-fat. Bulk materials, such as graphite

changing phases into diamonds, require a lot more energy, and the change occurs gradually, spreading slowly across the molecule.

Professor Uri Banin, founder of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, and his colleagues Professor Richard Robinson and Professor Tobias Hanrath at Cornell University have made a breakthrough nanoscience discovery. In their recent paper, "Chemically Reversible Isomerization of Inorganic Clusters" published in *Science*, the authors reveal that a "magic-size nanocluster" is the missing link that bridges the divide between how matter rearranges itself in small-scale molecular isomerization and in large, solid bulk matter phase transitions.



Professor Uri Banin

For years, scientists have sought the bridge between the two worlds: between big materials that change more slowly and small, organic materials that can flip back and forth coherently between two states. To discover this bridge, they needed to learn at what size nanocrystals will change their internal structure in a single, swift step, like molecules do during isomerization. Banin and Robinson found that magic number because of a trip from Ithaca to Jerusalem.

Three years ago, Robinson was on sabbatical at Banin's nanoscience lab

(continued next page)



at Hebrew University. While in Jerusalem, Robinson asked a graduate student back home to mail him some nanoparticles of a specific size.

"When they got to me, I measured them and remarked,
'Wait, you sent me the smaller particles instead of the
bigger ones.' He responded, 'No, I sent you the bigger ones,'"
recalls Robinson. "We realized they must have changed while
they were in flight. And that unleashed a cascade of questions and experiments that led us to this new finding."

The joint Hebrew University-Cornell team began to study transition in small-cluster molecules, specifically "magic-size nanoclusters," and eventually found the missing link between bulk phase transitions and molecular isomerization.

Though further research is needed, possible future applications include using these particles as switches in computing or as sensors. The discovery could also have uses relating to quantum computing or generating larger nanoparticles.

"One hundred years ago, Albert Einstein could not have predicted that his Theory of Relativity would be the basis for GPS systems that we've come to rely on. Nanoclusters are chemicals that can be used to create other larger materials. Being able to manipulate their precise changeover from one state to another could have significant applications down the road," Banin concluded.

Not only are the "dry bones" of Ezekiel's vision alive and well, God didn't simply "flesh out" Israel — He gifted His people with divine wisdom to bless the Nations. — Kirsten



#### **Heaven and Earth** Book

Ken Berg's favorite Holy Land photographs and stories

For four decades, the producer of *Zola Levitt Presents* has traversed the Bible Lands with his camera

at the ready. Now this well organized, full-color portfolio of Ken's most inspirational shots chronicles key appointed places that God chose as backdrops for His Holy Writ, the Bible, to unfold. From the mountaintops to the rivers and seas, deserts, and archaeological excavations, this book's narrative lets the reader commune anew with Scriptures written thousands of years ago.



# **Device for Migraine Relief**

(a)

MEDICINE: BY BRIAN BLUM (r) Israel21c.org



Neurolief's device

Fourteen percent of American adults suffer from migraines or severe headaches. Among women aged 18 to 44, the number soars to 23%. There is no cure for migraines, and over-the-counter pain relief medicines do not always work.

One of the most promising treatments is occipital nerve stimulation, where a small pulse generator is implanted at the base of the skull to send pain-relieving electrical impulses to the brain. What if the same effect could be achieved without surgery — and for a lower cost than the tens of thousands of dollars required

for an occipital nerve implant? That hypothesis launched Shmuel Shany and Amit Dar on their journey to establishing Neurolief.

Neurolief is developing a noninvasive neuro-modulation device that could be available soon for purchase in your local pharmacy for less than \$500. The device looks a bit like Geordi's VISOR in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, except it sits above the eyes.





*left:* Neurolief CEO Shmuel Shany *right:* Neurolief co-founder Amit Dar

The Neurolief neuro-modulator stimulates six

different nerve branches in the brain that regulate pain and mood. Each electrode in the device delivers a charge strong enough to penetrate the skull.

"It needs to be done without causing pain to the patient and not causing damage to scalp tissue," Dar says. The device is rechargeable, can be adjusted to a variety of head sizes, and connects to both a mobile phone app and the cloud, so that a particular patient's experience can be compared with others' to deliver a precise electrical "dose."

By "dose," Dar explains that the device can dial up and down the six electrodes individually, holding out the possibility to create a treatment plan personalized for each patient.

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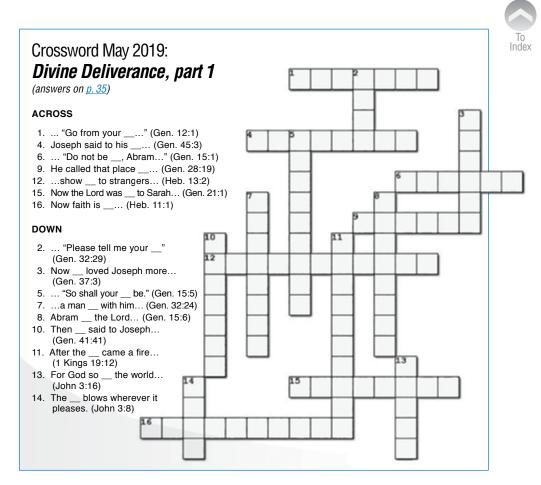
Neuro-modulation prevents the secretion of chemicals in the brain that trigger pain. But it also modulates the "activation threshold" of the neural system, so that the next time a migraine trigger is present (whether that's stress, lack of sleep, or even chocolate), the nerves will not react as severely as before. Neuro-modulation is mostly side-effect free.

#### 80% pain reduction

One study of the product conducted last year demonstrated an average 80% reduction in pain symptoms. That's double the rate for implanted devices and far more than a couple of Tylenols can achieve. Explains Neurolief CEO Shany, "We are not targeting patients whose symptoms are alleviated with Advil but those who require drugs frequently."

The Neurolief device is meant to be used only during a migraine attack. Since it can fold up to the size of a sunglasses case, it's small enough to carry in a purse or backpack.

Dar and Shany are not newcomers to the field of neuro-modulation. The two started NESS—Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation Systems, a company that builds neuro-modulation products to help stroke survivors move paralyzed arms and legs. The same neuro-modulation techniques can be used for other indications. Depression is next on Neurolief's list. Dar reports "remarkable results" from a clinical trial at a mental hospital in Israel. Neurolief's anti-depression model could come as early as 2020.





#### Holocaust Remembrance Story

By Jack Engelhard IsraelNationalNews.com

For Jews, Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 2 this year, is a time to shed tears for the more than six million Jews who perished, and to vow "Never Again."

Of the more than six million stories, I remember meeting a woman waiting for a train in Atlantic City.

We got to talking. She was a librarian somewhere in South [New] Jersey. She was Jewish and a Survivor and she spoke about it without emotion. No need for emotion when the story is enough. She opened up after we began swapping memories.

"I used to be a nurse in a Berlin hospital, before the war. What those German nurses used to do," she recalled. "They'd pick up Jewish newborns from their beds, row by row, and smash their heads against the wall."

Thank God for Israel!

#### **Survivor Numbers Dwindle**

By Aron Heller / APNews.com



Baruch Shub, Holocaust survivor

While most of his fellow Jews were being killed or brutalized in Nazi death camps and ghettos, Baruch Shub and his friends were hiding in the forests of the former Soviet Union, trying to undermine

the Nazis by derailing trains, burning bridges, sabotaging communication lines, and killing the occasional collaborator.

"You couldn't really fight the German army, given our means, but we did our best to disrupt them," recalled the 95-year-old Shub at his retirement home in central Israel. "Whether or not it made a difference, I don't know. But it gave me a great sense of joy that at least I was doing something to get even with them."

As Israel marks its annual Holocaust Memorial Day, those aging survivors who actively resisted and helped shape the country's fighting spirit are quickly disappearing. Shub is among perhaps only a handful of remaining Soviet partisan fighters. Only two remain from the greatest symbol of resistance of all—the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Israel will come to a standstill on Thursday, May 2 for its annual remembrance of the Holocaust's six million victims. It falls during the same time on the calendar as the Warsaw uprising — the ultimately doomed revolt that played such an important role in defining the country's psyche.

Even the day's official name—
"Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance
Day"—alludes to the image of the
Jewish warrior upon which the state
was founded.

"Jews always fought for their survival and national honor," Shub said. "I want history to remember that Jews did not walk like cattle to their slaughter." Back to Cover





#### Never Let the World Forget the Holocaust

By Burt Constable / DailyHerald.com
As a boy during WWII in Odense,
Denmark, Steen Metz didn't know he
was Jewish until Nazi soldiers dragged
his family to a concentration camp.

"I remember the Nazi soldiers marching up and down the streets," says Metz, now 83 and living outside Chicago. German troops had occupied Denmark since April 1940, and Metz tried to avoid them while riding his bicycle to school, but "I really didn't understand it," he says. "I don't think anybody in Denmark understood the gravity."



Steen Metz

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, fell on Oct. 2, 1943, and members of the Metz family were jarred awake that morning by a pair of Gestapo officers pounding on the

door of their apartment. Guards took his father, Axel, into custody and gave his mother, Magna, a moment to gather some belongings and food. Metz, then 8, and his mother went to the bakery on the first floor of their apartment building.

"I played with the baker's children. He gave us a big bag of bread and rolls," Metz says. The baker also offered



Steen, age 8, in Denmark before being deported

them a chance to escape through a secret passage. But his mother refused to leave her husband behind. "We were herded

"We were herded into cattle cars," Metz says of the 60 or so Jews arrested that day. Packed so tightly that only the



On October 2, 1943, he and his parents were arrested and deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp

most tired could sit, the group traveled for three days and three nights. They shared what little food they had and used a bucket as their toilet. They arrived at the Theresienstadt concentration camp 40 miles northwest of Prague, where his father was put to work doing heavy labor and his mother cleaned floors and worked in a factory.

"My father died of starvation six months later," Metz says. Witnesses said Axel Metz, a lawyer, was whipped and beaten, and German records said he died of pneumonia on March 13, 1944, shortly after his 40th birthday.

"My mother had to identify his body and she didn't know what to do with me, so I went with her," Metz says, adding that he barely recognized the 88-pound corpse. Many camp inmates died of starvation and illness. Children formed a bucket brigade from the crematorium to the Elbe River, passing cardboard containers of ashes of the dead to be dumped in the water. An older boy spared Metz the agony of seeing his father's remains. "He turned it around so I wouldn't see the name and number of my father," Metz recalls.

Please don't let these accounts die. Tell them to your children, and your children's children. *Am Yisrael Chai!* (The people of Israel LIVE!) — David

P.S. Hear Zola play his cheerful composition "Am Yisrael Chai" (from the album *In the Wilderness*, part of the 22-album special on p.5) at https://youtu.be/cq-gGHU3GB4 ★



## Franciscan Museum in Jerusalem

100

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY SARA TOTH STUB (r) BBC.com



Terra Sancta Museum within the Monastery of the Flagellation, a pilgrimage site since at least the 4th century

Inside the new archaeological wing of Jerusalem's Terra Sancta Museum, a hallway leads visitors past a deep-water cistern, then becomes a bridge as it passes over an even deeper and older water cistern, built nearly 1,000 years ago. Tucked under a Roman Catholic Franciscan monastery within the walls of the ancient Old City, the museum's location itself is a journey through the past.

"This was all filled with dirt," said museum director and Franciscan friar, Reverend Eugenio Alliata, as he stood on the metal bridge overlooking the vast stone cistern below. "We weren't sure what was here." A nearby stone room from the 13th century, likely a workshop used by the Crusaders who ruled the Holy City back then, now contains an elaborately carved stone that once sat atop a column at one of King Herod's luxurious palaces in the hills outside Jerusalem. The room also was filled with dirt until recently.

But a multi-year restoration project has made this underground labyrinth—built and rebuilt in several layers from the time of King Herod in the 1st century to the Mamluk sultans in the medieval period—into a museum that tells not only the history of Jerusalem, but also of the Franciscan Order's archaeological discoveries throughout Israel, Egypt, and Jordan over the last century. For



The museum's collection of coins, utensils, and other everyday items paints a picture of life in the Holy Land during Biblical times

more than 100 years, Franciscan friars have carried out dozens of excavations in Nazareth, Bethlehem, and in this sprawling Monastery of the Flagellation.

"Archaeology is important because it shows us how people lived," said Alliata,

(continued next page)



who is also an archaeologist. "You have to know about the daily life to really understand Jesus, to understand the parables."

Until recently, the tens of thousands of artifacts that the Franciscans unearthed were stored in the adjacent Studium Biblicum
Franciscanum, a division of Rome's Pontifical University devoted to archaeological and Biblical research. Making up the city's oldest archaeological museum, they were available to the public only by appointment; most of those who spent time here were scholars.

The museum houses a column intricately carved with doves from a  $4^{th}$ -century monastery in present-day Jordan, large pieces of colorful mosaic floors from monasteries in the Egyptian desert, and large stone burial coffins marked with crosses. Display cases are filled with ancient coins, including the half-shekels referred to in the Bible; 2,000-year-old grape seeds and olive pits; and everyday

utensils, like dishes and cups.

Making these artifacts public in the Terra Sancta Museum archaeology wing, which opened in 2018 and will soon be further expanded, is part of a larger trend of increased public engagement among the Franciscans, who have also recently opened to the public their large library in Jerusalem's Monastery Saint Saviour and created an online catalogue for it as part



Reverend Eugenio Alliata

of an ongoing effort to renovate various holy sites around the region. These changes are happening as Israel is experiencing a surge in tourism.

In the Middle East, archaeology began drawing more attention to debates about Biblical history in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ultimately, the Franciscans, who had been charged by the Vatican since the 13<sup>th</sup> century with guarding Church property and aiding Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land, decided to embrace the emerging discipline and join the growing body of public scholarly discourse about it.

"History finds its safest support in archaeology," wrote Reverend Prosper Viaud, one of the first Franciscans to participate in an excavation, in 1889.

In the early 20th century, the Franciscans began digging at and around many of their churches and monasteries, publishing books with their results and building a massive library of artifacts in Jerusalem. In 1901, they established their Studium Biblicanum Franciscanum, and since 1924, it has operated uninterrupted as one of a growing number of archaeological research institutions in Jerusalem.

The Franciscans' excavations made important contributions to archaeology in the region. According to Alliata, most Franciscans are looking to learn, rather than to prove particular stories. Today many local archaeologists feel indebted to the Franciscans.

"Their research is an important piece of the huge puzzle of archaeology in Israel," said Dina Avshalom-Gorni, an Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist who has worked with Franciscans at various digs. "Despite their religious beliefs, the research they produce is pure archaeology. They give us facts that I can trust."

The stones of Israel are calling out their own history. Hallelujah! — Kirsten



## Is the Future of ISIS Female?

**PART 1:** BY VERA MIRONOVA (r) NYTimes.com

The author is a Harvard University fellow embedded with the Iraqi Special Operations Forces.



Umm Khattab, the 18-year-old British widow of an Isis fighter

Sitting in a room in a burned-out house in Mosul, Iraq in 2017, a group of Iragi **Special Operations** Forces soldiers and I watched with surprise as two Islamic State fighters appeared on the live video feed of a security camera. The two fighters were preparing to fire a rocket-propelled grenade in our direction. But instead of the usual bearded men with long hair, the fighters,

clad in black abayas and niqabs, appeared to be women.

As it has lost power and land over the past year and a half or so, the Islamic State has quietly shifted from insistence on a strict gender hierarchy to allowing, even celebrating, female participation in military roles. It's impossible to quantify just how many women are fighting for the group. Still, interviews with police forces in Mosul suggest they've become a regular presence that no longer surprises, as it did two years ago. "After ISIS fell in Mosul, we are worried about ISIS females more and more," Mosul's mayor, Zuhair Muhsin Mohammed al-Araji, said in February.

Islamic State propaganda over the past few years has hinted at and laid the groundwork for this change: In October 2017, the movement's newspaper called on women to prepare for battle; by early last year, the group was openly praising its female fighters in a video that showed a woman wielding an AK-47, the narration describing "the chaste *mujahed* woman journeying to Allah with the garments of purity and faith, seeking revenge for her

religion and for the honor of her sisters."

And if by some measures, the rise of women as combatants represents a significant shift in a group notorious for its strict gender roles and misogyny—in the caliphate, men were supposed to fight, while women were supposed to stay home and raise as many children as possible—by other measures. the change is not as startling as it seems. The women once married to Islamic State militants who are now seeking to return to the West may claim to have been simply housewives, but from the beginnings of the group, some women were more radical than their husbands. One former fighter from Dagestan told me that he knew of women insisting that their husband or sons join the terrorist group. He also knew of women who did not want to marry anyone other than front-line fighters, because "they wanted to be a true *mujahedeen* family."

For other women, their willingness to participate is driven by revenge, need, or both. The devastating battle for Mosul was followed by a post-liberation rampage by Iraqi security forces who harassed and raped women and looted their homes; many Islamic State widows are now willingly helping the insurgency just to get back at the government, people I've interviewed in refugee camps say. There are also many widows who, left without incomes and living in terrible refugee camp conditions, feel they have no other choice but to work for the group so their family can survive.

Although Islamic State propaganda bills the change as "a campaign that commences a new era of conquest," the move to allow female combatants is born out of desperation. The group has lost essentially all its territory, and most of its male fighters, according to Raid Hamid, chief investigative judge at the Mosul terrorism court, have been killed, wounded, or arrested.

To be continued next month.



# Jewish humor, etc.

#### Israeli Innovation

An attractive redhead from Haifa arrived at the casino. She seemed jubilant and bet \$20,000 on a single roll of the dice. She said, "I hope you don't mind, but I seem much luckier when I can feel the air on my skin."

With that, she stripped off her clothes, rolled the dice, and yelled: "Come on, baby. Mama needs new clothes!"

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed: "Yes! Yes! I won, I won!" She hugged each of the dealers, picked up her winnings and her clothes, and quickly departed. The dealers stared after her, dumbfounded.

Finally, one of them asked: "What did she roll?"

The other answered: "I don't know—
I thought you were watching."



A cheerful heart is good medicine— Proverbs 17:22

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HEY WARDEN, I'M IN CHARGE OF THE PRISON BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK AND MY TOPIC IS "YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW" ... I'M GOING TO NEED A FEW SHOVELS FOR THIS OF COURSE, AND MAYBE A HOE ... AND PROBABLY A LADDER



#### Answer Key for MAY 2019 Crossword (p.29)

Across:
Down:

1. Country 15. Gracious 2. Name 10. Pharaoh
4. Brothers 16. Confidence 3. Israel 11. Earthquake
6. Afraid 5. Offspring 13. Loved

6. Afraid 5. Offspring 13. Loved 9. Bethel 7. Wrestled 14. Wind 12. Hospitality 8. Believed



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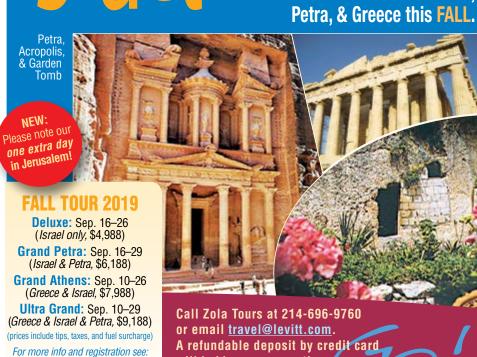


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