



# Levitt LETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2024



Americans at the March for Israel in Washington D.C. on Nov. 14, 2023 credit: Matthew Utman / Forward

## Defending America's Heritage by Defending the Jews

By Dr. Richard D. Land / ChristianPost.com

I continue to be shocked by the malignant, corrosive anti-Semitism throughout our nation. When I see throngs of Americans chanting “Gas the Jews” and “Globalize the intifada,” I am appalled as I have never been before.

**If I had not seen and heard it myself, I would not have believed it.** Frankly, virtually every Jewish friend and acquaintance I am privileged to know feels the same way. And who can blame them?

Someone close to me once said, “Richard, something unimaginable and terrible has never happened to you. It has happened to me when my father was diagnosed with brain cancer and died when I was 17. When it happens to you, you never feel quite the same security again.”

In the collective memory of every Jew is the murder of six million Jews in the Holocaust. When that has happened to your people, you know the unimaginable can happen. It did!

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## 57.5% of Muslim Americans: Hamas at Least “Somewhat Justified”

By David Swindle and Menachem Wecker / JNS.org

More than half (57.5%) of Muslim American respondents to a recent survey agreed that Hamas was at least somewhat justified in attacking Israel “as part of their struggle for a Palestinian state.” That group was about evenly



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# 57.5% of Muslim Americans: Hamas at Least “Somewhat Justified”

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divided between those who somewhat agreed (29.3%) and those who strongly agreed (28.2%), while 88.5% of Jewish Americans said that Hamas was not even somewhat justified.

Cygnal conducted the survey between October 16 and 18. There were 2,020 respondents, and the polling firm oversampled Jewish and Muslim Americans. “They respectively make up 2% and 1%

**Our latest data show that while the conflicts between Israel and the Palestinian people are not new to the American people, we have entered an equivalent to the post-September 11 era...**

of the population — sizes that aren’t large enough in a [2,020-person] survey to be statically relevant [if they are not oversampled],” said Brent Buchanan, president and founder of Cygnal. The survey included responses from 300 Jewish Americans and 150 Muslim Americans.

Overall, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a 39.9% favorable and 25.1% unfavorable rating. Jewish Americans saw the Israeli leader more favorably (56.9% favorable; 29.9% unfavorable), with Muslim Americans less favorably (36.2%, 39.4%).

Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas had an overall 12.9% favorable and 39.2% unfavorable rating, with 12.2% of Jewish Americans approving (61.5% disapproving) compared to 44% approval of Muslim Americans.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh had a 9.5% overall favorability (56.1% unfavorability), with 7.2% of Jewish Americans approving and 76.4% disapproving, and 38.6% of Muslim Americans approving and 34.5% disapproving.

“Our latest data show that while the conflicts between Israel and the Palestinian people are not new to the American people, we have entered an equivalent to the post-September 11 era, and the sentiment among our citizens from this point forward will largely be guided by this sad and dark moment in history,” Buchanan noted. ☆





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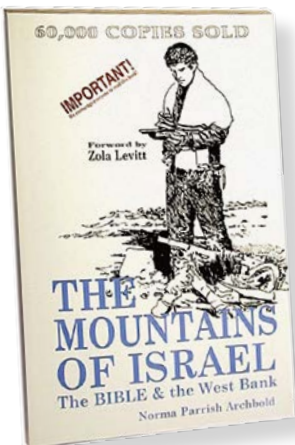
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## The Mountains of Israel book

by Norma Archbold



Once Zola’s guest on TV, Archbold presents a refreshing perspective on the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially for those who have studied Israel from a Scriptural view. Enlightening maps, illustrations, charts, and references provide a geographical orientation to the war game of all eternity.

Readers will find eye-opening quotes from witnesses who were in the Holy Land during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their descriptions characterize Israel as a treeless, barren wasteland before the Jewish people’s return. Equally helpful to gentiles and Jews, *The Mountains of Israel* remains valuable reading since it is presented from a Biblical point of view — God’s Word and His plan, of course, remain unchanged.

# Defending America's Heritage by Defending the Jews

*continued from cover*

How could this rise in anti-Semitism be happening in America? After all, America, to her credit, has been different from other nations in her treatment of Jews.

In 1790, even before the passage of the Constitution's First Amendment defending religious freedom, America's first president, George Washington, visited a Jewish synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. Subsequently, he wrote to their membership declaring the right of everyone to worship as they choose — not as a matter of tolerance, but as a fundamental human right. Washington closed the letter with this benediction:

May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of all

This is a country founded by Christians, a majority whose citizens are Christians. But ... those rights to life, liberty, and a pursuit of happiness, which we have as the endowment of our Creator, have been given to everybody. So, this is a nation that the majority of which is Christian. I will say to you as a Jewish American that I believe [that] in the 5,765 years of Jewish history, **there has never been a country, other than Israel** during certain times of its history, **which has given Jews more freedom.** ... That's the glory of this country and, frankly, the grace and gift of the Christians who founded the country.

This is the glorious heritage bequeathed to us by our forefathers. As Americans,



Anti-Israel protesters at Tulane University on October 26, 2023

the other inhabitants; while everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.

Has America been perfect on this issue? No, she has not always lived up to her noble ideals. Still, as former Senator Joseph Lieberman observed in 2005:

we must protect it and pass it on — unsullied and undiminished — to our children and our grandchildren.

As freedom-loving Americans, we must insist that our federal government understand and act upon the fact that **the true culprit in the Middle East is the Islamic Republic of Iran.** The terrorists

*(continued on next page)*

who carried out the heinous attacks on Israel on October 7 trained for their mission in Iran.

The Iranian mullahs are the sponsors of Hamas, Hezbollah, and all other malicious actors seeking genocide against the Jews in the Middle East. And make no mistake about it, it is genocide.

**Dr. Qanta A. Ahmed**, a moderate Muslim, writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, described her experience helping with the orderly handling of the corpses of the victims of Hamas's atrocities:

I examined bodies and ashes, incinerated teeth and bones. I saw toddlers, teens, and adults, young and old, many of them bound, tortured, and burned alive. One word continually came to mind: genocide. No matter how it emerges, the monster is easy to recognize. **As a doctor, I had a rare and panoramic view of the aftermath: the targeted people's long, agonizing journey to death.**

Contrasting the horrors she witnessed previously in Pakistan, Kurdistan, and other ISIS atrocities, Dr. Ahmed asserted that the October 7 attack was more savage and "barbaric than anything before it."

Israel has no choice. Hamas is committed to the genocide of the Jewish people. How can you make peace when your next-door neighbor fanatically strives to murder you and your family?



Dr. Qanta A. Ahmed

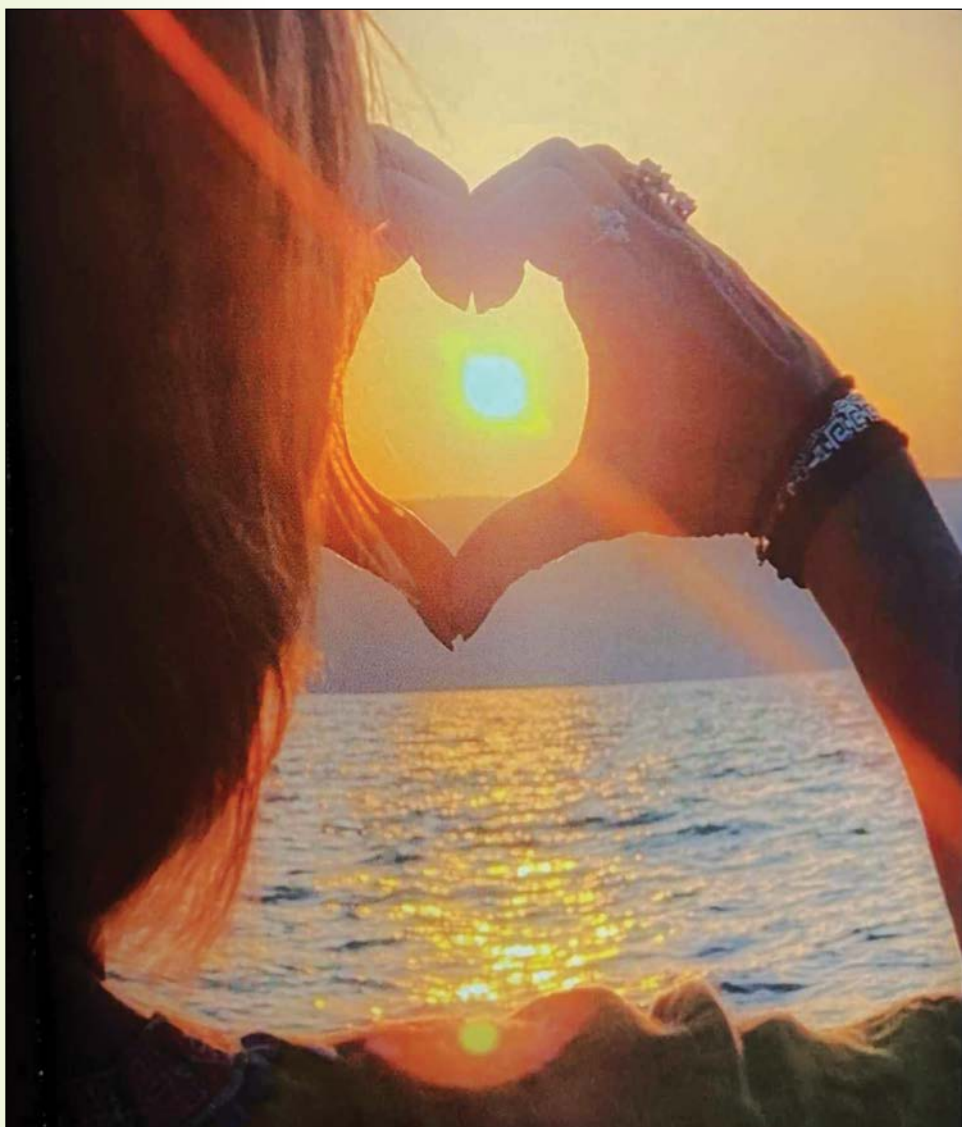
And Iran is the "great enabler." Our government must take the necessary measures to remove Iran's ability and will to continue the financing of genocide against the Jews in Israel and anti-Semitism everywhere it rears its malignant head.

Iran's mullahs and their Hamas clients have shown us who they are by word and deed. We need to unite to defeat them so they can no longer poison the minds, twist the souls, and destroy the bodies of more generations of people in the Middle East — Jewish and gentile.

**The Israelis are fighting for the fundamental human rights of everyone in the Middle East — including the Palestinians.**

We should support them in every way we can. If the Israelis prevail, everyone in the Middle East will have a better future. If the Iranian mullahs win, everyone's future will be grotesquely bleak. ✨





Kirsten at the Sea of Galilee

I indeed upgraded my last name when I married David Hart. He proposed to me with a heart-shaped diamond ring 34 years ago. For decades, as we toured as a singing couple, people often asked, "Do you remember that TV show, *Hart to Hart*?" We jokingly replied, "That was us!" In fact, our first CD project was entitled *Hart to Heart*. It's an understatement to say that hearts are vital to us Harts.

February 14 — Valentine's Day — is special for many couples. It's a day to cel-

eborate love, express gratitude for one's spouse, and extend kindness to others. In their hit song, "All You Need is Love," The Beatles highlighted the importance of love. Unfortunately, as we witness in the news today, hate continues to run rampant throughout the world. It's essential for us Believers\* to spread love everywhere. Everyone needs more of it!

Anti-Semitism is increasing once again. Though so many people demand equality, it is difficult to comprehend how a

\* "Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."

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certain group of people can be so hated. Why is this still happening? Perhaps this lack of love is indicative of an underlying, ancient evil — jealousy.

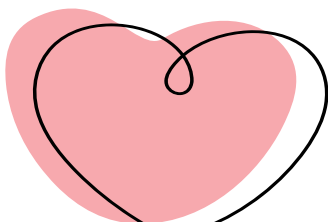
From his beginning, Lucifer was a jealous angel. He desired the prominence and position held by his Creator. After being cast out of Heaven, his jealousy increased. Then, after God chose a people whom He called the “*apple of His eye*” (Deut. 32:10; Zech. 2:8), Satan’s envy intensified again. **Since that time, our enemy has been on a mission to destroy God’s Chosen People.** Today, he seems to be accelerating his efforts to eradicate them from the face of the Earth.

Is there anything we can do to block his plan? Love.

The Apostle Peter wrote: “*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins*” (1 Pet. 4:8). On the Cross, Christ defeated Satan. Still, we who live on Earth must continue to battle against our enemy’s schemes. Through God’s Spirit empowering us, we must make a daily effort to show unconditional love to others, regardless of their background or religion.

This is the message of the heart that the Harts seek to practice, especially this month as we celebrate and highlight love. Along with this ministry that focuses on the Jewish roots of Christianity, we ask that you commit to being a beacon of God’s love and a defender of His Chosen People. ☆

*Hatred stirs up strife,  
but love covers all sins.*  
—Proverbs 10:12



## Zion Song music CD

During his lifetime, Zola Levitt composed over 200 Spirit-filled songs. Musicians David and Kirsten Hart revived this rich legacy when they became the studio hosts of our television broadcast.

On *Zion Song*, David and Kirsten sing 11 songs written by Zola and arranged and orchestrated by Sammy Davenport.



How many of you have already broken your New Year's resolutions? We all have good intentions to eat healthy, work out, save money on car insurance by switching to GEICO, and then BAM! — someone brings cookies to the office and you can't be rude and not have one. Before you know it, Uber Eats is delivering deep-dish pizza while you sit motionless for a marathon of sporting events.

But January 1 is a day just like any other day. Why should it be the momentous starting point for all things suffering? (And why do we consider healthy habits to be suffering? We'll tackle that question another day.) Ultimately, our Gregorian calendar holds no special design in our yearly cycle other than honoring demon gods.

God's Biblical timetable, however, was established with extreme precision for a specific purpose. Genesis 1:14 states: *Then God said, "Let lights in the expanse of the sky be for separating the day from the night. They will be for signs and for seasons and for days and years."*

Interestingly, the Hebrew word translated "seasons" here is *mo'edim*. These are God's appointed times — the Seven Feasts of the Lord and Shabbat. Yet, they are so much more. As Zola Levitt taught, these *mo'edim* prophetically foreshad-

owed Messiah Yeshua's coming. The first three feasts were fulfilled with Yeshua's death, burial, and resurrection; the fourth was fulfilled on *Shavuot* (Pentecost). These days are pillars in time that cannot be undone by man or the enemy. The three Fall Feasts — *Yom Teruah*, *Yom Kippur*, and *Sukkot* — have yet to be fulfilled.

We believe that  
the study of  
Bible prophecy  
is important and  
relevant to your life...

Just as God meticulously planned this prophetic calendar to give His children insight to His future plans, the Word of God is filled with additional prophetic words delivered by the Hebrew prophets. All it takes is some bearded guys crazy enough to gather the key events of these prophecies and dates set in stone in





order to create a blueprint — a *roadmap* — to the end of time!

Cue the fanfare! **God directed your beloved Bearded Bible Brothers to give our inaugural teaching in Israel as the *Roadmap to Armageddon*, which begins on *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)* in February.** We believe that the study of Bible prophecy is important and relevant to your life, not just so you can be a smarty pants to out-Jeopardy other folks about the End Times. But just as you might (or should) train, condition, and discipline your body at the beginning of each New Year, it's time for us to discipline ourselves in God's Word. This is so that we may use the loaded weapon of His authority, power, and foreknowledge to reach a sinful, dying world with the Gospel of Yeshua.

For example, if you know that Zechariah 13:8-9 warns that two-thirds of the

Jewish population would perish by the end of the Tribulation, would you embrace the urgency to share the Gospel with your Hebrew friends today?

Tune into *OJR* each week as we lay out the chronological, prophetic steps that lead to the final War of Armageddon. You will be better equipped to weed out the false prophets declaring prophetic misinformation and draw close to God's covenant promises He made for you and His Chosen People. Yeshua is coming soon. It's time to prepare and equip yourself spiritually for His return. His Word is your manual to share the Gospel with the lost.

And, a good cardio and weight resistance program wouldn't hurt either. ☆

[Please see the study booklet \*Israel's Right to the Land!\* on p. 31.](#)





# A Lower Moral Tier

by Zola Levitt  
from 2002  
22 years ago

America's college campuses are now contaminated by what I call a lower moral tier. College professors, textbooks, student organizations, and so forth, now teach anti-American, anti-Semitic, anti-freedom messages as part of their regular diet of education. **This moral vacuum is also repeated throughout Europe.**

This lower moral tier of society never includes born-again Believers and seldom includes successful people. Some who have gotten ahead are not prejudiced, and the only reason they might show bias is that they want votes, etc., but in their hearts, they are not on the same level.

So how does this lower moral tier gain credence? Remarkably, it is the media elite who continue to elevate these groups. Case in point — the Moscow theatre hostage crisis. Sky News reported that the Chechen rebels were "assisted by the Middle East," a way of reporting the story without using the word "Muslim" to identify the captors.

The United Nations, too, is a group of prejudiced, loutish, arrogant third-worlders who ultimately make little difference and who criticize Israel for a living. Making just decisions based on what's morally right is not their guiding principle.

During our Fall Tour to Israel, I took the television crew to Ramallah to tape some new programs. While there, I met the curator of a local museum who revealed just how low the morality of our enemies has sunk. This woman holds a master's degree from Georgetown University but

began to spout off unbelievable propaganda about supposed Israeli atrocities against the "poor Palestinians."

"Well, yes, we have terrorists," she told me. "They're murderers. They're out of control. But the Israelis have soldiers. They're government-paid. They wear uniforms. And they, too, pick off people [with their guns]." Then she rambled on about an Israeli soldier who shot 15 or 16 bullets at a 60-year-old woman sitting on a porch with her husband. She either believes it or has been told to say it. It's hard for me to believe that she's a graduate of an American university!

Arafat's spokesperson, Hanan Ashrawi, holds a doctorate from an American school, and claims to be a Christian. Yet the depth at which she swims in this lower moral tier demonstrates the twisted way our enemies view their mission. **Jesus was not a Palestinian**, as Ashrawi states, but she believes that somehow the immorality of constantly lying to the public will achieve some greater good.

**Palestinian Christians. How do you define them?** By and large, they call themselves Christians because their parents did so, much like the Copts, Maronites, Armenians, etc. They are of the Eastern Church, very sacramental. We would not regard them as born-again Believers in this country. They have no salvation doctrine, no knowledge of



prophecy, and are typically either neutral about Israel or, more likely, hostile — not like the Muslims, who are by all means the most virulent of the world's religions. But they are a close second.

After dealing with Muslims all my life, I would say that the whole Islamic community around the world is included in this lower moral tier. They approve the killing of innocents, and as a group

pursue Islamic control of the world — a completely insane idea. I don't believe that these people are unintelligent — they know that what they say is false — but they are morally crippled. And unfortunately, their message enjoys a greater voice in public than that of those who speak the truth from a platform of morality. ✨

## **Abraham: Father of Faith**

Eight programs on two DVDs

This eight-part series tells the story of the Patriarch through drama at the actual locations in the Bible. Interviews with contemporary personalities highlight the Jews' seamless connection with the land promised to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac.

**The Calling** God chooses Abram from the idol-worshiping world to walk with Him and proclaim His name through the ages.

**A Man of Altars** Abram walks the land, building altars in significant places. We interview the spokesman for Samaria, one of the modern disputed lands that God promised to the seed of Abram.

**God-initiated Covenant** God makes a covenant with Abram. Myles Weiss interviews Itamar Marcus, whose Palestinian Media Watch translates and analyzes the messages in Arabic-language media and schoolbooks.

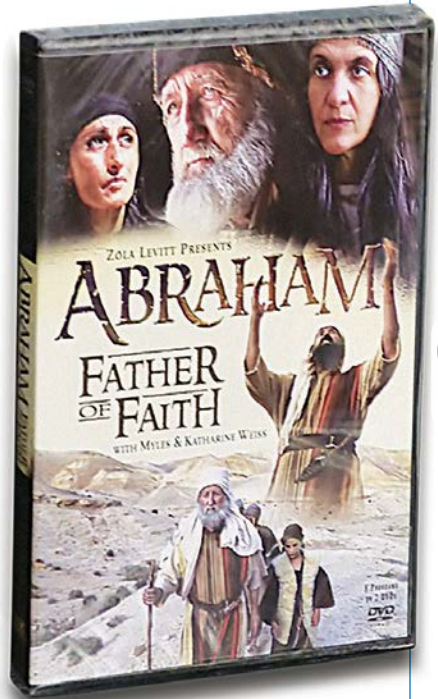
**A Domestic Conflict for the Ages** Sarai and Hagar fall out, but God makes a provision for Hagar and the sons of Ishmael.

**The Promised Son** Isaac is prophesied; conflict separates Abraham and Lot. Katharine Weiss interviews Rachel Lipkin, an Egyptian-born, Jewish interpreter of Arabic media.

**Deliverance and Increase** Abraham and Sarah escape danger from Abimelech. Myles Weiss interviews Avi Lipkin, an expert on Islam and the Middle East.

**Circumcision as a Forever Sign** God institutes this sign of the covenant with the descendants of Abraham. David Rubin, former mayor of Shiloh, explains the contemporary conflict over the mountains of Israel.

**The Sacrifice** Isaac, the promised son, is a picture of the Messiah to come. We interview a civic leader near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, one of the most hotly contested cities of Israel.



# What is the Purpose of Good Works?

## PART 1

**Dr. Todd Baker**  
Zola Levitt Ministries  
Staff Theologian  
staff@levitt.com



There are two major erroneous ideas about good works that we must avoid:

**Error 1:** Good works can save us.

**Error 2:** Good works don't matter.

These are both false! Scripture clearly teaches that we are not saved by good works. Ephesians 2:8–9 and Titus 3:5 are two of many passages emphasizing that salvation is an unmerited gift of God, given to a repentant Believer through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from any works. This is the Biblical doctrine of salvation — through faith alone, in Christ alone, by God's grace alone.

Any good deeds that humans do to earn God's favor are inadequate because of our tainted sin nature. Isaiah 64:6 notes that our righteousness is like filthy rags in God's perspective. Nothing we can do, even as we seek to obey God's Law, will bring us a right relationship with a Holy God: *"For by the works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the Law comes the knowledge of sin"* (Rom. 3:20).

The Lord Jesus Christ said that the sole "work" we must do is to believe in Him for eternal life. *"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him [Jesus] whom He [God the Father] has sent"* (John 6:29). Actually, only God's work enables the sinner to come to Jesus and believe in

Him for salvation; the sinner could not do it alone. Jesus stressed this in John 6:44 — *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

**Salvation by God's grace alone cancels any notion of salvation by human works:** *"And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work"* (Rom. 11:6).

Sinners are saved only through the perfect work of Jesus Christ, who died as our substitute on the Cross to make us right with God. When we trust in what He did, a divine exchange results. God removes our soiled rags of self-effort and gives us the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). Thus, all who are saved by faith in Christ alone enter into salvation "rest" — acceptance by God and the end of any efforts to earn salvation through works (Matt. 11:28–30; Heb. 4:10).

The Christian walk begins, continues, and finishes through faith in Christ. **Good works have their place, but they are the fruit (result) rather than the root (cause) of salvation.** Next month, we will look at the value of a Believer's good works. ✨

*For by grace you have been saved  
through faith,  
and that not of yourselves;  
it is the gift of God, not of works,  
lest anyone should boast.*

EPHESIANS 2:8-9





During our June 2023 Gospel outreach to Israel, August Rosado and I talked with **Maya**, who worked at our hotel in Jerusalem. We told her that God frequently sends us to Israel to give the Jewish Scriptures — in both Testaments — to the Chosen People, and to declare from this Word that Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel.

After giving Maya a complete Hebrew Bible, her co-worker, **Ariel** rushed up and said that he wanted one too! With genuine curiosity, Ariel listened as we explained that the Jewish Bible is the true story of God's redemption of sinners through Yeshua the Messiah.

I noted the first prophecy about the Messiah in Genesis 3:15, and how Satan was defeated through Yeshua's crucifixion and resurrection from the dead. Maya and Ariel gladly received Bibles from us in which they can find salvation through God's Son — the King of the Jews (Matt. 2:2; 27:37) — as revealed in its pages.

The next day at the Mamilla Mall, August and I talked with **Stav**, a young Israeli lady working at one of the shops. We explained that God wants His people to know His Son, Yeshua the Messiah, Who is revealed in both Testaments of the Hebrew Scriptures. Stav thought the New Testament is the Christian Bible, whereas the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) is the only Bible for Jews.

We corrected this error by explaining that the New Covenant is mentioned in the *Tanakh*. In Jeremiah 31:31-34, the Lord says that He will make a New Covenant with the people of Israel. Thus, the New Testament is first and foremost for the Jewish people! Stav accepted this and willingly received a complete Hebrew Bible so that she could see Yeshua's connection throughout Scripture (Heb. 1:1-4).

Later we met Dana at another shop. She also thought that the New Tes-

tament was not a part of the Hebrew Bible. August and I explained that it was written almost entirely by Jews about the Messiah of Israel. We also shared Jeremiah's prophecy of the New Covenant God promised to the Jewish



**above:** Maya, August, Todd, and Ariel  
**below:** Stav

people. Understanding this revelation, Dana gladly accepted a complete Hebrew Bible from us.

Once again, God's Word triumphed in Israel over the rabbis' erroneous teaching that the New Testament is not for the Jews. To the contrary, it is integrally connected with the Old Testament. Thanks to this ministry, these Jewish people recognized this truth. Please pray for them — that God will open their hearts to receive salvation through faith in His Son Yeshua.

Though our return has been delayed by the war, we anticipate continuing our Gospel outreach to Israel very soon. This endeavor remains possible only through your financial support and prayers. Thank you! ✨



# The War Continues

Mark Levitt  
ZLM Director  
since 1988



“The War for the Heart of a Generation” was the cover article of our August 2023 *Levitt Letter*. Please reread it. The excerpted article below, by UC Berkeley Political Science professor Ron Hassner, indicates that Zionists like us ZLMers must do much more in this war to edify generations X,Y, and Z. —Mark



When college students who sympathize with Palestinians chant “From the river to the sea,” do they know what they’re talking about? I hired a survey firm to poll 250 students from a variety of backgrounds across the U.S. Most said that they supported the chant — some enthusiastically so (32.8%) and others to a lesser extent (53.2%).

But only 47% of the students who embrace the slogan were able to name the river and the sea. Asked in what decade Israelis and Palestinians had signed the Oslo Accords, more than a quarter of the students claimed that

no such peace agreements had ever been signed. **There’s no shame in being ignorant, unless one is screaming for the extermination of millions.**

A Latino engineering student from a southern university reported “definitely” supporting “from the river to the sea” because “Palestinians and Israelis should live in two separate countries, side by side.” Shown on a map of the region that a Palestinian state would stretch from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, leaving no room for Israel, he downgraded his enthusiasm to “probably not.” Of the 80 students who saw the map, 75% similarly changed their view.

An art student from a New England liberal arts college “probably” supported the slogan because “Palestinians and Israelis should live together in one state.” But when informed of recent polls that most Palestinians and Israelis rejected the one-state solution, the student lost his enthusiasm. So did 41% of students in that group.

A third group of students claimed that the chant called for a Palestine to replace Israel. Sixty percent of those students reduced their support for the slogan when they learned that it would entail the subjugation, expulsion, or annihilation of seven million Jewish and two million Arab Israelis. Yet another 14% of students reconsidered their stance when they read that many American Jews considered the chant to be threatening, even racist.

**After learning a handful of basic facts about the Middle East, 67.8% of students went from supporting “from the river to sea” to rejecting the mantra.** These students had never seen a map of the Middle East and knew little about the region’s geography, history, or demography. Those who hope to encourage extremism depend on the political ignorance of their audiences. It is time for good teachers to join the fray and combat bias with education. ☆



# ZLM Bulletin Board



## The Fonz — Jewish?

In the *Happy Days* sitcom (1974–1984), fictional character Arthur Fonzarelli (aka “Fonzie”) had an Italian background. But Henry Winkler, who portrayed “The Fonz,” is the Jewish grandfather of six (ayyy!) and a real mensch. The son of German Jews who escaped the Holocaust, Winkler has long roots in New York City’s Congregation Habonim. See **The Fonz dancing to Hava Nagilah** at <https://bit.ly/48vR3oC>.



Henry Winkler riding a camel in Israel

credit: Twitter screenshot

## Aliyah Return Center

OJR viewers have seen our interviews with Israeli-Zionist Chaim Malespin. He serves as a sergeant major in the IDF Combat Engineering Corps’ special *Yahalom* (Hebrew for “diamond”) elite commando unit. He also runs the Aliyah Return Center (ARC), which welcomes Jewish people from around the world to their ancestral homeland and gives them temporary room and board. To expand, the ARC is renovating an abandoned boarding school in the Galilee and could use your help. For more information, see [AliyahReturnCenter.com](http://AliyahReturnCenter.com).



Sgt. Chaim Malespin

credit: Chaim Malespin

### FREE ITEM

## Pamphlet of the Month

If you own property that you no longer wish to occupy or manage, a charitable gift can meet multiple goals. **Giving Real Estate** is a 20-page pamphlet that discusses topics including: 1) property that has changed in value, 2) making a gift while retaining use of the property, and 3) providing income from a contribution. The Technical Advisory Section addresses real estate held long-term, depreciated real estate, and more. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.

**Request POM #14.**

GIVING  
REAL  
ESTATE

## Christian Legal Society

For years, this ministry looked up contact information of Christian attorneys for ZLMers who were drafting wills and creating trusts. Now, the Christian Legal Society ([ChristianLegalSociety.org](http://ChristianLegalSociety.org)) offers a free, online directory for finding a Christian Lawyer, which you can access at [tinyurl.com/m5hwfmek](http://tinyurl.com/m5hwfmek). In addition, one of our staffers can help you search this directory if you email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com). We also would like to hear from licensed attorneys who are available, as a service to the Lord, to create wills for ZLMers at a discount of at least one-third off their customary fees.

## “COME HOME!”

Zola  
Tours  
to Israel



See page 36  
for details





Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

## The Day Draws Near

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



### קָרוֹב יוֹם־יְהוָה הַגָּדוֹל קָרוֹב וְיָמֵהָר מְאֹד

“The great Day of the LORD is near;  
it is near and hastening quickly.” (Zeph. 1:14a)

אָד	מְ	הָר	וְ	קָרוֹב	הַ	גָּדוֹל	יּוֹם־	יְהוָה	קָרוֹב
(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)

me-ohd' oo-ma-heir' ka-rohv'  
it is near and hastening quickly

ha-ga-dohl' yohm – Adonai ka-rohv'  
near is the great day of the LORD

Read Hebrew right to left!

When Moses proclaimed the good news of God’s forthcoming redemption for Israel, the people could not listen because they were “short of breath” (Exod. 6:9). “Interestingly, this phrase (*mi’kotzer ru’ach* מִקְצֵר רוּחַ) can also mean “lacking in spirit,” as if in a paralyzed state of hopelessness.

Life in this evil world can sometimes be suffocating. And while we may not be under the oppression of a cruel Pharaoh, we are certainly affected by the “princes of this age” who spurn the message of the Messiah’s redemption and love. We are also subjected to bondage imposed by taskmasters who defy the Lord and seek to enslave us with their lies, propaganda, mandates, and threats of violence. The devil is still at work in the hearts and minds of many of his “little Pharaohs” who serve the world system.

Nevertheless, “there is no fear in love” (אֵין פֶּחַד בְּאַהֲבָה), especially since we know that *ein od milvado* — there is no real power apart from the Lord (i.e., He is the only true Power in the universe). Indeed, Yeshua is called *elyon le’ malk-*

*hei-aretz* (עֲלִיּוֹן לְמַלְכֵי־אֶרֶץ) — the “Ruler of the princes of the Earth” (Rev. 1:5) — which means that they will answer to Him (Psalm 2).

If you belong to the Messiah, you are not part of this world and its matrix of deception, but instead serve the King of kings (Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18; 1 Pet. 2:9). Therefore, set your thoughts on things above, not on things of this world (Col. 3:2). In the end, all things born of the lie will be exposed and forever put away from us (Eccl. 12:14). The great Day draws near. “For though the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end — it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay” (Hab. 2:3). Amen, come quickly, Lord Yeshua!



**Hebrew Phrase:**

קָרוֹב יוֹם־יְהוָה הַגָּדוֹל

*karov · yom-Adonai · hagadol*

“The great day of the LORD is near.”

*Zephaniah 1:14a*



## *The Gospel According to Isaiah* DVD set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on Two DVDs

The Gospel of Isaiah, written 700 years before Christ, reveals the Jewish nature of our Messiah and the fulfillment of His coming as the Lamb of God. See why New Testament authors have quoted Isaiah more than any other Old Testament source and why this Old Testament narrative is often called the 5<sup>th</sup> Gospel.

**Jesus' Birth** Dr. Jeffrey Seif takes us through the drama of Jesus' miraculous birth as described by Isaiah the Prophet. Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would come as a "root out of dry ground" and that "His name shall be called Immanuel, meaning God with us."

**Jesus' Rejection** "He was despised and rejected by men." Jeff explains that the theme of rejecting God's anointed is not new to Isaiah. On location at an ancient Jewish synagogue, we learn that the Messiah who was rejected shall one day be vindicated. Zola teaches Jesus' prophetic fulfillment of Isaiah 53 (from *The Prophesied Messiah* series at [levitt.tv/media/series/VMST](http://levitt.tv/media/series/VMST)).

**Jesus' Condemnation** At the Church of the Gallicantu, Jeff explores the story of Jesus' arrest and condemnation by the unbelieving Pharisees and Pilate. Thought to be the location of Caiaphas' house, the Gallicantu is where Peter denied the Lord three times before the rooster crowed.

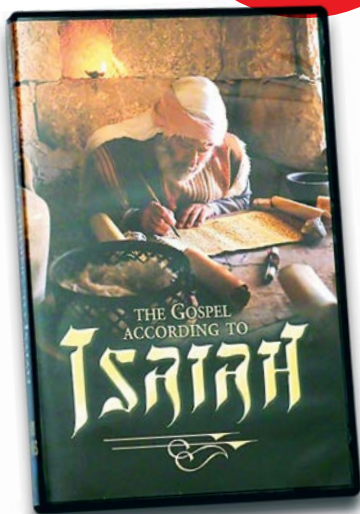
**Jesus' Death** How can a Jewish Messiah be "numbered with the transgressors?" In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jeff reports on Jesus' suffering as foreseen by Isaiah to fulfill a final blood atonement for the entire world. We see a dramatic exploration of Jesus' sacrifice for sins, and Zola playing "For His Name's Sake."

**Jesus' Resurrection** The concept of resurrection from the dead did not originate in the New Testament. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus the Messiah would conquer death and the grave. Witness a celebration of Jesus' miraculous fulfillment of prophecy. In addition, Zola and Dr. Michael Wise discuss Messianic prophecy from the Dead Sea Scrolls.

**Holy Spirit** Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world." At the Temple Mount's Southern Steps, Jeff teaches the prophetic nature of the Holy Spirit as fulfilled by Jesus and spread to all Believers like a fire from on high. Zola plays special music from our series *Tell It On the Mountains*, now available for free viewing at [levitt.tv/media/series/VTM](http://levitt.tv/media/series/VTM).

**Rebounding from Devastation** At the ruins of a first-century estate, Jeff explores the prophecy of Jesus as the Deliverer. God sent the Messiah to set the captives free and heal the broken-hearted. Discover the Hebrew meaning behind the Lord's Prayer, and enjoy an enlightening interview with Zola and Ra'anana Gissin, a former senior advisor to then-prime minister Ariel Sharon.

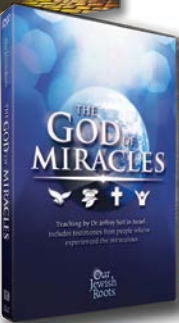
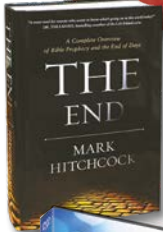
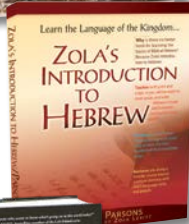
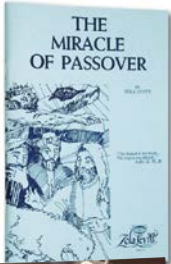
**Summary** Atop the Mount of Olives, Jeff reviews the entirety of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Jewish Messiah's birth, rejection, death, and resurrection. Nevertheless, Jesus' active role in prophecy will not be completely fulfilled until He returns to Jerusalem to rule and reign for 1,000 years.





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___	<b>The Promised Land!</b> (p.20) .....	\$4	___
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## Featured DVDs

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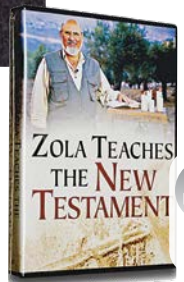
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## [The Best of Zola's Music Videos](#) DVD set

10 years of Zola on two DVDs

Our production team made a special effort to pair video that was shot on location in Israel and Greece with selections of Zola's favorite, original compositions for your viewing pleasure. Breathtaking scenes of the Holy Land accompany Zola's original music on two DVDs. Some songs were written for our television series, and some were simply inspired by Zola's travels through Israel.

### FIRST DVD:

#### **Zola's Music Video I** (53 minutes)

Zola's unique music is paired with magnificent video footage from the Holy Land. Album excerpts from *Next Year in Jerusalem*; *Messiah*; *Israel, My Love*; and *Beginning of the End*.

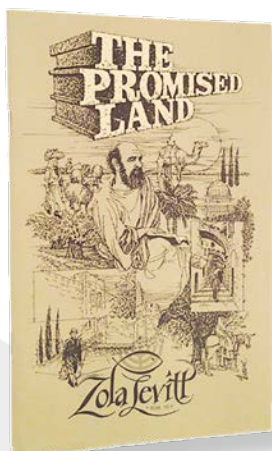
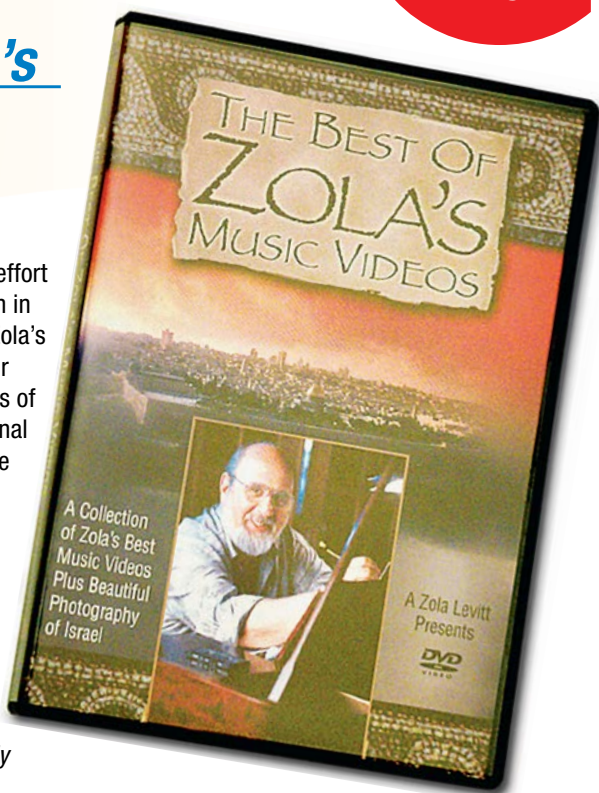
#### **Zola's Music Video II** (60 minutes)

A second collection of music. Breathtaking scenes of the Holy Land accompanied by Zola's original compositions from the albums *Zola's Songs by Lamb*, *Beloved Thief*, *Return to Galilee*, and *Beyond Words*. A fine marriage of music and video footage.

### SECOND DVD:

#### **Zola's Music Video III** (78 minutes)

This third collection of Zola's music includes beautiful scenes of Israel and Greece accompanied by music from *Living Waters*, *The Holy Land Today*, *Unto the Gentiles*, and *Israel: By Divine Right*, as presented on our television program.

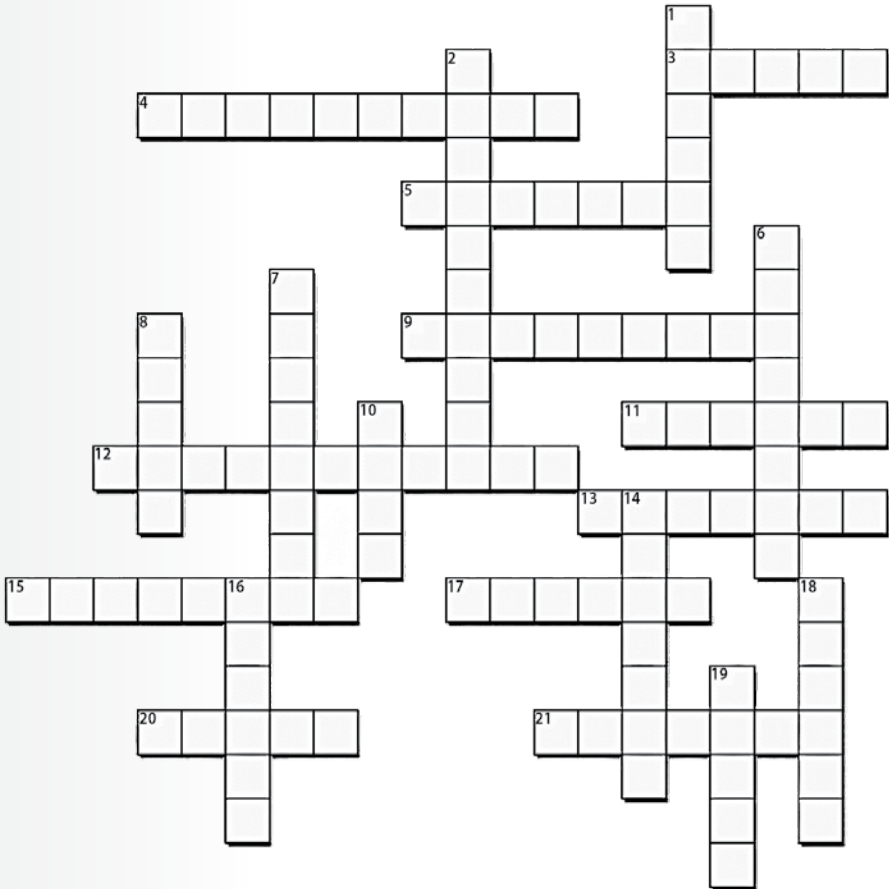


## [The Promised Land](#) study booklet

Travel with Zola and the television crew as they film in various parts of the Holy Land. An interesting and entertaining behind-the-scenes look at Israel, with photos and colorful descriptions of sites shown on the weekly *Our Jewish Roots* programs.

## Repentance, Part 2 (NIV)

by Andrea Davis



*(answers on p. 35)*

**Across:**

3. ...They made their faces harder than \_\_\_ and refused to repent. (Jer. 5:3)
4. ...None of them repent of their \_\_\_\_ (Jer. 8:6)
5. ...If you repent, I will \_\_\_ you that you may serve Me... (Jer. 15:19)
9. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to \_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 7:10)
11. ...But unless you repent, you too will all \_\_\_. (Luke 13:3)
12. ...repentance for the \_\_\_ of sin will be preached in His name... (Luke 24:47)
13. ...Repent and \_\_\_ the Good News! (Mark 1:15)
15. ...but now He \_\_\_ all people everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30)
17. Should God then \_\_\_ you on your terms, when you refuse to repent? (Job 34:33)
20. Then Hezekiah repented of the \_\_\_ of his heart... (2 Chron. 32:26)
21. Therefore I \_\_\_ myself and repent in dust and ashes. (Job 42:6)

**Down:**

1. ...that He might bring \_\_\_ to repentance and forgive their sins. (Acts 5:31)
2. ...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to \_\_\_. (2 Pet. 3:9)
6. ...even to \_\_\_ God has granted repentance that leads to life. (Acts 11:18)
7. ...Repent and be \_\_\_, every one of you... (Acts 2:38)
8. The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in \_\_\_ who repent... (Isa. 59:20)
10. ...In repentance and \_\_\_ is your salvation... (Isa. 30:15)
14. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be \_\_\_ and repent. (Rev. 3:19)
16. and if that \_\_\_ I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent... (Jer. 18:8)
18. \_\_\_, then, and turn to God... (Acts 3:19)
19. Recently you repented and did what is \_\_\_ in My sight... (Jer. 34:15)



# Letters to ZLM

Some letters have been edited for space. For ministry products and TV programs, visit our [web store](#) and [free video archives](#).

Letters, emails, and comments from [levitt.com](#) and our social media platforms

## Saddened by Hatred of Jews

**From D.K.:** Shalom. In reading the *Levitt Letter*, I'm saddened by the hatred directed towards the dear Jewish people. For some reason, some people are absolutely full of hate because they are brainwashed. Led blindly by false religious beliefs and teachings, many are unaware that Satan is behind them! This hatred goes way back, and unfortunately until Yeshua comes back, it will continue. How sad that so many are being led to slaughter and can't even see it, much less understand it. I enjoy your newsletters and *Our Jewish Roots*. Keep up the good work, and God bless you all!

Dear D.K.,

It so deeply saddens us as well to see hatred toward the apple of God's eye. Our strongest weapons to battle today's rampant anti-Semitism are sharing truth (from God's Word), showing love to others, and prayer. —Kirsten

## Israel By Divine Right (1995) - #8 "The Regathering" on YouTube

**From K.T.:** I miss Zola. This ministry and Zola were foundational to my Jewish understanding of the Bible as well as understanding the prophecy books in the Word. My Mom and I watched *Zola Levitt Presents* at 3:00 a.m. on one of your television networks back in the day.

Dear K.T.,

You and your mom were quite dedicated viewers to watch Zola at 3:00 a.m.! While we all miss him, I have the feeling that he's not missing us at all. One day, we will all reunite. —David

## Israel at War – a Call to Action on YouTube

**From A.S.:** I went to the post office, and one of the things I wanted was Hanukkah stamps. The postal worker told me: "I have to look around to make sure no one is around me before I can give you the stamps." Then, **he proceeded to explain how customers are so against Israel and for Hamas**. Needless to say, I was and still am in shock! I am not going to let it stop me. I am going to use my Hanukkah stamps, and I will send Hanukkah cards, and I will wish the Jewish people that I know Happy Hanukkah. Thank you, brothers, for your faithfulness and for helping us ZLMers to understand everything.

Dear A.S.,

What a disturbing story, yet we are not surprised. It's amazing how quickly the world jumps on the hate bandwagon against Israel. This is merely a sign of how close we all are to the end. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting Israel. Blessings! —Joshua and Caleb

*(continued on next page)*



## War in Israel on YouTube

**From P.P.:** Aren't Gaza and the West Bank part of the Promised Land that God gave to the Israelites? So, why is everyone so up in arms? Why can't the Palestinians go to Iran or something? Sorry I'm stupid, but I want to learn!

Dear P.P.,

Indeed, Gaza was given as an inheritance to the tribe of Judah. The "West Bank" encompasses the former Judea and Samaria; east of the Jordan River included the inheritance of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh. Satan doesn't want God's people to settle in their land or even to exist. This spiritual hatred moves in the hearts of humans and will not be resolved completely until Yeshua returns. Please see the study booklet *Israel's Right to the Land!* on p. 31. —Joshua and Caleb



## Dateline Jerusalem #7: Sacrifices for Sin on YouTube

**From D.W.:** I hope you know that the Third Temple is not a physical building, just like the Church isn't a physical building. It's our bodies that are the Temple, and we are saved by the blood of Lord Jesus, which covered us and turned us white as snow. We are in His house and soon will be at heavenly home with our beloved Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear D.W.,

**The Third Temple is indeed a physical building** as described in Revelation 11, Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, and 2 Thessalonians 2:4. The Jews will rebuild it in Jerusalem, and the Beast will pollute it. Yeshua will also rule from a physical Temple — the 4th Temple, as described in Ezekiel 40-47. Blessings. —Joshua and Caleb

## The Creation Saga Continues with the Bearded Bible Brothers on YouTube

**From C.S.:** What is a Zionist? I heard a speaker on YouTube say Jesus is one.

Dear C.S.,

Most people believe that the term "Zionist" applies to the belief that the Jews have a right to the land of Israel — territory given to them by God. Others use that term like a swear word to describe "evil" Jews who are out to "occupy" territory they've stolen. **We believe the truth of God's covenant promise to Abraham** — that the territory of Israel is an everlasting possession granted to the Chosen People. Blessings. —Joshua and Caleb

Dear C.S.,

God was the very first Zionist! He not only thought that His Chosen People should have a land; He specified the true borders. Please see the study booklet *Israel's Right to the Land!* on p. 31. —Kirsten ☆



# Ivory Tower Disgrace

The Jerusalem Post Editorial / JPost.com



MIT President Sally Kornbluth

To understand what ails American higher education, one need look no further than the testimony to a Congressional committee by presidents of three of America's finest universities: Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and the University of Pennsylvania.

The three leaders and others were called to testify before a U.S. House of Representatives Education and the Workforce

The presidents waffled and then basically replied, "It depends."

### "The easiest question to answer"

New York congresswoman Elise Stefanik grilled the presidents. Turning to Penn's Magill, she asked: "Does calling for the genocide of Jews violate Penn's rules or code of conduct — yes or no?"

Anti-Israel protests since October 7 on Penn's campus, as well as others across the U.S., have featured slogans advocating violence against Jews and the elimination of Israel, such as "Globalize the intifada" and "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

"If the speech turns into conduct, it can be harassment," Magill responded. Unsatisfied with the reply, Stefanik pressed further: "I'm asking specifically, does calling for the genocide of Jews constitute bullying or harassment?" Magill: "It is a context-dependent decision."

Stefanik replied: "It is a context-dependent decision — that is your testimony — calling for the genocide of Jews depends upon the context. That is not bullying or harassment? This is the easiest question to answer, Ms. Magill." Again, Magill replied: "If the speech becomes conduct, it can be harassment."

Stunned, her voice rising and shaking, Stefanik clarified: "Conduct, meaning



Former Harvard University President Claudine Gay

Committee hearing, "Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism," on December 5, 2023. The learned presidents — Harvard's Claudine Gay, MIT's Sally Kornbluth, and Penn's Liz Magill — were asked whether calls on campus for the genocide of the Jewish people and the destruction of Israel constitute harassment or bullying of Jewish students.



(continued on next page)



committing the act of genocide? The speech is not harassment?! This is unacceptable, Ms. Magill."

It certainly is.

### "Context dependent"

This, from heads of universities where microaggressions are not tolerated, pronouns are policed, and those who espouse unpopular opinions are marginalized.

Or, as Ben-Gurion University President Daniel Chamovitz said in a statement: "In what world is calling for the genocide of Jews 'context-dependent'? In what world does a university president, leading one of the world's supposed bastions of liberal thought and critical thinking, have difficulty saying [that] calls for genocide are only crimes if 'actionable'?"

In what world? In a world where the secretary-general of the United Nations says that the October 7 massacre "did not happen in a vacuum." In a world where it took nearly 60 days for UN Women to issue a tepid statement condemning the brutal rape of Jewish women. In a world where feminist groups question whether Israeli women were really sexually violated on October 7, despite ample testimony and evidence. In a world full of double standards and hypocrisy regarding Israel and the Jews.

An October 13 headline in the satirical *Babylon Bee* lampooned this hypocrisy with the following headline to a fake story: "Harvard student leaves lecture on microaggressions to attend 'kill the Jews' rally." It would be funny if it didn't reflect a frightful truth.

### Safe spaces, but not for all

The universities that the three presidents lead pride themselves on providing a "safe space" for all minorities, where everyone can feel comfortable and safe.

Except for Jews. Concerning Jews and Israel, students and faculty can shout anti-Semitic slogans throughout campus and administrators ignore it. Or, as in Penn's case, they advise Jewish students not to wear clothing or accessories that identify them as Jews.

Hedge fund billionaire Bill Ackman, a Harvard graduate, wrote that the college presidents' testimony reflects a "profound moral bankruptcy." Ackman called on the presidents to resign, noting that their non-committal answers "reflect the profound educational, moral, and ethical failures that pervade certain of our elite education institutions due in large part to their failed leadership."



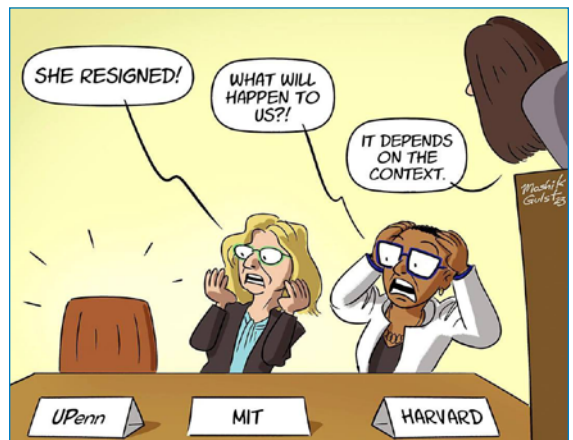
Former University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill

"Why has anti-Semitism exploded on campus and around the world?" he asked. "Because of leaders like presidents Gay, Magill, and Kornbluth, who believe genocide depends on context."

The presidents' search for "context" for anti-Semitic chants echoing off the ivy-laced walls on their exquisite campuses is a disgrace. Congress should be commended for bringing it fully into the public's view.



**NOTE:** Liz Magill resigned as president of the University of Pennsylvania on December 9, 2023. Claudine Gay resigned as president of Harvard University on January 2, 2024. Both women have remained at their respective universities as highly-paid professors. —Editor



## Keeping an Eye and Ear on Billions of Bees

By John Jeffay  
NoCamels.com



**left:** A device outside the hive uploads data to the cloud

**below top:** BeeHero's sensors can go where humans cannot

**middle:** In-hive sensors relay real-time data on the health of the bees

**bottom:** Sensors warn of problems so beekeepers can intervene

Beekeepers can listen to the buzz of their hives and recognize the health of the bees. That's fine when you have only a few hives. But since big bee companies often have thousands of hives, relying on human instincts to flag a problem isn't an option.

That's where BeeHero comes in. The Israeli company, founded in 2017, leads the world in monitoring beehives. Its tiny in-hive sensors — about the size of an AirPods case — **saved a quarter of a billion bees in 2022.**

After the sensors collect a variety of data, artificial intelligence identifies any concerns that need attention, such as temperature extremes or the demise of the queen bee. The sensors then relay information to humans via a smartphone or other device.

BeeHero's customers are farmers whose crops will fail if they're not properly pollinated. Growers rent hundreds or even thousands of hives for the critical weeks when they require bee pollination for their crops. If the hives are sick or depleted, the bees can't do the job properly. **Pollination accounts for 80% of total bee business.** By comparison, honey production is a sideline.

Eytan Schwartz, VP of Global Strategy at BeeHero, said that 48% of all hives in the U.S. are lost every year, but many bee deaths could be prevented. Farmers working with BeeHero report a loss of just 27%.



Credit: BeeHero

Bees are critical to global food security, and technology has

yet to create a truly viable alternative to bees. "The only innovation introduced into beekeeping in the last centuries was the invention of the motorized vehicle to transfer hives," Schwartz explained.

The company offers monitored hives and precision pollination as services. By providing the exact number of bees needed, in the places where they're needed, farmers have more certainty in the pollination process.

BeeHero isn't the only hive monitoring system on the market. Most, however, are aimed at hobbyists who are more concerned about honey yield rather than pollination. Those devices are not cost efficient for keepers with thousands of hives. ☆



# Treating Burn Victims with Pineapple Protein

By Ariel Grossman  
NoCamels.com



Israelis who suffered burn wounds from Hamas's attacks on October 7 are being treated with a therapy made from pineapples. NexoBrid gel is a clinically proven treatment from the Israeli company MediWound. It uses bromelain and other enzymes that, while present throughout the pineapple plant, are extracted from the stems that are typically discarded.



Credit: iStock/Malengida

The effects of bromelain were re-researched for years, but because it evaporated easily, it previously was considered unsuitable as a burn treatment. MediWound, however, isolated and dehydrated the enzymes so that they only activated when mixed with liquid and immediately applied to the skin.

Physicians apply the treatment to first- or second-degree burn wounds, which affect the first or second of the skin's three main layers. Enzymes then break down damaged or dead tissue while preserving healthy tissue. **"It's an enzyme that eats whatever is**



Credit: MediWound

Prof. Josef Haik

**not alive,"** said Prof. Josef Haik, Director of the National Intensive Care Burn Unit at Sheba Medical Center. The treatment itself usually lasts for four hours, de-



The NexoBrid product

Credit: MediWound

pending on the scope of the burn wound. Once the treatment is completed, the wound simply needs to be wiped clean.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved NexoBrid in 2022, but it has been available in Israel for several years. It experienced an unprecedented surge in demand when hundreds of people were admitted to burn units throughout Israel after Hamas terrorists set fire to their homes trying to force them out of their safe rooms.

Collagenase, another enzyme used in burn care, is only active against collagen, which makes up a significant portion of dead tissues but not all of it. Unlike NexoBrid, however, collagenase can take several weeks to remove dead tissue from a burn site.

**Previously, physicians had to wait weeks** to discover how much of a burn wound would become dead and dried tissue before surgically removing it. That surgery often resulted in blood loss that was fatal.

Using NexoBrid not only prevents many patients from undergoing unnecessary surgery but also helps physicians determine whether they need to operate after waiting just a few hours rather than weeks. Some patients still require skin grafts even after the treatment because their burns are too deep and would take too long to heal unaided.

According to Haik, NexoBrid is now the preferred treatment at Sheba, and surgery is only considered in severe cases. **"It changed our way of seeing and treating burns."** ☆



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# Miami Beach Firefighters Volunteer in Israel

By David J. Neal / MiamiHerald.com



credit: Miami Beach Fire Department Facebook page

Locals send off the Miami Beach volunteers to Israel



credit: City of Miami Beach website

Eight Miami Beach Fire Rescue workers volunteered in Israel for two weeks in November. They returned home to hugs of relief from family and friends, along with appreciation from the local Jewish community and laudatory words from state and local officials.

The Miami Beach team replaced Israeli first responders who were called into service with the Israel Defense Forces reserves after Hamas's October 7 terrorist attack on Israel. Following the attack, the Miami Beach Commission unanimously voted to authorize international travel for any volunteers who wished to go. Temple Beth Shalom and the Greater Miami Jewish Federation paid the airfare and travel expenses.

"The first night we got there, going into a bunker to get away from a rocket was very different for me," commented Capt. Adonis Garcia. "Just surreal, and then we had to do it multiple times."

Though some of the work was typical, Garcia explained that a fire rescue truck in South Florida doesn't roll with two soldiers armed with M-16 rifles. "We went to a place where a rocket had gone

**We were in an area where you had 30 seconds to get to a shelter. That was an eye opener.**

in," he added. "You could see the rocket in the apartment, the shrapnel from the rocket.... We were in an area where you

*(continued on next page)*





credit: Miami Beach Fire Department Facebook page

The team in Israel



credit: Miami Beach Fire Department Facebook page

The Miami Beach Fire Rescue workers who volunteered in Israel

had 30 seconds to get to a shelter. That was an eye opener.”

The Miami Beach firefighters were split into pairs, assisting in the cities of Haifa, Jerusalem, Sharon, and Ayala. They quickly bonded with their Israeli counterparts, and the locals appreciated their work. Garcia affirmed his hosts’ hospitality and how they welcomed him to his first Shabbat dinner.

“I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world. I’m ready to go back,” Garcia said.

He added, however, that the hardest part was “hearing my father, who I never heard cry in my whole life ... crying to me, telling me that he didn’t want me to go, but he was proud of the fact that I was going. That inspired me even more.”

Along with Adonis Garcia, other team members were Capt. David Garcia, Lt. Robert Gibson, Lt. Zvi Hirsh, firefighter Carlos Lang, Deputy Chief Juan Mestas, Capt. Javier Rivero, and Capt. Douglas Thompson. ☆



## Archaeology

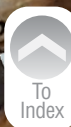
# Mass Production of Arms in Israel Goes Back 7,200 Years

JNS.org

Credit: Assaf Peretz/IAA



Aerial view of the En Esur archaeological site



War in the Middle East, it turns out, goes back more than seven millennia. As far back as 7,200 years ago, it is likely that there was a large-scale and systematic production of weapons in the area that is today's Israel.

The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) recently announced findings of the earliest evidence of warfare in the Southern Levant. The research examined 424 slingstones from the Early Chalcolithic period (c. 5800–4500 B.C.). The stones were uncovered at two large archaeological sites — one at Esur in the northern Sharon Plain and the other Ein Zippori in the Lower Galilee.

**The hundreds of slingstones, mostly made of hard limestone, were almost identical.** Each stone had an average

length of just over 2 inches, an average width of 1.22 inches, and an average weight of around 2.1 ounces.

The stones were intended to be projected from a sling [like David used when he fought Goliath — 1 Samuel 17]. Each stone's smooth, aerodynamic form enabled exact and effective projection.

Similar slingstones have been found at other sites in the country, mainly from the Hula Valley and the Galilee in the north to the northern Sharon Plain. This is the first time, however, that such stones have been discovered in large concentrations at excavations.

*(continued on next page)*

The similarity of the slingstones points to large-scale industrial production, the archaeologists asserted. The effort put into the aerodynamic form and the smoothing of the stones' surface also

indicates that they were intended to be exact and deadly weapons.

Both the large number of slingstones and the effort that went into producing them point to organized preparation for battle that may have been a community effort to produce ammunition, the researchers concluded. ☆



Credit: Gil Haklay/IAA

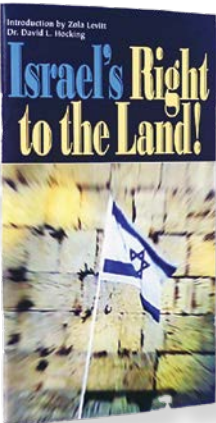
credit: Emil Andron / IAA

Slingstones from Ein Zippori in the Galilee

A researcher holding some of the ancient slingstones



To Index



## **Israel's Right to the Land!** study booklet by Dr. David L. Hocking

Just as its title implies, this booklet 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" — Gen. 15:18) by divine right!



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# The Muslim World's Selective Outrage Over Israel



By Raheel Raza and Mohammed Rizwan  
NationalPost.com

The pro-Hamas, pro-Palestine, anti-Israel rallies in Canada, the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East are nothing new. Since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, Arab politics has largely been defined by the Palestinian question.

The question for the rest of us is: What drives this sentiment? Is this expression of political support driven by sympathy and affinity for Muslims in Palestine? Is it a question of human and religious rights? Or is it a decades-long attempt to change a regional geopolitical situation that Arab rulers believe is unfairly tilted towards a lone Jewish state in a sea of Arab monarchies?

It is simply not the case that these demonstrations are an expression of solidarity for Muslim human and political rights. One doesn't see the instant outpouring of emotions — pain and anger — when Muslim populations across various conflict zones and under various dictatorial regimes suffer far more atrocities than the Palestinians.

Take, for example, **Iran**. The Iranian theocratic regime has been running a reign of terror for nearly 45 years. Its record of torture and atrocities against its own people is well documented and well known.

Following the death of Mahsa Amini, who was killed for not wearing a proper hijab, there were no widespread protests across the Muslim world. The government in **Turkey** even rounded up protesters who dared appear. In **Iran**, tens of thousands were arrested and some were sentenced to death. But the same governments encourage protests against Israel.

Or consider the Assad regime in **Syria**. More than 350,000 people have been killed in the Syrian Civil War, largely due to atrocities committed by the Assad regime and the Islamic State group. Yet there has been near-total silence from those who are now championing the Palestinian cause.

According to the Foundation for Political Innovation, as of 2021, **Al-Qaeda** had been responsible for over 14,000 deaths.

*(continued on next page)*







credit: iStock/Leostat

The Taliban had killed 69,303 people. Since the Taliban retook Afghanistan in August 2021, it has slaughtered at least 1,000 people. Where is the outrage over the Taliban throughout Middle Eastern and Western cities?

In **Sudan**, an estimated 200,000 people were killed in a mass genocide that took place between 2003 and 2005. Yet the Muslim world hardly took notice.

The pattern of this selective rage shifts slightly if the U.S. is involved. It reaches its peak when Israel is involved. We saw it when U.S. forces were rooting out terrorists in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, there was almost total silence when Russian President Vladimir Putin was annihilating Muslims in Chechnya.

In northwestern **China**, the Uyghur Muslim population has been the victim of a cultural genocide perpetrated by Communist authorities. Their religious and human rights have been stripped and many are being held in concentration camps. Yet again, the Muslim world remains silent.

Perhaps this is why much of the world is not rallying behind the Palestinian cause now. People can easily see through the thinly veiled hypocrisy and selective outrage.

There is another interesting paradox. When Muslim regimes abuse the human rights of their citizens, almost all Muslim governments side with the regime instead of the victims. But when the U.S. or Israel is involved in any conflict in the Muslim world, the same regimes take cover behind international human rights laws that they usually disregard.

The **Pakistani military** mastered this art of duplicity and hypocrisy. It received billions of aid dollars from the U.S. and its allies to fight jihadis in Afghanistan, supported many of the same jihadis in their fight against NATO, turned a blind eye to terrorism perpetrated against Pakistani civilians, and stoked anger over U.S. drone strikes, leading to widespread protests.

**This is all about politics, not the political rights of Muslims.** Israel is the only modern, democratic, and technologically advanced state in the Middle East. Compare it with the Muslim monarchies of the region and you have a stark contrast. Support for the Palestinian cause comes from a fear that if Israel is allowed to exist in peace and security, its democratic values will eventually permeate the region. Monarchies and dictatorships dread that day. ✨





President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden with the spring intern class, April 2023

# SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

## Demanding White House Interns

By Andrew Bernard / JNS.org

More than 40 anonymous White House interns sent a letter to President Biden and Vice President Harris in December. They demanded that the administration call for a ceasefire in Gaza and end “Israeli apartheid.”

“We, the undersigned fall 2023 White House and Executive Office of the President interns, will no longer remain silent on the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. We are Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Muslim, Christian, black, Asian, Latine, white, and queer.” (Some use “Latine” to refer to people of Hispanic descent without specifying gender.)

The letter added that the interns “will never forget how the pleas of the American people have been heard and thus far, ignored.” It calls for a permanent ceasefire, a release of all hostages “including Palestinian political prisoners,” a diplomatic solution “that will put an end to the illegal occupation and the Israeli apartheid,” and a “free Palestine.”

In November, 554 congressional aides anonymously “signed” an open letter asking their bosses to demand a ceasefire. Many of those staffers then joined a demonstration outside the Capitol. All wore masks, and some wore hoods and sunglasses to conceal their identities.

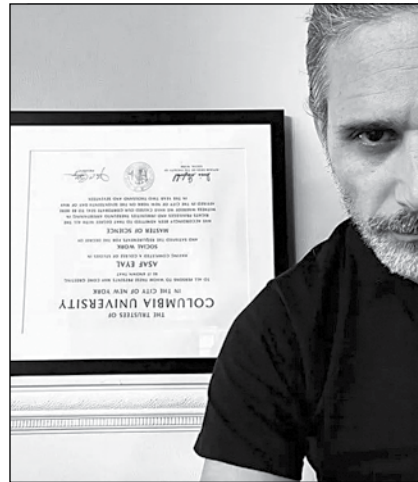
## “Flip Your Diploma”

By David Swindle / JNS.org

In response to viral anti-Israel and anti-Jewish demonstrations at U.S.

universities, coupled with the lack of action by college administrators, alumni are joining an online effort to shame their alma maters’ failed responses.

The “Flip Your Diploma” campaign calls on graduates to take a photo of themselves with their diploma turned upside-down. Victor Muslin, a promoter of the campaign, said that it began with Asaf Eyal at Columbia University in New York City, “but has been joined by alumni from more than a dozen major universities in the U.S. and at least one university abroad.”



credit: Screenshot

Asaf Eyal began the “Flip Your Diploma” campaign

He added that many people had privately remarked that they wanted to participate and agreed with the message, but “are afraid of retaliation.” Muslin noted: “This is a sad comment on the current illiberal cultural climate.” ☆



# Jewish Humor, etc.

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



## Bad News, Good News

A Jewish man sat in the coffee shop reading an Arab newspaper. A friend approached him and, very upset, asked, “Moshe, have you lost your mind? Why are you reading an Arab newspaper?”

Moshe replied, “I used to read the Jewish newspapers, but what did I find? Jews being persecuted, Israel being attacked, Jews disappearing through assimilation and intermarriage, and Jews living in poverty. I got depressed!

“So, I switched to the Arab newspaper. Now what do I find? Jews own all the banks, Jews control the media, Jews are all rich and powerful, Jews rule the world. The news is so much better!” ☆

### Answer Key for February 2024 Crossword (p.21)

- |                 |              |               |             |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>ACROSS:</b>  | 13. Believe  | <b>DOWN</b>   | 10. Rest    |
| 3. Stone        | 15. Commands | 1. Israel     | 14. Earnest |
| 4. Wickedness   | 17. Reward   | 2. Repentance | 16. Nation  |
| 5. Restore      | 20. Pride    | 6. Gentiles   | 18. Repent  |
| 9. Salvation    | 21. Despise  | 7. Baptized   | 19. Right   |
| 11. Perish      |              | 8. Jacob      |             |
| 12. Forgiveness |              |               |             |



## Our Jewish Roots TV Airing Schedule

ZONE	PACIFIC	MOUNTAIN	CENTRAL	EASTERN
<b>DAYSTAR Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 369    Dish – Channel 263				
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<b>TCT Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 377    Dish – Channel 267				
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<b>NRB-TV Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 378				
Day	4:30 PM Thur	5:30 PM Thur	6:30 PM Thur	7:30 PM Thur
<b>GEB-TV Airing Day &amp; Time by zone</b> DirecTV – Channel 363				
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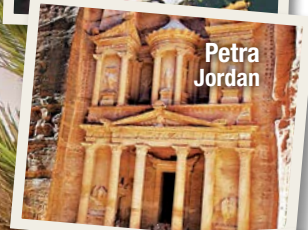
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