



Levitt LETTER

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

credit: igorZn / iStock

Insanity of the Nations

By Charles Gardner / IsraelToday.co.il

➤
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As I awoke, bleary-eyed, to an alarming end-time scenario, I again found myself exclaiming with rising exasperation: "The world's gone mad!"

The news of Spain recognizing a Palestinian state looked like a signal for re-igniting the Spanish Inquisition that brought such terror to Jews — including my own ancestors — in centuries past. And with Ireland and Norway doing the same, the world is rapidly dividing between those who are for or against Israel. Or, to put it another way, those who are for or against God.

You could say that it's between the sheep and the goats. This is in the context of the nations gathered before Him (for judgment) that Jesus, when He returns in His glory as Chief Shepherd, will divide the sheep from the goats.

The sheep are those who followed Him and showed Him kindness; the goats are those who didn't care. The passage is widely interpreted

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Poll: 75% of Palestinians "Satisfied" with Hamas's Terror War

JNS.org



The Palestinians' satisfaction with Hamas's performance in the war against Israel has reached its highest point since the terror group's October 7 massacre. Likewise, support for the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its ruling Fatah faction has plummeted, according to a poll published in June by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR).

When asked to rate the perfor-

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Poll: 75% of Palestinians “Satisfied” with Hamas’s Terror War

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Hamas terrorists in Gaza City, Sept. 21, 2022.

mance of various Palestinian actors during the war, Hamas took the lead among the respondents with 75% satisfaction, up by five percentage points since March.

The poll recorded a slight decrease in support for the Hamas-led massacre of 1,200 people in Israel on October 7. **Two-thirds said the terror group was “correct” in launching the murderous attack**, down by four percentage points compared to three months earlier.

However, Palestinians’ belief that Hamas’s terror assault “revived international attention” to their cause and could “lead to increased recognition of Palestinian statehood” rose by 6% to 82%.

Over half (51%) believe that Hamas terrorists are “the most deserving” of leading the Palestinian people, up from 49% in March. Meanwhile, 16% believe the PA’s Fatah faction is the most deserving.

According to the survey, 60% of Palestinians are in favor of disbanding the PA. Only 9% of respondents expressed

satisfaction with the performance of Mohammad Mustafa, who was appointed as prime minister in March by President Mahmoud Abbas.

Almost three-quarters of Palestinian Arabs believe that the government headed by Mustafa will fail to carry out reforms demanded by the Biden administration and Arab nations.

In a hypothetical election between Abbas and Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, the latter terrorist would receive 43% of the vote, while only 11% would choose Abbas. Haniyeh received the highest support since before the war, when 24% preferred him.

Almost 60% of Palestinians said they saw the “return of Hamas” in Gaza as the preferred outcome for the conflict, followed by 25% who preferred a “new PA under an elected president, parliament, and government.”

The Ramallah-based PCPSR polled 1,570 Palestinian adults throughout Gaza and Judea and Samaria between May 26 and June 1. The margin of error was +/- three percentage points. ☆





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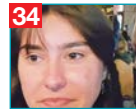
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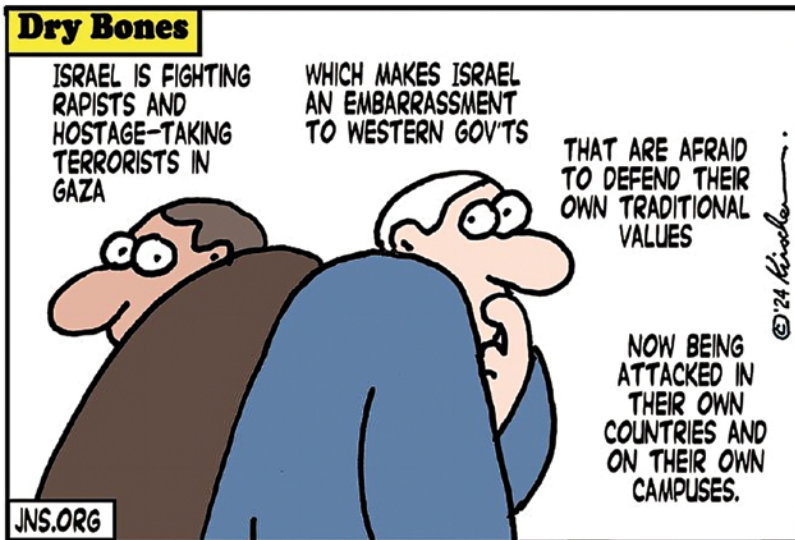
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Insanity of the Nations

credit: U.S. State Department



Left: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Jordan on October 13, 2023.



Below: (l-r) Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares, Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, and Ireland's Foreign Minister Micheál Martin announce their countries' recognition of a Palestinian state at a press conference in Brussels on May 27, 2024.

credit: Johanna Geron / Reuters

as referring to how we treat the Jewish people — *“the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine”* (Matt. 25:40). Whatever we did for them, we did for Him — that is Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah.

If you're in doubt about this judgment of the nations, the prophet Joel, speaking for the Lord of a time when Jewish fortunes have been restored, no doubt following the modern rebirth of Israel, prophesied: *“I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to My inheritance, My people Israel, because they scattered My people among the nations and divided up My land”* (Joel 3:2).

Rewarding the terror of Hamas, Hezbollah, and similar groups with a state effectively amounts to throwing Israel to the wolves, not caring about their fate. Even those nations that keep pushing for

a “two-state solution” will be judged for dividing up the land God promised to His Jewish inheritance.

The land belongs to Israel — because God said so and by international treaty (i.e., San Remo in 1920) that agreed to territory far in excess of what currently defines the state. For Israel has already given away much of their land, purportedly in exchange for peace, which never came.

Bassam Tawil, a Muslim Arab, asks: **“How can any rational person talk about a ‘two-state solution’ when a majority of Palestinians believe there is nothing wrong with burning, beheading, and raping Jews, or baking a Jewish baby to death in an oven?”**

A recent survey, he added, confirmed that “the only solution most Palestinians are willing to accept is the one that leads to the murder of all Jews and the destruction of Israel.”



Now, the Israelis are fighting for their very existence. More than that, their soldiers are fighting for the free world to be spared a takeover from oppressive, dictatorial Islamic rule. We should be helping them, not hindering them.

The judgment of God is at hand. We saw what happened to Hasan Bitmez, **the Turkish politician who denounced Israel in December 2023 — he collapsed from a massive heart attack and died two days later.** And we have seen what happened to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi after once again threatening to wipe Israel off the map. **The “Butcher of Tehran,”** allegedly responsible for a massacre of political opponents in the 1980s, **was killed in a helicopter crash.**

Those who touch the apple of God’s eye will be severely dealt with, sooner or later. Think about the many German cities reduced to rubble in the 1940s after Nazi’s murdered God’s chosen.

Now we see the specter of Russia, Turkey, and Iran forming an unholy alliance against Israel, as prophesied by Ezekiel 2,500 years ago (see chapters 38—39).

Is their combined God-hatred about to be demonstrated in all its devastating wickedness?

As for Spain, they would do well to heed the words of their former Prime Minister, José Maria Aznar. In 2010, he urged support for Israel on the basis that “if it goes down, we all go down.” Arguing that the Jewish state is at the cutting edge of the battle between militant Islam and the West, he concluded: “Israel is a fundamental part of the West, which is what it is thanks to its Judeo-Christian roots. If the Jewish element of those roots is upturned and Israel lost, then we are lost too. Whether we like it or not, our fate is inextricably intertwined.”

Pray God’s wisdom for our politicians.

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[YouTube.com/watch?v=9oe1lGt5bNU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oe1lGt5bNU) is a two-minute video of Hasan Bitmez’s collapse after he slammed Israel and said it wouldn’t be able to “escape the wrath of Allah.” — Editor ☆



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Avital Leibovich, director of the Jerusalem branch of the American Jewish Committee, during her interview on *OJR*.

Recently on *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)*, we had the privilege of interviewing **Avital Leibovich**. I trust that you're watching our weekly television broadcasts while also reading our informative monthly newsletters. During the ongoing conflict in Israel, we've produced many stand-alone programs spotlighting influential Israelis. Avital — director of the Jerusalem branch of the American Jewish Committee and a former member of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Spokespersons Unit — was a particularly insightful guest, sharing her experiences in defending Israel on the international stage.

Alongside her important work for Israel, Avital is also a devoted wife and mother. Her heart is dedicated to her family and home — as is true for many of us. As a mother and grandmother, I uphold the importance of family development over professional achievements.

Israeli mothers are no different from most mothers around the world except for one fact: their children must serve in the military. It is a national mandate.

While the young, strong, and nationally proud IDF men and women consider their military responsibilities as an honor, their service is still a burden for

**Within hours,
their bags were packed,
and she and her
family members were
all dispersed
throughout Israel...**

their families. War is war — not everyone survives. Every Israeli mother knows this. But **what occurred in Avital's family on October 7 is almost too much for any mother to bear.**

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Following Hamas's terror attack on that dreadful day, Israel began calling up IDF reservists for active duty. **Over 300,000 Israelis were mobilized, including Avital, her husband — a former officer in the Israeli Air Force — and two of her three children.** Within hours, their bags were packed, and she and her family members were all dispersed throughout Israel for the first 60 days of the war. Only one child remained at home while the rest of the family served their country. It's unimaginable how much strength each family member had to summon during that time. Instantly, life changed for them.

Avital's story is not unique — it has happened throughout Israel. Active-duty soldiers, reservists, mothers, fathers, and children are separated and pray to be reunited. This is the daily reality of life in Israel, where the people constantly defend their land, no matter the cost.

As we Believers* continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6), let us also join in prayer for the many separated families throughout Israel. Many are still waiting to hear that their loved ones are

safe. Brave, young IDF soldiers put their lives on the line every minute of every day to ensure that the hostages taken by Hamas are reunited with their families and that safety and peace are once again established in the land.

Avital, thank you for sharing part of your story with us. Thank you for all that you and your family have given during this time. May *shalom* engulf you and your family and may the God of peace surround you with His love. ✨



Lt. Col. (res.) Avital Leibovich, former member of the IDF Spokespersons Unit

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

credit: IDF



Collapsible Drink Koozies

Set of two (2) neoprene insulators with pro-Israel messages.

Never be LUKEWARM again! Neither when it comes to STANDING WITH ISRAEL nor when sipping your favorite beverage. Sized to hold 12 oz. cans, our ministry's full-color koozie features two distinctive themes:

Front: **STAND WITH ISRAEL**

Back: **DON'T BE LUKEWARM** and the Bible reference Rev. 3:15–16

Offered in pairs; wonderful as gifts and conversation starters.

The Great Adventure!

Caleb & Joshua Colson
The Bearded Bible
Brothers™



Dear Pen Pal,

Summertime is the best! I get to travel to distant places with my family (excluding Josh), and chill in extended "Shabbat Mode." Our hotspot this year is Florida's white sand beaches. Fortunately, I plan ahead — unlike Josh, who packs his bags the day of and starts driving without knowing his destination. What's the fun of a road trip if you miss cool restaurants and activities because you didn't do an Internet search? Anyhoo, wish you were here.

Your buddy,
Caleb



'Sup, Pen Pal!

There's nothing like summer vacation! This year, I took my family (excluding Caleb) to the Great Lakes. The temperature was cool and the water was crisp. Thankfully, I enjoyed myself without having to follow a 45-page manual like Caleb makes for his vacations. He plans every rest stop, restaurant, and activity ... EVERY DAY. He even creates contingency plans in case of acts of God, terrorist attacks, or zombie clown outbreaks. Looking forward to hearing about your summer.

Your friend,
Joshua



If you think we're exaggerating, we're not! Actually, we brothers unite frequently for family vacations — but not because we're twins (which is a frequently asked question). While we're both tall, hairy, Bible-loving bipeds from the same mother, **we're actually quite dissimilar in our personalities.** Still, we readily agree on spiritual and Scriptural matters.

Road Trip

Loyal Pen Pals, life is like a road trip. You may know that your destination is Heaven, but the path to that final stop is the adventure. It's the same with Bible prophecy — though we know the conclusion of Yeshua's 1000-year reign, some of the details preceding that final victory remain elusive. As Believers, God wants us to know who we are in Him, along with the earthly "calling" or "office" we must fulfill. Part of the adventure is trusting our Heavenly Father by faith each day, just like Joshua when he heads out on vacation — he knows his destination but enjoys discovering each new horizon along the way.

The Holy Spirit waits for us to make our hearts attentive and submissive so that

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we can yield to His voice and pivot toward His direction. We are called to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). We must trust in the Father to meet our daily needs, without worrying about tomorrow (Matt. 6:25–34). But most importantly, start today — with action that backs up your faith — to show your complete reliance on God (James 2:14–17).

If you don't know your purpose or calling on this Earth (other than to love God and testify of His love to the lost), don't worry.

We pray *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...”* (Eph. 1:17–19). ☆

Love,
your Bearded Bible Brothers™

In Loving Memory DVD

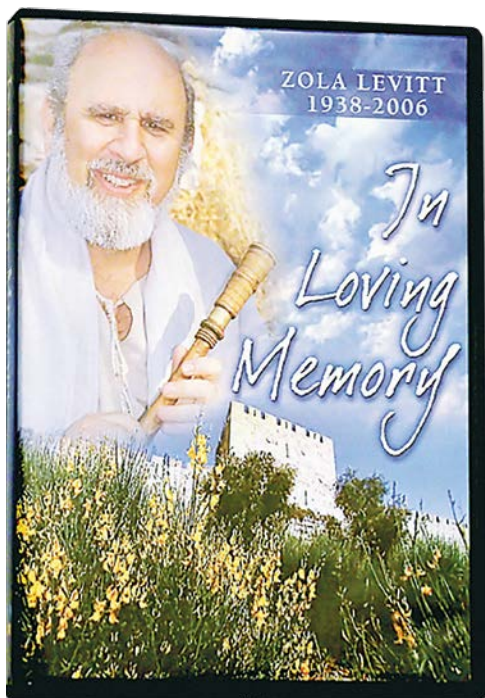
Two TV Programs on one DVD

These two television productions — *Remembering Zola* and *In Loving Memory* — are dedicated to the viewers and readers who loved Zola like a family member.

Join us as we celebrate his work, music, joy in the Lord, and sense of humor. Remember a man who lived to open others' eyes to the beauty of God and His Word.

Remembering Zola is a one-hour television special recorded at Zola's memorial service in Dallas on May 7, 2006. This retrospective of Zola and his ministry includes highlights of past telecasts as well as tributes to a never-to-be-forgotten warrior of the faith.

In Loving Memory is a half-hour tribute to Zola by those who knew him best. His widow, Sandra, talks with Zola's family, friends, and co-workers in this special reminiscence of a man who planted seeds of faith in millions of lives.





Confronting Error

by Zola Levitt
from 1999
25 years ago

Over the last few issues of this letter, I have confronted folks who defend false doctrines and who attend nonbiblical churches. This has brought a rash of basically two kinds of letters:

- “Zola, you are confrontational and mean-spirited. I want to be taken off your mailing list immediately. Change your ways!”
- “Zola, you are truthful and straightforward. You are the only one who tells it like it is. Keep up the good work!”

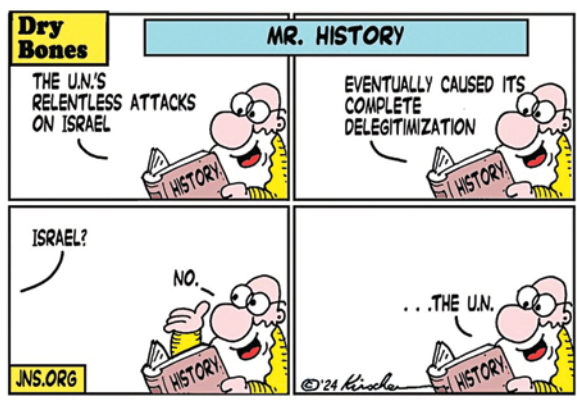
True Christians are guided by Scripture and not by various opinions of people’s behavior. Obviously, I didn’t grow up in a polite and mannerly church where people were greeted with tolerance and graciousness. In the Jewish community, one more likely knows where one stands because everyone more directly says what they think and what they feel. Even so, I deeply regret any offense I may have given to any letter-writer or viewer. After all, this ministry is yours, not mine, and I have not been appointed to insult anyone. Biblically, anyone in a ministry leadership position is, in effect, a pastor — which relates to “pastoral” in the sense of shepherding. The shepherd feeds the sheep; he does not offend the sheep.

I recently received a letter that began, “I just completed reading the last issue of the *Levitt Letter* and can only express dismay at what I perceive as dreadful personal and arrogant attacks on your readers....” The writer went on to remonstrate with me about how I treated Catholic, United Methodist, and other writers. Apparently, I should have clarified that I was criticizing the denominations and not those who wrote the letters. I understand that people who grow up in a denomination become deeply identified with its practices, and it becomes nearly a culture, a way of life.

And so, a given Methodist may deeply believe in our Lord, may study Scripture, may in every way conform to the Biblical image of a Christian, but his denomination, in supporting the Palestinian side on the Israel question, is simply dead wrong. One could not have even a passing acquaintance with Scripture and hold so unbiblical a position toward the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

It is hard to know how to handle such a situation. I’m troubled with denominations that simply won’t study Scripture or even glance at Israel — God’s timepiece — where prophecy is being fulfilled every day as we live. Still, I am delighted that members of these denominations watch our programs and read our letters and get some Biblical understanding. What mystifies me is the grip that the denominational churches seem to have over the members. It’s as if the members worship the denomination rather than the Lord.

In Scripture, we have a variety of examples on how to deal with those in error. The Old Testament prophets did not offer much tact or diplomacy. They simply gave the truth unvarnished and to the point. Our Lord was most tender with those like the Samaritan woman, who held false doctrines, but He was confrontational with the Pharisees. And He certainly didn’t say to the money-changers in the temple, “I respect your good intentions and I don’t mean to offend, but”



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Paul was forceful and clear in his teachings. To the Galatians, who believed false doctrines, he wrote:

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? (Gal. 3:1-4)

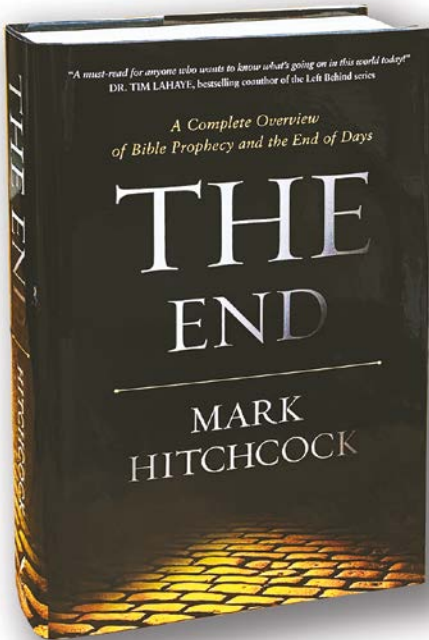
The letter I quoted above (and others like it) was written in the spirit of love. Ultimately, the writer said, “Zola, the issue is attitude, not necessarily content.” And he added a compelling paragraph:

You have a very important ministry to this world. The world, as a group, is woefully ignorant about the Jewish roots of the Church and the rightful place of Israel in God’s plan for His creation. I have encountered people in many groups who have personal salvation and yet don’t understand God’s plan. Many of the Baptist churches in our town have a long

tradition of Amillennialism and are as bad as any Lutheran or Catholic in their understanding about Israel. **The issue is leadership, not categories of people.**

While I honestly did not feel that my letter was attacking individuals, a few responses say that I was. Therefore, **I apologize sincerely** and deeply for any offense. However tactless I might have sounded, **the problem still remains.** Some churches simply do not teach Scripture. Their members are in the dark about such crucial topics as Israel and prophecy. Therefore, I would suggest that those members go to Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) or Precept, both excellent organizations for Scriptural knowledge. Both emphasize the importance of Israel and prophecy. In fact, it would be impossible to truly study the Bible without those emphases.

You can’t please all the people all the time. If these writers had met Zola personally, hopefully they would have been kinder. Zola used to joke about the overcrowded Ministry of Rebuke and Ministry of Distraction. —David ☆



***The End: Overview of Bible Prophecy and the End of Days* book**

By Mark Hitchcock

The End Times have seen a great amount of interest in the last two decades. However, there hasn’t been a comprehensive overview of Biblical prophecy and eschatology for more than five decades. *OJR* guest Mark Hitchcock’s book is the comprehensive resource for the 21st century. *The End* accomplishes for eschatology what Randy Alcorn’s *Heaven* did for readers’ understanding of Heaven. *The End* provides a solid Biblical foundation for exploring the essential truths of this timely topic—the end of the world.



Donating Required IRA/401(k) Minimum Distributions

For many years, Charity Navigator has awarded ZLM with their highest rating of Four Stars, based on our scoring 100% on both Accountability & Finance and Leadership & Adaptability*. The following article from CharityNavigator.org offers helpful stewardship tips for taxpayers who want to “render... unto Caesar [what is] Caesar’s” (Matt. 22:21) without overpaying. —Mark

You cannot keep money in your employer-sponsored retirement plan(s) indefinitely. Once you reach retirement, you will need to make annual withdrawals. This is a timely opportunity to increase your philanthropic giving. The brief overview below explains the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and how to donate yours to charity.

What Are Required Minimum Distributions?

The RMD is the smallest amount account holders must withdraw from employer-sponsored retirement plans each year once they reach retirement. If you fail to meet your RMD, the amount not withdrawn will be taxed at 50%.

Who Is Affected by the RMD Rule?

The RMD rules apply to all employer-sponsored retirement plans (including profit-sharing plans, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, and 457(b) plans). Roth 401(k) accounts are exempt from the RMD rules if the owner is alive.

If you are the account owner of one of these types of accounts and you have reached age 72 (73 if you turned 72 after Dec. 31, 2022), you have an RMD.

If you inherited this type of plan after the death of the plan holder, the balance of the account must be distributed within 10 years, except under certain circumstances. (Exceptions include a surviving spouse, a child who has not reached the

age of majority, a disabled or chronically ill person, or a person not more than 10 years younger than the employee or IRA account owner.)

Why Should I Donate My RMD?

If you have an RMD on your own account or an inherited account and you do not need the funds, donating to charity is a worthwhile option. Your required withdrawal will be included in your taxable income and cannot be rolled into other tax-deferred accounts. However, donating your RMD is a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Tax benefits aside, earmarking this income for charity is an optimal way to expand your giving portfolio to support your favorite causes.

How Do I Donate My RMD?

- Determine your RMD. Your financial institution should be able to furnish this amount each year and may even help you automate the annual distributions.
- Plan your withdrawal. Decide which account(s) to make withdrawals from, and how much of those withdrawals you plan to give.
- Arrange your donation(s). Choose one or more qualified 501(c)3 organizations to support.
- Give your gift(s). Up to \$100,000 of your distribution from an employer-sponsored retirement account (including but not limited to your RMD) is a QCD. **Make your donation by December 31 to qualify each year.**
- Collect your benefits. When you file your taxes for the year, include your donation on the relevant tax document (Form 1099-R, Form 1040, or Form 8606).
- Look ahead to next year. Once you meet the criteria for an RMD, you will have one each year until the account is depleted. Be aware that changes to the tax code could impact your RMD and related processes year-to-year.



Disclaimer: This information, accurate as of June 2023, is not intended as a substitute for obtaining financial or legal advice.

*MinistryWatch.com has awarded ZLM with a 100 Give With Confidence Score, their Transparency Grade of A, and four stars — much better scores than most larger, better-funded Messianic ministries.

Many ZLMers likely receive RMDs from their retirement accounts, pay income

taxes on those distributions, and then donate from the net proceeds. It is wiser to have funds sent directly from the financial institution to us, which would help you legally avoid the related income taxes. Donors older than 59-1/2, even if they don't have RMDs, can reduce tax liabilities on their retirement accounts by donating directly from them. Thanks for your prayerful consideration in this regard. —Mark ☆

ZLM Store

FEATURED
ITEM

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*.

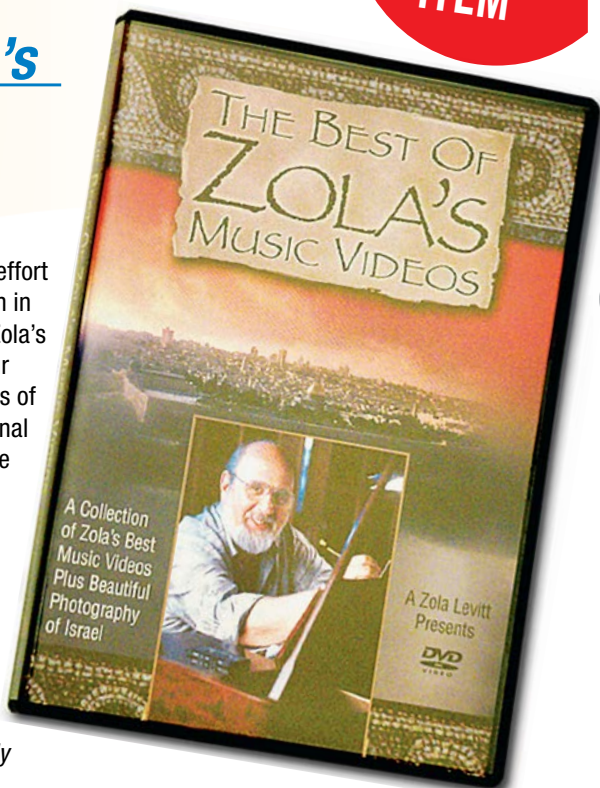
Zola's Music Video II (60 minutes)

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.



Why Does God Allow Christians to Suffer? Part 1

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



Jesus explained that suffering is unavoidable for His followers: *"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). Christian suffering comes when Believers take up their cross — denying and dying to themselves — to follow the Lord and do His will (Matt. 16:24). According to Jesus, those who are unwilling to do this are not worthy to follow Him: *"And he who does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me"* (Matt. 10:38). Before we can reign with the Lord Jesus in His Messianic Kingdom to come, we must first be willing to suffer with Him in this life (2 Tim. 2:12).

Because the Son of God overcame the suffering inflicted upon Him, His followers can take comfort in suffering, knowing that He helps us, especially in temptation (Heb. 2:18). The Lord Jesus overcame suffering as an example to us (1 Pet. 2:20–21), to give us victory (1 Cor. 15:57) in a Satanically-controlled world that hates God and His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 5:19; John 7:7; 15:18). As we experience the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, we will *"know Him and the power of His resurrection"* (Phil. 3:10). Ultimately, God allows suffering so that Believers can become more like Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:28–29).

Hebrews 5:8 explains that Jesus learned obedience through His suffering. **When**

we suffer unjustly, we are to respond as Jesus did and rejoice that God has counted us worthy to suffer for His name (Acts 5:41). **In this way, we glorify God** and show that we are obedient followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, as 1 Peter 4:12–14 teaches.

God allows trials and difficulties to refine and mature the faith of Believers, as James 1:2–4 explains: *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* First Peter 1:7 echoes this, using the analogy of gold being purified by fire. Just as fire removes the dross and impurities from gold, so God uses suffering to remove impurities and moral defects from a Believer's life. God also allows suffering so Christians can comfort one another with the comfort they receive from God. The Apostle Paul clarifies this: *"Praise be to the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God"* (2 Cor. 1:3–4).

Next month, we will continue to explore why God permits suffering for His people.



*"In the world you will have tribulation;
but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world."*

JOHN 16:33



ZLM Bulletin Board



Gaza's Latest Theft

Hamas has stolen half a billion dollars of aid sent to Gaza since October 7. This is not surprising. **The terrorist group has been stealing aid money meant for the people of Gaza since it took control of the Strip in 2007.** Three Hamas leaders who don't live in Gaza — Khaled Mashal, Mousa Abu Marzouk, and Ismail Haniyeh — have an estimated \$11 billion combined net worth. And while Hamas has been complaining about Israel preventing aid from reaching the Strip, it is actually Hamas that has been harming Gazans.



Screengrab of AP video showing trucks of aid stolen after entering the Gaza Strip on December 17, 2023.

credit: AP / Used in accordance with Clause 27a of the Copyright Law

Mexico's First Jewish President

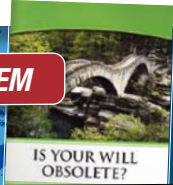
Claudia Sheinbaum was born to secular, leftist, Jewish parents. At age 62, she will be the first Jew and woman to lead Mexico. Mexico's Jewish community, stretching back to the nation's origins, now numbers around 50,000 in a country of 130 million. Ms. Sheinbaum's father, Carlos Sheinbaum Yoselevitz, a businessman and chemical engineer, was the son of Ashkenazi Jews who fled Lithuania in the early 20th century. Her mother, Annie Pardo Cemo, a biologist and professor emerita at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, is the daughter of Sephardic Jews from Bulgaria.



Claudia Sheinbaum

credit: Enesa De Troya / Wikimedia.org

FREE ITEM



Pamphlet of the Month

Is Your Will Obsolete? This stewardship pamphlet begins with five examples of how a will can become just as obsolete as yesterday's technology — with changes involving property, marital status, children/grandchildren, laws, and the needs of loved ones. Our pamphlet also reviews four ways to leave a legacy: by percentages, fixed amounts, specific property, or residual bequests. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #4.



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The Western Wall

Is the Western Wall Islamic?!

A Palestinian Authority TV program erased the Jewish heritage in a discussion on "holy sites in the Old City" of Jerusalem. The show claimed that the Western Wall — a remnant of the Jewish Holy Temple — was "Islamic." The program states, "It is easy to go from [the Austrian Pilgrim Hospice] to the holy sites in the Old City [of Jerusalem], such as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Islamic Al-Buraq Wall [i.e., the Western Wall], and even the Mount of Olives."

"COME HOME!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details





Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection

Mourning to Dancing

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



אֲנִי בְצַדִּק אֶחְזֶה פָּנֶיךָ אֲשַׁבֵּעַ בְּהַקִּיץ תְּמוֹנָתְךָ:

“In Your righteousness I will behold Your face;
I will be whole when I awaken in Your likeness.” —Psalm 17:15

אֲנִי בְצַדִּק אֶחְזֶה פָּנֶיךָ אֲשַׁבֵּעַ בְּהַקִּיץ תְּמוֹנָתְךָ
(5)|(4)|(3)|(2)|(1) (3) (2)|(1) (3)|(2)|(1) (3)|(2)|(1) (3)|(2)|(1) (3)|(2)|(1) (2)|(1)

te-moo-na-te'-kha ve-ha-keetz' es-be-ah' fa-ne'-kha e-che-zeh' be-tze'-dek a-nee'
in Your likeness when I awake I will be whole shall behold Your face I in righteousness

Read Hebrew right to left! ←

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh” (Luke 6:21). Despite the heartache of our present life and the grief that we now bear, sorrow will not be given the last word. Rather, there will be laughter and joy. And even now, in the midst of our afflictions, **we can rejoice** at the prospect of the great Day when all shall be completely healed, the untrue will be made true, the crooked made straight, and our heart’s deepest dream for love will forever be fulfilled (see Ps. 17:15).

Nonetheless, we still weep because this world is painful, tragic, and filled with so much sadness. We cry out for deliverance, mourning over our lives and the lives of those we love. If you have a heart that still can feel, you know the crushing weight of sin; you share the agony of others who struggle with their sufferings, and you may feel nearly suffocated by the darkness, pain, and inconsolable despair.

Only those who are heartless laugh at the troubles of this world, unmoved and untouched by the sorrows of others. To them, Yeshua says, *“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and*

weep” (Luke 6:25). So, you see how it is: God’s people will always be “out of step” with this world and its godlessness and idolatry. Genuine faith is a form of protest against any interpretation of reality that denies or minimizes the truth of the Divine Presence, and therefore it suffers as the world exchanges truth for the lie.

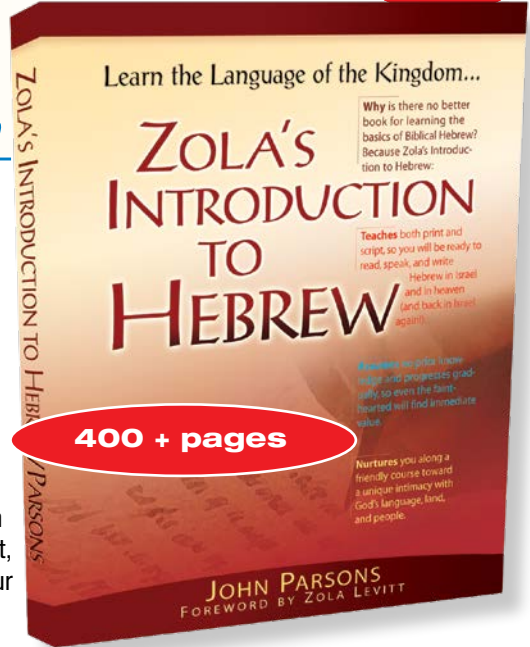
God’s people are always “strangers” to this world; we live as wanderers who are both here and yet not here. On the other hand, those who “settle” here — those who lay claim to life in this world — make God their stranger. Thus, David said to God: *“We are strangers with You and sojourners like our fathers; our days on Earth are like a shadow without abiding” (1 Chron. 29:15).* Faith *“sees what is invisible” (2 Cor. 4:18);* it accepts that the *“present form of this world is passing away” (1 Cor. 7:31).* We are “just passing through” this world as we look forward to our promised home in Heaven (Heb. 11:9–10). The days of our mourning shall be turned to dancing and God Himself shall wipe away all tears from our eyes (Rev. 7:17; Isa. 25:8). Amen. ☆



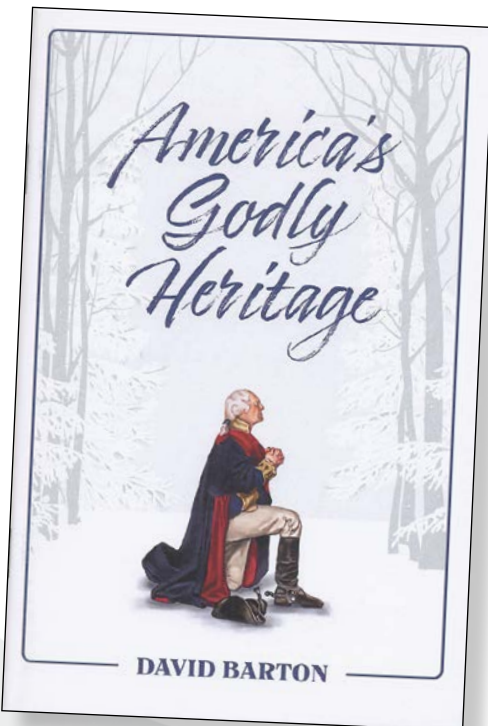
Zola's Introduction to Hebrew study book

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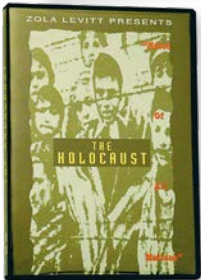
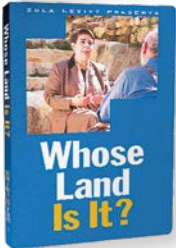
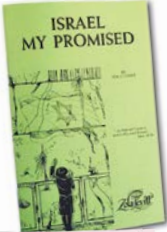
America's Godly Heritage book

by David Barton

This book sets forth the beliefs of many well-known Founding Fathers concerning the proper role of Christian principles in education, government, and the public affairs of the nation. The beliefs of Founders such as Patrick Henry, John Jay, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, George Mason, and many others are clearly presented.



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library



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___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (p.17)	\$39	___



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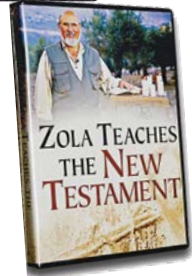
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Hamas Gaza Leader: Civilian Deaths are “Necessary Sacrifices”

By Jameson Mitrovich
FreeBeacon.com



Hamas Gaza leader Yahya Sinwar said in private messages that civilian deaths in Gaza help Hamas’s cause, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. The messages reveal Sinwar’s ruthless military strategy in the terrorist group’s war with Israel. Referencing historic national liberation struggles in correspondence with Hamas officials in Qatar, Sinwar called civilian deaths “necessary sacrifices.” The *Journal* says it obtained the messages, many of which Sinwar sent to mediators in ceasefire negotiations, from sources with wide-ranging views on Sinwar.

The messages indicate that Sinwar — the architect behind Hamas’s October 7 terror attacks on Israel — wants the war in Gaza and the civilian deaths that have resulted from it to continue. “We have the Israelis right where we want them,” he declared.

According to the report, Sinwar believes that the war and civilian deaths benefit Hamas because they bring the conflict to international prominence and hurt Israel’s reputation. Sinwar’s strategy is reportedly to force Israel into a prolonged conflict that he believes Hamas can weather.

After an Israeli airstrike killed a Hamas leader’s sons in April, Sinwar said that their deaths would “infuse life into the veins of this nation, prompting it to rise to its glory and honor.”

According to Arab and Hamas officials, Sinwar hoped that the October 7 attacks would give the conflict in Israel greater international visibility and result in a permanent end to the conflict. But Sinwar reportedly miscalculated Israel’s



Yahya Sinwar

“total victory” response and overestimated the support Hamas would receive from Iran and Hezbollah.

Sinwar reportedly stalled ceasefire and hostage release negotiations and urged Hamas leaders to make no compromises with Israel outside of a permanent end to the war. According to the *Journal*, Sinwar declared that forcing Israel to continue fighting the war would cause high civilian death tolls that would damage Israel’s reputation and benefit Hamas.

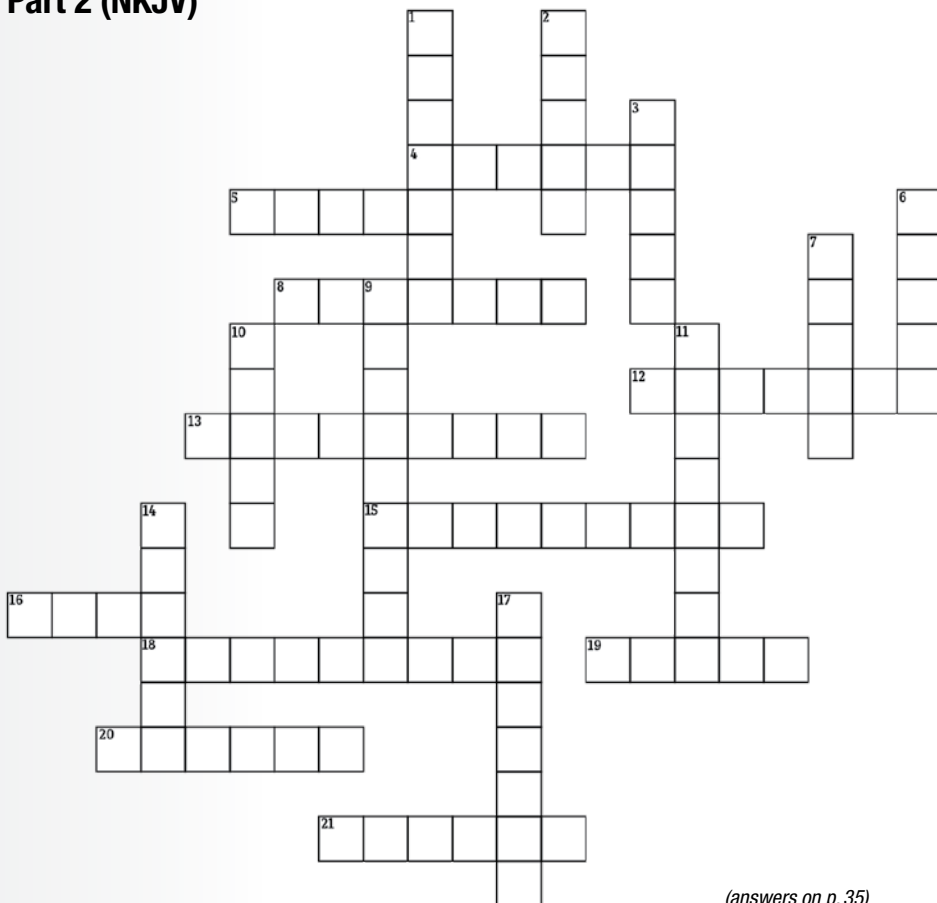
In May, Israel threatened to invade Rafah if Hamas kept blocking negotiations, a move that Hamas thought was a bluff, according to the report. Rather than negotiating, Sinwar’s forces attacked Israeli troops on May 5, killing four soldiers. Shortly after, Israel launched its invasion of Rafah.

According to the *Journal*, Sinwar predicted the political consequences that Israel would face for its continued operations in Gaza. In early June, the United Nations (UN) voted to add Israel to its blacklist of organizations and countries that violate the rights of children, a list that also names terrorist organizations such as al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and Boko Haram. The UN’s decision was based on exaggerated death tolls released by Hamas. ☆

credit: Screenshot from IDF video / X



**God's Word Concerning the End
Part 2 (NKJV)**



(answers on p.35)

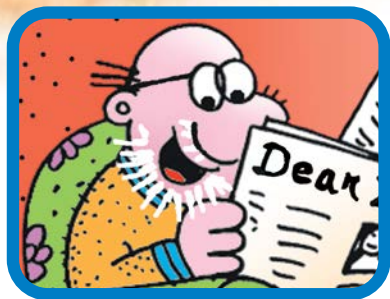
Across:

4. ...and this __ must put on immortality. (1 Cor. 15:53)
5. ...We shall not all __, but we shall all be changed (1 Cor. 15:51)
8. Behold, I tell you a ___... (1 Cor. 15:51)
12. Therefore __ one another with these words. (1 Thess. 4:18)
13. ...The __ will come out of Zion... (Rom. 11:26)
15. in a moment, in the __ of an eye, at the last trumpet... (1 Cor. 15:52)
16. ...keep those things which are written in it; for the time is __. (Rev. 1:3)
18. ...with the voice of an __, and with the trumpet of God... (1 Thess. 4:16)
19. __ therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour... (Matt. 25:13)
20. ...and lo, I am with you __, even to the end of the age. (Matt. 28:20)
21. And this __ of the kingdom will be preached in all the world... (Matt. 24:14)

Down:

1. ...For the __ will sound, and the dead will be raised... (1 Cor. 15:52)
2. For God did not appoint us to ___... (1 Thess. 5:9)
3. Then we who are __ and remain shall be caught up together... (1 Thess. 4:17)
6. For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a ___... (1 Thess. 4:16)
7. ...And He will turn away ungodliness from __; (Rom. 11:26)
9. ...but to obtain __ through our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Thess. 5:9)
10. I am the Alpha and the ___... (Rev. 22:13)
11. For this is My __ with them, When I take away their sins. (Rom. 11:27)
14. And so all __ will be saved, as it is written... (Rom. 11:26)
17. __ is he who reads and those who hear... (Rev. 1:3)





Letters to ZLM

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

Where was Jesus?

From J.B.: I really enjoyed Todd Baker's article, "Where was Jesus between His death and Resurrection?" ([June 2024 Levitt Letter, p. 12](#)). Now I can hardly wait for part 2. So far, I've seen only a little conjecture online about this subject, but I think his explanation is more complete than any I have read before. Blessings and thanks.

Dear J.B.,

Dr. Baker's expertise and knowledge enable him to tackle tough topics easily and clearly. Thanks for your feedback. —David

The Brothers' Response was Lacking

From A.T.: Dear Joshua and Caleb, I read your response to E.G. in the [June 2024 Levitt Letter \(p. 24\)](#). **E.G. thinks God won't show mercy to the Jews who killed His Son.** Respectfully, I don't think that your answer went far enough. E.G. caused Yeshua's suffering and death, I caused His suffering and death, and Joshua and Caleb caused His suffering and death; ALL sinners and their sin caused His suffering and death! He was also Resurrected because of us!

God, Who became flesh, knew from the beginning that this would happen, yet He willingly did all this for us — indeed, for every human, whether dead, living, and yet to come (until the Rapture). He could have stopped all of it at any time but did not!

If E.G. and others who believe as he does would stop and think — really read the Word of God with the help of *Ruach HaKodesh* (the Holy Spirit), they would know this and realize that *HaMashiach* (the Messiah) is Jewish! He celebrated every feast when He walked upon the Earth and fulfilled some of the feasts. There are still some yet to be fulfilled by Him. He is not and was never "Christian"!

I pray that E.G. (and others like him) comes to the full and saving knowledge of *Yeshua HaMashiach*. Adonai only knows: E.G. could be that "last gentile" we're all waiting for to come to Christ! Maranatha, brothers!

Shalom A.T.,

Thanks for writing in. Your points are valid. And it's okay for us to disagree with one another. We brothers go to great lengths to speak truth in love, whether online, in person, or on TV. You never know if we could be the only witness of Yeshua to our ministry's viewers and readers. That's why, with each response, we prayerfully consider every word and seek the Holy Spirit to direct us. We trust that His Words will cut straight to the heart. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb



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"Your Honor, if it means a lighter sentence... I'd be willing to change political parties."

(continued on next page)

Will Jews Get a Second Chance?

From J.B.: My daughter claims that all the Jews who were killed in the Oct. 7 massacre went to Hell as they didn't know Yeshua. The Book of Romans, however, indicates that *"all Israel will be saved"* (Rom. 11:26). So, will the Jews who already suffered so much on Oct. 7 be in Hell beside their tormentors? Or will they get a second chance? I'm only talking about the Jews, not gentiles. Thank you.

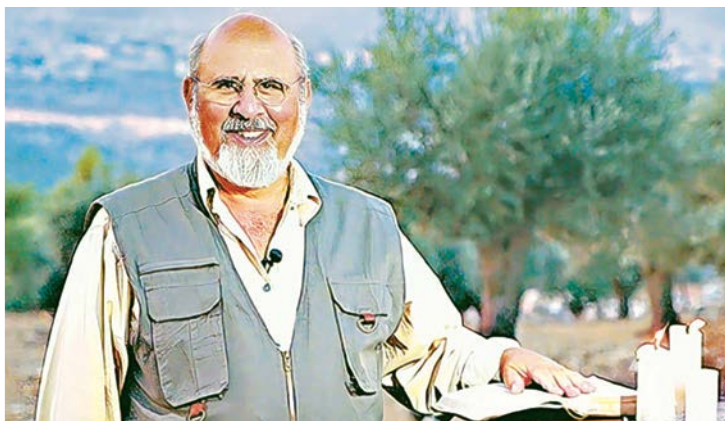
Shalom J.B.,

This is a tough subject, but we can do nothing but speak the truth according to God's Word. Acts 4:12 is clear: *"there is salvation in no one else"* but Yeshua. Yeshua Himself declared, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6). God does not have a special set of rules for the Jewish people that are different from those for gentiles — all must believe and choose His Son for forgiveness. No one can go to Heaven except by making the choice of Yeshua.

When Paul writes in Romans 11:26, *"...all Israel will be saved..."*, he's referring to the final day of the Tribulation. On that day, Yeshua rescues the surviving one-third of Jews (Zech. 13:8-9), they look upon Him whom they have pierced (Zech. 12:10), and they finally believe that He is the Son of God. This is why our Biblical message is imperative today! We are called to preach the Gospel to the Jew first (Rom. 1:16) to spare God's Chosen People from eternal separation from Him. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Learning Truth from Zola

From I.P.: Many years ago, I discovered Zola Levitt Presents while looking for something to watch on television. I was puzzled about how Zola explained the Jewishness of the



Scriptures and a whole host of other topics. I became glued to every program, but I was shocked at how the Jews could be saved because for many years, I had the preconceived notion that God was through with the Jews for having rejected Jesus at His First Coming.

Zola brought me to the truth that God is very much interested in the salvation of the Jewish people. I watched Zola's program every time he came on while I lived in Chicago. I have learned quite a bit about the Jewish people and how the Bible explains that Jews can be saved as well as us gentiles — amazing!

Salvation is for everyone, to the Jew first and also to the gentile. If it weren't for Zola, I would have never learned this, not even in the churches I have attended! Rest in Peace, brother Zola; see you in God's Kingdom!

Dear I.P.,

Kirsten and I have also learned so much from Zola's teachings. Isn't it amazing that God truly desires that "all should be saved?" His mercy is far deeper than we can imagine. — David

(continued on next page)



credit: Wikimedia Commons

The Red Heifer

From K.K.: According to the Talmud, the red heifer represents Esau, which represents us (*goyim*). They are symbolically sacrificing us. They need the Third Temple in order for their *Mashiach* to come, who is the antiChrist. Christians must stop supporting Zionism!

Dear K.K.,

Zionism is merely the belief that the Jews have a right to their own land. Specifically, that is the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In fact, **God was the first Zionist**. The Talmud is not Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit, and therefore it is not accurate. However, we believe that according to certain prophetic breadcrumb trails, the False Prophet might be the one to consecrate the Third Temple.

No matter what man tries to do to stop the construction of the Third Temple, he will fail. God will allow its emergence at His prophetic time (Rev. 11:1-2). This event will be a catalyst for the Jewish people to finally believe on the true Messiah Yeshua. But how can they recognize that Yeshua fulfilled the Law and the Prophets if they cannot witness the sacrificial system in action? —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb ✨

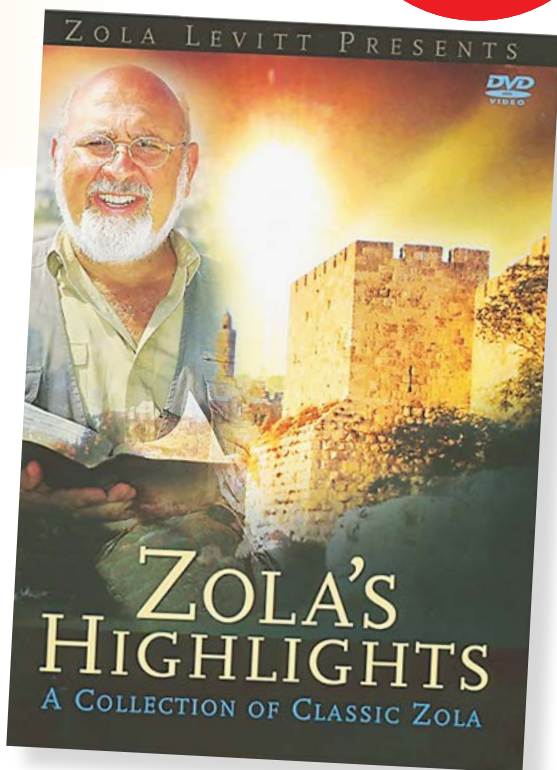
Please see the article “Indiana Farmer Cares for Red Heifers in Israel” on [p. 28](#).



Zola's Highlights: A Collection of Classic Zola DVD

Four TV Programs on 1 DVD

This video collection of classic Zola teaching celebrates the timeless teachings of the late Zola Levitt (1938–2006), one of the most beloved Bible teachers in America. Highlights from 28 years of TV broadcasting are condensed into four half-hour programs that examine Zola's early, mid-career, and later teaching. Stunning on-location footage from Israel gives viewers insights into the Biblical world and Word.



1. *Israel, My Promised* Zola taught the Scriptures from a decidedly Jewish perspective. In one of his first series, *Messiah*, Zola taught about Jesus' Jewish beginnings. In *Armageddon*, he talked about The End. This program contains these topics and others.

2. *Israel By Divine Right* Drawing on Zola's mid-career teachings, we see him investigate and extol the Gospel's expansion beyond Jews ... to non-Jews. Though many knew Jesus as the Savior, Zola wanted the world to know Him as the *Jewish* Savior. With this emphasis, this program also delves into the Dead Sea Scrolls, introduces Islam, and considers prophecy.

3. *Jerusalem Forever* Zola's contagious love for Israel — which mimics Scripture's — is apparent in his music, books, and TV productions. This program visits Zola in mid-career when he teaches about the Bible's Jewish roots, emphasizing his trademark topic: prophecy.

4. *Friends of the Rabbi* Viewer interest in how the Old Testament feast days connect to New Testament events made *The Holy Days of Our Lord* one of Zola's more popular series. Zola examined that connection by focusing on those who claimed to follow Jesus: early Believers, Crusaders, and others.



Sound Waves Extend Shelf Life of Strawberries

By Naama Barak
Israel21c.org



credit: Ronen Zivlun / Reuters

Top: A strawberry vendor at a market in Jerusalem's Old City

Right: Strawberries that were used in the research



credit: Bar-Ilan University

The shelf life of strawberries can be extended by

15 days by coating them with edible nanoparticles that protect against fungi and bacteria. This discovery comes from research by Belal Abu Salha, a PhD student at Israel's Bar-Ilan University, whose family owns a strawberry farm.

"I used sonication — a process of applying ultrasound energy in a liquid — to develop nano-coated particles from chitosan ... a natural substance derived from polymers," explained Abu Salha. "[Sonication] allows the chitosan particles to embed into the surface of the fruit and coat it quickly and efficiently, and the coating significantly decreases the damage to the fruit caused by fungi and bacteria," he added.

The sonication process could be a safe and environmentally friendly substitute for existing food preservation methods since chitosan is biodegradable.

Bar-Ilan University's Professor Aharon Gedanken, who developed this sonica-

tion method and advised Abu Salha's research, explained the technology: "When you bombard a liquid solution with high-frequency soundwaves, in a process called ultra-sonication, the solution swirls rapidly and masses of microscopic bubbles are formed that collapse into themselves. When the collapse occurs near a solid surface, like a strawberry ... liquid streams move to the surface of the solid at a very high speed and toss the particles from the solution onto the surface at enormous speeds.

"The particles are embedded in the solid and cannot be removed, even by washing it. In this way it's possible to assign a solid with properties it didn't have in the first place — antibacterial properties or resistance properties, for example. This is how antibacterial substances can be embedded in fruits and vegetables or any other material." ☆



Walking Reduces Childbirth Risks

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
JPost.com



An Israeli study recently found that when pregnant women walk around 2,900 steps daily during their first trimester to about 2,100 steps during the ninth month, they significantly reduce the risk of cesarean section (C-section). Walking also reduces the risk of postpartum bleeding, high blood pressure, pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes, and the use of an epidural during childbirth.

The study involved 401 women who gave birth at Haifa's Rambam Hospital during the first six months of 2023. They had gone to deliver a single baby vaginally (not a planned C-section), some for a first birth, some for a subsequent delivery. The study was based on physical activity data recorded on the women's cell phones.

"Variables such as weight, smoking, and previous C-sections didn't affect the statistical results in the categories we tested, but the number of steps did," explained Prof. Ron Belusky, one of the researchers. "When we tried to get a 'golden number' of steps that guarantee as much effect as possible, we arrived at a calculation of **2,300 steps per day** during the entire pregnancy. This number **can reduce the risk of cesarean section by four to five times more than those who [walk] less**, and significantly reduce the other risks we examined," he added.

Women of reproductive age average 4,500 steps during normal daily activities. The women surveyed averaged about 3,300 steps before they became pregnant. During pregnancy, every trimester, the number of steps decreased from 2,900 at the beginning of pregnancy to 2,100–2,200 during the ninth month.

The findings show that pregnant women who walked an average of 3,000 daily steps were less likely to need epidural anesthesia for pain than those who averaged 2,600 steps.



credit: Nataliia Derzhina / iStock

Postpartum bleeding complications were observed less among women who walked about 2,800 steps a day, compared to those averaging 2,160 steps daily.

Only 723 daily steps separated the women who had a normal birth compared to those who had an unplanned C-section — the average number of steps was 2,821 and 2,098 respectively.

The chance of developing preeclampsia and gestational diabetes decreased among women who managed to walk 2,829 steps a day during the months of pregnancy, compared to 2,517 among women who suffered from these complications.

According to the researchers, "It's hard to say why a daily walk to such an extent affects different birth scenarios since there are a variety of variables, but without a doubt, it is an easy activity that can be good for the mother and the baby."

The findings were presented recently at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) conference in Maryland. ☆



Indiana Farmer Cares for Red Heifers in Israel

By Etgar Lefkovits
JNS.org



credit: JNS.org

Larry Borntrager with the red heifers

When a small conference was held this spring in Israel on the laws related to the red heifer, both Hamas and Hezbollah posted the ad for the event on their Telegram pages. Months earlier, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza chose the 100th day of the Israel-Hamas war to cite the relocation of five red heifers from Texas to Israel as the reason for the October 7 massacre.

"It seems like the whole world is talking about the red heifers except in Israel," said Moriyah Shapira, spokeswoman for Ancient Shiloh, the Samaria region where the Biblical Tabernacle once stood. Since December 2023, it has been home to five reddish-brown ginger calves that are theologically prerequisite to the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple — intriguing Christians and Muslims alike. "They understood the importance of red heifers more than us," noted Shapira.

Upgrading their Lodgings

Larry Borntrager, a 76-year-old Indiana farmer, saw the cows during a trip to Israel last fall. Afterward, he was concerned about their makeshift shelter. "If they're going to be used for such a holy [purpose], then they should at least be presentable," Borntrager remarked. So, the retired farmer started working — befriending the cows, cleaning their small shed, renovating the stalls, and installing fans prior to the summer heat. Since then, he has become an inseparable part of

their lives when he is in Israel, checking on them a few times a week.

Borntrager, who is of Amish ancestry, declared before a rabbinical court in Jerusalem that he observes the Seven Laws of Noah. Thus, he received a special dispensation to care for the calves.

His calling to Israel began in the 1970s when he and his wife served as Mennonite missionaries in Central America. **After the 1973 Yom Kippur War began, he was drawn to the Jewish state by an "inner calling."**

A decade later, Borntrager was in Israel's Arava region with his wife and three sons when he first heard about the red heifers. During that time, he also became involved with a dig in the Qumran caves looking for ashes of the ceremonies that occurred during the time of the Jewish Temples.

Borntrager's plans to continue the excavation were interrupted by Hamas's attack on October 7, 2023. So, he volunteered in an Israeli agricultural community near the Gaza border. While there, he learned that the red heifers were in Israel, and a friend took him to see them.

From the Lone Star State to the Jewish State

The Red Angus calves, born in Texas, were about a month old when their owner connected with a group from Jerusalem



who had advertised in a U.S. farmers' magazine. They were seeking the elusive red heifer, which hadn't been seen in two millennia. The group offered \$15,000 per cow, far more than the going rate of \$300–\$1,000.

After receiving a deluge of replies, the group conducted tests via Zoom to prequalify the calves, before traveling to the Lone Star State to perform the intricate checks in person. One farm was of particular interest — the Christian owner said that he had chosen the breed thinking that they could potentially serve in the Temple.

In the end, five female calves who because of COVID had not been branded — which would have disqualified them by religious law — were selected. Then, to circumvent restrictions on the import of livestock, they were granted special dispensation to fly to Israel as pets in first-class luggage.

Three of the five calves, who are routinely checked by rabbis for any blemishes that would strip them of their ritual eligibility (such as two hairs of a different color), have been disqualified. But they are being bred via artificial insemination to produce more promising offspring.

Feasting on hay and feed in their upgraded lodgings, the five affable calves — *Tikva* (Hope), *Geula* (Redemption), *Segula* (Virtue), *Techiya* (Rebirth), and *Nechama* (Comfort) — are glad to see the sprightly Indiana farmer when he enters their barn. Borntrager knows them all by name and carries a small notepad with sketches of each calf's distinct characteristics.

Biblical Significance

The enigmatic red heifer — *Parah Adumah* — is first mentioned in the Book of Numbers, when God instructs Moses and Aaron to take “a perfectly red, unblemished cow, upon which no yoke was laid” (Num. 19:2). The animal was to be slaughtered, and its ashes used in a purification ritual.

Such animals were rare even in antiquity. Jewish sources state that only nine were slaughtered during the time from Moses

to the destruction of the Second Temple in A.D. 70. According to the 12th-century Jewish sage Maimonides, the Messiah will offer the tenth red heifer.

“This ceremony hasn't been performed for 2,000 years,” Shapira said, downplaying concerns of a religious war. “The idea is to be ready with what we can.”

Even so, the Biblical quote, along with some cedar wood and hyssop used in the ancient ceremony, are the only things on display outside their pen. The calves seem destined both for longevity and popularity as a tourist attraction after the war with Hamas ends.

Despite the stir created by their presence in Israel, the idea that they would actually be ritually sacrificed seems unlikely to some people. Still, a small group of rabbis is studying the relevant religious laws.

For Borntrager, it makes no difference. “This little thing I am doing is my contribution,” he explained. “It's most enjoyable for me to take care of them. It's rewarding.” ☆

Please see the “Red Heifer” letter and response on p. 24.



Larry Borntrager installs fans in the calves' shed to protect against the fierce summer heat.

credit: JNS.org



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An unidentified man wishes Hitler was still here.

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Anti-Israel Man in NYC: “I Wish Hitler was Still Here”

JPost.com

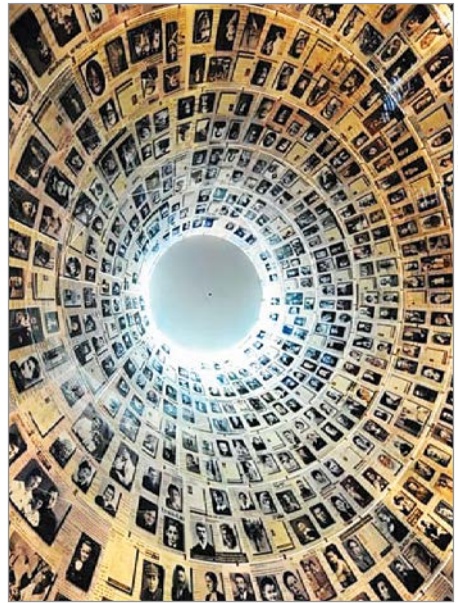
At a June memorial event in New York City honoring victims of the Nova Music Festival massacre, an unidentified anti-Israeli protester shouted that he wished Hitler was still around to kill the Jews.

A video was posted on multiple X (Twitter) accounts showing the man pointing at a crowd of people surrounding him. As he waved his arm, he yelled, “I wish Hitler was still here. He would have wiped you [the Jews] all out.”

The man continued to repeat that Hitler “would have wiped you all out” as those surrounding him called on him to stop and go home.

The exhibit memorializing the Nova massacre, in which 364 people were killed by Hamas terrorists on October 7, had an interactive display set up in collaboration with some of the producers and survivors of the music festival and aimed to recreate the visuals and sounds of the massacre.

This incident occurred as other anti-Israel protests took place near the memorial. **The protests were part of a “day of rage” in New York City led by the pro-Palestinian group Within Our Lifetime.** Protesters waved flags of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine outside the exhibit. They also unfurled a banner that read “Long Live October 7th.”



The Hall of Names at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem

UNESCO: AI Could Spread False Info on Holocaust

By David Klepper / TimesOfIsrael.com

A UNESCO report published in June concluded that artificial intelligence (AI) could spread false and misleading claims about the Holocaust online, either because of flaws in the programs or because hate groups and Holocaust deniers will intentionally use AI to generate content that questions the murder of Jews by the Nazis.

One of the biggest concerns is that AI could be used to create “deepfakes” of the Holocaust — realistic images or videos denying the Holocaust or suggesting that it was exaggerated. “If we allow the horrific facts of the Holocaust to be



diluted, distorted, or falsified through the irresponsible use of AI, we risk the explosive spread of anti-Semitism and the gradual diminution of our understanding about the causes and consequences of these atrocities,” UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay noted in a statement accompanying the report.

The report noted that **some AI-assisted programs allow users to interact with simulated historical figures, including prominent Nazis like Adolf Hitler.**

UNESCO called on tech companies to establish ethical rules for the development and use of AI. This would reduce the chances of unreliable information and prevent bad actors from harnessing programs in order to encourage violence and spread lies about the Holocaust.

Researchers asked, “How interested are you in the news?” Less than half (46%) answered that they are “very interested,” down from 63% who gave this answer in 2017.

Apparently the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, along with COVID and natural disasters, have brought a significant drop in the number of people interested in the news. “The news agenda has been particularly difficult in recent years,” noted Nick Newman, one of the study’s authors. “It’s a pretty natural reaction for people to stay away from the news, whether it’s to protect their mental health or simply wanting to get on with the rest of their lives.” He added that most who avoid the news feel powerless over global events. Also, while some people feel increasingly overwhelmed and confused by the volume of news, others

are simply tired of politics.

The study found that women and youngsters avoid the news more than men and older people.

Only 40% of responders stated that “they believe the news,” a similar number compared to the previous study.

YouGov conducted the study for Reuters Institute at

Oxford University, surveying 94,943 people from 47 countries during January and February of 2024.

Messianic Bible teaching programs like *Our Jewish Roots* fill a void that the secular media have increasingly created with their biased, unbiblical sensationalism that is geared primarily to sell soap. —Mark ☆



credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit

IDF tank in the Gaza Strip, June 2024

People are Avoiding the News

By Nissan Tsur / IsraelNationalNews.com

Fewer people want to hear “depressing, relentless, and boring” news. In a new study, 39% of people worldwide “often avoid hearing the news.” This reflects a 10% increase compared to a similar study in 2017, when 29% said they avoid the news.





Archaeology

Rare, Ancient Stone Box Found in Jerusalem

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich
JPost.com



credit: Zohar Shemesh / Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The multi-compartment, first-century stone container on display at the Israel Museum

A rare and mysterious stone container that was used two millennia ago has recently been put on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Measuring almost 12" x 12" and carved from soft limestone, the square box is divided inside into nine equal-sized compartments. The sides of the box are blackened, indicating that it was

burned — perhaps during events of the Great Jewish Revolt (A.D. 66–70) that ultimately led to the destruction of Jerusalem. It was found in a destruction layer inside an ancient store dated to the end of the Second Temple period that once stood alongside the Pilgrimage Road in the City of David.

Researchers assume that the box was used for commercial purposes, such as displaying premeasured goods. "During excavations of the Pilgrimage Road where the box was discovered, many objects have been found as a testament to the flourishing commercial activity

that took place alongside the road during the Second Temple period," Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) excavation directors Dr. Yuval Baruch and Ari Levy noted in a statement. "We uncovered ceramic and glass vessels, production and cooking facilities, various measuring tools, stone weights, and coins. Together, these objects suggest that the road was



credit: Emil Etanidjem / IAA

The Pilgrimage Road excavations in the City of David

connected to commercial activities, such as a lively urban market."

The Pilgrimage Road, connecting the Pool of Siloam to the Temple Mount, was the main thoroughfare of the city 2,000 years ago. The economic and commer-

(continued on next page)



cial systems of Jerusalem at that time boasted large markets, featuring local and imported goods, some even exotic. As a Temple city and pilgrim center, ancient Jerusalem's markets must have had specialized items not often found in other areas, the researchers said.

"Daily life and trade in Second Temple Jerusalem must have been conducted with strict adherence to Jewish purity laws," they said. "Evidence of this can be seen by several distinct archaeological finds, such as thousands of limestone vessel fragments discovered in excavations throughout the ancient city and its surroundings."

The widespread use of stone vessels can be explained by *halacha*, rabbinical law designating that stone — unlike clay or metal — cannot become impure. Therefore, it is possible that stone vessels were reused over and over for long periods.

"It seems that the multi-compartment stone box from the City of David was related to the unique Jerusalem economy conducted in the shadow of the Temple," explained Levy and Baruch.

Pieces of a similar box were discovered about 50 years ago by archaeologist

Nachman Avigad during excavations in the Jewish Quarter. Upon discovery, he humorously called the object a "nuts-and-seeds bowl" — a name that has stuck since.

Interestingly, all similar boxes have been discovered in Jerusalem, mostly in the City of David, but the newly discovered box is the only complete example. Archaeologists still wonder what exactly it was used for.

Dudi Mevorah, senior curator of the Israel Museum's archaeology department in Jerusalem, noted: "The box was found broken into pieces with parts missing. The fragments were brought to Victor Uziel, a conservationist from the Israel Museum Artifact Conservation Laboratory, which specializes in the treatment and restoration of artifacts directly from the field.

"We placed the stone box on permanent display together with spectacular colorful frescos, chandeliers, and magnificent pottery, stone, and metal vessels from Jerusalem's luxury houses dating to the end of the Second Temple period." ✨



Idiots Against Israel

By Andrew Stiles
FreeBeacon.com



credit: Macklemore / X



“FREE PALASTINE” spray-painted on steps at the University of Ottawa

Student protesters at the University of Ottawa in Canada misspelled the word “Palestine” while attempting to protest Israel’s existence. Drone footage captured the phrase “FREE PALASTINE” [sic] spray-painted on the steps of Tabaret Hall, the University of Ottawa’s largest building, which houses the president’s office. The building is described as a “scent free zone” — students are prohibited from wearing “perfume, cologne, aftershave, and other fragrance.”

The footage containing the spelling error appeared in a music video released in May by the white rapper Macklemore. The song, *Hind’s Hall*, expresses solidarity with the anti-Israel protesters and the Hamas terrorists whose eradication the protesters vehemently oppose.



credit: Rudy Giuliani / X

The two student protesters showing their ignorance at NYU

It was not the first time some anti-Israel college protesters have been exposed as idiots.

In April, a pair of students at a New York University (NYU) protest had the following exchange with an interviewer when asked why they were protesting:

Interviewer: What would you say is the main goal with tonight’s protest?

Student 1: I think the goal is just showing our support for Palestine and demanding that NYU stop... I honestly don’t know all of what NYU is doing.

Interviewer: Is there something that NYU is doing?

Student 1: I really don’t know. I’m pretty sure they’re... [She asks another protester] Do you know what NYU is doing?

Student 2: About what?

Student 1: About Israel. Why are we protesting here?

Student 2: I wish I was more educated.

Indeed, we all do. ☆





Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22



Getting Better

Sophie was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. Occasionally, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek, then her own, then his again. Finally, she asked, "Zayde (Grandfather), did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Zayde, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, *Yalda* (little girl)," he replied, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, Sophie observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

Answer Key for August 2024 Crossword (p.21)

ACROSS:	16. Near	DOWN:	9. Salvation
4. Mortal	18. Archangel	1. Trumpet	10. Omega
5. Sleep	19. Watch	2. Wrath	11. Covenant
8. Mystery	20. Always	3. Alive	14. Israel
12. Comfort	21. Gospel	6. Shout	17. Blessed
13. Deliverer		7. Jacob	
15. Twinkling			



Social Media Outlets

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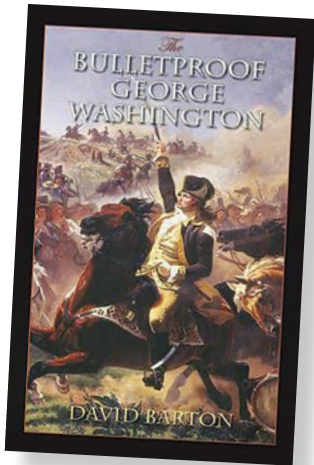
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- Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/OurJewishRoots>
- X/Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/OurJewishRoots>
- Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/OurJewishRoots>
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The Bulletproof George Washington book

by David
Barton

Colonial George Washington's perilous experiences in the French and Indian War are chronicled in this riveting account of God's providence and protection. The only officer on horseback to avoid being shot down, young Washington openly attributed his miraculous escape from harm to the intervention of a sovereign God. A story once found in student textbooks, this awe-inspiring adventure is recaptured in a modern edition, complete with maps and illustrations.



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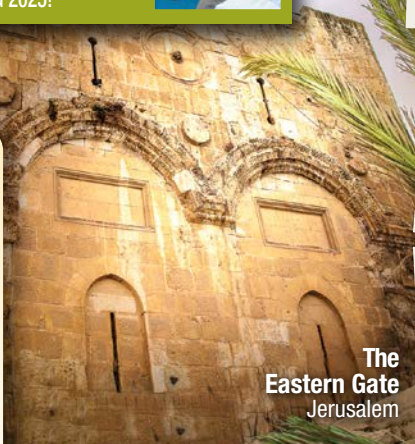
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See you in
Jerusalem!



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