



Levitt LETTER

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

MAY 2025

credit: mbolina/ iStock



Christians: The Only Solution for Peace in Gaza

By Jonathan Feldstein
Israel365News.com



President Trump's recent statements about Gaza have raised many questions: What will be in Gaza? Who will be in control? Who will rebuild? Where will Gazans live? Who will be responsible for ensuring that neither the physical terrorist infrastructure that Hamas built, nor the genocidal Islamic ideology that it represents, will ever threaten Israel or the well-being of Gaza's Palestinian Arabs?

Trump's discussion of evacuating Gazans and the U.S. controlling Gaza has received wide celebration and criticism. Whether these were meant as a negotiating tactic or new U.S. policy, it has undoubtedly opened the door for needed out-of-the-box solutions.

One thing is clear: The idea of a "two-state solution" has been debunked as it would give Palestinian Arabs a state unilaterally as a consequence of their decades of terror and incitement rather than through negotiations and recogniz-

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Only 40% of Americans Believe God Exists or "Affects Lives"

By Ryan Foley
ChristianPost.com

More than half of Americans do not believe in God's existence or that He influences human life.



credit: ACU

The Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University (ACU) released the second installment of its American Worldview Inventory 2025 in March. The

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Only 40% of Americans Believe God Exists or “Affects Lives”

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research found that 60% of Americans do not believe that God exists or “affects lives.” Nearly half (47%) of self-identified Christians and 40% of theologically identified born-again Christians said the same.

Dr. George Barna, director of research at ACU, commented on the report: “It seems obvious that political, economic, legal, or institutional improvements are not what America needs most desperately today. ... Nothing short of sweeping national repentance and spiritual renewal can save America from itself.”

Among Americans who believe that God exists and “affects lives,” 38% defined God as the “most important element” in their lives, 23% described Him as “extremely important,” 18% as “very important,” and 14% agreed that God was “somewhat important” in their lives. Only 5% considered God either “not too” important or “not at all” important in their lives, while 3% stated that God’s influence on them “varies.”

However, only 20% of “those who believe the God of the Bible exists and affects lives” noted that they had “an intimate and interactive spiritual relationship with Him, with constant two-way communication.” Another 45% classified their relationship with God as “close,” defined by frequent prayer and trust in Him to “do what is best and right.”

While 11% described their relationship with God as being at “arms-length,” 18% replied that they don’t have an interactive relationship with Him, and 7% didn’t know how to describe their relationship with Him.

When asked what they believed God provided to them, most who believe in God cited Him as a source of hope (72%), comfort (71%), peace (65%), guidance (64%), compassion (60%), joy (60%), mercy (58%) and purpose (54%). Fewer respondents believed God is a source of miracles (47%), opportunities (41%), security (38%), responsibilities (33%) and power (31%). Less than one-quarter of those who believe in God think that He provides identity (24%) and boundaries (19%).

“The fact that more than three out of four people who believe God exists and is influential in their lives nevertheless do not get their identity from their relationship with Him explains a lot,” Barna declared. “The fact that two out of three people who believe in God’s existence and influence do not believe their connection to Him comes with responsibilities, delivers additional insight,” he added.

According to Barna, **“Finding that two-thirds of those who believe He exists and is influential nevertheless say that God has not given them power to serve Him and pursue His agenda reveals even more about the deceptions and weakness of American Christianity.”** And the list of startling insights into a Christian faith that bears little resemblance to Biblical teaching and to God’s intent could continue.”

The American Worldview Inventory 2025 is based on responses collected from 2,100 U.S. adults in January. The survey has a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points. ☆





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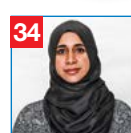
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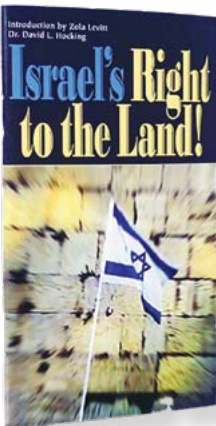


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Israel's Right to the Land! study booklet by Dr. David L. Hocking

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!

Please see the letter from P.S. on [p. 22](#).

Christians: The Only Solution for Peace in Gaza

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credit: mbalina / iStock

ing Israel's legitimacy. It's foolish to think that creating a Palestinian state would or should be a foundation for a broader peace with the rest of the Arab world. It's ridiculous because it has never worked despite numerous opportunities going back to 1947. The root of the problem is not the lack of a Palestinian state but their acceptance of the existence of the Jewish state.

Other than a two-state solution being an inappropriate reward for terror, it's impractical because the Palestinian Authority (PA) has no authority over the areas that it was created to govern. The PA is inept, corrupt, and only slightly less hostile to Israel's existence than Hamas.

Taking Responsibility for Gaza

Some suggest that other Arab states should take responsibility for Gaza's future, something none are willing to do publicly. It's not a viable solution because, for decades, much of the Arab world has funded the Hamas infrastructure, turned a blind eye to and even facilitated the smuggling of weapons into Gaza, and used the status of Palestinian Arabs against Israel rather than seeking a genuine solution. No single Arab or Islamic state can be trusted or

relied upon to take responsibility. The last thing Israel or Gazans need is the rebuilding of Hamas's extremist Islamic ideology and the resumption of terror. If there's ever hope for a lasting peace, there needs to be an overhaul of more than the physical infrastructure. **There needs to be a radical change of heart.**

This of course, assumes that two million Gazans are not relocated to other countries, something that many would resist, no other country wants, and would be destabilizing for any country that would take them in. Nor does it address the root of the problem — jihadi Islamic extremism — with which they have been indoctrinated for a century.

Thinking Outside the Box

With no good solutions based on past failed models and unreliable partners, it's time to think out of the box — to look at a solution not through a prism of how we want things to be but based on reality. I have a solution that's as radical coming from an Orthodox Jew as it is one, perhaps the only one, that can bring true peace.

The solution for long-term peace in Gaza is Jesus.



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In the past, one might think that the Arab-Israeli conflict was about land. It's not. It's a religious conflict fueled by an Islamic ideology that holds that the sole Jewish state is by definition illegitimate. Islamists like Hamas and their Iranian patrons, who embody that ideology, seek Israel's annihilation, not to live side by side with it.

The solution is to counteract that ideology, to upend the failures that extremist Islam has caused in Gaza.

With the widespread destruction of Hamas in Gaza and the suffering that Gazans have endured as human shields at the hands of Hamas, it's legitimate for them to see that theirs is an ideology that offers only suffering and that their god, Allah, has failed them.

Physical and Spiritual Restoration

To change the hearts of two million Palestinian Arabs in Gaza by reversing an intolerant, hateful, extremist, and genocidal ideology, Christians must play a pivotal role in Gaza's physical and spiritual restoration. With exposure to Christians and a Christianity that reveres the God of Israel, Gazans will begin to love the people of Israel and understand the prophetic significance of the State of Israel: that Israel is the cornerstone of the solution and not the foundation of their problem.

To implement this, 100,000–200,000 Christians need to take responsibility for Gaza's complete reconstruction. This will include professionals in engineering, construction, and all aspects of human welfare. They will spend months, if not years, among the population, helping rebuild their lives and creating a foundation upon which to build their future. When Gazans are offered a diet of Christian love to counteract the buffet of hate that they have been force-fed, they might realize the opportunity to prosper.

Gaza's destruction has been commensurate with how deeply Hamas embedded itself among the population and within civilian infrastructure such as schools, mosques, hospitals, United Nations facilities, and residential areas.

Where to Begin?

Rebuilding needs to start from under the ground and up. Anything left of the maze of terrorist tunnels, along with the evil Islamic ideology that birthed Hamas originally, and nurtured from Iran all these decades, needs to be purged. Perhaps this time, Gazans will want to get it right. **If rebuilt properly, purging the terrorists, Gaza can become a thriving, peaceful society.**

Christians would bring the greatest ability to rebuild Gaza by both genuinely loving and caring about Israel and its safety, and also about the well-being of Palestinian Arabs. They will not allow the restoration of a massive terrorist infrastructure under their noses as the United Nations, Red Cross, and other "humanitarian" groups have allowed over the decades, both because it is wrong, and because it is self-destructive.

Nobody would live in peace more than the Jewish people. But to really bring lasting peace, we need Gazans who love and embrace us and want to live in peace as much as us, or at least who do not want to kill us. The key to the true Solution for Peace in Gaza is from Christians.

It may sound crazy for an Orthodox Israeli Jew to propose peace based on the transformation of our neighbors living in spiritual darkness to become theological allies. However, with Gazans' anger toward Hamas growing, if the people of Gaza are presented with a viable alternative — one based in morality that can bring prosperity and hope — the ground is fertile for such an opportunity and true peace. ☆





May 14 marks the modern State of Israel's 77th birthday. That day is also the birthday of our youngest grandson, who turns five years old this year. While May 14 is a joyful two-in-one celebration for our family, this year's national commemoration of Israel's independence will be bittersweet for many Israelis.

The painfully slow release of living hostages, along with disclosures of deceased captives, has deeply affected the heart of the nation of Israel. While Zionists around the world celebrate the significance of May 14 related to modern Israel, great sorrow casts a shadow over the miracles of 1948.

October 7, 2023, marked the beginning of a profound sadness for Israelis who lost loved ones and those whose loved ones were taken captive by Hamas. I cannot imagine the suffering and challenges that those families have faced. And yet, life continues, even as birthdays and anniversaries come and go for those who were murdered or became hostages.

My parents would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this summer. Last year, on their anniversary of July 14, we felt mixed emotions. While we endured sadness because of my father's recent passing, we also experienced joy as we recalled many wonderful memories that my parents had together. **Although sorrow and joy may seem like polar opposites, they can strangely coexist.**

How can we celebrate while grieving? It requires intentionality. As Believers*, we must consciously shift our focus away from our intense grief. Hebrews 12:2 encourages us to fix our eyes on Jesus, Who *"... for the joy set before Him ... endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* Without

Jesus, we cannot have hope or joy. Though Jesus endured immense grief and pain on the Cross, He ultimately received a place of authority in Heaven. Jesus has

all authority in Heaven and on Earth (Matt. 28:18). His authority over everything, including suffering, gives us a reason for hope.

We continue to pray for the families who are living through the current war without hope in Jesus. May they miraculously feel the peace of the Holy Spirit, and may God's supernatural grace, mercy, and love envelop them.

I believe that those who courageously fought against Arab invaders in 1948 would want us to remember their struggles in securing a homeland for the Jewish people. This year, we will join Israelis in honoring them. We will also thank God for His faithfulness to His promises and continue to pray for complete peace and freedom for the people of Israel. ✨



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

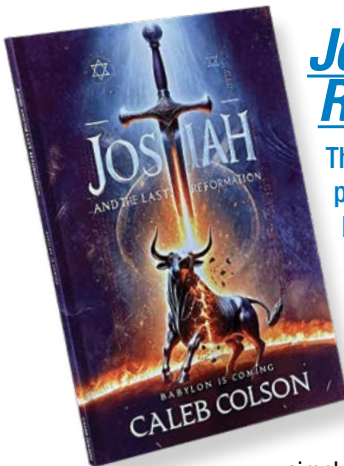
Antisemitic Beliefs booklet

This glossy, 16-page, full-color booklet is illustrated with dozens of examples of the “World’s Oldest Hatred.” This booklet can help you identify anti-Semitism so that you can speak out and act whenever you encounter it. The booklet is divided into the following sections, each with stunning, descriptive explanations.

- Jews and Religion
- Talmudic Secret Passages
- Jewish Power Conspiracy Theories
- Jews and Morality
- Demonization, Dehumanization, Stereotypes
- Israel
- Dual Loyalty and Foreigners
- Holocaust



Please see the Classic Zola article “Christian Anti-Semitism” on [p. 10](#) and the brief “Nearly Half of World’s Adults Hold Anti-Semitic Views” on [p. 31](#).



Josiah and the Last Reformation book

The last days of the Kingdom of Judah relevantly parallel the Last Days in which we as Believers are living today.

During the reign of King Josiah, Babylon was coming to take Judah into exile. Likewise, for us, a future kingdom is coming — Babylon the Great — which will be ruled by the Beast. Even today, mankind commits the same acts of demon worship, idolatry, sexual perversion, and child sacrifice, by pushing Satan’s “woke” ideologies that are simply rebranded false religions, self-help doctrines, increasingly wretched definitions for sexual perversion, and abortion.

In the United States, the Ten Commandments have been barred from courthouses, and prayer banished from public schools. In Israel, tradition, rabbinical doctrine, and ancient mysticism are elevated higher than Torah. Tragically, just as **America and Israel** are unified in their Biblical heritage, they **are equally united in their ongoing rejection of Biblical principles**, leading both on a collision course for judgment. Conversely, Josiah humbled himself before God, pushing the greatest moral and spiritual reformation in all history, and therefore extended God’s prophetic timetable of judgment. Is there hope for our nations today? Is it too late to turn back to God?

A companion guide to the epic television series ***Josiah and the Last Reformation***. Visit levitt.tv/media/series/DJLR where you can watch all eight 30-minute TV programs for free.

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Unity Over the Waves



Life can often feel like a category 5 hurricane surrounding your nearly capsized rowboat. Pounding rain, gale force winds, and unrelenting turbulence leave most feeling helpless and alone. If the storm clouds were to part and the heavens opened, however, it would reveal a great congested sea of weary mariners. **So why do we all feel so alone and overwhelmed** in this journey of life, even though we are encompassed by so many going in the same direction?

The answer is simple: We lack unity.

Recently we attended the 2025 National Religious Broadcasters' (NRB) Convention — an annual meeting of like-minded Christians working in television, film, other media, and the arts. The gathering is designed for professionals to network with others, showcase their work, and discover the brilliant ideas of others. This year's NRB Convention was especially encouraging because so many organizations

showed their strong support for Israel. In addition, Israel sent representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, the Antiquities Authority, and others to form lasting relationships with people in the Christian community.

Anyone walking through the massive expo should have received warnings of a potential seizure. Booths of all shapes and sizes were adorned with neon, LED, and even spotlights working feverishly to capture attention. Aside from speaking in churches and synagogues, this was one of the rare times when we could meet our ministry partners in person. What an encouragement to connect with everyone who visited our booth or stopped us as we strolled the show floor! We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

And yet, as the days and sales pitches continued, we found ourselves growing somewhat weary of the entire "experience." Why did we feel this way? It wasn't

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from the inundation of hugs and prayers from everyone. Rather, we saw an entire ocean filled with the Lord's unified "navy fleet" — the Church — reduced to hundreds of autonomous vessels each moving to fulfill its own separate mission.

We are not questioning the integrity of any organization's intent. We are merely asking each ministry or individual who claims that they follow Yeshua, "Why are you proceeding in the manner in which you are?"

As we read the Bible and examine how the New Testament Church operated as a collective, we see verses like Acts 4:32 — *"Now the whole group of those who believed was one in heart and mind. No one would say anything he owned was his own, but they had everything in common."* In this newly blossoming first Church, we don't see individuals rising up and separating from the group to pursue their individual calling. Instead, the Church worked together to eliminate individual needs and fulfill the Great Commission.

You might be thinking, "Bearded Bible Brothers, why are you hating on the NRB Convention? What would be a more effective use of our collective time and talents?" We're glad you asked!

In all love and sincerity, we're simply suggesting an alternate mindset. For conventions like the NRB, organizations spend thousands upon thousands of dollars on flights, hotels, booth rentals, giveaways, curtains, tablecloths, and more. What if all of these ministries joined together and rented a massive park space? What if the screen company brought in their screens? What if the worship groups brought in their bands?

What if the filmmakers brought in their cameras?

What if the evangelists brought in the lost, and the entire world saw the Body of Christ working together in unison?

What if ministries weren't working to highlight their own gifts and talents, but instead they came together to focus attention on Yeshua, the Son of the Living God?



How effective might a fleet of rowboats be when they all sailed together into the storm, without fear, toward one common goal and purpose? ☆

Love, Joshua and Caleb

Caleb & Joshua

P.S. Scan the QR code to watch a quick video of our time at NRB 2025.



I believe that the deepest shame that can come upon a believer in Jesus Christ is to be seen as hating His brethren, the Jews. He said, after all, *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me"* (Matt. 25:40).

I was terribly disheartened to see that some American Christians have been noticed in Israel for their anti-Semitism. Imagine my embarrassment as I try to win souls among "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" to whom our Lord was sent (Matt. 15:24). **If we are unable to love those whom God loves, let us at least not hate them!**

The following paragraphs appeared in a *Jerusalem Post* article, written by Franklin Hamlin Littell, on American anti-Semitism.

Another sign of an anti-Jewish groundswell is the increasingly bold effort of some church offices to mobilize political support for the PLO. The customary show of "even-handedness" is wearing thin, and demonstrations against Israel and the American links to Israel are growing bolder.

One illustration was a strenuous effort to turn out hundreds of church

people to pressure Congress against Israel. The May 13–15 "Washington Advocacy Days" promoted by "Churches for Middle East Peace" was based in the Washington office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It linked its appeal to the February appeal for "attention to the plight of the Palestinian people" circulated by the Middle East Council of Churches, as well as to "the Palestinian Prayer" proposed for use in churches at Easter time.

President George Bush's reported remark to reporters on Air Force One that it is time to forgive the Holocaust may indicate a trend. He is apparently unaware that the only ones save God who are entitled to forgive are the dead. **Bush's dramatic telephone calls to families of the victims of a deranged Israeli gunman make some of us wonder when he last telephoned the families of victims of Shiite or PLO terror.** What are the political implications of a pathos that is so selective?

Fortunately, the Washington "rally" was a failure, with fewer than 200 participants, in spite of the large quantity of mailings, advertisements in church journals,

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Two-Flag collar pin

With interlocking American and Israeli flags, this unique full-color pin proudly encourages the unity of the U.S.A. and the Holy Land. What a terrific way to create opportunities to witness about Israel's importance in the Bible, the accuracy of Biblical prophecy, and God's gift of grace!

Please see the brief "Mayor Declares Paterson, NJ: 'The Capital of Palestine in the U.S.'" on p. 30.

and commendations by certain denominational and ecumenical bureaucrats. But during the same time period, there were meetings in local congregations across the U.S. — wherever a preacher or prominent layman took the time and

home of the thousand-year Kingdom to come. Anti-Semites will be welcome, and I will have a question-and-answer period open to all. I will emphasize three things: Bible, Bible, and Bible!

I have found that anti-Semitism can only flourish in a non-Biblical atmosphere. A

*Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.
They shall prosper who love thee.*
(Psalm 122:6)

effort to set up a pro-PLO/anti-Israel session. Reports by telephone and letter indicate that in some instances, at least, these local meetings lent themselves to the most open and unrestrained anti-Semitic attacks.

It is a common error to think that anti-Semitism consists mainly of obvious and malicious vandalism or terror. Anti-Semitism is a malaise in Christendom, with deep cultural and theological roots.

In open societies, the “higher anti-Semitism” of the moralists and the pious carries the chief danger to Jewish survival. But it is precisely this covert and unexamined anti-Semitism that opens the doors to the lies of the deniers, and the vicious politics of the terrorists and their fellow travelers.

In order to combat such unfairness in our churches, I am hereby volunteering to speak, without compensation of any kind, in any Presbyterian or other church that is anti-Semitic. It must be understood that I will quote profusely from Scripture, and I will attempt to bring the congregation to true belief in Jesus Christ, which seems to be necessary in such cases.

And, of course, I will teach about Israel — the land of our Lord and the

strong application of Scripture is usually enough to fumigate the place and get rid of the hatred of those of whom God said, *“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the Earth be blessed”* (Gen. 12:3).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is especially welcome to request my services, since they were obnoxious enough to be singled out in the *Jerusalem Post* article. In answer to their “Palestinian Prayer,” I might introduce them to some Israeli prayers. They’re found on any page of Scripture.

And for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters who love our Lord and His people, I am bringing home some marvelous footage of the Bible lands. Could you perhaps help us through this summer as we post-produce these dozen new programs? Donations are presently lagging, and we really need the help right now. Sometimes donations absolutely dictate how many programs and of what quality we can produce out of location footage. Please help right now and you’ll get the results of your giving almost immediately.

Thanks, God bless, and, to mention one of those Israeli prayers, *“Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper who love thee”* (Ps. 122:6). ☆



From Air Quality to Donative Intent

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988



Credit: Lee Friesland / Virginia Tech



The *60 Minutes* crew captures footage of the air ventilation exhibit while Linsey Marr (back left) and Dr. Jonathan LaPook (back right) prepare to discuss the impact of ventilation on particle transmission.

Below are excerpts from the CBS News story, “Indoor Air Systems Crucial to Curbing Spread of Viruses...”^{*} The broadcast inspired me to acquire a carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitor to analyze the quality and safety of the air in my home, car, gym, etc. —Mark

The pandemic has taught scientists that improving indoor air quality is more beneficial than social distancing, hand washing, and masking. Whether the threat is flu, COVID, or measles, plenty of fresh air abates transmission risks.

Over the past century, America has improved our water quality, food safety, and sanitation while too often neglecting indoor air quality. In October 2023 and June 2024, the television news magazine *60 Minutes* highlighted a 2020 super-spreader event at a church in Mount Vernon, Washington. Though half of the Skagit Valley Chorale members there stayed home from their weekly rehearsal in question, COVID hit 53 of the 61 people who attended. Two, both in their 80s, died.

Skagit County health officials concluded that choir members had “an intense and prolonged exposure” to surfaces, droplets, and microscopic airborne particles called “aerosols” containing the virus.

Dr. Linsey Marr is a Virginia Tech professor who specializes in aerosol science. She used a portable fogger to explain how so many choir members got sick that evening.

Apparently, the choir room’s HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system was turned off, resulting in minimal if any ventilation. In 2022, a study in Italy found that **using a school’s fans and air ducts to mechanically exchange indoor air with outdoor air five times per hour decreases the risk of infection transmission by 80%**. Schools, however, typically are designed for just three air changes per hour.

To mitigate risks attributable to poor air circulation, the Skagit Valley Chorale subsequently left doors open to let in fresh air, regardless of the season and got portable carbon dioxide monitors to track ventilation — and eventually moved to a church with a new HVAC system.

A moderate amount of extra CO₂ in a room will make the air feel stuffy while a lot of CO₂ makes it uncomfortable. Beyond that, however, a higher ratio of CO₂ to oxygen can indicate a concentration of contagions from whoever happens to be sick. “Out with the bad air; in with the

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good” applies to rooms and buildings as well as people’s lungs.

For ~\$170, I ordered an Aranet4 HOME Wireless Indoor Air Quality Monitor on Amazon. This unit has good reviews for accuracy, simplicity, and battery life. The free Aranet HOME app on my iPhone



Aranet4 HOME

downloads data from the monitor via Bluetooth and enables me to monitor live readings on temperature, humidity, and CO₂. Better yet, the app easily creates

one-day and seven-day charts of those measurements as far back as several weeks.

Right out of the gate, I learned that keeping my bedroom’s doors open allows my wife and me to breathe fresher air — more oxygen and less CO₂. In my car, I was surprised to see how quickly the climate control’s air recirculation setting drove up the CO₂ count, which could be preferable to inhaling dust from nearby construction or excessive smog from other vehicles. If, however, you’re riding with someone who’s sick, recycling the air would be risky, so opening the windows, vents, and moon roof would make sense.

In the Mind-Body Studio at my Jewish Community Center (JCC), it is somewhat alarming how quickly the air quality declines once exercise classes begin with the doors closed — especially when they turn off the HVAC system to accommodate the colder-natured members who prefer having no air movement. In fact, below is a chart that shows the room’s CO₂ count shooting right through the yellow zone to the red and then plummeting quickly once the class ends and the doors reopen.



Air quality at the JCC Mind-Body Studio

Dear Reader, Does your own church building have crowded rooms that are stuffy, with minimal airflow? If so, then giving your pastor a copy of this article could lead to some reasonably simple solutions that would enable attendees to breathe easier and more healthily.

Last month’s Note from Mark, “Not Falling for Jesus,” mentioned *The Dolphin Chronicles*. The code name *Project Dolphin* refers to missions of a second-generation, fourth-rate Messianic spy for Israel (yours truly), driven by a Mossad computer chip surreptitiously implanted in his brain. My latest mission involves improving my JCC’s air quality. I’ve offered to donate shares of appreciated stock sufficient to sponsor revamping their Mind-Body Studio’s HVAC system to ensure sufficiently fresh air with adequate air movement.

Beyond that, I’ve offered to order them hundreds of two pamphlets to help them enhance their planned giving program — you know, as a supposed Israeli government agent. Many of their members need to learn that:

1. Donating appreciated shares of stock legally avoids capital gains taxes
2. After age 70 ½, donating from IRAs and 401(k)s legally avoids income taxes

Please see page 15 for a description of Giving Through Retirement Plans.

Once the JCC receives and liquidates my shares of stock, it will have a template for processing similar contributions — one they can share with other JCCs across the nation and beyond. Once someone has strong donative intent, the question becomes how to deal with taxes wisely while appropriately rendering unto Caesar (Mark 12:17). ☆

* <https://bit.ly/4lad8jI>
Watch the 13-minute TV news segment at
[YouTube.com/watch?v=WxEssOeEsVk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxEssOeEsVk)



What Does it Mean to be Born Again?

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



Part 1

In John chapter 3, Jesus used the term “born again” twice (vv. 3, 7) as He emphasized the necessity of spiritual rebirth for all humans.

Nicodemus — a Pharisee, prominent religious teacher of Israel, and notable member of the Jewish Sanhedrin — came at night to talk with Jesus (John 3:1–8). While Nicodemus opened with words of admiration for Jesus, our Lord moved directly to the heart of the matter by declaring, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see [understand, know, and enter] the Kingdom of God”* (John 3:3). A confused Nicodemus, thinking that Jesus was referring to physical rebirth, then asked, *“Can [a man] enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”* (John 3:4).

The word translated “again” in John 3:3 is the Greek word *anōthen*, meaning “from above.” Thus, to be born again is a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit from Heaven “above.” In clarifying this to Nicodemus, Jesus explained that being born again refers to a spiritual rebirth through the Holy Spirit. In John 3:6, Jesus contrasted physical birth (*“that which is born of the flesh is flesh”*), which humans produce, with spiritual rebirth (*“that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”*), which only the Holy Spirit can accomplish.

All humans are sinners who cannot be reborn or regenerated on their own. Every person needs God-given faith in

Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit’s power to bring about spiritual rebirth. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* explains this succinctly: “There are two distinct realms: one is of fallen man (the flesh) and the other is of God (the Spirit). A fallen person cannot regenerate himself; he needs a divine operation. Only God’s Holy Spirit can regenerate a human spirit.”

Being born again is essential for anyone who wants to be saved and go to Heaven. Jesus emphasized this universal necessity when He asserted to Nicodemus, *“You must be born again”* (John 3:7). And just as physical birth happens only once, so spiritual rebirth is a one-time experience whereby the Believer becomes a permanent, regenerated child of God.

In John 3:8, Jesus uses an analogy of the wind to illustrate the Holy Spirit’s mysterious work in a person’s salvation. God’s Spirit, like the wind, cannot be controlled or completely understood by humans. Though the wind is invisible, the observing eye can see its effects. Likewise, the invisible, sovereign power of the Holy Spirit produces visible evidence of transformation and power in a repentant sinner who trusts in Jesus Christ. **This spiritual rebirth does not come through religious rituals or formulas; it is solely a supernatural act by the Spirit of God.**

Next month, in Part 2, we will look at how a person is born again. ☆



*“Most assuredly, I say to you,
unless one is born again, he cannot
see the Kingdom of God.”*

JOHN 3:3

ZLM Bulletin Board



Do Israeli Lives Matter?

Hilly Solomon was 26 when Hamas terrorists murdered her and her friend Mapal Adam in 2023 at the Supernova festival. She is survived by her parents, Maggy and Benny, and her older sisters Tal and Keren. On Instagram, Tal wrote: "My little sister, forever best friend and soulmate, was viciously murdered by terrorists on October 7. I was her last phone call. I listened in horror as bullets were being shot in her direction." Hilly was on the cusp of launching Ashkara, her own clothing brand that was geared toward festival-wear. She loved dogs and served in the Oketz canine unit during her mandatory IDF service.



credit: Solomon family

Pamphlet of the Month

The 16-page *Giving Through Retirement Plans* conveys the importance of planning for financial well-being during retirement. Its main section, "Tax-favored Savings Plans," includes these topics:

- 1) Making gifts today,
- 2) Give from mandatory withdrawals,
- 3) Special tax-free gift option, and
- 4) Making future gifts.

The "Technical Advisory Section" discusses testamentary gifts from retirement accounts and special considerations. To receive this pamphlet let at no charge, email us at **staff@levitt.com** or write to our P.O. Box.



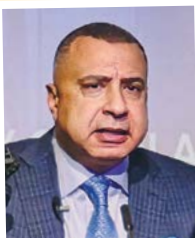
FREE ITEM

Request POM #18

Ex-Muslim of the Month

Majed El-Shafie was born in Egypt to a prominent Muslim family. At age 18, he believed in Jesus Christ and later established an underground Christian human rights organization. Shafie still

carries scars from the grueling torture that he endured for seven days in Egypt's infamous Abu Zabal Prison. Facing a death sentence in his home country, he escaped to Israel and later immigrated to Canada. Shafie leads One Free World International, the global human rights organization he founded that operates in 20 countries. "When you read both the Koran and the Bible," he explained, "you realize that faith is between a person and their God."



credit: Majed El-Shafie

Free Levitt Letters to Give Away

As subscribers like you probably noticed, the special March 2025 edition of our news magazine included both our national television airing schedule and booklist. We have many extras that you might want to receive in order to give away or leave in places where they're likely to be discovered. Please email your address to **staff@levitt.com** or write to our P.O. Box if you'd like us to send you a dozen or two dozen copies of these "super Levitt Letters" to introduce prospective ZLMers to our ministry's teaching.

"COME HOME!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details

To Index

Back to p. 13



Courtesy:
The Jerusalem
Connection



יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֲשֶׁר־יְאֹדָם בֵּטַח בְּךָ:

"O LORD of all power, blessed is the one who trusts in You."
– Psalm 84:12

Read Hebrew right to left! ←

יְהוָה	צְבָאוֹת	אֲשֶׁר־	יְאֹדָם	בֵּטַח	בְּךָ
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(1)
Adoni	tse-vah - oht'	ash-rei'	ah-dahm'	bo-tei'-ach	bakh
O LORD of hosts	blessed is	the man	who trusts	in You	

It is an ongoing struggle to live in this world without being devoured by its fear, insanity, and violence. Yeshua prayed for His followers saying, *"I am not asking you to take them from the world but to keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to this world"* (John 17:15-16).

To live in the world without belonging to the world marks the life of the *tzaddikim* (the righteous) who are seeking the house of love, the place where God abides. Even though we are given "traveling mercies" for our journey in this world, we must lift our hearts toward Heaven, turning away from the world and its vanities, and esteeming the place of God's heart to be our only true home.

Abraham closed his eyes to this world and was given the inner light of truth

that would reveal his way to God. *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God"* (Heb. 11:8-10). *"For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come"* (Heb. 13:14).

So let us lift up our souls unto the Lord and refuse to live in fear. Let us stand strong in faith, trusting in God's promise even if we are sometimes walking in darkness (Isa. 50:10). And let us find confidence in God's precious word: *"O LORD of all power, blessed is the one who trusts in You"* (Ps. 84:12). ☆



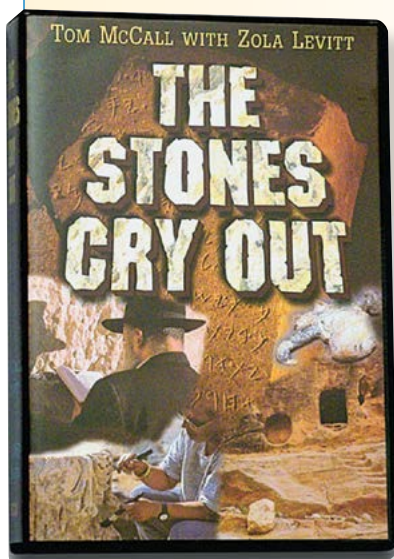
Grafted-In Messianic Roots

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Please see the article "What Does it Mean to be Born Again?" on [p. 14](#).





The Stones Cry Out DVD Set

Twelve 30-minute TV programs (3 DVDs)

Archaeological discoveries continue to validate the Biblical record. To film “dig sites” and interview experts, Zola journeyed to Israel and Jordan. Just as our Lord said about this remarkable Land, *The Stones Cry Out*.

The Tunnel Zola walks the tunnel under the western edge of the Temple Mount. We get a journalist’s perspective of the Palestinian uproar that erupted when the tunnel was opened to the public in 1996.

A Tale of Two Temples An unearthed marketplace shows the Roman destruction of the Temple. Mount Gerizim to the north hosts the excavation of a Samaritan temple patterned after the Jerusalem Temple.

Rulers in Stone Caesarea, on Israel’s Mediterranean coast, has yielded first-century finds such as the first extra-Biblical reference to Pontius Pilate, and a full-size Temple replica. At Tel Dan, the “House of David” has been confirmed archaeologically.

The Jerusalem That Was Bible Lands Museum houses a model of Jerusalem as it would have looked in 586 B.C. In the City of David, we examine a four-room house, typical architecture for ancient Israelites.

Past and Future Destruction Ongoing excavations at Hazor have unearthed Canaanite idols and confirmation of the city burning as recorded in Joshua 11. The Valley of Armageddon holds prophetic archaeological significance.

Archaeology and the Scriptures In Jerusalem, Zola explains the history of the Citadel, also called “David’s Tower.” We talk with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Cities of the Past Zippori was a thriving cultural center in Galilee that probably influenced Jesus as a boy in Nazareth. Ekron was one of five prominent Old Testament cities of the Philistines.

Shadows from the Past A chamber of tombs, near the Garden Tomb but dated to the time of the First Temple, helps us understand burial customs of that day. We visit the Qumran cave where the first Dead Sea Scroll was found.

A Tale of Three Cities In Biblical times, a business relationship existed between three Jordan Valley cities: Beit Shean, Rehovot (west of the Jordan River), and Pella (east of the Jordan River). We visit excavations in each city.

The Rose Red City The ancient Nabataeans were famous for their skill in rock carving. Petra, their capital southeast of the Dead Sea, is the “rose-red city” known for its magnificent buildings carved into the native rock.

A Man Crucified On display at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, a man’s heel bone that was pierced by a nail is the first archaeological proof of Roman crucifixions in Israel.

Truth from the Stones Zola discusses how the artifacts shown throughout this series illuminate Scripture, and how Believers can be encouraged when *The Stones Cry Out*.

Please see the article “Ancient Israelite Palace Remains Found in Jordan” on [p. 32](#).





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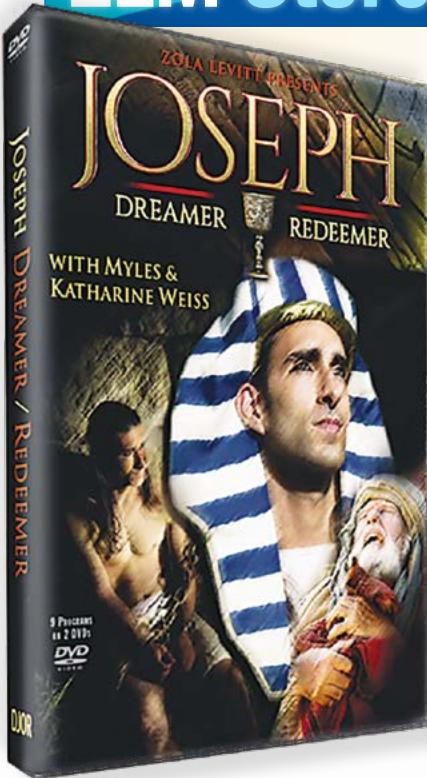
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Joseph: Dreamer / Redeemer DVD Set

Nine 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

More than any Biblical patriarch, Joseph presents a preview of the Redeemer, Yeshua. From humble beginnings to becoming a leader of the known world, Joseph depicts our Redeemer. Born to simple parents, Yeshua's ultimate sacrifice as the Lamb of God preceded His future return as the Lion of Judah. In this nine-part series, we lay bare the "Egyptian" (foreign) identity and centuries-long gentile view of Jesus and reveal Him as the Jewish Messiah *and* Savior of the world. Ron Cantor and Eitan Shishkoff relate the teaching to today's Church.

Jealousy and Rejection First, we see Joseph tending sheep and wearing his colorful coat. Rejection from his brothers has already begun but worsens after he shares his dreams. Myles and Katharine compare Joseph's treatment to Yeshua's rejection by many despite being sent to be the Savior.

Betrayal and Deception Joseph is thrown into a pit and sold as a slave. Father Jacob mourns the loss of his favorite son. Our Messiah was betrayed for money to those who wanted to kill Him. To
Index
Messianic Believers' numbers are increasing in Israel.

Innocence and Accusation Joseph becomes a slave of the captain of Pharaoh's guard. After a time of prosperity, false accusations condemn innocent Joseph. Yeshua lived a life without sin but suffered for the sins of the world. Joseph's life portrays a prophetic promise.

Faithfulness from Prison While in prison for two years, Joseph faithfully ministers to others. During the Last Supper, Yeshua points His followers beyond short-term difficulties and toward God's glorious plans. Exile is not Israel's or our final destination.

Prisoner to Prime Minister After Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams, he is promoted to the #2 position in Egypt. Yeshua's sacrifice ushered in global salvation and the Holy Spirit. Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel reports on Voice of Israel radio.

Famine and Recognition Famine leads Joseph's brothers to Egypt for grain. Unrecognized, Joseph tests their hearts. Israel's current situation will change when they recognize Yeshua.

Brother for Brother Joseph's brothers leave Simeon in Egypt as hostage until Benjamin comes. Joseph's identity remains hidden to his brothers. Messiah is currently hidden to most of His Jewish brothers.

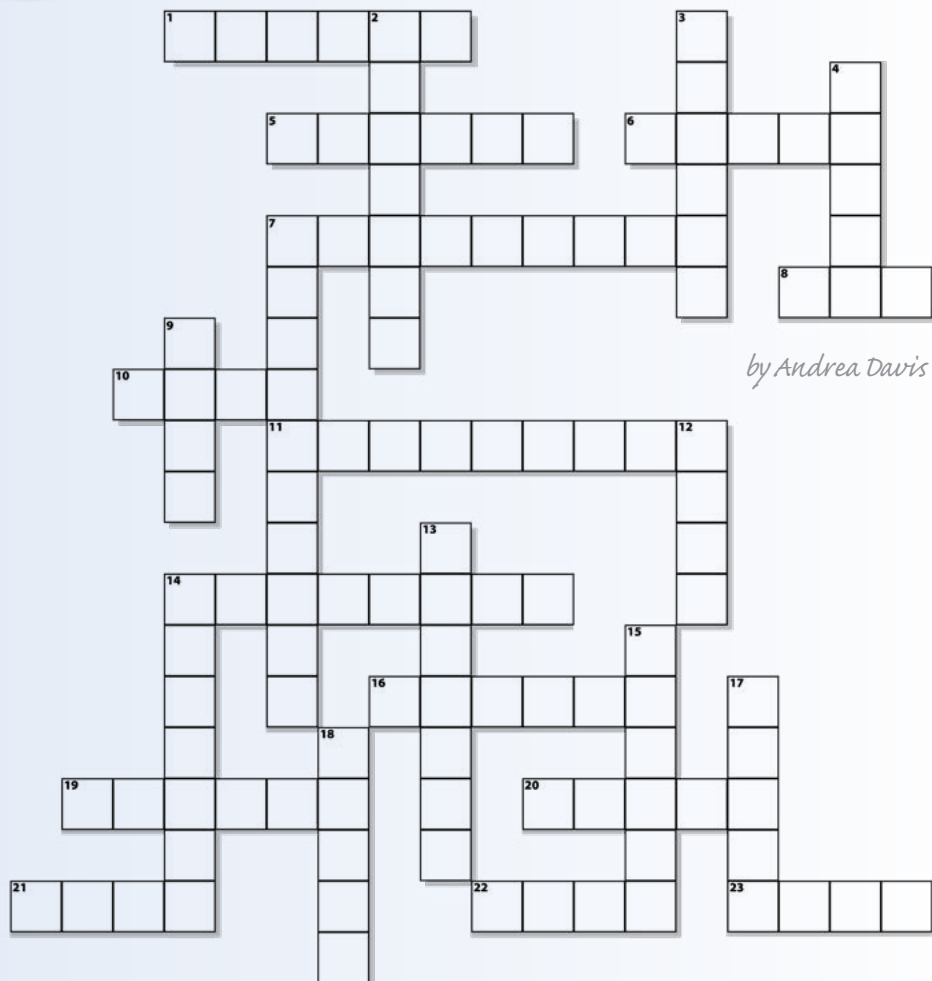
Longing and Revelation At home, Jacob misses his sons; in Egypt, Joseph will reveal himself to his brothers. Yeshua reveals Himself through the Scriptures, as He did after His resurrection.

Substitution and Redemption Because of the "stolen" chalice, Judah offers himself in Benjamin's place. Joseph reveals his identity and reunites the family. Yeshua suffered death in our place, accomplishing God's plan for redemption. Our Messiah will return, but this time as the reigning King.



Crossword May 2025:

Yom Yerushalayim — Jerusalem Day (NKJV)



by Andrea Davis

ACROSS

1. ...Mount Zion and to the city of the ___ God... (Heb. 12:22)
5. ...Jerusalem above is free, which is the ___ of us all. (Gal. 4:26)
6. ...Solomon began to build the ___ of the Lord at Jerusalem... (2 Chr. 3:1)
7. nor by the Earth, for it is His _____. (Matt. 5:35)
8. ...and the name of the city of My God, the ___ Jerusalem... (Rev. 3:12)
10. ...covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is ___. (1 Kings 8:1)
11. ...Jesus began to show to His ___ that He must go to Jerusalem... (Matt. 16:21)
14. ...How often I wanted to gather your ___ together... (Matt. 23:37)
16. ...I will place salvation in Zion, for ___ My glory. (Isa. 46:13)
19. ...And till He makes Jerusalem a ___ in the Earth. (Isa. 62:7)
20. Then ___ dwelt in the stronghold... (2 Sam. 5:9)
21. ...your descendants shall be as the ___ of the Earth... (Gen. 28:14)
22. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem ___, devout men... (Acts 2:5)
23. If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right ___ forget its skill! (Ps. 137:5)

DOWN

2. ...preached in His name to all ___, beginning in Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47)
3. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My _____. (Isa. 65:19)
4. Pray for the ___ of Jerusalem... (Ps. 122:6)
7. ...Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a _____. (Isa. 28:16)
9. ...The city of the great ___. (Ps. 48:2)
12. And Barnabas and ___ returned from Jerusalem... (Acts 12:25)
13. ...May they ___ who love you. (Ps. 122:6)
14. Jerusalem is built as a city that is ___ together, (Ps. 122:3)
15. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of _____. (Zech. 14:4)
17. For God will save Zion and build the cities of _____. (Ps. 69:35)
18. ...as they returned, the Boy ___ lingered behind in Jerusalem... (Luke 2:43)

(answers on p. 35)





Letters to ZLM

Some letters have been edited for space. For ministry products and TV programs, visit levitt.com and access the web store and free video archives by clicking on the headings "Store" and "Watch."

U.S. Takeover in Gaza?

From R.P.: After President Trump's meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu, the president announced that the U.S. would take over Gaza, while the prime minister seemed to nod his head in agreement. I thought, "Where is God in all of this? Didn't God give this land to His Chosen People rather than to the Americans?"

Later, I heard that the president wants to make the Gaza Strip into the "Riviera of the Middle East"! Did Netanyahu ask for U.S. protection against Iran in exchange for Gaza? This reminds me of a story in the Old Testament where Israel asked Egypt, who had the best chariots, for protection against Assyria instead of turning to God. And we know how that ended!

Shalom R.P.,

According to Joel 3:2, you have cause to be alarmed. America will be in a dangerous place if we try to take even a square foot of God's land. We have a lot to say about this topic, so we invite you to scan the [QR code](#) (right) and watch our recent BBB update on President Trump's plan for Gaza. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb



Crossword Puzzle

From P.S.: I teach an adult Sunday School class, and we enjoy working on the monthly crossword puzzle together in class. I also relate other parts of your news magazine to class members and have given them the booklet *Israel's Right to the Land!* Thank you for your ministry. May God continue to bless you.

Dear P.S.,

It thrills us to know that time, effort, and prayer that we put into each *LL* isn't wasted, and that you are sharing its content with others. Thank you for telling how our ministry's news magazine is making a difference in your life and for those in your class. —Kirsten

Dear Reader: Please see the booklet [Israel's Right to the Land!](#) on p. 3.

Serious Financial Challenges

From J.L.: Thank you very much for the *Levitt Letter* and *Personal Letter*. They mean so much to me. I use them periodically in teaching my Bible study groups and other outreach. I would love to send some financial assistance, but at age 85 and living on Social Security, we have been hit with some serious financial challenges and have no funds available at this time. I will send some as soon as the Lord supplies. Meanwhile, we pray the blessings of our Lord on your work for Him.

Shalom, J.L.,

We're honored that you use our ministry's content to teach and spread the Gospel. Your sacrificial act is greater than gold to the Father and is received as an offering of love. Thank you for your faithfulness and love. We pray that the Lord reveals His faithfulness to you by providing for all your needs as He has promised (Phil. 4:19). —Love, Joshua and Caleb

(continued on next page)

Global Christian Persecution

From J.T.: I understand that you are sharing the story and plight of Jews and Israel, especially since Oct. 7, 2023. However, I am saddened that Christians have been persecuted, tortured, tormented, and martyred for years — since the beginning of our faith. **Where's the outcry?** Just recently, 70 Christians were beheaded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. CBN News reports that this atrocity is hardly mentioned in churches or the media — even Christian media. Likewise, Christians are continually slaughtered in Nigeria — many died during the 2024 Christmas season.

Men have been imprisoned in Eritrea for 20 years for being Christian. They might be released if they would deny Jesus. Leah Sharibu is still in captivity for seven years in Nigeria. She has had children, and her family and friends are pleading with the president's wife, who is a Christian, to speak for Leah.

I have not heard Israeli news prior to October 7 speaking with passion for the murder of Christians. The Holocaust Museum states there were massacres and indiscriminate killings of Jews and non-Jews that were not recorded or identified during WWII. Not only Jews were killed on October 7.

When Jews talk about the Holocaust, they seem to imply that only Jews were killed, but there were Gypsies, mentally ill, Communists, and political opponents. **Eleven million people were killed in the Holocaust.** What grieves me are the non-Jews today who are imprisoned in horrible conditions that are not reported. Many languish right now in prison.

An Iranian pastor recently spoke at our church about visiting a town where they had to go through elaborate measures to avoid detection as they joined a Christian gathering. Then, they had to worship and pray silently. He related that the Holy Spirit fell on that meeting in great power. I grieve and pray now for those in prison, even for decades, that God continues to sustain them.

Shalom, J.T.,

For two decades before we began working for Zola Levitt Ministries, we traveled the globe, working in disaster relief with non-profit organizations to provide aid for hurting and destitute communities. We also furnished resources and provisions for persecuted Christian communities in violent countries like Burma and Zambia. In addition, we spread the Gospel of Yeshua to lost and dying people in over 40 countries, as did our family before us. **With both Jew and gentile, we've devoted our entire lives to sharing God's love in ministry.**

We now helm a Messianic Jewish ministry where the focus has been on the Jew first and also the gentile. God tasked our founder Zola Levitt to demonstrate the importance of Israel to the world, and to use his platform to support Israel when the world turns against her.

There is nothing wrong with this being the primary focus of our ministry, as God has called many ministries to concentrate on different areas of need. As you mentioned, there are Iranians — like our friend Dr. Hormoz Shariat — whom God has called to minister to the Persian people. Just as there are women's and men's ministries, other ministries focus on drug addiction, broken homes, or child abuse.

If you feel the need to focus on the persecution of Christians around the world, it's probably because the Holy Spirit is leading you to do something about it. Please answer the call of His conviction.

As we have in the past, we will continue teaching about how all God's people suffer for the sake of the Gospel; in fact, that will be an underlying theme in our future series *Paul vs. the gods*. **Currently, however, we must obey the Holy Spirit's direction for us and do what most of the world won't do: support Israel and declare God's love for the Jewish people.** There has never been a more pivotal time in history to proclaim this truth than right now. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

(continued on next page)



Changes at Our Jewish Roots

From D.M.: All the changes to the program over the past few years have made me worry that you are going to stop altogether. Please don't stop! What you do is important and much needed! I love you — ALL OF YOU!

Shalom, D.M.,

We don't plan on stopping. In fact, our ministry's periodic changes have all been part of God's plan to direct our focus to a new generation who doesn't yet know Yeshua. Every generation speaks a different language, and though we will never change the message of the Gospel, we must adapt to deliver that teaching in a way that our modern audience can internalize.

Yeshua understood this need perfectly as He delivered the Gospel by telling parables or stories. People in the first century were used to going to the theater and watching plays or listening to philosophers. Yeshua didn't shy away from teaching in ways that His audience could properly interpret.

Thank you for your prayers and support. —Love, Joshua and Caleb

Roadmap to Armageddon — #6 The Third Temple on YouTube

From J.S.: Ezekiel 43 doesn't mention a word about another Temple, but one verse does say four cubits high!

Shalom, J.S.,

What begins in Ezekiel chapter 40, all the way through chapter 47, is an unbroken prophecy of Ezekiel's vision of the Millennial Temple. All of the chapters describe its dimensions in detail. The size of this Temple is so large —over a square mile — that the complex has never been established throughout history. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb



Jewish Dispersion

From M.D.K.: This may be a stupid question, but **why are there Jewish tribes around the world?** All the tribes from Egypt went to Israel. I wondered about this while reading the Book of Numbers. I am glad we have Jewish communities all over the world, but I am curious as to why we are not all in Israel. My great-grandparents came out of Belgium.

Shalom, M.D.K.,

That's not a stupid question! Thankfully the Bible has all the information you need. Because of Israel and Judah's disobedience in worshipping false gods, God allowed the Assyrians and later the Babylonians to remove the Jews from the Land of Israel in 722 and 586 B.C. Many of those Jews returned after 70 years of captivity in Babylon, but centuries later the Roman Empire scattered the Jews across the world in A.D. 70, after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. This is called the Diaspora.

On May 14, 1948, Israel was re-established as a nation — the Jewish state. Although there was always a small portion of Jews living in the Promised Land throughout that nearly 2,000-year gap, more and more Jews are returning to their homeland in fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy in chapters 34 and 36. Amos 9:11-15 confirms that **once God returns the Jews to the Land of Israel, He will never allow them to be scattered again.** —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Could This Be Noah's Ark?

JPost.com

Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat
(1570), painting by Simon de
Myle / Wikimedia Commons



credit: Facebook.com/NoahsArkScans/

Scientists say that this large boat-shaped geological structure could be the remains of Noah's Ark.

Excitement is mounting in the archaeological community following revelations at the recent International Symposium on Mount Ararat and Noah's Ark, held in eastern Turkey.

Experts from Istanbul Technical University and Agri Ibrahim Cecen University in Turkey, and Andrews University in the U.S. have worked since 2021 under the banner of the Mount Ararat and Noah's Ark Research Team. The team has focused on the Durupinar formation, a 538-foot geological structure composed of limonite and located approximately 19 miles south of the summit of Mount Ararat, near the Turkey-Iran border.

The Durupinar formation was initially discovered by a Kurdish farmer in 1948. It has long captivated researchers and explorers due to its ship-like shape and dimensions that mirror the Biblical description and measurements of Noah's Ark. **Despite numerous studies over the years, consensus on the site's significance has remained elusive.**

Researchers collected nearly 30 samples of rock and soil from the site. After analysis, the samples revealed traces of clay-like materials, marine deposits, and seafood remnants, including mollusks. Experts de-

termined that the materials dated between 3,500 and 5,000 years old. This timeframe coincides with the Chalcolithic period (5,500–3,000 B.C.), which is associated with the era of the Biblical flood as described in the Book of Genesis.

"Our studies show that this region harbored life in that period and that, at some point, it was covered by water, which reinforces the possibility that a catastrophic event of great magnitude occurred," the researchers stated.

Mount Ararat, the highest peak in Turkey at 16,853 feet, is traditionally identified as the resting place of Noah's Ark. Genesis 8:4 states: *"And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."* The mountain is an inactive volcano with a summit covered in perpetual snow.

By employing technology and geological analysis techniques, the team aims to separate myth from reality. Their work focuses on examining the site's geological and archaeological significance without drawing premature conclusions.

Even so, the researchers recently noted: "The evidence suggests that the story [of Noah's Ark] might have a basis in reality." ✨



Israeli Researchers Grow Tomatoes with Less Water

By Gali Raz
JewishBusinessNews.com



A wild-type plant (left) and four ROP9 mutant plants after several days without watering. While the wild-type plant appears wilted, the mutant plants maintain their vigor.

There is a growing global demand for agricultural crops that consume less water without compromising yield, but it has been challenging to identify suitable plant varieties. Recently, however, researchers from Tel Aviv University (TAU) have succeeded in cultivating and characterizing tomato varieties with higher water use efficiency.

Using CRISPR (pronounced “crisper”) genetic editing technology, the researchers grew tomatoes that consumed less water while preserving yield, quality, and taste. CRISPR stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats — repetitive fragments of DNA that bacteria use to defend themselves against invading viruses. Viruses can infect bacteria, just like they can infect people.

The study was led by Prof. Shaul Yalovsky and Dr. Nir Sade, along with a team of researchers from the School of Plant Sciences and Food Security at TAU’s Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. Scientists from Ben Gurion University and the University of Oregon also contributed to the research.

In a process called transpiration, plants evaporate water from their leaves. Concurrently, carbon dioxide enters into the leaves, and is assimilated into sugar by photosynthesis, which also takes place in the leaves. **These two processes —**



(l to r) Dr. Nir Sade, doctoral student Purity Muchoki, and Prof. Shaul Yalovsky

transpiration and carbon dioxide uptake — occur simultaneously through special openings in the surface of leaves called stomata. The stomata can open and close, serving as a mechanism through which plants regulate their water status.

“We discovered that eliminating ROP9 [proteins that help control plant tissue formation] by the CRISPR technology cause a partial closure of the stomata. This effect is particularly pronounced during midday, when the rate of water loss from the plants in the transpiration process is at its highest,” said Prof. Yalovsky. “Conversely, in the morning and afternoon, when the transpiration rate is lower, there was no significant difference in the rate of water loss between the control plants and ROP9-modified plants.

“Because the stomata remained open in the morning and afternoon, the plants were able to uptake enough carbon dioxide, preventing any decline in sugar production by photosynthesis even during the afternoon hours, when the stomata were more closed in the ROP9-modified plants.” ✨



Clearing Clogged Arteries Safer and Faster

By Yulia Karra
Israel21c.org



Israel-based startup Pylon Medical has developed a first-of-its-kind method of treating carotid artery disease, one of the leading risk factors for stroke.

The carotid arteries are a pair of blood vessels on each side of the neck that deliver blood to the brain, face, and neck. As fatty deposits (plaques) build up on the walls of these vessels, they can clog, creating carotid artery disease that can result in a host of complications.

Current solutions for clearing the clogged blood vessels include surgically opening them and cleaning out the plaque or inserting a stent to widen the blood vessel. These methods can have long recovery times, sometimes resulting in additional complications.

Pylon's newly developed "specialty kit" — including a balloon catheter, an artery closure device, and an aspiration system — makes the treatment of clogged blood vessels much safer and less time-consuming, noted Or Zigelboim, Pylon's founder and CEO. He added that it has a 98% success rate.

"We make a small puncture of 2.5 millimeters and introduce a balloon catheter; then we can place a stent to revascularize the vessel or open the vessel up and improve the bloodstream." Afterward, the physician can automatically suture the hole in the carotid artery by bringing the two sides of the hole together with a knot.

Pylon's solution can also be utilized during stent insertions or surgeries.

"Our aspiration system protects against particles from outer walls of the vessels that could dislodge during the pro-



Graphic of the arterial supply to the head

cedure and drift into the brain, which sometimes can cause strokes," noted Zigelboim. "So, at the biomedical level, we're taking these procedures to the next level by performing them in the least invasive way possible."

Pylon has successfully completed clinical trials on animals and is currently in its second fundraising round to secure money for clinical trials on humans, which it hopes to conduct this year.



Pylon Medical's team

"Our regulatory path lies through the FDA, which means we will have to enroll about 200 patients into our clinical trials within two years," Zigelboim explained. He added that if everything goes as planned, Pylon's solution should be market-ready by 2027 or 2028. ☆

credit: MEDX

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credit: MEDX

“Human Rights” NGOs’ Silence is Complicity with Hamas



credit: Ali Hassan / Flash90

Human rights are not universal — they don’t apply to Jews or Israelis because they aren’t useful to self-proclaimed human rights arbiters who have monopolized and abused these principles for their political agendas.

If this was not abundantly clear before, it was clarified painfully on February 20/21, 2025 — when the major international human rights organizations were quiet as four slain Israeli hostages, including two children, were repatriated in a macabre Hamas propaganda ceremony.

From the capture of the elderly Oded Lifshitz and Shiri, Ariel, and Kfir Bibas by Gazan hordes during the October 7 massacre until the exhibition of their alleged remains on the publicity stage, international human rights NGOs (non-governmental organizations) held a silent vigil of complicity.

Complicit NGOs

For 500 days, Amnesty International’s reports accused Israel of every crime imaginable. But the organization that was founded to free political prisoners said nothing of the Bibas family members who were held in captivity. Amnesty likewise didn’t comment as the hostages’ remains were paraded before jeering and cheering Gazans.

Freed Israeli hostage Eli Sharabi, who was beaten, chained and starved while held for 491 days by Hamas, expressed his anger during an appearance at the U.N. Security Council in March for having to suffer for so long and worry every day about being killed. “Where was the United Nations? Where was the Red Cross? Where was the world?” Sharabi asked.

Human Rights Watch made no statement about the indignities of the hostages being used to threaten those who still remained in terrorist captivity. While the abuse of the Bibas family was mentioned in a July report, apparently that was the sole exception.

Save the Children International — which claims to ensure that children are protected worldwide — never denounced the precedent of using children as hostages to ransom the release of murderers. Nor did it reference the Bibas children on its website or social media.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) — supposedly “for every child” — mentioned the Bibas children once in passing during Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban’s September briefing and in one October 7 anniversary X post.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) had been silent on the Bibas family until condemning the display on February 20. Yet two days earlier, in a statement about Hamas’s degrading public displays of captives, UN OHCHR equated the hostages to that of imprisoned and detained terrorists.





“International humanitarian law prohibits ‘outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment.’ Parading hostages as trophies of war, in a propaganda spectacle, clearly violates this rule. It is also distressing to their families,” said UN OHCHR’s supposed experts, including Francesca Albanese, special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories.

Ever ready to comment on any perceived allegation of abuse by Israeli forces, Albanese, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, and his office were quiet on February 20 as Hamas presented coffins as war trophies.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) never visited Lifshitz and the Bibas family in 500 days, seeing them for the first time on February

20 in the propaganda-emblazoned coffins. Relegated to a ride-sharing service ordered by Hamas commanders, the ICRC meekly protested degrading treatment in an earlier statement but still participated in the pageantry of death.

A ridiculous double standard

Even if these organizations later offer lip service out of shame, it’s already too late. The comparison of any such response to their constant zealousness in attacking Israel with claims of genocide, apartheid, etc. demonstrates a ridiculous double standard.

Actually, it would indicate a double standard if it weren’t so obvious that a standard never existed.

If universal principles are only invoked when suitable, then they are not a standard for the treatment of people; they are a weapon used to pursue one’s political agenda.

Even on October 7, 2023, as Israel was repelling Hamas’s attacks and trying to defend against its rocket and mortar fire, NGOs urged Israeli restraint by invoking human rights. At every leg of the war, human rights organizations pressured Israel for ceasefires, to not address the immediate threats of Gazan terrorist organizations, and to not seek justice against those who raped and murdered their way through southern Israel.

Invoking the sacred words “human rights” about dubious crises, these groups demanded humanitarian pauses and aid that gave succor to Gazan terrorists by allowing them to reorganize and resupply.

Every few years, these terrorists survive the wars they start to fight against Israel another day, thanks to the cruel mercy and overbearing nagging of human rights organizations — ultimately leading to October 7, 2023, when orange-haired children were ripped from their home.

Human rights activists likely remained silent on February 20 because they believed that bringing attention to people celebrating dead babies would “manufacture consent” among the international community to take a hard stance against Hamas and its ilk.

Intentional or not, the human rights regime has facilitated Hamas’s agenda and hindered those who seek to stop them. In their complicity with that terrorist agenda, they have made human rights irrelevant.

As surely as the Gazan terrorist groups ultimately bear responsibility for the deaths of the four hostages, so too are human rights organizations responsible for putting human rights in a coffin next to them. ☆



Shiri, Ariel, and Kfir Bibas were abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7, 2023.



credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Former hostage Liri Albag with her parents on January 25, 2025

Released Israeli Hostage: "Two Million Terrorists" in Gaza

JNS.org

Liri Albag, a 19-year-old Israel Defense Forces (IDF) lookout, was released in January after being held for 477 days by Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip. Talking to her father after her release, Albag asserted: "Dad, there are two million terrorists there, make no mistake. I sat with children aged 8 and 4 who were cursing the Jews."

According to a 2024 estimate, 2,141,643 Palestinians live in the Gaza Strip.

Albag and the three other female IDF hostages who were released on January 25 experienced "insane things that are hard to tell everything about" during their 15 months in Hamas captivity. Yet her family noted that the women were afraid to speak out since many other hostages still remained in Gaza.

Former hostage Mia Shem, who was released in November 2023, stated in an interview the following month: "Everyone there [in Gaza] is a terrorist.

"Entire families are under Hamas. I realized I was staying with a family. I started to ask myself, why am I in a family home? Why are there children here? Why is there a wife here?" Shem commented. "I went through a *Shoah* [Hebrew for 'catastrophe' or 'calamity'; also refers to the Holocaust]."



credit: YouTube screenshot

Andre Sayegh, mayor of Paterson, New Jersey

Mayor Declares Paterson, NJ: "The Capital of Palestine in the U.S."

By Vered Weiss / WorldIsraelNews.com

Andre Sayegh, the mayor of Paterson, New Jersey, declared the city to be the "capital of Palestine in the U.S." at a March ceremony marking the beginning of Ramadan. Sayegh also stated that the city was one of the four holiest in the world, after Jerusalem, Mecca, and Medina.

The mayor, who was born in New Jersey to a Syrian mother and a Lebanese father, referred to Paterson as "The Mecca of New Jersey." The city's Muslim presence is evident through its many Palestinian flags and signs in Arabic.

Paterson enforces Islamic policies, such as closing schools on Muslim holidays, serving *halal* food in public schools, and broadcasting the *Adhan* (Muslim call to prayer) on loudspeakers throughout the city.

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The main street in the city was also renamed “Palestine Way,” and the city government actively promotes anti-Israel BDS legislation.

Nearly Half of World’s Adults Hold Anti-Semitic Views

By Asaf Elia-Shalev / JTA.org

Almost half of adults around the world have “elevated levels of anti-Semitic attitudes,” the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported recently. The Global 100 survey represents 94% of the world’s population through responses from more than 58,000 adults across 103 countries and territories. The ADL asked respondents about their agreement to 11 anti-Semitic stereotypes. About 46% of respondents agreed with most of the statements, which included “Jews have too much control over global affairs” and “Jews don’t care about what happens to anyone but their own kind.”

Anti-Semitism appears to have sharply increased worldwide since 2014, when the ADL’s first survey found that 26% of adults were “deeply infected with anti-Semitic attitudes.” The total number estimated to have anti-Semitic beliefs doubled from 1.1 billion to 2.2 billion adults.

In 2014, about half of respondents said they hadn’t heard of the Holocaust versus 20% in the recent survey. A third of those in 2014 said they had both heard of the Holocaust and believed that historical accounts were accurate. That number has increased to 48%, though it dips to 39% for the 18-34 demographic.

The survey revealed that half of respondents ages 18 to 35 held heightened levels of anti-Semitic sentiments, which is 13% higher than for those over 50.

Territories and countries with the greatest anti-Semitism included the “West Bank,” Gaza, Kuwait, and Indonesia, where at least 96% harbor high levels of anti-Jewish sentiment. The index score for the Middle East and North Africa as a whole was 76%.

Please see the booklet *Antisemitic Beliefs* on p. 7.

Iran Executes 975 in 2024 — “Horrible Escalation” of Capital Punishment

TheMediaLine.org

A joint report by Norway-based Iran Human Rights (IHR) and French group Together Against the Death Penalty claims that Iran executed at least 975 people in 2024 — a “horrible escalation” in the country’s use of capital punishment.

The figure is the highest recorded since IHR began tracking executions in 2008. It represents a 17% increase from the 834 executions documented in 2023.

“These executions are part of the Islamic republic’s war against its own people to maintain its grip on power,” stated IHR director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam. He added that during the final three months of 2024, an average of five people were executed daily — a period coinciding with rising regional tensions amid escalating threats between Iran and Israel. Among the 975 executions, four were carried out as public hangings and 31 were women — the highest numbers in the past 17 years. Human rights organizations have long criticized Iran, the world’s second most prolific executioner after China, for using capital punishment to instill fear and suppress dissent.

The rights groups reported an additional 39 executions in 2024 that remain unconfirmed. In the first two months of 2025, Iran executed at least 121 people, according to IHR. The findings underscore a continued and troubling reliance on capital punishment within Iran’s sharia-based judicial system, where death sentences are imposed not only for serious crimes such as murder, rape, and drug offenses but also for vaguely defined charges like “corruption on Earth” and “rebellion.” ☆



Executions in Iran have surged in recent years.





Lion's head
from Mahanaim

Ancient Israelite Palace Remains Found in Jordan

Archaeologists have uncovered intriguing evidence of what may be an ancient Israelite palace dating back approximately 2,800 years at a site in Jordan that scholars believe to be the Biblical Mahanaim. The discovery consists of decorated stone blocks featuring carved scenes of lions and banquets, found scattered across a hilltop near modern-day Dayr Allah.

Prof. Israel Finkelstein of Haifa University and Prof. Tallay Ornan of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem identified these artifacts as **likely remnants from the Kingdom of Israel's administration in the region**. The researchers reached this conclusion by comparing the iconography on the blocks to similar drawings found at another Israelite site in Sinai.

Rich Biblical History

Mahanaim, mentioned 13 times in the Old Testament, holds profound significance in Biblical narratives. The name, meaning "two camps" in Hebrew,

first appears in Genesis 32:2. It was here that Jacob encountered Laban and established a covenant. Later, it was the site of the pivotal event when Jacob wrestled with an angel, leading to his name being changed to Israel (Gen. 32:28; Hos. 12:3-4).

The site's importance continued throughout Biblical history. When the Transjordan territory was divided among the tribes of Israel, Mahanaim was positioned at the intersection of Gad and East Manasseh (Josh. 13:26, 30). It was also designated as one of the Levitical cities (Josh. 21:38; 1 Chron. 6:80).



Two lyre players in a banquet
scene from Mahanaim



(continued on next page)



During the turbulent period of Israel's early monarchy, Mahanaim served as a crucial political center. After Saul's death, his military commander Abner established Ishbosheth, Saul's son, as king over Israel from Mahanaim (2 Sam. 2:8, 12, 29). Later, when King David fled from his son Absalom's rebellion, he sought refuge in Mahanaim (2 Sam. 17:24, 27), where he received support from a Gileadite named Barzillai (2 Sam. 19:32). The site's strategic importance continued into Solomon's reign, when it became one of his administrative centers (1 Kings 4:14).

Archaeological Discoveries

The site consists of two adjacent mounds situated along a bend in the Zarka River, which scholars have long identified as the Biblical Jabbok River. The western mound, known today as Tall adh-Dhahab al-Gharbi, yielded the most significant finds, including massive, decorated sandstone blocks weighing up to 440 pounds. These blocks were discovered during excavations conducted by German researchers between 2005 and 2011.

Based on the decorative style, the researchers date the remains to the first half of the eighth century B.C., coinciding with the peak of the Kingdom of Israel's power under the reigns of Kings Joash and Jeroboam II. During this period, the

Northern Kingdom of Israel, with its capital in Samaria, controlled territory stretching from Sinai to modern-day Lebanon, including parts of Transjordan.

Recent excavations at Dhahab West have also revealed what appears to be part of a monumental building from the Herodian period.

Scholars believe that this structure may be part of the Hellenistic and Roman site known as Amathus, as described by

the historian Josephus, indicating the location's continued importance well into the Roman period.

Archaeological and Biblical Perspectives

The researchers emphasized that while the archaeological evidence confirms a strong Israelite administrative presence in the region, it does not necessarily validate the historicity of the Biblical narratives themselves. Rather, the findings help explain why the Biblical authors chose to set important foundational stories in this location.



Tall adh-Dhahab al-Gharbi (Mahanaim), looking northwest

The site's significance even echoes in the poetic passages of the Old Testament.

Song of Solomon 6:13 makes a notable reference to "the dance of Mahanaim" (or "dance of the two camps" in some translations), suggesting the site's cultural importance extended beyond its political and administrative functions.

This archaeological find adds another piece to the complex puzzle of understanding the relationship between Biblical narratives and historical reality in the ancient Near East. While the exact nature of the building these blocks once formed remains under investigation, their discovery demonstrates the significant Israelite presence in Transjordan during the Iron Age, a period roughly corresponding to the First Temple Period in Biblical chronology. ☆

CAIR Official: Hamas Deserves Nobel Peace Prize

By Jack Elbaum
Algemeiner.com



A senior official of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) recently shared a post on social media that read in part, "Hamas deserves a Nobel Peace Prize."



Zahra Billoo is the executive director of CAIR's San Francisco chapter. She reposted writer and podcast host CJ Werleman, who wrote, "Hamas deserves a Nobel Peace Prize for **keeping Israeli prisoners safe from indiscriminate Israeli carpet bombing**, which destroyed +90% of all buildings and slaughtered +100,000 people."

Notably, the post referred to the Israeli kidnapped by Hamas on October 7, 2023, as "prisoners" rather than "hostages" — using the terrorist group's preferred language — and promoted unsubstantiated estimates that are even greater than those published by Hamas.

Werleman is an anti-Israel activist and conspiracy theorist whose pinned post on X refers to Israel as "the pedophile state."

After the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran last year, Billoo mourned his death: "Never say that those martyred in the cause of Allah are dead — in fact, they are alive! But you do not perceive it. Tonight, we mourn Ismail himself but know his martyrdom is not in vain. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

This isn't CAIR's first brush with controversy. CAIR co-founder and national Executive Director Nihad Awad claimed that he was "happy" to witness Hamas's atrocities on October 7, 2023 —

murdering 1,200 people and kidnapping 251 hostages. "The people of Gaza only decided to break the siege — the walls of the concentration camp — on October 7,"

he asserted in a speech at

the American Muslims for Palestine convention in Chicago on November 24, 2023. "And yes, I was happy to see people breaking the siege and throwing down the shackles of their own land, and walk free into their land, which they were not allowed to walk in."

Additionally, in the 2000s, CAIR was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation terrorism financing case. *Politico* noted in 2010 that "U.S. District Court Judge Jorge Solis found that the government presented 'ample evidence to establish the association'" of CAIR with Hamas. ✨

[Such idiocy has a precedent in that Yasser Arafat received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 for his supposed "efforts to create peace in the Middle East." — Mark](#)



Zahra Billoo



Jewish Humor, etc.

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

From Jewish Comedians

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands? —Milton Berle

A young Jewish boy went to the bakery to deliver a message from his mother to an overworked baker. As the baker was working, the boy yelled out, "My momma says there was a fly in the raisin bread." The baker continued at his task, hardly noticing. So, the boy yelled out again, "My momma says there was a fly in the raisin bread." The baker, hoping to put an end to the nuisance, replied, "Fine — bring me the fly, I'll give you a raisin." — Myron Cohen



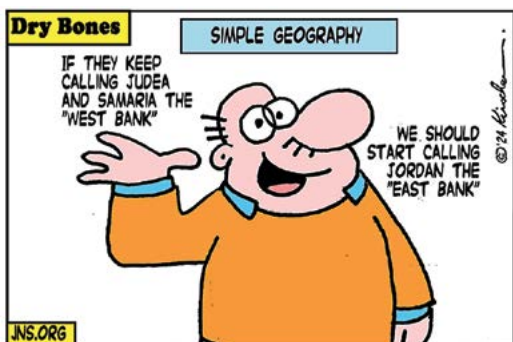
Answer Key for May 2025 Crossword (p.21)

ACROSS:

1. Living
5. Mother
6. House
7. Footstool
8. New
10. Zion
11. Disciples
14. Children
16. Israel
19. Praise
20. David
21. Dust
22. Jews
23. Hand

DOWN:

2. Nations
3. People
4. Peace
7. Foundation
9. King
12. Saul
13. Prosper
14. Compact
15. Olives
17. Judah



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Please see the article "What Does it Mean to be Born Again?" on [p. 14](#).

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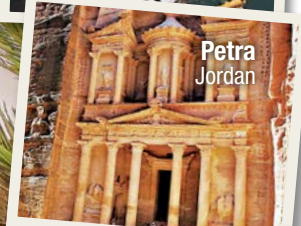
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