



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

— ROMANS 10:1

inside: Is Petra
Prophetic? p.6

Jesus "Used to Be Jewish"? That's *Not* What the Gospels Say

By Bernard Starr / HuffPost.com

When I interview Christians and Jews, I repeatedly hear "everyone knows Jesus was Jewish." But when I dig deeper, I discover that "everyone knows Jesus was Jewish" really means "He used to be Jewish." **Many believe that Jesus was born Christian and that He launched a new religion.**

For example, Jane, educated in Catholic school, agreed that Jesus was Jewish. But when I followed up with, "Did He remain Jewish throughout his life?" she answered, "Oh, no. He became a Christian and started Christianity." "When did that happen?" I asked. "When He was baptized by John the Baptist," she answered confidently. "It says so right in the Bible."

Noah, a young Jewish student at a small New England college, asked his Christian fraternity brothers, "What was Jesus' religion?" They stared at him as if he were

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REMEMBER:

Rosh Hashanah 2019 begins in the evening of Sunday, Sept. 29 and ends in the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 1

Why Dip Apples in Honey on Rosh Hashanah?

By Josefina Dolsten
JTA.org

No commandment exists to dip an apple in honey on Rosh Hashanah. But what would the Jewish New Year be without the custom? Some trace it to Nehemiah 8:10, where the Jews of the Second Temple period celebrating what would eventually become Rosh Hashanah are told, "Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet." Making the new year sweeter is the whole point of the custom.

Date syrup is mentioned in the Torah. And dates are one of the seven species of the land of Israel mentioned in Deut. 8:8. Scholars say that the description of "a land flowing with

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Jesus “Used to Be Jewish?” ... *continued from cover*

an idiot. After he pressed for an answer, they declared, “Christian, of course.”

In fact, Jesus was born into a family of practicing Jews dedicated to Judaism. As prescribed in the Torah, He was circumcised on the eighth day after His birth. Throughout His life He was thoroughly committed to Judaism, the Torah, and Jewish practices. He prayed in synagogues and taught Torah to “multitudes” of fellow Jews. And John the Baptist only baptized Jews to purify them for the expected arrival of the Jewish Messiah. All this is stated clearly in the Gospels; Jane’s quote is not.

To address the crucial question **“Did the Jews kill Jesus?”** — a charge that has echoed with deadly consequences since the crucifixion — we look at the Gospels’ accounts of Jesus’ arrest, trial and the events leading up to them. **The Gospels state explicitly who killed Jesus** (John 10:17–18).

Have you ever wondered what Jesus might say about virulent and enduring anti-Semitism?

Indeed, what would the thoroughly Jewish Jesus have said to Church leaders, monarchs, and others who launched murderous acts such as the Crusades, the Inquisition, and genocides in His name?

Christians today, especially evangelicals, are eager to let go of long-standing antagonisms and are reaching out to Jews in a spirit of reconciliation. But memories of unspeakable persecution over many centuries are a barrier for Jews to participate fully in the healing process. Given this new environment, I appeal to my fellow Jews to drop the “Jesus”-phobia and accept Jesus as a faithful Jew — without having to embrace the claim that He was the Messiah. To encourage this mindset, I point to the pantheon of false Jewish Messiahs throughout history, many of whom were destructive to Judaism but are still revered for their teachings, while Jesus is rejected.

Our **To The Jew First** outreach team also stresses this point in their witness: **Because Yeshua is the greatest Jew of all, every Jewish person needs to read the Jewish New Testament to discover His works and teachings.** — Mark ★



Jesus Found in the Temple, by James Tissot (1836–1902), Brooklyn Museum



The Second Coming study booklet

Examines in detail various theories of the Lord’s return and the Kingdom of God.

Anticipate with new insight the return of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom on Earth. Review exact Scriptural information contrasting the Second Coming with the Rapture of the Church.

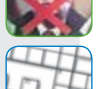
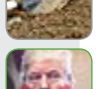
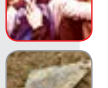
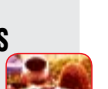


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The Four Seas of the Holy Land

BY AVIEL SCHNEIDER / *Israel Today*

Anyone who has ever been to Israel knows that the country is unique. It's not just the people, nature, and diverse locales that make the small Jewish state so special. Its geographical location is likewise remarkable, blessed as it is by four seas: the Red Sea to the south, the Dead Sea to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the west, and the Sea of Galilee to the north.

Israelis make abundant use of their beaches, which differ greatly depending on which sea you choose to visit. Definitely something to remember the next time you're in Israel.

A best-selling T-shirt in Israel reads: "Med Sea, Red Sea, Dead Sea." It leaves out the Sea of Galilee, but that body of water is actually a lake! (Lake Kinneret) — Kirsten ★



clockwise from top:
The Sea of Galilee, The Dead Sea,
The Red Sea, The Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem and the Temple Mount

Classic McCall



PART 2: BY DR. THOMAS S. McCALL (Zola's theologian, mentor, and friend)

In this brief overview of Jerusalem's history [last month](#), Dr. McCall covered David and the Jewish Temple Periods through the Roman Era. Now let's look at what archaeological excavations have revealed about the oversight by Moslems, British, and Jordanians, up to the current Jewish era since 1967.



Southern Wall of Temple Mount, southwestern corner

MOSLEM ERA

A.D. 603 – 638 (Persian) The Persians had a long war with the Byzantine part of the Roman Empire. The archaeological record shows that when the Persians conquered Jerusalem, they destroyed many of the great church buildings and other structures. It is thought that the Jewish soldiers in the Persian army were particularly upset by the use of columns from the ancient Temple in the New Church (built by Justinian, see last month's article) and brought it down to rubble.

638 – 1099 (Early Moslem) About this time, Mohammed came on the scene and took advantage of the weakened condition of the Roman and Persian kingdoms, capturing Jerusalem.

One of the most surprising discoveries revealed during excavations of the Southern and Western walls of the Temple Mount was that the Umayyad dynasty (661–750) had built a great palace at the Southern Wall, as well as the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque. The succeeding dynasty, the Abbassid Caliphate, completely erased the history of this palace from Moslem memory, but the palace has now been uncovered.

1099 – 1187 (Crusader) Churches, fortifications, and evidence of Crusader occupation on the Temple Mount have been discovered during archaeological digs. Crusaders were the first to use the Temple Mount for living quarters, and they utilized the Herodian archways behind the Southern wall to stable their horses.

1187 – 1917 (Late Moslem) After the Crusaders were expelled, Moslems once again made their architectural mark upon Jerusalem. One of the major

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Medieval illustration of capture of Jerusalem during the First Crusade in A.D. 1099, unidentified late medieval (14th or 15th century) illustration probably from Sébastien Mamerot, *Les Passages d'Outremer*





contributors, Turkish ruler Suleiman the Magnificent (1494–1566), refortified the walls of the city much as we see them today.

In 1838, American Biblical scholar Edward Robinson became the first to study this area of the Old City, identifying the stump of a monumental arch in the Western Wall and theorizing that it was part of a row of large stone arches that supported a bridge leading to the Temple Mount. Today, we know this as Robinson's Arch.

Later in the 19th century, Charles Warren, a young officer in the British army engineer corps, arrived to explore Jerusalem. He dug there from 1867 to 1870. Antagonism from the suspicious Turkish authorities forced him to dig shafts far from the walls and approach his real objective, the walls of the Temple Mount, via underground tunnels. He crawled through his precariously-built burrows, pursuing knowledge at the peril of his life. For this courage, Warren was awarded the Victoria Cross. His observations made the greatest contribution to understanding Jerusalem for the next 100 years. Many of his theories are still accepted today.

BRITISH AND JORDANIAN ERAS

1917 – 1967 (British, Jordanian)

The area south of the Temple Mount was covered with debris and used as a vegetable garden during the time of the British Mandate (following the First World War) and the subsequent partitioning to Transjordan in 1948. Jordan's King Hussein built a girls' school on the site after being assured incorrectly that no Moslem structures were underneath.



The Ottomans surrender Jerusalem to the British on December 9, 1917, setting up the period for the British Mandate



David Ben-Gurion (first prime minister of Israel) publicly pronouncing the Declaration of the State of Israel, May 14, 1948

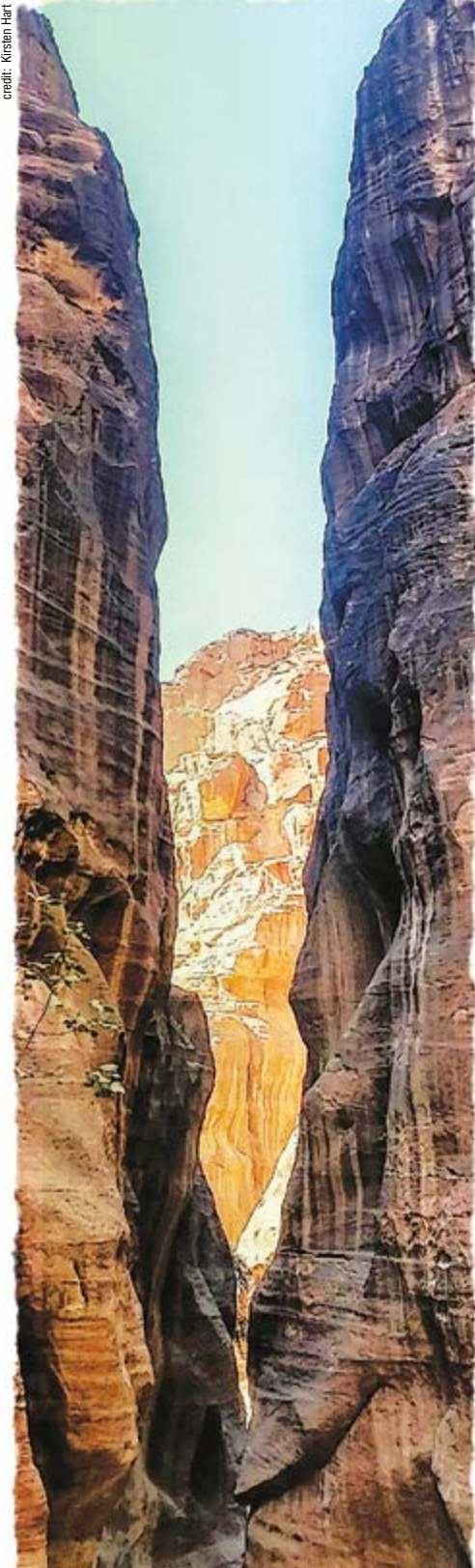
NEW JEWISH ERA

1967 – present (New Jewish era)

Since the Six-Day War in 1967, Jewish archaeologists have cleared the Western Wall for a worship plaza and spent the intervening years in careful attention to archaeological excavations, uncovering the remains of 3,000 years of Jerusalem's history. The work is not finished yet. ★

Is Petra Prophetic?

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of
Zola Levitt Presents



credit: Kirsten Hart

This month, Zola Tours pilgrims are touring Greece, Israel, and journeying to Petra. Of course, Greece, our Greek-island cruise, and our informative pilgrimage through the Holy Land are spectacular. But an additional extension takes our tour south to Eilat, Israel and across the border to Jordan for a day in Petra.

Why Petra? Remember in the Harrison Ford movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* when Indy's team breaks its way into the "Temple of the Sun" (actually, the famous Petra Treasury) to find the Holy Grail? Well, (spoiler alert!) the real-life Treasury's façade doesn't continue on and on. And (sometimes the truth hurts) the Holy Grail can't be found there. But the Rose-red City Half as Old as Time and Carved from Stone is a must-see place for your bucket list.

These Nabataean carvings date back to the 6th century B.C. Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and well worth the extension on our tour. The breathtaking beauty and enormity can't be appreciated through photos. The history of the ancient spice and silk trade route through Petra is fascinating. But why include this city on a tour that focuses on Jewish history and the Bible? Answer: because of the perceived Biblical prophecies about Petra.

Biblical Prophecies

End Times prophecies point to this ancient city's possible significance in sheltering the Jewish people from persecution. Events that occur at the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation portend horrors for the Jews, especially those living in Israel at that time. Massive killings of Jewish people are prophesied to occur under the antiChrist's rule.

This is the tricky part. Our bus drivers and tour guides in Israel are Israeli and Jewish. They believe in Messiah, but they are Israeli and, importantly, *Jewish*. While we're in Jordan, we're required to have Jordanian bus drivers and tour guides.

Why is it tricky with our tour guides? To
(continued next page)

The narrow canyon walls of the Siq leading to Petra





discuss that topic in the presence of Jewish bus drivers and tour guides seems insensitive. And I don't want to discuss the prophecies with Jordanians because we don't always get Believing guides, and I don't want to betray a potential *hiding place*. I'll admit it: Part of me doesn't want Muslims to know that, prophetically, Jewish people could find refuge in one of their most popular tourist attractions.

A Site to be Seen

Whether the rock fortress mentioned in Isaiah 33, Isaiah 16, and 2 Kings 14 is, in fact, Jordan's Petra remains to be seen. The good news? We are told in Isaiah 63:1–3 that the One “robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of His strength” is the Lord Himself, and He is riding on a horse out of Bozrah in Edom, which could be our beloved hidden sandstone place of refuge.



A scene from *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, the 1989 American action-adventure film directed by Steven Spielberg, with the famous Petra Treasury in the background

Only time will tell us the truth. But what an opportunity for you to see this spectacular location *before* the Tribulation! ★



[The Bible: The Whole Story](#) DVDs

7 programs on 2 DVDs

The seven major doctrines of Scripture explained in Zola's clear and informative style—from Genesis to Revelation.

The Abrahamic Covenant From Ur to Canaan, the journey of Abraham reveals how God established an eternal covenant with Abraham.

Israel and The Law of God From the Exodus to the Cross, the Law served as God's standard for man's salvation.

Prophecy—Thus Saith the Lord Zola's overview of how prophecy relates to the Land, the Messiah and the End Times.

The Messiah—Why Jesus of Nazareth? Overview of Jesus as seen through the eyes of different cultures as well as through the revelation of the Word.

Grace—The Gift of Absolute Forgiveness Zola explains how grace can neither be earned nor bought and is especially appreciated compared to the Law.

The Church A study of the believers in Christ, both Jews and gentiles, between Pentecost (Acts 2) and the Rapture.

The Kingdom Zola teaches about the future 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth.

[Zola's Notebook](#)

(*The Bible: The Whole Story*, above, is Zola's Notebook on DVD.)

Seven vital doctrines are examined in a very readable and clear style. One of the most popular items offered by this ministry, *Zola's Notebook* explains the Bible cover to cover. *The Notebook* has pockets for our newsletters, and also provides space for notes to be taken by the reader. Doctrines covered thoroughly include: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Law, Prophecy, the Messiah, Grace, the Church, and the Kingdom.



Between a Rock and a Hard Place

On the Ground in Israel
Sarah Liberman
SarahLiberman.com
ZLP Contributor



credit: AP photo, Ariel Schalit

Likud party supporters cheer following Israel's parliamentary election in Tel Aviv, Israel, Tuesday, April 9, 2019

For the first time in our renewed nation's short history, Israelis are facing general elections twice in one year. Living in Israel, surrounded by enemies, forces us to think differently when marking our ballots.

In addition to considering economic and social factors, Israelis must think first about national security and the overall situation in the Middle East.

"Left Wing" and "Right Wing" Policies

For years, Israelis voted in the "left wing" parties whose solution for the conflict with the Palestinians consisted of land-for-peace deals. Most Israelis preferred giving away land to sending their children into harm's way in the army. No one wants to sacrifice the life of a husband, wife, child, father, mother, brother, sister, or friend if another way exists.

A significant turning point occurred when U.S. President Bill Clinton invited Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to Camp David for peace talks. During those talks, the deal on the table included far-reaching concessions on Israel's part, including generous amounts of land to be handed over to Palestinians.

It was clear that when an agreement was reached, Barak would face a national referendum. While the solution's conditions were painful, the chance for peace and ending the conflict made it worth the price for many Israelis. To their surprise, Arafat rejected the deal.

From that day, Israel's public opinion on the "peace process" changed, dismayed that not even these extreme concessions were enough for the Palestinians. Since then, "right wing" parties, whose policies in making concessions to the Palestinians are more conservative, have won the votes.

With concern about events in Syria and Lebanon and the presence of Iran's military on Israel's northern border, Israelis have repeatedly voted for conservative Benjamin Netanyahu to lead what they consider the strongest coalition to stand for Israel in the face of multiple threats.

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No Clear Option

As a result, important issues like healthcare, education, the elderly, and the needy take a backseat in election considerations. I find it difficult, as do many around me, to decide whom to vote for because no clear option allows us to check *all* the boxes that also include our main social and economic convictions. Election time also brings increased terror and rocket attacks on Israel. Plus, in the wake of corruption allegations against Netanyahu and infighting among political egos, numerous small parties have formed, splitting the votes and leaving no clear winner in last April's first round. (See the [June 2019 Levitt Letter](#), p. 25.)

Now more than ever, Israel needs your prayers as we face a new round of elections this month.

As we encourage you every week, please pray for the peace of Jerusalem. It is a vital role for Believers, especially during election time. —David ★

Why Dip Apples in Honey ... *continued from cover sidebar*

milk and honey” actually refers to date honey, not bee honey.

But dates did not grow in Europe. Honey made by bees was available, so that became the topping of choice, according to Leah Hochman, an associate professor at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion who researches religion and food. Diaspora communities adapted to their new environments and, over time, “people used substitutes that had some sort of relationship to the seven species to honor the ever-longed-for return to Zion,” Hochman said.

Ashkenazi Jews in medieval Europe began the custom of using apples, when the apple as we know it became more accessible due to cultivation, said Jordan Rosenblum, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who studies food and Judaism. Apples are in season and therefore plentiful in the fall, when the holiday of Rosh Hashanah occurs. In 14th-century Germany, the Jewish sage known as the Maharil described the custom of dipping apples in honey as long established and rich with mystical meaning.

Bee honey is kosher, though the bee is not. Unlike milk from a non-kosher animal, which may not be consumed, bee honey is

derived from the nectar of a flower and not from a part of the bee's body.

But animal activists won't eat honey because many honey producers manipulate the bees' natural living patterns, e.g. clipping the queen's wings to prevent her from flying away and replacing the honey produced with sugar water, which activists say is less nutritious. Some regard the whole process as cruel and exploitative. Hence a return to dates.



Brian Finkel, whose company sells organic date honey, says the product has 25% less sugar and a lower glycemic index than bee honey and is a great source of antioxidants. In 2017, Finkel launched [D'Vash Organics](#), which sells U.S.-produced date honey in stores across the United States and through the company's website. ★



1943 Escape of Danish Jews on Rosh Hashanah



BY RAFAEL MEDOFF (r) JNS.org



German troops parade in Copenhagen, Denmark on April 20, 1940, to celebrate Hitler's birthday

As Rosh Hashanah 1943 ended, 13-year-old Leo Goldberger was hiding with his parents and three brothers in the thick brush along the shore of Dragor, a small fishing village south of Copenhagen. The Goldbergers, like thousands of other Danish Jews, were desperately trying to escape an imminent Nazi roundup.

"After what seemed an excruciatingly long wait, we saw our signal offshore," Goldberger later recalled. His family "strode straight into the ocean and waded through three or four feet of icy water until we were hauled aboard a fishing boat" and covered themselves "with smelly canvases." Shivering and frightened, but grateful, the Goldberger family soon found itself in the safety and freedom of neighboring Sweden.

For years, the Allied leaders had insisted that nothing could be done to rescue Jews from the Nazis except to win the war. But in one extraordinary night 76 years ago, **the Danish people exploded that myth and changed history.**

When the Nazis occupied Denmark in 1940, the Danes put up little resistance. As a result, German authorities let the Danish government function with greater autonomy than other occupied countries. They also postponed steps against Denmark's 8,000 Jewish citizens.

In 1943, the Nazis declared martial law and decided to deport Danish Jews to the death camps. But Georg Duckwitz, a German diplomat in Denmark, leaked the information to Danish friends. [See [July](#) and [August](#) 2019 *Levitt Letters*.] As word of the Germans' plans spread, the Danish public responded nationwide to help the Jews.

A Midnight Escape

On Rosh Hashanah (October 1 in 1943) and the three weeks that followed, numerous Danish Christian families hid Jews in their homes or farms, and then smuggled them to the seashore late at night. From there, fishermen took them

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Reenactment of Danish Jews during the escape across the Øresund in September 1943

across the Kattegat Straits in the north of Denmark and the Øresund in Copenhagen to neighboring Sweden. Danish church leaders used their pulpits to urge aid to the Jews, and Danish universities shut down so students could assist the smugglers. More than 7,000 Danish Jews reached

Sweden and were sheltered there until the end of the war.

Esther Finkler, a young newlywed, was hidden, together with her husband and their mothers, in a greenhouse. “At night, we saw the [German] searchlights sweeping back and forth throughout the neighborhood,” as the Nazis hunted for Jews, Esther later recalled. One evening, a member of the Danish Underground arrived and drove the four “through streets saturated with Nazi stormtroopers,” to a point near the shore, where they hid in an underground shelter, and then in the attic of a bakery, until they were brought to a beach, where they and other refugees boarded a small fishing vessel. “Nine of us lay on the deck,” Esther said. “The captain covered us with fishing nets and then started the boat. As the motor started to run, so did my pent-up tears.”

Then, trouble. “The captain began to whistle nonchalantly, which puzzled us. Soon we heard him shouting in German toward a passing Nazi patrol boat: ‘*Wollen sie einen beer haben?*’ (Would you like a beer?) — a clever design to avoid suspicion. After three tense hours at sea, we heard shouting: ‘Get up! Get up! And welcome to Sweden!’ It was hard to believe, but we were now safe. We cried and the Swedes cried with us as they escorted us ashore. The nightmare was over.”

“It can be done”

The implications of the Danish rescue operation resonated strongly in the United States.

Refugee advocates The Bergson Group began citing the escape of Denmark’s Jews as evidence that if the Allies were sufficiently interested, ways could be found to save many European Jews.

The Bergson Group sponsored full-page newspaper advertisements about the Danish-Swedish effort, headlined “It Can Be Done!” On October 31, thousands of New

Yorkers jammed Carnegie Hall for The Bergson Group’s “Salute to Sweden and Denmark” rally.

Keynote speakers included Orson Welles, director of *Citizen Kane*, and Leon Henderson, one of President Roosevelt’s economic advisers, who bluntly declared: “The Allied Governments have been guilty of moral cowardice. The issue of saving the Jewish people of Europe has been avoided, hushed up... The Danes and Swedes have shown us the way... If this be a war for civilization, then most surely this is the time to be civilized!” ★



This cartoon by Arie Navon appeared in the Hebrew-language daily newspaper Davar on Oct. 13, 1943. Navon contrasted the rescue of Denmark’s Jews with the farcical refugee conference that the Allies staged earlier that year in Bermuda. The title of the cartoon is a Hebrew word that means both “lifeguards” and “rescuers.” The lifeguards—one smoking a Churchill-style pipe and the other wearing Roosevelt-style glasses—are standing next to an unused life preserver labeled “Bermuda.” The scrawny man diving into the swastika-infested ocean to rescue a drowning person is labeled “Sweden.”

Touch Me Not

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. After Yeshua’s resurrection, He told Mary Magdalene (John 20:17) not to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to His Father. **Why would Yeshua tell Mary not to touch Him, but allow Thomas** to place his finger in the nail prints of His hands and thrust his hand into His side? (John 20:27)

A. Two different reasons and purposes explain what Jesus did in these two very different situations. If we keep this in mind, there is no contradiction between Jesus bidding Thomas to touch His wounds of crucifixion and His prohibiting Mary and the other woman from holding on to Him eight days earlier.

Having a working understanding of New Testament Greek helps clear up any misunderstanding. In the case of Mary, the text in John’s Gospel uses the Greek word *haptou* that means grabbing, clinging, or holding onto something or someone without letting go or releasing the person. A more accurate reading

of John 20:17 would be: “Do not cling or hold on to Me.” Thus, we understand that Mary more than briefly touched Him, an act that is inadequately translated into the English word “touch.” The Greek word *haptou* involves more than that. Mary steadfastly held Jesus and did not want to let Him go. This was understandable since she had briefly lost Him in death and did not want to lose His physical presence again after His resurrection.

Jesus told her why she had to release Him from her grip: so He could ascend to the Father to receive further instructions for His disciples in the days ahead when He would appear to them. Moreover, **Jesus wanted Mary to release Him so she could go**

and tell the disciples that He had risen from the dead (Matthew 28:10; Luke 24:8–10). She could not have done so if she had refused to let Him go. Matthew (28:9) also refers to this event when the women who had gone with Mary to the tomb on Sunday morning took firm hold of Him.

Jesus did ascend, and eight days later He appeared to Thomas and the other ten apostles in the Upper Room. **His purpose there was for Thomas to physically touch and examine Him**, dispelling any remaining doubt in Thomas’s mind about Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead (John 20:27).

Thomas’s physical interaction with the Lord convinced him that Jesus had physically risen from the dead, and Thomas declared Jesus both his Lord and God (John 20:28).

Jesus doesn’t play favorites. **The different situations with Mary and Thomas served different objectives for the risen Lord.** Both events have practical lessons for the Church today. ★



Christ Appearing to Mary Magdalene, painting by Pietro da Cortona (1596–1669), St. Petersburg, Russia

Netanyahu's Son Defends Jesus' Jewishness



BY RYAN JONES (r) IsraelToday.co.il

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's elder son, Yair (pictured to the right), responded fervently during a recent Twitter discussion on Jesus' ethnicity when Linda Sarsour (pictured below), who promotes an Islamist agenda in American politics, insisted that "Jesus was Palestinian of Nazareth and is described in the Quran as being brown copper skinned with wooly hair."



Netanyahu family with Yair on the right

"Are you that stupid?" he asked Sarsour, explaining to her that "on the cross above Jesus' head was the sign 'INRI' — '*iesvs Nazarens Rex Iudaeorum*'—which means in Latin: Jesus of Nazareth king of the Jews! The Bible says that Jesus was born and raised in Judea!"

It's interesting that Yair informs Sarsour that we know these things because they are recorded in "the Bible." Jews don't typically consider the New Testament to be part of the Bible.

Mainstream Israeli newspapers have also taken up the fight to protect the Jewishness of Jesus in response to the maddening claim that Jesus was a Palestinian. Numerous Hebrew-language articles are being published around the country defending the fact that Jesus was in every way a Jew, and even an important figure in Jewish history.

What Sarsour and her ilk intended for evil has turned into a blessing for the Jewish state.

Linda Sarsour also claims that Bethlehem is majority Christian. However, the population is 12% Christian ... and falling.
—Kirsten ★



Linda Sarsour, political activist

It resembled the ludicrous claims of Palestinian Authority leaders every Christmas that Jesus was the "first Palestinian freedom fighter." Yair Netanyahu was having none of it.



Yair's tweet showing "INRI" over the crucified Jesus

credit: Hadas Flansky/Fash90

To Index

Stepping Over (More) Bodies

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



Ominously shaking their heads, guest speakers at my business school warned us undergrads that “It’s a dog-eat-dog world out there” and “You’re gonna have to step over dead bodies.” Successful executives who had graduated from the University of Texas at Austin offered pearls of wisdom to help us students succeed in the real world.

During this ministry’s 40-year history, many employees and vendors have come and gone. Some have retired, others died, and a few have fallen by the wayside from burnout or changing technology. Casualties are a fact of life ... and of spiritual warfare. Fine soldiers are obsoleted when their skills or equipment become outdated.

Such was the case recently with our CD and DVD duplicator, the local branch of VSG.

Professional though they were, they closed due to declining demand.

Decades ago, our audio-cassette and VHS duplicator went belly up. They had no electricity, so I searched their hot, dark warehouse with a flashlight to retrieve ZLM’s packaging materials.

As consumers turned to DVDs and CDs, the vendor failed to adapt.

History repeated itself in late June, when Tony Derrick (the theologian who writes ZLM’s *Personal Bible Study Letter*), my daughter Sarah, and I transported our CD and DVD packaging materials to another local vendor. VSG’s Chattanooga office

seemed too distant.

To Tony’s, Sarah’s, and my surprise, VSG’s staffers were remarkably helpful. It was bittersweet how sorry they were to see us go while they also set aside other work to lend a hand. Their selfless spirit reminded me of my mother helping me pack to run away from home at age 5, an endeavor that lasted two hours ... until I ran out of Chips Ahoy! cookies.

Delivering our materials to the new vendor, I asked how he planned to keep *his* doors open with plummeting CD and DVD sales. “I have no debt,” he replied, “and a side business repairing drones.” Meanwhile, this ministry is still coping with dwindling demand for those plastic discs.

FACT #1: Throughout the ‘80s and ‘90s, our ministry charged \$79 for eight 30-minute TV programs on two 2-hour VHS tapes.

FACT #2: Since the early 2000s, our price for eight 30-minute High Definition TV programs on two 2-hour DVDs has been just \$49 — \$30 less than before, despite inflation and improved visual quality.

In a business practice that would horrify my alma mater’s professors, ZLM makes available for free online-viewing all the same TV programs that we sell on DVD. Please join me in praying that donations in support of all the teaching that ZLM gives away will more than offset the steady erosion of our sales revenue.

The silver lining to the impending CD/DVD obsolescence is that more viewers than ever can experience our website’s “free” Bible teaching at www.levitt.tv. Thanks for supporting this mission. ★



ZLM Bulletin Board



ZLM's Octogenarian Staffer

Outperforming many workers half her age, Dahlia Glasscock has been working for our ministry for more than 23 years. (Thanks, Dahlia!) Widowed after 46 years of marriage to Jack, a WWII veteran, she has a daughter, son, six grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Dahlia is known for consistently giving her best performance on the job while nudging and inspiring coworkers to do the same.

Beyond her office skills and dedication, she brings a smile and cheery disposition. Blessings to this mighty foot soldier and her powerful testimony. Dahlia turned 80 in June.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



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** Please see *Seniors "Deducting" Contributions* in the [2019 March Levitt Letter](#), p.14.

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

Planning for the Future

outlines nine different planning opportunities and offers tools that may enhance your future financial well-being through estate and financial plans. It also reviews tax benefits and touches on federal estate tax. Learn about wills, revocable living trusts, and gifts that provide income to you and/or loved ones. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, please email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.



"Come Home!"

**Zola
Tours to
Israel**



**See page 36
for details**



Seeing Beyond the Seen

by John Parsons
 Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



“Whom have I in Heaven but You?
 And beside You I desire no one on Earth.” (Psalm 73:25)

וְאֶרֶץ	בְּאֶרֶץ	וְלֹא	לֹא	וְעִמָּךְ	וְעִמָּךְ	וְעִמָּךְ	וְעִמָּךְ	וְעִמָּךְ	וְעִמָּךְ	
(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
va-ah-retz	kha-fatz-tee	loh	ve-ee-me-kha	va-sha-ma-yeem	mee - lee					
on the Earth	I do not desire [anything]	and beside You	in Heaven [but You]	Who is for me						

Most people today expect more from this life than we should. Many Westerners assume an entitlement to prosperity, good health, and happiness. If we fail to attain these, we get discouraged. The apostle Paul admonished us Believers to think *spiritually* about the meaning and purpose of life, particularly in light of ever-present suffering. He wrote that our “momentary affliction” — that is, the cares and troubles of this life — work within us to attain an “everlasting glory beyond all comparison.” Therefore we should focus not on present circumstances but on the deeper purpose, promise, and providence of God (2 Cor. 4:17–18). The visible fades away, the spiritual endures; our mortification leads to everlasting life, and what was hidden becomes manifest.

But how can we see the invisible more vividly than what we see with our eyes? Are we to deny or minimize the pain we see and experience in this life, perhaps by regarding it as an illusion? Not at all. Suffering is a real symptom of the deeper problem of death and decay. Everything is passing away; all is dust in the wind — “*havel havelim*” (vanity of vanities). Life in this world is “being unto death,” a journey through the shadows of loss to inherit eternity. We are strangers here; nothing abides; there is no lasting prospect (1 Chron. 29:15).

Instead of discounting suffering, we *acknowledge* its pervasiveness. We recognize that death is a real problem — indeed it is the central problem of life — and therefore we see through vanity, transience, loss, and even grief to behold our need for divine healing, comfort, and eternal life. We are outsiders to this world, away from our true home, crying out for what we need most of all: the loving presence of our LORD.

Find your sense of belonging within the heart of God. Striving to find our happiness in this life can entice us into “*olam ha’sheker*” — the world of falsehood with its superficial satisfactions. Indeed, if we impatiently attempt to assuage our pain, we may suffer further loss, and our despair may grow deeper still, since our hunger for healing is an inner cry for the healing love that only God can provide. Each soul is created with a radical sense of “aloneness” since, despite close human relationships, each of us comes into this world alone and will die alone. This sense of aloneness is a built-in “hunger” for connection with God’s presence.

If we look to other means to meet our need for God, we invariably fall into the chaos and destruction of idolatry. **To be healed from such counterfeit comfort, we must “go through the wound” of our inner emptiness to find the divine consolation.** From there we will be given the heart to give of ourselves freely and without ambiguity. ★



Watch Therefore and Be Ready

DVD set

Eight 30-minute programs
on two DVDs

This eight-part series encourages this generation to be aware of prophetic fulfillment, live expectantly, and be ready for Messiah's return. David and Kirsten Hart present this series that features teaching from Dov Schwarz, guest analyst Dr. Mark Hitchcock, reports from Israel with Chaim Malespin, Hebrew lessons, and music written by Zola Levitt.

Covenant and Prophecy The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31) was made with Israel. Gentiles have been grafted into the olive tree.

Birth Pains In Isaiah 66 we see the Last Days labor pains of Israel that bring the Jewish people as a nation to "new birth." In the birthing room, Yeshua—the Great Physician—attends Israel, whose labor pains shake the entire Earth.

Days of Noah The Days of Noah portend the appearance of Messiah Yeshua in the clouds to gather His people and set up His Kingdom on Earth. Three primary signs of Genesis 6 include global explosions of population, violence, and rampaging evil.

Fig Tree Generation Israel officially "put forth leaves" on May 14, 1948. Studying Abraham reveals what Yeshua meant about the final generation of this Age.

Curse-for-Curse Principle Genesis 12:3 promises both blessing and cursing in the covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

The Jewish Wedding In Matthew 25:1–13, Messiah uses Jewish wedding customs, including a midnight cry and marriage feast, and advises us to mimic the five wise virgins: Watch therefore and be ready.

Refuge in Tribulation End Times events portend a place that is prepared for the wrath of the Lamb, Messiah Yeshua. Yet, we see His hand outstretched in mercy.

Faithful and Wicked Servants Yeshua repeated the theme of faithful and wicked servants in the signs of His coming (Matthew 24:45–51 and Mark 13:32–37). The faithful servant watches for the Master's arrival, obeying His commands; the wicked servant watches not and becomes ungodly, facing eternal damnation.



ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved?	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised (p.36)	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land (pictured)	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming (p.2)	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever (pictured)	\$4	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	An Epic Love Story (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
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___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology) (pictured)	\$6	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel in Prophecy	\$10	___
___	Genesis One	\$5	___
___	Heaven and Earth (pictured)	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land (pictured)	\$2	___
___	Once Through the New Testament	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood	\$16	___
___	The Passover Haggadah (Messianic)	\$6	___
___	Raptured	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: Millennium	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King	\$12	___
___	What About Us?	\$8	___
___	Whose Land Is It?	\$6	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (p.23)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	Bible, The Whole Story (p.7) (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos (2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Called Together (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Divine Deliverance (pictured) .. (12 prog., 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Jerusalem Gates (p.20) (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Joseph: Dreamer/Redeemer (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Journey of Restoration (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Psalms of Ascents (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel ... (7 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Times of the Signs (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Watch Therefore (p.17) (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Zion Forever (9 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___



New!

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 print/tear out this 2-pg. form, fill out box at right, mail to
 ZLM, Box 12268
 Dallas TX 75225

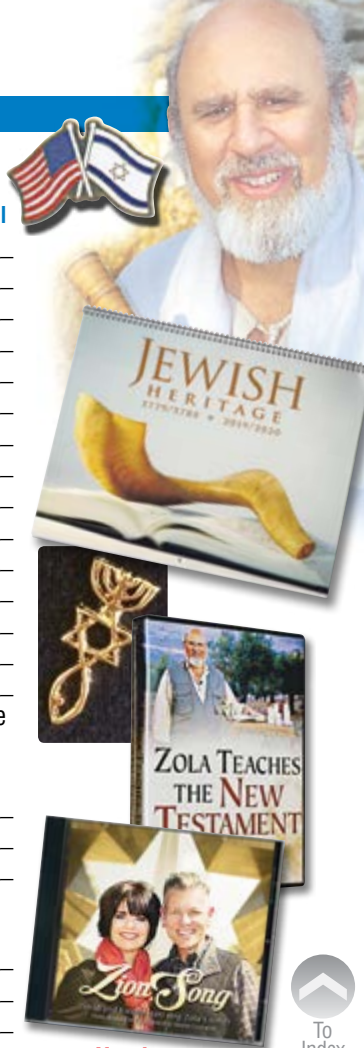


ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

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___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.....	\$37 ⁵⁰	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.....	\$22	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.....	\$23	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5').....	\$10	_____
___	Genealogy Chart.....	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut).....	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured).....	\$10	_____
___	Half-shekel Key Chain.....	\$10	_____
___	NEW! Jewish Heritage Calendar (5780 / 2020) (pictured).....	\$6	_____
___	Notecards—Hebrew Names of God (12 cards).....	\$24	_____
___	Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace.....	\$39	_____
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___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark.....	2 for \$1	_____
___	Zola’s Notebook (p.7).....	\$25	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only).....	no charge	_____



Teaching CDs

___	Glory! The Future of the Believers.....	CD	\$7	_____
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel.....	CD	\$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured) (6 CDs).....		\$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	I Call You Friend (Goetz).....	(Music CD)	\$14	_____
___	Next Year in Jerusalem.....	(Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	The Works.....	(Zola’s first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	The Works II.....	(Zola’s next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	NEW! Zion Song (Harts) (pictured).....	(Music CD)	\$12	_____



New!

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

Please fill out area below and send the entire page.

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up to \$15.99, add \$5
 \$16 to \$30.99, add \$7
 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$9
 \$61 to \$97.99, add \$10
 \$98 and over, FREE SHIPPING

For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please send U.S. funds.

(Please allow about 2–3 weeks for delivery.)

Any amount that exceeds the listed price is considered a tax-deductible gift to our ministry.

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Shipping Address _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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On what station/network do you primarily watch our programs? _____

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(see number above your name on mailing label)

My check is enclosed for \$ _____ or, Please charge \$ _____ to:

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Shipping (See left chart) _____

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Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

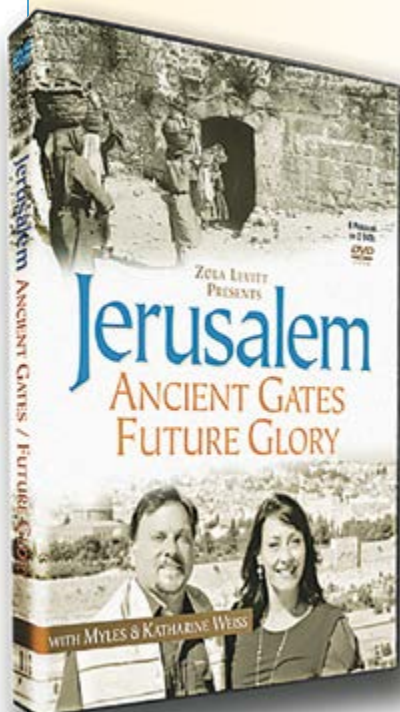
8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

Donation? _____

Total _____

To Index

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Jerusalem: Ancient Gates Future Glory DVD set 8 programs on 2 DVDs

Myles and Katharine Weiss delve into the historical and spiritual significance of each Gate in the Old City walls of Jerusalem. Guests include archaeologist Shimon Gibson and Gate expert Tamar Hayardeni. Enjoy the music of Marty Goetz during this eight-part series (order his CD on [p.19](#)).

The Dung Gate served as a passage for carrying refuse out of the city *and* leads to the Western Wall of the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site. *Interview:* Rabbi Marty Waldman.

The Zion Gate, that leads to the Jewish and Armenian Quarters of the Old City, was a focal point in the history of the modern Zionist movement.

David Parsons of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) explains the end-times connection between Jews and Christians.

The Jaffa Gate opens to the West and symbolizes the Gospel going out to the gentiles. *Interviews:* Tom Hess (Jerusalem House of Prayer for All Nations) and faith-filled Holocaust survivor Phillip Meyers, founder of Immanuel Tours.

The New Gate, as its name implies, is the most recent gate and gives access to the Christian Quarter of the Old City. It provides a picture of God's heart for unity. *Interviews:* David Parsons (ICEJ) and Jan Willem van der Hoeven of the International Christian Zionist Center (ICZC).

The Damascus Gate points toward Syria's capital as a window to the North and to the Moslem world.

Herod's Gate dates back to the time of Herod the Great. The historical site of many attacks, it represents today's ongoing spiritual battles. *Interview:* Rosemary Schindler.

Lions Gate, also known as "Saint Stephen's Gate," is where the Israeli army entered to re-take possession of the Old City in 1967. *Interview:* David Dolan with Colonel Shimon Cahaner.

The Eastern Gate has been closed since Byzantine times in a Moslem attempt to thwart the Jewish Messiah's Second Coming. The Eastern (or Golden) Gate will open again when the King of Kings returns. *Interview:* Tommy Waller of HaYovel.



Christians in Sudan



BY PETR JASEK (r) *The Voice of the Martyrs* Special Report on Sudan



credit: vannews.com



credit: Voice of the Martyrs



To Index

After 10 months in prison, I got the opportunity to speak with my two Sudanese co-defendants and fellow Christian workers when we were all in Sudan's Al-Houda prison. They had been arrested shortly after my brief visit in December 2015, but they assured me that my visit was not to blame. "We would have been arrested anyway," Pastor Hassan Abduraheem said, "as the Sudanese secret police were aware of our Christian activities."

From left to right: Petr Jasek with Hassan Abduraheem, Kuwa Shamal, and Abdulmonem Abdumawla

Hassan and his co-workers were simply following Christ's Great Commission to preach the Gospel to every nation (including their Muslim neighbors) and to make disciples of them. And the Sudanese secret police, they explained, had used our meeting in Khartoum as an excuse to arrest them.

During our months in prison, the Lord used us as ambassadors of the Gospel in chains (Ephesians 6:18–20). We were able to preach the Gospel to absolutely desperate, hopeless, and forgotten people in the Sudanese prisons. Pastors Hassan and Kuwa Shamal were even able to preach the Gospel to prisoners on death row.

My imprisoned Sudanese brothers had long used their freedom in Christ to preach the Gospel under Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir's brutal regime, so chains and prison bars could not stop their witness. And they understand that the military's April 2019 overthrow of the dictator is not likely to improve their situation in significant ways. But they will continue to share the saving truth of Christ under whatever Islamic regime may spring from Sudan's change in leadership, knowing that it is not for them to "know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority" (Acts 1:7). ★



Letters to ZLM

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

Dear ZLM,

RE: Dr. Thomas McCall's "The Mystery of the Date of Pentecost" at levitt.com/essays. When he asserts that *Shavuot* (Pentecost) is the birth of the Jewish people, does this mean the Israelite nation?

My thoughts:

- You wrote: "The basic meaning of the term *Shabbat* in the Torah is Saturday." God reckons a day to start from evening. The seventh day starts at sundown on Friday ending sundown on Saturday. This does not make Saturday the Sabbath.
- I have the same understanding as you that the [50-day] count is to start on the day after the Sabbath day and not on the second day of Pesach;

In the Lord, G.Y.

Dear G.Y. —

We're pleased that timeless essays at levitt.com are springboarding you to personal, in-depth study. You might want to re-read Dr. McCall's essay, however. Your initial quote is of Moshe Kohn. Kohn, not McCall, equates *Shavuot* with the birth of the Jewish people. Kohn (and Jews in general) puzzle over the vagueness of the Feasts of First Fruits and Pentecost because **early Jewish sages needed to interpret the Sabbath as something other than the weekly Saturday Sabbath in order to explain away the relevance of the Feasts and their fulfillment in the Messiah, Yeshua.**

Their solution was to muddy the calendar and make the feast-Messiah connection less clear. In your point #2 above, please be aware that **there is no second day of Pesach!** The Jews now celebrate the 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread but call it Pesach. In doing so, they ignore *Pesach* (Passover) completely: The Lord prescribed Pesach to fall on Nisan 14 (a precise date), with the week-long feast of Unleavened Bread beginning the following day (Nisan 15, also a precise date). Instead, the Jews begin their misnamed "Pesach week" on Nisan 15 and then completely ignore the Feast of First Fruits, which the Lord prescribed to fall on "the day after the Sabbath" (i.e. the Sunday) of that week.

By ignoring the Feast of First Fruits — the day on which Yeshua "coincidentally" rose from the dead — they lose their marker for beginning the 50-day count to *Shavuot*/Pentecost.

Dry Bones

2019 & 5780



(continued next page)

As for the error in your point #1: Saturday begins for Westerners at midnight. It begins for Hebrews a few hours earlier, depending on what time the sun sets. It is called “Saturday” (or “*Shabbat*”) from those respective hours. *Shabbat* begins at sundown after the 6th day no matter what time or day it is elsewhere in the world. — Editor

P.S. See also Classic Zola in the 2019 [February](#) and [March Levitt Letters](#) (p. 4).

Future Temple

Dear ZLM,

I am tired of TV evangelists and local preachers painting a dark evil stigma over the 3rd Temple and Israel Redemption.

Thank you for your ministry. — R.D.P.

Dear R.D.P. —

We agree that there will be a Third — and possibly a Fourth and Fifth — Temple, built by well-meaning Jews who just want to resume sacrifices. They won’t build it FOR the antiChrist, but he will desecrate it and end sacrifices (Daniel 9:27). We know that there have already been two (Solomon’s and Herod’s), but Scripture doesn’t specify how many Temples will be built between Herod’s and the one that Daniel foresaw. — Editor

A Levitt Letter Fan

Dear ZLM,

I just want to let you know how much I enjoyed the [July issue of the Levitt Letter](#). I read what I can of several quality Christian magazines, and almost everything in your July issue interested me. I’m sending you a gift. — M.E. (OH)

Dear M.E. —

We sure are thankful for readers like you. Kind affirmations go a long way, and your gift will help provide others access to the news and Biblical commentary that blesses you. — David ★

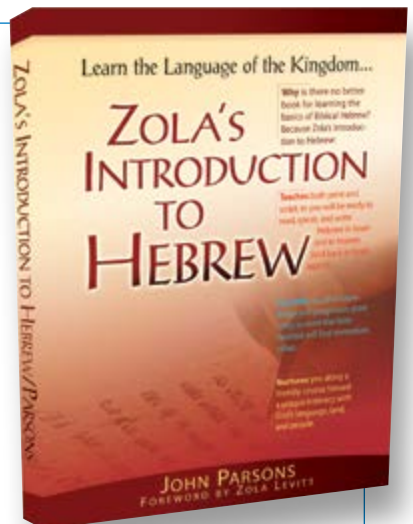


Zola’s Introduction to Hebrew study book

There is no better book for learning the basics of Biblical Hebrew.

Unlike most academic books on Biblical Hebrew, this course provides a step-by-step approach for you to understand the Hebraic mindset while learning the alphabet and vowel signs. Studying at your own pace, you will master the Hebrew alphabet, sound out Hebrew words, and connect your studies to your heart by reading Hebrew prayers, blessings, and passages from Scripture!

New copies of Zola’s Introduction to Hebrew are available at Amazon for between \$50 and \$228! (We sell it for just \$39 plus shipping.)



400+ pages

Rock-Eating Worms and the Temple?



SCIENCE: BY TSVI SADAN (r) IsraelToday.co.il



Temple model

A team of marine biologists from Northeastern University's Ocean Genome Legacy Center recently published an article describing a newly-discovered freshwater shipworm found in the Abatan River in the Philippines. The worm, known in scientific circles as the *Lithoredo abatanica*, is small, measuring no more than 4 inches (10 cm).

The remarkable distinction of this shipworm from all others is its ability to feed on carbonate limestone, a kind of soft rock. Other shipworms feed on wood. This makes it the only species of worm capable of burrowing into and ingesting rock.

This amazing discovery brings to mind the Shamir worm mentioned in ancient Jewish sources. The Shamir is believed to have gone extinct following the destruction of the First Temple, an event that religious Jews believe dramatically altered the entire world as it was known until that time.

One Jewish source says about the worm: "The Shamir is a creature about the size of a grain of barley, created during the six days of Creation. No hard substance can withstand it. How is it kept? They wrap it in tufts of wool and place it in a lead tube full of barley bran." It's a surprisingly detailed description of how to keep these worms content yet prevent them from cutting right through their containers. It's as if the author is saying, "Dear reader, we know you will find this hard to believe, but trust us. We know what we are talking about." Clearly, expertise had been developed in the keeping and use of these creatures.

One of the ancient uses for Shamir worms was the cutting of stones for Solomon's Temple. This, according to the sages, is the explanation for the otherwise inexplicable description of cutting the Temple's stones: "*When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built*" (1 Kings 6:7).

To avoid the use of iron tools even at the quarry, the sages say that "with the Shamir, Solomon built the Temple." According to these writings, the stonemasons would mark the rock with a special ink. The Shamir worms would then be guided to begin eating away at the rock along these lines, resulting in the rock splitting apart, "like a fig that splits open in summer and nothing at all is lost" (from the Babylonian Talmud). ★



Turning Tumors into Cancer Vaccine Factories

MEDICINE: [MountSinai.org](https://www.mountsinai.org)

Researchers at Mount Sinai have developed a novel approach to cancer immunotherapy, injecting immune stimulants directly into a tumor to teach the immune system to destroy it and other tumor cells throughout the body.

The “*in situ* vaccination” worked so well in patients with advanced-stage lymphoma that it is also undergoing trials in breast and head and neck cancer patients, according to a study recently published in *Nature Medicine*.

The treatment consists of administering a series of immune stimulants directly into one tumor site.

The first stimulant recruits important immune cells called dendritic cells that act like generals of the immune army. The second stimulant activates the dendritic cells, which then instruct T cells, the immune system’s soldiers, to kill cancer cells and spare non-cancer cells. This immune army learns to recognize features of the tumor cells so it can seek them out and destroy them throughout the body, essentially turning the tumor into a cancer vaccine factory.

“The *in situ* vaccine approach has broad implications for multiple types of cancer,” said lead author Joshua Brody, MD, Director of the Lymphoma Immunotherapy Program at The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “This method could also increase the success of other immunotherapies, such as checkpoint blockade.”

After testing the lymphoma vaccine in the lab, it was tested in 11 patients in a clinical trial. Some patients had full remission from months to years. In lab tests in mice, the vaccine drastically increased the success of checkpoint blockade immunotherapy, the type of immunotherapy responsible for the complete remission of former President Jimmy Carter’s cancer and the focus of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Because the combined immune therapy was at least three times more powerful than either checkpoint blockade or the vaccine by themselves, the *in situ* vaccine is also being tested in the lab in liver and ovarian cancer. ★

This immune army learns to recognize features of the tumor cells so it can seek them out and destroy them

THE ARGYLE SWEATER BY SCOTT HILBURN



The New Anti-Semitism



BY YAROSLAV TROFIMOV (r) WSJ.com

When France's Yellow Vests began their weekly protests last November, it was about President Emmanuel Macron's decision to raise fuel taxes. Within a few months, it started to be about the Jews.

"When there is a worldwide economic and social malaise, people look for scapegoats — and the Jews have always served as scapegoats," observed Francis Kalifat, the president of CRIF, the council uniting France's Jewish institutions. "Anti-Semitism creates bridges between the far right and the far left: They have such a hatred in common that they come together."

Meanwhile, unfiltered social media has pushed anti-Semitic tropes, long confined to the fringes, into the mainstream of public debate. On any given issue — from economic inequality to the financial crisis to immigration and terrorism — old and new

conspiracy theories blaming the Jews have gained new traction, abetted by the political polarization in Western democracies.

"Latent anti-Semitism is being activated," explained David Feldman, director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism at Birkbeck, University of London. "Populist politics is not inherently anti-Semitic, conspiracy theories are not inherently anti-Semitic, but both very easily lend themselves to an anti-Semitic turn and easily become anti-Semitic."

Post-Golden Age

This change comes after an unusual, decades-long postwar golden age that Jewish communities enjoyed across Western Europe and the U.S. After the horrors of the Holocaust, a commitment to religious freedom and a human rights-based liberalism formed the bedrock of Western democracies. While anti-Semitic prejudice persisted in some areas, overt anti-Semitism seemed taboo.

"Liberal democracies have been good for the Jewish people. Civil rights have been critical to our success in societies which, in the absence of these rights, over centuries and millennia systematically discriminated against and marginalized Jewish people," explained Jonathan Greenblatt, the director of the Anti-Defamation League in New York. "The trend away from liberal democracies is bad for the Jewish people, period."

As anti-Semitic discourse again becomes normalized in the West, the number of incidents targeting Jews has surged in the U.S. and Europe. Until the past few years, the biggest threat came from Islamists and disaffected Muslim youths, particularly in the troubled suburbs of French cities. In France, home to Europe's biggest Jewish community, anti-Jewish harassment remains commonplace in distressed neighborhoods where working-class Muslims and Jews live side by side.

(continued next page)



Makeshift memorial for 11 worshipers shot during October 2018 services at the Tree of Life synagogue, Pittsburgh

credit: Gene J. Pusker/AP





New Environments

The West's new wave of anti-Semitism, however, is increasingly coming from new quarters: 1) from the nativist far right, with its fear of "the other" and dreams of racial purity, and 2) from the extreme left, which often identifies Jews with the capitalist elites it seeks to destroy.

The number of anti-Semitic incidents has been rising each year. In the UK (where most of the identified perpetrators were white and non-Muslim) they reached 1,652 in 2018, up from 960 in 2015. In France, the number of reported incidents rose 74% to 541 last year. That may be the tip of an iceberg: In 2018, a European Union survey of European Jews found that 79% of those who experienced anti-Semitic harassment didn't report it to authorities.

A critical difference between today's anti-Semitism and its pre-World War II iterations is the existence of Israel—a prosperous democracy that is nearing the historic threshold of being home to a majority of the world's Jews. On one level, Israel represents a guarantee of security should things get dramatically worse.

President Trump has become popular in Israel, where 79% of Jews approve of his handling of the relationship with their country. Bonding with Israel's right-wing prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

In Sarcelles, a town north of Paris with a large Jewish community and a much larger population of Arab and African Muslim origin, Rene Banon, whose pharmacy was burned down during anti-Jewish riots sparked by the Gaza war in 2014, now frets about local Jewish youths wearing prayer shawls and yarmulkes as they walk to the local synagogue. "This could be seen as a provocation," Banon said in his rebuilt pharmacy.

Fears and experiences of daily harassment, often perpetrated by Muslim youths, have pushed a fraction of French, German, and Austrian Jews to support far-right, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim parties, disregarding these movements' anti-Semitic overtones. That is a dangerous mistake, warned Kalifat of France's CRIF.

"The best bulwark against Islamists is not the far right. It is democracy," Kalifat said, pointing to the torrent of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial that has poured from far-right activists within the Yellow Vest movement in recent months. "If the extreme right wants to fight Islamists, that doesn't make it our friend—because I know that it will be Islamism and Muslims at first, but then it will be the Jews." ★



French police outside the Hyper Cacher kosher grocery store where four Jews were murdered, Paris, January 2015



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credit: Eric Fefenberg/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS



MDA
Sea-Bulance

MDA's Ambulance-Boat for the Sea of Galilee

BreakingIsraelNews.com

Magen David Adom (Israel's version of the Red Cross) recently inaugurated a new ambulance-boat they're calling a **Sea-Bulance** at the Sea of Galilee. It has already assisted a windsurfer in distress and a young woman injured during a cruise.

The Sea-Bulance also assisted in the rescue of a grandfather and his grandchildren, whose boat malfunctioned. In another case, MDA EMTs and paramedics assisted a marine police patrol boat in searching for a man who appeared to be drowning near a separate beach in Tiberias.

Magen David Adom's Sea-Bulance enables the MDA medics and paramedics to **arrive with advanced medical equipment while patients are still in the waters** of Lake Kinneret, thus saving critical minutes, versus the injured person receiving medical treatment only upon reaching the shore.

The Sea-Bulance, a Whale r500 professional, is resistant to damage caused by rocks and vegetation. It reaches a speed of 35 knots (more than 40 mph), and can pass from one side of the Kinneret to the other in just 10 minutes. The boat, designed to carry six people, has advanced medical equipment including a defibrillator and ventilation equipment. The bow

opens to quickly bring the victim to the boat, within the water area.

Philadelphia Mosque's Children

[Clip #7194 / MEMRI.org](#)

On April 22, 2019, the Muslim American Society Islamic Center in Philadelphia (MAS Philly) uploaded to its Facebook page a video of an "Ummah Day" celebration in which young children wearing Palestinian scarves sang: "Glorious steeds call us and lead us [to] the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The blood of martyrs protects us ... Take us, oh ships ... until we reach our shores and crush the treacherous ones ... Flow, oh rivers of martyrs!"



MEMRI screen capture

A young girl read a poem praising martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Palestine, and she asked: "Will [Jerusalem] be a hotbed for cowards?" Another young girl read: "We will

(continued next page)





B.C.

by Johnny Hart



defend [Palestine] with our bodies ... We will chop off their heads, and we will liberate the sorrowful and exalted Al-Aqsa Mosque ... We will subject them to eternal torture." MAS Philly belongs to the Muslim American Society (MAS), which has 42 chapters in the United States and one in the United Kingdom. MAS's website says that its mission is to "move people to strive for God-consciousness, liberty and justice, and to convey Islam with utmost clarity," and that its vision is "a virtuous and just American society."

Israel (some reject the existence of Israel altogether) came to visit. In addition, 17,310 tourists arrived from Egypt and Jordan, which are officially at peace with the Jewish state, but maintain somewhat cold relations.

Most of these Muslims come on pilgrimages to Islamic holy sites, in particular Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, which is today regarded as Islam's third holiest site after Mecca and Medina. Most Muslim visitors request that their passports not be stamped with an Israeli entry visa to avoid problems, and possible prosecution, upon returning home. To accommodate this request, Israel's border authorities provide these tourists with entry visas stamped on a small piece of paper that can be thrown away when they depart the country. ★

Muslims Ignore Boycott and Visit Israel

By Yossi Aloni / IsraelToday.co.il

For years, Muslims from the Middle East and beyond have increasingly been ignoring the Muslim world's boycott of Israel and visiting the Jewish state as tourists. A new record was set in 2018, when an incredible 54,799 Muslim citizens from countries that do not have official relations with



Muslim tourism to Jerusalem



The Beer of Pharaohs

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ILANIT CHERNICK (r) JPost.com



credit: Yaniv Berman/IAA



Testing a sample in the labs of the Hadassah Medical Center and Hebrew University of Jerusalem School of Dental Medicine

Beer is an ancient beverage that has been consumed for generations. Made from yeast, the low-alcohol drink is enjoyed at sports events, family celebrations, or just socially with friends. Beer was even consumed thousands of years ago by pharaohs, ancient kings, and some leaders of the Jewish people.

How different was this ancient beer to the frothy beverage that we drink today? What did it taste like?

Resurrecting Yeast

Led by Dr. Ronen Hazan and Dr. Michael Klutstein, microbiologists from the School of Dental Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI), examined the colonies of yeast that formed and settled in the pottery that was used to produce ancient beer by studying the pottery's nano-pores.

"Ultimately, they were able to resurrect this yeast to create a high-quality beer... that's approximately 5,000 years old," the Hebrew University explained in a press statement, adding that they had called in many brewers "to the beer kitchen to isolate the yeast specimens from the ancient debris and to create a beer with it."

The university said that the scientists had reached out to vintners (wine-makers) at Kadma Winery, located just north of Beit Shemesh, to help with this arduous task.

"This winery still produces wine in clay vessels, proving that yeast may be safely removed from pottery, even if it had lain dormant in the sun for years," Hebrew University said.

Dr. Tziona Ben-Gedalya at the Eastern R&D Center of Ariel University photographed the yeast in these clay vessels. Then, the team reached out to archaeologists Dr. Yitzhak Paz from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA),

(continued next page)



Prof. Aren Maeir at Bar-Ilan University, and professors Yuval Gadot and Oded Lipschits from Tel Aviv University.

These archaeologists gave them shards of pottery that had been used as jugs for beer and mead (honey wine) in ancient times — and still had yeast specimens stuck inside.

The pottery shards and jars from which the yeast was extricated date back to several ancient well-known figures, including the ancient reign of Egyptian Pharaoh Narmer (ca. 3000 B.C.), who ruled during the Early Dynastic Period of ancient Egypt and was known for unifying the country; Aramean King Hazael (800 B.C.), who is mentioned in the Book of Kings and was appointed by the prophet Elijah as king of Aram (Syria); and the prophet Nehemiah (400 B.C.), who governed Judea under Persian rule.

The researchers cleaned and sequenced the full genome of each yeast specimen and turned them over to Dr. Amir Szitenberg at the Dead Sea-Arava Science Center for analysis. Szitenberg found that these 5,000-year-old yeast cultures are similar to those used in traditional African brews, such as the Ethiopian honey wine tej, and to modern beer yeast.

Brewing for Science

The group of researchers then enlisted the help of local Israeli beer expert Itai Gutman, who helped the scientists make the beer. After sampling the results, Ariel University's Dr. Elyashiv Drori and certified tasters from the International Beer Judge Certification Program all agreed that this delicious brew was of a high quality and safe for consumption.

"The greatest wonder here is that the yeast colonies survived within the vessel for thousands of years, just waiting to be excavated and grown," explained Dr. Ronen Hazan, Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine. "The ancient yeast allowed us to create beer that lets us know what ancient Philistine and Egyptian beer tasted like.

"By the way, the beer isn't bad," he continued. "Aside from the gimmick of drinking beer from the time of King Pharaoh, this research is extremely important to the field of experimental archaeology — a field that seeks to reconstruct the past. Our research offers new tools to examine ancient methods and taste the flavors of the past."

According to Maeir from Bar-Ilan University's Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, "these findings paint a portrait that supports the Biblical image of drunken Philistines."

Paz of the IAA declared the revived brew of ancient beer "a real breakthrough." ★



Beer cruse from Tel Tzafit/Gath archaeological digs, from which Philistine beer was produced

credit: Yaniv Berman/IAA



Trump Deal Demonstrates Waning Arab Interest in Palestinian Cause



BY EDY COHEN (r) *Israel Today*



credit: Abed Fakhim Khayth/Faast90

The June gathering in Bahrain, where President Donald Trump's "Deal of the Century" was unveiled, might not have been the major peace summit for which some had hoped, but it did mark a significant shift in Middle East peacemaking.

The Palestinian Authority

The Palestinian Authority rejected the deal even before reading its contents, and refused to participate in the conference. Some Palestinian businessmen did travel to Bahrain but, upon returning home, found themselves in hot water for the crime of meeting with the Israeli representatives there.

The Palestinian leadership no doubt hoped that its hard-line position would pressure the other Arab states to stay home and leave the Trump Administration looking foolish. It didn't work.

The Rest of the Arab Middle East

That the rest of the Arab Middle East did show up indicated their growing impatience with and lack of interest in the Palestinian issue. The survival of their own regimes in an increasingly tumultuous region is more important to these Arab states than whether the Palestinians achieve an independent state of their own.

And that's where Trump's policy of exerting American pressure on the Arab states is bearing fruit in comparison to the more wishy-washy policies of his predecessors. Arab leaders know that they need American support to maintain stability, and Trump knows that they know. **For this reason and others, the Palestinian issue has been relegated to a position of less importance.**

One of those other reasons would exist even without American pressure: mounting frustration with Palestinian divisiveness. Most Arab states still ostensibly support the Palestinians in their cause, but which Palestinians? Despite dozens of attempts at "reconciliation," the Palestinian Authority (PA) — under Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah — and Hamas don't seem close to ironing

(continued next page)





out their differences and establishing a united Palestinian national entity. Their never-ending internal conflict drains Arab resources, political capital, and diminishes the viability of a lasting peace. Rampant corruption within both the PA in Ramallah and the Hamas regime in Gaza is also viewed with great disdain throughout the rest of the Arab world, especially given that most of the Palestinian money was provided as financial aid by Arab and Western nations.

The Iranian Threat

Another reason: the Iranian threat. The Gulf states face daily threats from Iran and its Houthi proxies in Yemen. In recent months, numerous oil tankers have been attacked in the Persian Gulf. The Arab states know that they need both the U.S. and Israel to help deal with the Islamic Republic.

Whereas in the past the Arab world exploited the Palestinian issue as a means of delegitimizing and attacking Israel, today, ironically, it provides Arab leaders with an excuse to meet with and even cozy up to the Israelis. After all, the Arab world went forward with the Bahrain conference even though the Palestinians boycotted it, while the Israelis were happily in attendance. ★

Crossword
September 2019:
First Christians,
PART 1 (KJV)
(answers on p. 35)

To Index

ACROSS

2. And when ___ came to the place... (Luke 19:5)
4. ...God is no ___ of persons: (Acts 10:34)
6. And they went out of the _____. (Acts 16:40)
9. ...but the rod of ___ shall drive it far from him. (Prov. 22:15)
10. But we have this ___ in earthen vessels... (2 Cor. 4:7)
11. ...the kingdom of ___ is at hand. (Matt. 10:7)
15. And five of them were _____. (Matt. 25:2)
17. Have ye ___ so many things... (Gal. 3:4)
18. We are all Jews by _____. (Gal. 2:15)
19. ...and with His ___ we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)
20. ...but I am slow of _____. (Exodus 4:10)
21. _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ... (Acts 16:31)

DOWN

1. And watch _____. (Matt. 25:13)
3. But go rather to the lost _____. (Matt. 10:6)
5. Are ye so ___?... (Gal. 3:3)
7. ___, but not forsaken;... (2 Cor. 4:9)
8. Even as ___ believed God... (Gal. 3:6)
12. ... in thee shall all nations be _____. (Gal. 3:8)
13. And at ___ there was a cry made... (Matt. 25:6)
14. ... ___ went up upon the housetop... (Acts 10:9)
16. And thou shalt make it a _____. (Exodus 30:35)

Arabs Disillusioned with Islam

BY DAVID LAZARUS / IsraelToday.co.il



A growing number of Arabs are fed up with Islam and its religious leaders. According to the largest survey ever carried out in the region, almost 20% of Middle East Arabs are turning their backs on Islam.

The study was conducted among more than 25,000 Muslims from 10 Middle Eastern and North African Islamic countries, including the Palestinian-ruled territories.

Compiled by BBC News Arabic and Arab Barometer, a Princeton University-based research network, the analysis also shows that trust in Islamic religious leaders has decreased everywhere in the Muslim world, with the biggest drops in war-torn Iraq and Sudan, but also among the Palestinians.

In addition, confidence in Islamist terror groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Muslim Brotherhood is even lower among Middle Eastern and North African Muslims, declining by as much as 24%. **The growing frustration within Islam is especially high among Muslim youth.** More than half (52%) of those aged 18–29 in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and the Palestinian territories said they were considering leaving the country.



Muslim prayer in Jerusalem

And there are further signs that the Islamic hold over Middle East Arabs is cracking. One-in-three people surveyed said they felt depressed, with the highest proportion in Iraq (43%), Tunisia (40%) and the Palestinian territories (37%). The numbers for women were much higher.

Arabs may be leaving Islam, but most still view America as more foe than friend. Sixty percent of respondents in eight of the 11 countries included in the survey said violence against the U.S. was a logical consequence of U.S. involvement in the region. The justifiable use of violence against the U.S. was most pronounced in Lebanon, Yemen and amongst the Palestinians, where 75% or more of those surveyed support this view. Americans need to be aware of these findings.

Respondents also expressed concern over rising disquiet in their home countries: people in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Sudan and Palestinians said they felt they were moving toward dictatorship. More than six in 10 Algerians, and four in 10 Sudanese believe the last elections in their home countries were not fair.

Considering that Muslims living in Islamic countries are usually fearful of expressing any kind of criticism against their religious leaders or politicians, this survey reveals a serious disillusionment among Arabs with Islam; they are now willing to speak up.

The barbarism of Islamic atrocities, unending Sunni-Shiite civil wars and political corruption are all taking their toll on Middle Eastern Muslims. Add the military successes of Israel in every Arab war, as well as the extraordinary economic growth of the tiny Jewish nation in their midst, and it is no wonder that Muslims are reconsidering their commitment to a failing Islamic culture.

Islam means “submission,” and these are hopeful signs that its reign of fear and terror over the Arab world is losing its grip.

In Israel we hear that Islam is a dying religion. May it be so. —David ★



JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.



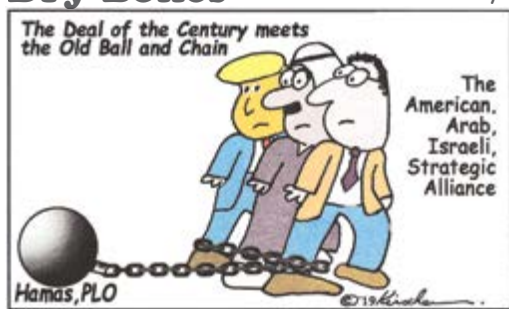
A cheerful heart is good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22

Children writing to God

- Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you have now?
- Dear God, I went to a wedding and they kissed right in the synagogue. Is that OK?
- Dear God, Thank you for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.
- Dear God, Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.
- Dear God, I think about you sometimes, even when I'm not praying.
- Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all the people in the world. There are only four people in our family, and I can never do it. ★

Dry Bones

The Deal of the Century



Answer Key for September 2019 Crossword (p.33)

Across:		Down:	
2. Jesus	15. Wise	1. Therefore	13. Midnight
4. Respector	17. Suffered	3. Sheep	14. Peter
6. Prison	18. Nature	5. Foolish	16. Perfume
9. Correction	19. Stripes	7. Persecuted	
10. Treasure	20. Speech	8. Abraham	
11. Heaven	21. Believe	12. Blessed	



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