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Enhancing Trust

Dear Reader,

October 2019

The best news we've heard lately, we put on our cover – Iranian hearts are turning to Yeshua! Though we've explored this subject on our program (with Hormoz Shariat at levitt.tv/media/watch/1522), this recent development warmed our hearts and will yours, too. Sarah Liberman shares our second-favorite news – advances in Israel's defense (p. 7).

Our Classic Zola lesson (p. 4) is about false prophets and how to spot them, especially when they have convincing appeal. They've always been around, but they'll increase in the End Times. Watch out for them!

This month we observe three Feasts of Israel (see our p. 1 reminder). Kirsten explains the days between them (6), and we offer some historical observations surrounding a couple (1, 10, 24). The Palestinian narrative that's getting old even among Arabs (see Sept. LL p. 32) is debunked by history and science once again (8, 12, 26). Even Miss Iraq has bought into fact-based information and is paying a hefty price (34).

Mark relays recent ministry discussions (13) about expanding Zola's mission – which remains unchanged – while respecting his legacy. Please pray with us and share your thoughts.

Israel continues to uncover Jewish history (8, 32) and advance medicine (28).

Please remember to *sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim* – Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6),



Margot

Margot, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. Thank you for helping ZLM enlighten viewers, readers, and web surfers to the New Testament's magnificent message of salvation through Yeshua, the richness of its Jewish roots in the Old Testament, and Israel's continuing significance in Biblical prophecy.

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Levitt LETTER

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

inside: **False Christs
& False Prophets** p.4

Iranian Hearts Turning to Yeshua

By Chris Mitchell / CBN.com

It may surprise you that the fastest growing church in the world is in Iran. That's the assessment of those who have seen and heard the remarkable story of millions turning away from Shiite Islam and turning toward Jesus Christ.

The image Iran presents to the world is large demonstrations with shouts of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Those who have seen Iran from the inside, however, paint a very different picture.

One Iranian church worker told us on condition of anonymity, "You can't believe the images on TV. Because, for example, **all the protests you see on the streets are mostly contrived.** The young people on the streets have told us 'If we don't go to the streets, we won't get our grades; so we're forced to go and protest.'" *(continued p.2)*

REMEMBER:

Rosh Hashanah is Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 (sunset to sunset)
Yom Kippur is Oct. 8 – 9 (sunset to sunset)
Sukkot is Oct. 13 – 20 (sunset to sunset)

Observing Yom Kippur Despite Circumstances

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller
Aish.com

After Islamic terrorists brutally murdered American-Israeli journalist **Steven Sotloff** (right) in 2014, his story of enormous courage and faith finally emerged.

An American-born Jew reporting from the Muslim world, Steven downplayed his religion and the fact that he was an Israeli citizen. When he was **captured by terrorists in Syria in 2013, he did all he could to hide his Judaism from his captors.** Steven's family, terrified that if his captors knew Steven was Jewish they would do more to harm him, kept a low profile, erasing all traces of their *(continued p.3)*



Iranian Hearts Turning to Yeshua *continued from cover*

He said there are two Irans: the one you see on the news and the other hidden from the world.

“I would say **there’s a 10% Iran and a 90% Iran**. Ten percent control the country in an oppressive manner. Hard line and religious. And then the majority of the people, 90%, love America. They don’t hate Americans. I think that’s the message that Americans need to hear. They tell us all the time, we don’t hate Americans, we love America.” He wants Americans to know that forty years after Iran’s Islamic revolution, there’s another spiritual revolution underway. “More people in Iran have come to faith in the past forty years than in the previous 1,400.”

When Muslims from Iran come in contact with the Man from Nazareth, something beautiful happens.

— Dalton Thomas



Frontiers Alliance International (FAI) founder and director Dalton Thomas

Frontiers Alliance International (FAI) is producing a documentary called **Sheep Among Wolves to introduce the Iranian church** to Christians worldwide. FAI founder and director Dalton Thomas says:

“What’s taking place in Iran right now is spectacular. It’s the fastest growing church in the world that owns no buildings, has no 501(c)(3)s, owns no property or bank accounts; that has no centralized leadership; that has no denominational leaning, and yet it’s multiplying like crazy. What the Lord is doing there is staggering.”

The evangelism results in intense persecution that Thomas says leads Iranian Believers to seek prayer, but not in a way you may think.

“We expect that they want us to pray for the persecution to end; but they say, ‘no, no, don’t do that. Persecution is growing the church. When the persecution stops, the growth stops. What we want is the Gospel to spread far and wide and deep in Iran.’”

With the tension between Iran and the U.S., Thomas says it’s important to see what’s happening behind the Iranian veil.

“When Muslims from Iran come in contact with the Man from Nazareth, something beautiful happens. And when they realize that they have been bought and saved and purchased with Jewish blood, prophesied by Jewish prophets in a Jewish Bible, something crazy, something beautiful happens.”

Thomas believes that one day the world may wake up to find Iran’s church growth in the 21st century rivaling China’s and Korea’s in the 20th.

Tired of being bombarded with depressing news stories? We just brought you one to make you rejoice! — David

P.S. — For more on this subject, watch “Iran Alive” with Hormoz Shariat (#1522 at levitt.tv) and see [p. 11](#) for Dr. Seif’s book on Iran in prophecy. ★





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Observing Yom Kippur ... *continued from cover sidebar*

connection to their son from the internet and refraining from making public appeals for his release.

Yet despite the grave danger he was in, on *Yom Kippur*, Steven Sotloff managed to outwit his captors, fasting and even praying in the direction of Jerusalem on this holy day. A former prisoner who was held with Sotloff recalled: “He told them he was sick and didn’t want to eat, even though we were served eggs that day. He used to pray secretly in the direction of Jerusalem. He would see in which direction [his Muslim captors] were praying, and then adjust the angle.”

In the middle of terrorist-controlled Syria, surrounded by murderous thugs dedicated to the eradication of Jews and the Jewish state, one Jewish, Israeli man was

unbowed, observing Yom Kippur under the very noses of his captors. ★



Jews Praying in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur, 1878, painting by Maurycy Gottlieb (Tel Aviv Museum of Art)

False Christs and False Prophets

Classic Zola
from 1989
30 years ago



Benjamin Creme in 2008. Creme said that he was first contacted telepathically by his “Master” in January 1959.

*“Put aside everything you know about the Christ,
Lord Maitreya is the Master of all Masters!”*

So said Mr. Benjamin Creme, who spoke in Dallas representing the false messiah, Lord Maitreya. Part of my job is keeping track of the signs of the end, and certainly one of those is the New Age Movement. I ended up listening to this strange teacher describe the upside-down world of those who claim “I am Christ” in answer to the Lord’s very warning: *“Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”* (Matt. 24:4, 5)

I often report to you about events in Israel. But it is relevant, too, that we watch the weird, spiritistic world of the antiChrist as well. **The mumbo jumbo known as the New Age Movement is all around us and steadily gathering force**, as we should expect. On the evening I heard Mr. Creme, I was appalled by how blatant it is becoming.

My main complaint about the program was not that it was cultic but that it was boring. A problem with the unbeliever is not that he’s a sinner but that he has nothing to talk about that’s very compelling to those associated with the Lord. Least interesting among his topics was false doctrine. We were virtually asleep in our seats as the speaker held forth about the Christ he believes in and the Christ he doesn’t.

A publication we were handed on the way in stated in part:

The world is in the midst of such a transition today and again a great teacher has appeared just when we most need Him, the same One who worked through His disciple Jesus — from the time of the Baptism to the Crucifixion — in Palestine. This time the Christ, the Lord Maitreya, has come Himself to complete the mission He began some 2,000 years ago.

The Christ is referred to as Lord Maitreya because in the esoteric tradition the word “Christ” is not the name of an individual, but of an office, or function, within the Spiritual Hierarchy of Masters. The Masters of Wisdom are a group of perfected men who have guided human evolution from behind the scenes age after age. The present holder of that office, Maitreya, the Master of all the Masters, has held that position for the past 2,600 years and will continue to do so for the entire Age of Aquarius — approximately 2,000 more years.

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Substitutionary Teaching

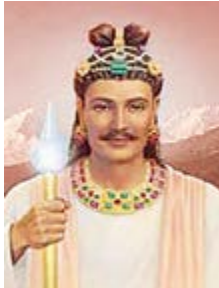
Experienced Bible readers will see the slanted references to Scripture, of course, and the defamation of the character of Jesus. The capital “h” on *Him* and *His* now belongs to Lord Maitreya who, it is revealed, “worked through His disciple Jesus.” We note also that Israel is called Palestine in keeping with one of the prime rules of the cults — defame the Chosen People, don’t say “Israel,” always side with those who oppose God’s chosen.

The speaker warmed to his topic and stated that we are on the verge of a new dispensation. That’s when he told us to put aside everything we knew about Christ and consider the Age of Aquarius. It seems we are all clinging to the Age of Pisces, the fish, and we need to be getting on to Aquarius, when all will be sunshine and peace. The speaker ridiculed the Biblical plan for the Second Coming as “unintelligent and simplistic.” Jesus, the speaker taught, promised to be with us only “until the end of the age,” which means presumably that when we switch to Aquarius we’ll need a new Christ. Fortunately for us, the speaker knew one.

He supplied that Lord Maitreya came to London from Pakistan by airplane in 1977, fulfilling the prophecy of Christ “coming on the clouds.” (He didn’t deal with the rest of the verse, “and every eye will see him.”) Mr. Creme said belief systems are ladders; once we are on the roof, we should throw them away. Religions limit our divinity. We are all gods, after all.

He promised that Lord Maitreya would hold a world press conference, “probably later this year.”

The new Christ will speak to the world on television. He will appear in whatever guise appeals to the individual viewer, speaking the viewer’s own language.



Images of Lord Maitreya. Image on far left: supposedly Maitreya as he appeared in Africa in the late 1980s



The Characteristics of a Cult

The evening rehearsed the characteristics of all cults: defame the Scriptures, take a mean anti-Semitic view, downgrade Judaism and Israel, favor Eastern culture and religions over those of Judeo-Christian ethic, show a penchant for astrology and predictions by the zodiac; and promise that the particular deliverer in question is really coming very soon if we’ll just be patient and believe.

In a way, I’m sorry to trouble you with all this, but it behooves us to understand what the enemy is up to and how he fools people. I suppose if I had no Biblical knowledge, I would have found that gentle, gray-haired Mr. Creme appealing with his claims of peace for all men and a wonderful new age dawning. In reality, I see nothing but the beast on his way to a rendezvous with a condemned world system.

This particular false Christ may or may not hold that upcoming press conference later this year. But never forget this: The real Christ may come tonight. Amen!

“Lord Maitreya” misleads people in many lands. He appears in different guises and as different men, changing with the place and generation. — Kirsten ★

(For a humorous take on “the end,” see cartoon on p. 27.)



The Feast of Trumpets (1884) by Aleksander Gierymski (1850–1901), National Museum in Warsaw

October finds Jews in Israel and around the world in the midst of *Yamim Nora'im*, the Days of Awe. These High Holy Days begin with *Rosh Hashanah* (New Year) and continue through *Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement). Jewish people celebrate the new year and then find themselves preparing for atonement. These ten days (September 29–October 9 this year) constitute a period of excitement and awe.

I love that great celebration is followed by a time of really digging in and focusing on personal relationships with God. Celebration leads to reflection. Allow me to do a bit of that with you here.

How is your year going? What's new in your relationship with Messiah? Alongside my roles with Zola Levitt Ministries, I speak to women at retreats and conferences, encouraging them to reflect upon what God is doing in their lives and how He continually calls them to be open to new chapters in their stories. A favorite section of Scripture comes from Isaiah 43 where God Himself tells the Hebrews that He is about to do a *new thing*.

Constantly Creating

We don't serve a stagnant God. He is constantly creating and developing people. He desires to do new things in our lives. But we have to be open, willing to let Him lead us into new seasons and on unexplored pathways. *Rosh Hashanah* offers a fresh start. Are you ready for something new? The ten Days of Awe provide the perfect time to reflect on where you currently are, where you have been, and where you would like to be.

When at the Brook Cherith, the prophet Elijah experienced a season of waiting. God sustained him through that time but eventually depleted Elijah's sustenance, and Elijah's place of blessing ceased (1 Kings 17:1–7). It was time to move on and enter his next season. Often, we Believers want to continue where we are comfortable, and shun change. The Old Testament gives us example after example of what happens when we choose not to move on. Manna stops, provisions end, and God takes actions to show us that it's time for a new chapter.

During this holy time of year, may you be open to seeing how God wants to reinvent your life. I promise you, when God is the One leading you to change it up, your future will always surpass the past! The Israelites disbelieved God's promise of prosperity and, therefore, missed 40 years that they could have been living in the land of milk and honey. Don't miss the blessing of your new chapters. May you reflect on blessings this New Year. ★

Israeli Defense Game Changer

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



A leading Israeli military strategist once noted that Israel's army is always training for the war we just fought. By this he meant that our natural tendency is to base our future actions on the lessons we learned from our previous experiences. However, with today's technology constantly evolving, we must adapt, and do so quickly. We can no longer simply analyze our enemy's current capabilities. We must anticipate the future, planning and training for the unknown.

Antimissile Defense Systems

Here in Israel, the threat of war is ever present and very real. For the Israel Defense Forces' main mission to defend the people of Israel, a large amount of resources and manpower has been dedicated to creating antimissile defense systems. The Iron Dome air defense system, developed to shoot down small rockets lobbed from Gaza into Israel, worked well for a few years. But recently, the Palestinian terror organization Hamas challenged Iron Dome by firing a large number of rockets at the same time and at a distance too short to allow for an intercept. Developers had to go back to the drawing table to come up with a solution.

American Patriot missile launchers were used in the past to intercept large rockets fired into Israel. The larger the warhead on a rocket or missile, the greater the destruction it causes wherever it hits. Israel's Arrow 1 and Arrow 2 defense systems have successfully handled the larger rockets that Hezbollah (the terrorist organization based in Lebanon) currently possesses courtesy of Iran and Syria.

To thwart a much bigger threat — e.g., ballistic missiles armed with nuclear warheads fired from Iran — Israel must intercept these missiles outside the atmosphere, in outer space, long before they reach Israeli airspace. To this end, Israel developed Arrow 3, the most advanced system in the world. This past summer, Israeli defense generals, soldiers, designers, and logistical support gathered in Alaska to try out the system's high-altitude capabilities that can't be tested in Israel. American AN/TPY2 radar (the type stationed in Israel) used in the tests successfully demonstrated operational link-up between U.S. detection radar and Israeli missile systems.

Previous failures created high tensions during this test that combined four levels of airspace defense systems and simulated a massive, multi-layered attack on Israel. On July 28, Israel successfully conducted a series of Arrow 3 tests in cooperation with the American Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

The test's success not only meant a huge sigh of relief for the people living here in Israel, but also positions Israel as the world's leading nation in missile defense. According to government officials, this system is the game changer needed in the future war anticipated with nuclear Iran.

We have always felt safe on every tour in Israel. Thank God for Jewish brainpower and technology along with His divine hand of protection over this tiny country — the apple of His eye. — David ★

(Also, see related cartoon on p. 35.)



Arrow 3 test in Alaska



How Jewish was Jesus?



BY DAVID LAZARUS (r) IsraelToday.co.il



original photo credit: Olivier Ffoussi / Flash90 (Photoshop effects added)

Depicting a gentile Jesus?

Everyone knows that Jesus grew up in Nazareth, a quiet town in Galilee. Many scholars argue that Jesus' reforms were greatly influenced by the Greco-Roman philosophers and culture of his hometown, and not by rabbinic or classical Hebrew and Jewish traditions. In some circles, the term "Jesus of Nazareth" has come to reflect a "gentile Jesus" removed from Jewish roots, an image used to overlook the Jewish heritage of the Messiah.

Nazareth has yielded scant archaeological remains to help us discover details of the early years of Jesus' life. But **the city of Zippori, a city more important than and just four miles from Nazareth, has produced a wealth of discoveries that can help us better understand the world in which Jesus grew up.**

Scholars have portrayed ancient Zippori as essentially non-Jewish — an important Roman cultural and administrative center. After more than 15 years of excavating at Zippori, *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR) archaeologists conclude from clear archaeological evidence that Zippori was very much Jewish, as was the Galilee in general.

Examining the evidence

BAR archaeologists found evidence of Zippori's deep Jewish culture in an ostrakon from the second century B.C., when the Jews rebelled against Antiochus IV, the victory celebrated at Hanukkah. The inscription on the piece of pottery is a Hebrew transliteration of a Greek word for "overseer." This points to a well-developed Jewish community at Zippori at least as early as the Hasmonean Period (141–37 B.C.).

Archaeologists discovered several Jewish ritual baths (*mikva'ot*) at the site, also from the early Hasmonean Period.

First-century A.D. Jewish historian Josephus tells us that the governor of Cyprus attempted to conquer Zippori and take it from the Hasmonean king Alexander

(continued next page)





Jannaeus (ruled 103–76 B.C.), thereby confirming that in the years just before Jesus' birth, the region was under Jewish Hasmonean rule.

Shortly after Pompey conquered the area in 63 B.C., the Romans divided Israel into five districts and established Jewish councils to administer local affairs. Zippori was selected as the only Galilean town to be assigned a Jewish council.

In his reports on Zippori and the surrounding region, Josephus nowhere refers to any gentile inhabitants of the city. Nor does he mention any pagan temples or other Hellenistic institutions. Nothing in his accounts suggests that Zippori in the first century was anything but a Jewish city. Later rabbinic traditions corroborate this, preserving the participation of priests from Zippori in the Temple worship in Jerusalem.

After examining the thousands of animal bones recovered from the site, archaeologists concluded that pork was not part of the Zippori diet. This is significant, because evidence from the later Byzantine years shows that more than 30% of the local Christian diet was the non-kosher pig.

Some 114 fragments of stone vessels were recovered in the Zippori dig. In Judaism, when pottery vessels became ritually unclean, they were destroyed. But stone vessels did not become ritually impure. Large stone vessels were used to



Bird's-eye view of the Zippori excavations

store pure water for ritual hand washing. John 2:6 refers to "six stone jars that were standing for the Jewish rites of purification." Bathhouse benches were made of stone for the same reason. The presence of a hundred-plus stone vessel fragments in the residential area of Zippori is another strong indication that the inhabitants were Jewish.



Numerous mosaic fragments with Hebrew and Aramaic letters were recovered from the western summit of Zippori. The two types of coins minted by Zippori during the Great Revolt suggest the city was primarily Jewish. Neither contains any image of the Roman emperor or pagan deities, common images on coins of this period along the Mediterranean Coast. One Zippori coin bears a double cornucopia with a staff in the middle, common symbols on first-century Jewish coins.

Finally, there is no evidence of a pagan presence in the first century. Extensive excavations reveal no temples, cultic objects, or inscriptions referring to the worship of pagan deities. There are no typical architectural features of a Hellenistic city—no gymnasium, hippodrome, or amphitheater.

All evidence points to Jesus living amid a Jewish populace that maintained Jewish laws and traditions of the Bible. He grew up in a family, town, and region that managed to retain a strong Jewish ethos despite the surrounding Greek and pagan influences. His teachings were not influenced by Greco-Roman philosophy or culture as some have surmised, but rather stem from the great Jewish and prophetic traditions. ★

Did Moscow Spark the Yom Kippur War?



BY BENJAMIN DUKAS (r) JPost.com



credit: Central Intelligence Agency employee, United States Government

Egyptian military trucks cross a bridge laid over the Suez Canal on October 7, 1973, during the Yom Kippur War/October War



To Index

A new theory is challenging the dominant historical narrative that the Soviet Union opposed the Egyptian-Syrian offensive that sparked the Yom Kippur War in 1973. The widely held notion currently believes that since the U.S. and USSR were cooling tensions through détente, the last thing the Kremlin wanted was a conflict between its Arab proxies and the U.S.-backed Jewish state.

However, in their recently published *The Soviet-Israeli War 1967–1973*, Dr. Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez, associate fellows of the Truman Institute at Hebrew University, suggest that the Soviet Union not only knew about the impending war, but helped to plan it.

“The Egyptian-Syrian offensive was backed by and coordinated with Moscow,” Remez said at the Jerusalem Press Club. “Soviet forces, as well as advisors, even took direct part.”

Fake News, Fake History

Remez, the former head of the foreign news department at the Voice of Israel, and Ginor, a Soviet affairs specialist for *Haaretz*, translated from Russian the memoirs and testimonies of Soviet veterans and introduced their findings into Western scholarly discourse. “Eyewitness testimonies helped to set the record straight,” said Ginor. **“To use an un-academic but fashionable term, fake news had evolved over decades into fake history.”**

Their research undermines the long-held belief that Cairo expelled the Soviet military advisors who had been stationed in Egypt since before the Six-Day War in 1967. Egyptian president Anwar Sadat made international headlines on July 18, 1972, when he announced that he was expelling the 15,000 to 20,000 Soviet advisors from the country. This was seen as distancing Egypt

(continued next page)



from the USSR and edging closer to the U.S. According to Ginor and Remez, it was all a great deception. The Soviet advisors never left, they say.

Ginor and Remez’s research has been met with skepticism. Uri Bar-Joseph, a professor of international relations at the University of Haifa, claims that the Kremlin was surprised by the breakout of the Yom Kippur War.

Others have cast doubt on Ginor and Remez’s findings. The book details heavy Russian involvement in the War of Attrition, Israel’s bloody conflict with Egypt (and Jordan, the PLO, and their allies) from 1967 to 1970. Many historians know of the Soviets’ involvement in the conflict, but Ginor and Remez claim they had a greater role than most assume. According to their research, **Egypt took credit for many attacks that were actually engineered by the Soviets.**

One was the October 1967 sinking off Port Said of the *INS Eilat*, which at the time was Israel’s only functioning destroyer. “The Soviets did all but press the button,” according to Ginor and Remez.

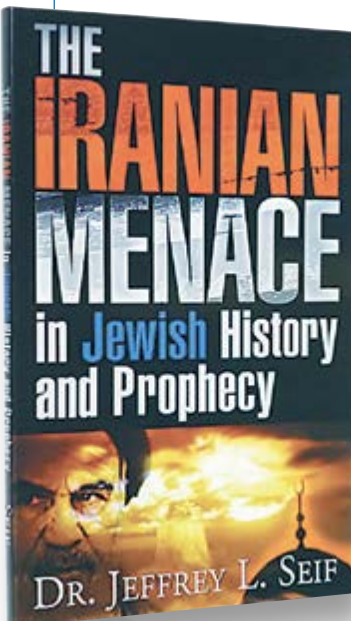
Remez compared the actions of the Soviets during the War of Attrition to those of Russia in Syria today. In 1967, Egyptian harbors and air force bases became Soviet “in all but name,” similar to the way Russia currently occupies Syrian ports and air fields, he added. ★



Book by Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez (Oxford University Press, 2017)

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[The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy](#) book by Dr. Jeffrey Seif

Iran is central in End Times prophecy. At a time when Iran has captured the world’s attention with nuclear threats, Jeff harnesses Scriptural and secular evidence to support his case for the Iranian-Armageddon connection. After glimpsing Iran in ancient Roman and Jewish histories, you will learn the significance of prophecy in the Jewish Scriptures and apocalyptic literature. Jeff’s analysis is based on sound Scriptural understanding and two decades of academic contemplation.

(Please see our cover story on Iranian hearts turning to Yeshua, and a note of appreciation on [p.21](#).)

Ask the Chaplain

Dr. Todd Baker
Zola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian



Q. Where did the word “Palestine” originate?

A. The word *Philistia* (found in Exodus, Isaiah, and Joel) refers to the southern coastal plains of Israel where the Philistines lived. The Philistines were a seagoing gentile people who migrated from Crete to that coastal area of Israel. The word *Philistia* referred to that particular Grecian people in that particular area of Israel — a geo-political region bounded by the Yarkon River on the north, the Mediterranean on the west, Judah to the east, and Sinai in the south — but the geographic term is never used in Scripture for all of Israel.



An example of map of Israel labeled with anachronistic terminology



It galls me when New Testament scholars, who should know better, call Jesus a “Palestinian” who lived in the land of “Palestine.” Such terminology is anachronistic when you understand that the word “Palestine” wasn’t invented until the second century A.D. The Roman emperor Hadrian came up with the name *Palestina* for the province of Judea in A.D. 135 after putting down the Second Jewish Revolt.

He chose to rename Israel “Palestina” because he wanted to call the Land by the name of Israel’s ancient foes — the Philistines. *Palestina* was the Latin word for Philistine; Palestine is the Anglicized form of *Palestina*. Hadrian renamed Judea as Palestine out of anti-Semitic rage and hatred for the Jews. From that point, the region that encompasses Israel was called “Palestine” and its residents referred to themselves as “Palestinian Arabs” and “Palestinian Jews.” It is not historically accurate to refer to the Promised Land as “Palestine” during Bible times. Most people today who call the Israel of the Bible “Palestine” do so because they don’t know any better; the rest use the term out of political and racial spite for the Jewish people.

Most hate comes from inaccurate information. Point given above, considering the historical tidbit that the word “Palestine” wasn’t invented until the second century A.D. And why would Arabs call themselves anything beginning with a “P” when they don’t have a “P” in their alphabet? — David

P.S. See how DNA reveals the Philistines’ origins on [p.26](#). ★

Emphasizing the Mission

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



Zola would often interject, “If the Lord tarries” while speculating about what’s to unfold for mankind. Well, the Lord has tarried long enough for Zola’s memory to gradually fade for many in our program’s audience. Longtime viewers recall him fondly and request reruns of his teaching, which we love to include. New viewers, however, wonder at the ministry’s ongoing connection to him.

Credible Advice

Earlier this year, an astute ZLMer wrote that it’s time for Zola Levitt Ministries to evolve away from a person (Zola) and emphasize his spiritual mission. As a business management major who took just three marketing and advertising courses,* I’ve been contemplating that unsolicited, but credible, advice.

Shortly after my father, Zola, went on to his heavenly reward in 2006, the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) explained their policy of discontinuing

programming from ministries who’ve lost their founders. Perhaps our subsequent audition tapes featuring Dr. Jeffrey Seif or Myles Weiss would have met various broadcasters’ requirements and more effectively communicated our Bible teaching’s appeal if we had updated the TV program’s name when we changed teachers, as many other ministries have done.



top: Dr. Jeff Seif
bottom: Myles Weiss



“Who’s Zola Levitt?”

These days, when our TV airtime buyer talks to prospective broadcasters for *Zola Levitt Presents*, the subject arises, “How long has Zola been gone?” and sometimes even, “Who’s Zola Levitt?” **Answering the latter question begins by explaining Zola’s message about Yeshua and Believers’ Jewish roots.** An authentic response invokes the man’s calling more than his charisma or celebrity. Meanwhile, 13 years later, our Bible teaching stays on point despite our ever-growing array of spokespeople, theologians, and studio hosts. (Please see “The Bearded Bible Bothers” on p. 15.)

Zola typically signed his ministry newsletters, “Your messenger.” His vision for our outreach would be for

(continued next page)

* Fortunately, the ministry’s producer and airtime buyer, Berg Productions, has a team of veteran media experts to serve the ministry.

his successor messengers to continue revitalizing; to fulfill The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19–20) and proclaim Israel’s eternal relevance and Christianity’s Old Testament heritage.

During my recent discussion with David Hitt, the chairman of this ministry’s board, he wisely advised caution in altering the presentation of our God-directed focus. It makes sense, of course, to proceed with solid counsel, as always.

What Do You Say?

With the new year approaching, what better time to consider some improvements? Perhaps *Levitt Letter* subscribers can offer advice on how much more change is appropriate at this juncture. What would you say, Dear Reader, about developing a sister website for www.levitt.com and possibly renaming this monthly news magazine? Should we improve on our fish-menorah logo or leave well enough alone? What other updates would you suggest are suitable? We value your input

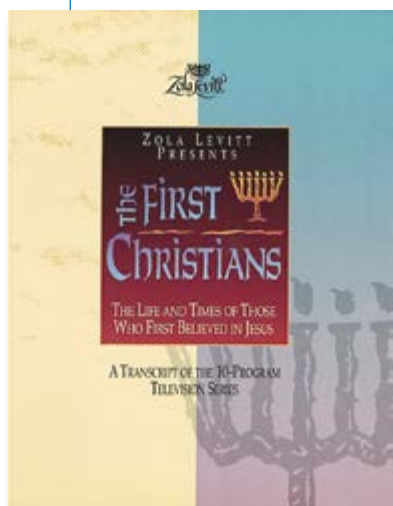
as we make these decisions.

ZLM’s ongoing metamorphosis should amount to a win-win proposition — a way to recover viewers we’ve lost from bygone broadcasters by attracting broader segments of audiences everywhere.

Speaking of Zola ...

Speaking of honoring our founder’s legacy, the August *Levitt Letter* describes four DVD titles that commemorate Zola’s lifetime work for the Lord — available for your personal library at store.levitt.com/DZH or viewable for free at levitt.tv.

Thanks to your loyal financial support, this ministry has the wherewithal to adapt as long as we follow the Lord’s leading. Much prayer has gone into the decisions we’re making about exciting changes on the horizon. We certainly covet your prayers as much as ever. Meanwhile, we must remember where our organization came from along with the Message we’re divinely called to continue delivering. ★



[The First Christians](#) transcript by Zola Levitt

Zola explores the Jewish customs of Jesus’ day to better understand how the earliest Believers lived, those with whom He chose to live on Earth. The series of the same name was just updated and is currently airing on *Zola Levitt Presents*. This transcript offers a means of getting Zola’s teaching into your personal library early. The series music is available on the 8-album collection [The Works II: More of Zola’s Songs](#) on four CDs.



ZLM Bulletin Board

Israel Bonds

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon observed: "Purchasing an Israel Bond shows your solidarity and helps finance the future of the Jewish State. More than just a good investment, it allows us to invest in critical infrastructure projects." By purchasing a bond, you become a partner in building what is truly God's country. Warren Buffett noted that he would have purchased "a perpetual bond if you had offered one. I believe Israel is going to be around forever." For info on rates, please contact: Israel Bonds, 641 Lexington Avenue 9th Floor, New York, NY 10022, (800) 229-9650 www.israelbonds.com



The Bearded Bible Brothers

Joshua and Caleb are Messianic Believers and brothers who work at Berg Productions, the company that produces and distributes our TV show. They have created dozens of 3- to 6-minute enlightening videos on various Bible topics. Check them out on our ministry's YouTube channel. You can see the growing collection of their videos at <https://tinyurl.com/ZLP-BBB>. The first one, at the bottom, is entitled, "Meet Joshua and Caleb."

Connect Your TV to the WWW

Roku lets "cord cutters" who say goodbye to cable and satellite TV watch *Zola Levitt Presents* on their televisions. A Roku box gives wireless access (via the Internet) to 1,500+ channels and 200,000+ movies and TV episodes. Once you add the Zola Levitt Ministries channel (on your free Roku account), you can watch episodes of ZLP on your big-screen TV. Roku even supports closed captions. It is easy to use and the most economical way to watch our program, other than the [scheduled broadcast](#) or [levitt.tv](#). Please see [levitt.com/roku](#).



FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

I'd Like to Give, But ...

describes a common concern about making charitable gifts. It also presents alternative ways to give other than writing a check. Among the ideas, you may find the solution to meeting your own obligations while also making the contribution you'd like to give. This free pamphlet touches on considerations such as cash on hand, retirement planning, and providing for heirs. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #2.



"Come Home!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See [page 36](#) for details



The Revelation of God

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



“I will put you in the cleft of the rock;
 I will cover you with My hand.” (Exod. 33:22)

דְּ	עַלְיָ	כִּפִּי	וְשָׂכַחְתִּי	הַצֹּר	בְּנֶקֶת	וְשָׂמְתֵנִי											
(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
ah	ley	kha	kha	pee	ve	sa	koh	tee	ha	tzoor	be	neek	raht	ve	sahm	tee	kha
over	you	My	hand	I	will	cover	the	rock	in	the	cleft	[of]	I	will	put	you	

When Moses asked the LORD, “Please show me Your glory” (Exod. 33:18), the sages explained that he wanted to reconcile God’s supreme power and goodness despite the prevalence of evil in the world. God answered, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim before you My name (יהוה) ...but,” He said, “you cannot see My face, for man shall not see Me and live” (Exod. 33:19–20). The early sages interpret God’s answer to mean that once we encounter God’s goodness and love (defined by the essential name יהוה), we must trust that what is beyond our understanding nevertheless works for our ultimate good, even if its purpose may be unknown to us now (Rom. 8:28).

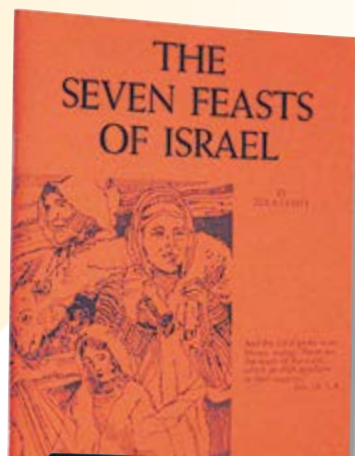
The LORD said both “I will make My goodness manifest to you,” and “you cannot see Me and live,” which means that we “see through a glass darkly” as we sojourn in this world (1 Cor. 13:12). God *manifests*, yet still we can’t fully see. **In this life you may stand near God in the “cleft of the rock,” on the very mountaintop of revelation, but you will still be in a cloud of unknowing** (Exod. 33:22–23). Nevertheless, God promises to shelter you with His hand; He will provide you a place of refuge and the strength to keep trusting despite incomprehensible times of testing.

“We speak the wisdom of God, *hidden in a mystery* (ἐν μυστηρίῳ τῆν ἀποκακρυμμένην), that God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had known it, they would not have crucified *the LORD of Glory* (τὸν κύριον τῆς δόξης). But as it is written [in Isaiah 64:4], ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard and no one’s heart has imagined all the things that God has prepared for those who love Him,’ but God has revealed them to us by His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God” (1 Cor. 2:7–10). The “hidden wisdom” of God is Yeshua, who is the very LORD of Glory (יהוה הַקְּבוֹד), crucified for the atoning sacrifice and salvation of the world. (Note that Paul here clearly identifies Yeshua as YHVH).

The *natural* person (ψυχικός) cannot receive the things of the Spirit, however, for they appear foolish to him; neither can he understand them, because they are spiritually (πνευματικῶς) discerned (1 Cor. 2:14). The glory of God demonstrated in the crucifixion of the Messiah is incomprehensible to both the worldly wisdom of the Greeks and to Jewish Messianic expectation (1 Cor. 1:22–25), **but to those being saved it is the revelation of the power of God.** ★



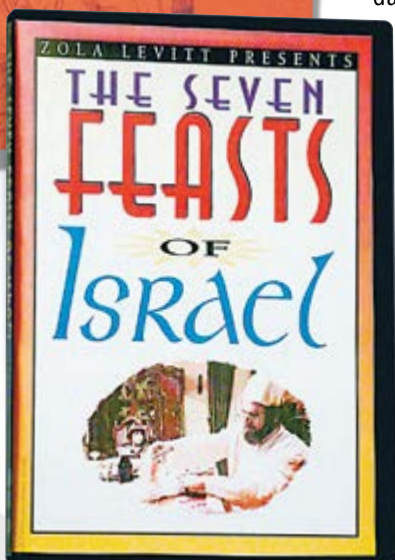
Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection



The Seven Feasts of Israel

study booklet,
teaching CD,
and DVD

7 programs on 2 DVDs



An explanation of the commandments of Jehovah to Moses on Mount Sinai regarding the festival days and their deep significance. The elegant and beautiful system of the special days of holy convocation and how each one has been or will be fulfilled in prophecy.

Passover/Unleavened Bread The Messiah, clearly presented.

First Fruits—The Resurrection The true and elegant origin and meaning of Easter.

Pentecost The real festival of the Harvest, fifteen centuries old when the Holy Spirit came. An uplifting look at a great miracle.

Trumpets The Rapture in its original form.

Atonement An awesome day of confession and repentance.

Tabernacles Thanksgiving, Old Testament style!

Hanukkah/Purim The delightful festivals of joy when Israel rejoices in the blessings of the Lord.



BOUND & GAGGED BY DANA SUMMERS



1 Peter 2:25 "For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls."

ORDER FORM

Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

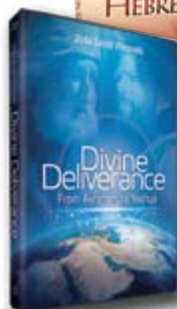
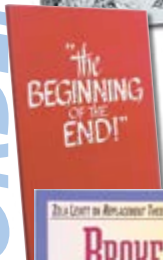
Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	A Christian Love Story	\$3	___
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	\$3	___
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved? (p.23)	\$3	___
___	In My Father's House	\$3	___
___	Israel, My Promised	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming (pictured)	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (p.17)	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Jerusalem Forever (p.36)	\$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	___
___	The Beginning of The End (pictured)	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches: Has the Church Replaced Israel? (Zola on Replacement Theology) (pictured)	\$6	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia/Israel in Prophecy (pictured)	\$10	___
___	The First Christians transcript (p.14)	\$8	___
___	Heaven and Earth	\$18	___
___	In the Footsteps of the Rabbi	\$14	___
___	The Iranian Menace (p.11)	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land	\$2	___
___	Once Through the New Testament	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood	\$16	___
___	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 (pictured)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

Qty.	Title	Price	Total
___	Acts: Then and Now (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos (2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Called Together (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Daniel & the Last Day's Battle (p.20) (8 prog., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Divine Deliverance (pictured) .. (12 prog., 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Eretz Israel (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Ezekiel & MidEast "Piece" (8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Feast of Lights (3 programs, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Journey of Restoration (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Return to Eden (10 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (p.17) .. (7 prog., 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!

To order:

Online:
store.levitt.com

Phone 24/7:
800-966-3377,
ZLM Dallas office:
214-696-8844

Print/tear out this 2-pg. form,
fill out box at right, and mail to:

ZLM, Box 12268
Dallas TX 75225



ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

Studies, Specialty, Etc.

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
___	2-flag Collar Pin (pictured).....	\$2	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.....	\$37 ⁵⁰	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Foot Cream 3.4 oz.....	\$22	_____
___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.....	\$23	_____
___	Drink Koozies (pictured).....	2 for \$5	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5') (p.24).....	\$10	_____
___	Genealogy Chart.....	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut).....	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin.....	\$10	_____
___	Half-shekel Key Chain (pictured & p.23).....	\$10	_____
___	NEW! Jewish Heritage Calendar (5780/2020) (p.33) ...	\$6	_____
___	Messianic Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace.....	\$39	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem.....	\$12	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker..	\$2	_____
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark.....	2 for \$1	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____



Teaching CDs

___	Discovering Our Jewish Roots (pictured)..... (9 CDs)	\$39	_____
___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved? (p.23).....	CD \$7	_____
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel (p.17).....	CD \$7	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	Israel, My Love..... (Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	Beloved Thief..... (Zola's Musical CD)	\$12	_____
___	The Works..... (Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	The Works II (p.14). (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.

Shipping & Handling Chart

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.

Name _____

(please print)

Shipping Address _____

Billing Address (if different) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (optional) _____

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

Donor # _____ Phone No. (_____) _____

(see number above your name on mailing label)

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

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____ Card ID# required _____



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Subtotal _____

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UPS shipping (\$4 extra) _____

Rush! (\$5 extra) _____

8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____

Donation? _____

Total _____

↑
To Index

↓
Back to p. 22

Daniel and the Last Days Battle for Planet Earth

DVD set

8 programs on 2 DVDs

Jeffrey Seif compares today's news to yesterday's prophecies, demonstrating that we live in ominous times. Co-host Sandra Levitt gives key insights to world events with a Word-inspired perspective. Zola contributes with classic teaching episodes, interview segments, and his timeless music.

The Personal Battle Focuses on Daniel's personal faith and piety, and underscores the importance of individuals being "ready" at day's end. Considers what was on Daniel's mind and in his heart.

The Battle for Time History is not spiraling out of control, but is moving in accordance with a predetermined plan. Daniel's prophecies mention Jesus' first coming, His death, the destruction of Jerusalem, the re-gathering of Israel, the still-to-come Tribulation period, the Messiah's second coming, and the final battle.

The Culture Battle Those troubled by today's headlines will appreciate Daniel's ancient prophecies of a "Western" (Greek) culture squaring off against an "Eastern" (Persian) culture. These connections prove both interesting and alarming.

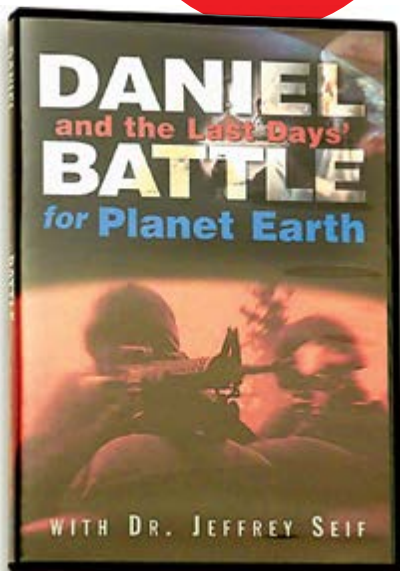
The Spiritual Battle That we "wrestle not with flesh and blood" becomes apparent as we consider the emergence and naming of "archangels"—both Gabriel and Michael. Here we discuss the roles and functions of angels, particularly their service in helping Believers personally and Israel politically.

The Leader of the Evil Empire Characteristics of the antiChrist's person and administration are considered in this segment, along with a brief description of his limits and eventual demise.

The Battle Plan This program considers the antiChrist's temporary dominion and his displacement when Messiah returns. Daniel notes the devil's influence over the world, informing us that his day will come—at the end.

The Battle Royal, I The dreaded "Battle of Armageddon" is explored as we examine Daniel's prophetic assessment of the world's final countdown and conflict.

The Battle Royal, II Here we follow Christ's triumphant entrance onto the stage of the human drama and witness the consequent displacement of wickedness. After we explore the prophetic words of John and Zechariah, viewers' hearts will warm as we say, "He is coming soon—and we must be ready!"





Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com

From E.F. (New Zealand): Jeffrey Seif's book *The Iranian Menace* is the most Scripturally sound and helpful book on Gog and Magog and Armageddon that I have ever read... and I have read many. One single major End Time conflict, well identified and explained, when many try to identify multiple wars. I hope others read it, too.

The cover article's statement that "there's a 10% Iran and a 90% Iran" as Iranian hearts turn to Yeshua adds proof that we can't believe the images in the news. Many Iranians who participate in contrived protests love America, Yeshua, and Israel. Meanwhile, the persecution there (that is actually growing the Church) comes from leaders who will ensure that Iran remains a menace. We've included a description of Dr. Seif's best-selling book *The Iranian Menace* on [p. 11](#) for other readers to see. —Mark

From R.P. (CA): I just finished reading Sarah Liberman's "Worship Wins the War" on your August cover. How inspiring! Now I'm hearing her music on YouTube. I didn't know Messianic worship music even existed, but I love it! More, please.

Thanks for revealing the gold nuggets awaiting those who search "[Sarah Liberman](#)" at YouTube.com. Sarah is not only multi-talented (as you can tell by her writing and singing), but she's also fearless in pursuing the Lord's work. —Kirsten



Hunters and gatherers

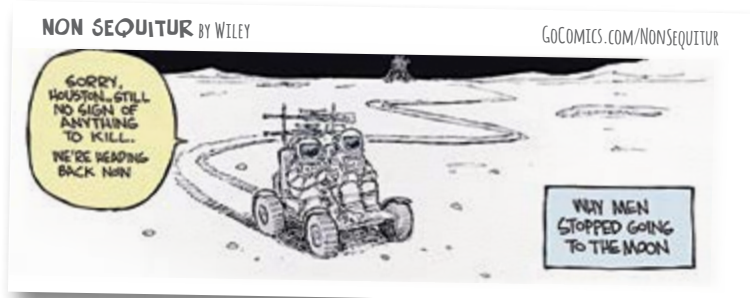
Dear ZLM,

Wiley's *Non Sequitur* cartoon ([p. 12 of August 2019 Levitt Letter](#)): Two astronauts on the moon's surface are pictured communicating, "Sorry, Houston... still no sign of anything to kill. We're heading back now." Alongside is the illustrator's wry comment, "Why men stopped going to the moon."

Seriously? Since when was Apollo's mission to kill anything it found on the lunar surface? As the country celebrated the 50th anniversary of our space program's most successful achievement, Zola Levitt Ministries stoops to disrespect America, NASA, and the brave men who risked — and some lost — their lives in fulfilling a centuries-long dream of mankind. — W. deP.

Dear W. deP.,

If you'd rejoin the editing staff, we could discuss the merits of these cartoons and jokes before publication. Far from contempt for modern probes into the unknown,



(continued next page)

Wiley's message here is that men, and explorers in particular, are hunters. The ability to secure provisions has always factored into expeditions beyond known frontiers. The recent Moon landing anniversary offered an opportunity to reflect and connect that primal concern.

Come back, Bill. I miss your thoughtful input. — Editor

Compliments and criticism

Dear ZLM,

Your ministry is the last truly Christian program on cable TV. All others have gone after Baal-Mammon. Just as Israel went whoring at the high places, so the church in America has lusted after Baal-Mammon like the whore it is. Judgment begins at the house of God. Sodom and Gomorrah were holier than today's USA! Keep going; we viewers need you desperately! — Albert

Dear Albert,

That's quite a mix of compliments and harsh criticism. We're thankful that you hold our program in such high esteem, and I hope you realize that ZLM will always stand with Israel past, present, and future, despite any leadership flaws.

Regarding shortcomings in America: Our son put his life on the line while serving in the U.S. Army defending ideals that Sodom and Gomorrah would never understand. Personally, I'm thankful to live in America. Let's pray in agreement for a badly needed revival across the land. —Kirsten

Dear, Albert,

Though many Believers may appreciate your zealotry, you might want to refrain from making a Holy Land pilgrimage. 😊 You seem a likely candidate for the affliction known as The Jerusalem Syndrome (yes, it's real). Regardless, I'm sending you a complimentary pair of our ministry's "Stand with Israel / Don't Be Lukewarm" koozies, offered on [p. 19](#). Peace be with you, and thanks for dropping a line. —Mark



Islam's MO

Dear ZLM,

Re the "Wake Up" warning from a Muslim to Christians ([p. 1, August 2019 LL](#)): Review of the Koran shows a radical mind as a method of operation in Islam. Muslims first offer to let "infidels" comply or pay penalties/taxes. Subsequently, the directive changes to join or else, and be in submission no matter what. To these issues, their book is the final say. These instructions apply to *all* Muslims, not just to "radicals." — A.J.H.

Dear A.J.H.,

After reviewing the Koran, you now understand and express well why God requires this ministry and all Christians to reach out to *everyone* with the Good News of Messiah's love and offer of salvation for every human being. — David

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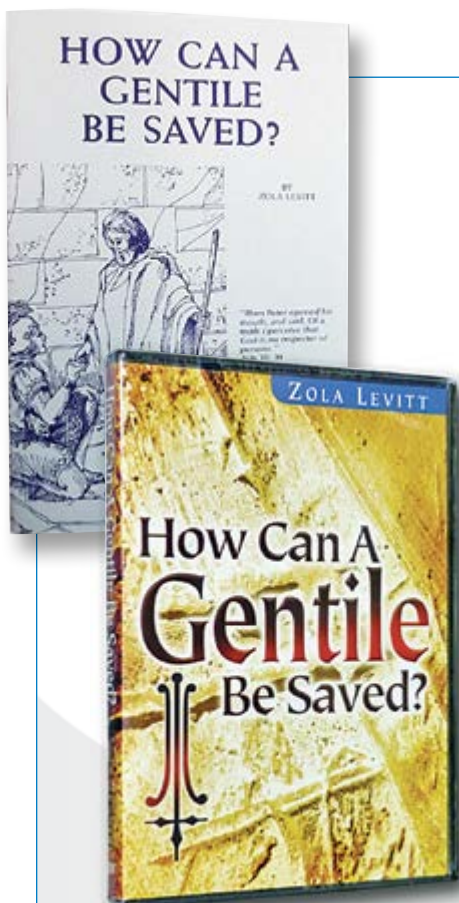
Worth more than a ½ shekel

Dear ZLM,

I notice that your list of teaching materials features the ½-shekel keychain. Is this the commemorative ½-shekel Temple Tax Coin that features Donald Trump’s silhouette? This coin was struck in 99.9% silver for the U.S. relocating its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. — H.H. (WY)

Dear H.H.,

No, our [half-shekel keychain](#) (**on right**, price: \$10 plus \$5 shipping) does not have a 99.9% silver coin, or a silhouette of President Trump (or of famed Israeli actress Gal Gadot). The value of our polished, authentic Israeli coin — which is not in mint condition because it has been in circulation — is that it symbolizes its inscription of Ex. 30:13–16 and Eph. 2:8–9. It is reminiscent of the days when children of Israel, rich or poor, gave a half-shekel coin to make an atonement for their souls. Now, however, you can put your half-shekel in your pocket, because salvation is free! —Mark ★



[How Can a Gentile Be Saved?](#)

[study booklet](#) & [teaching CD](#)
by Zola Levitt

As a Jew, Zola was constantly asked, “How did you get saved?” — as though Jewish salvation is hard to find in Scripture. In this thought-provoking Bible study, Zola turned the tables by asking, “How Can a *Gentile* Be Saved?” An interesting and unique look at grafting non-Jews into God’s plan, the study booklet is one of 12 in Zola’s Classic Study Library.

(This and many titles also available as eBooks.)



What Is the Feast of Tabernacles?



BY AARON EBY (r) First Fruits of Zion (FFoZ.org)

Every year, throngs of Christians from all over the world flood the streets of Jerusalem, waving flags of Israel and the nations from which they come. It is a beautiful expression of solidarity for Israel and love for the Jewish people.

Many of these Christians are inspired by Biblical prophecy. According to Zechariah, there will come a time when people from all nations *"will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles"* (Zechariah 14:16). But what is the Feast of Tabernacles?

Of Booths, Harvests and the Exodus

The Feast of Tabernacles, sometimes called the Feast of Booths, is one of the Biblical holidays described in Leviticus 23. Jewish people more commonly refer to it by its Hebrew name: *Sukkot*.

"Tabernacles" and "booths" are English for *sukkot*. The singular form is *sukkah*. A *sukkah* is a shade from the sun made from readily available

materials. For example, during the late summer harvest, a laborer works through the morning. Then as the oppressive midday sun bears down, he takes a break. Using leftover plant stalks, leaves, and branches, he constructs a simple shelter to provide him with shade.

One traveling through Israel's countryside during the harvest season in Biblical times would no doubt have seen many of these little shelters in fields, vineyards, and orchards. But they are not just for harvest. Jonah also built such a *sukkah* to sit in as he waited to see what would come of Nineveh (Jonah 4:5). Succoth, where Jacob built *sukkot* for his cattle on his journeys, is named after them (Genesis 33:17).

When the ancient Israelites emerged from Egypt, they left their houses behind. Without tents to protect themselves, they would have gathered whatever brush they could find to keep the sun off their heads. God Himself also sheltered them from the sun's rays; His presence was the *sukkah* they needed!



credit:
Gilabrand,
(Wikimedia Creative
Commons)

top: *The Feast of Tabernacles, in The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation* by Charles Foster, Hartford, Conn., 1873

left: Etrog (citron) and silver etrog box used on the Jewish holiday of *Sukkot*



(continued next page)



Because of its uses, the *sukkah* is a symbol for both harvest and sojourning.

The Institution of This Holiday in the Bible

Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths [Sukkot] to the LORD. — Leviticus 23:34

Leviticus 23:39–43 describes *Sukkot* this way:

- *Sukkot* is a happy seven-day holiday.
- It starts on the 15th day of the 7th month.
- It is connected to the harvest.
- The 1st & 8th days are days of rest.
- One should rejoice using four kinds of plants.
- It is an everlasting commandment.
- Jewish people in Israel are commanded to dwell in a *sukkah* for seven days.
- It is a commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt.

Today Jewish people all over the world construct *sukkot* to celebrate this joyous festival. They add decorations and furnishings to make it feel festive and comfortable. Depending on the weather and climate, one might eat meals or even sleep in the *sukkah* each night.

The four plants mentioned — identified as a citron fruit, palm branch, myrtle branches, and willow branches — are bound together. Each day, participants shake them in each direction as an expression of prayer and worship.

On the seventh day, called *Hoshana Rabbah*, Jews offer prayers for rain. In ancient times, these prayers accompanied a ceremony in which water from the Pool of Siloam was poured on the Temple altar.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus taught in the Temple during *Sukkot* (John 7:2–14). It was on the seventh day, *Hoshana Rabbah*, that He said, *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water'"* (John 7:37–38).

Sukkot may contain symbols of the past, but it is a future-focused holiday. It occurs as the calendar culminates: after the harvest, in the *seventh* month, on the fifteenth day (the full moon), and lasting for seven days. It depicts the Messianic future of peace and God's provision.

As Zechariah prophesied, one day all nations will flow to Jerusalem for the festival. So why not start now?

Yet another reason Christians should study and know our Jewish roots. How remarkable that such an ancient, joyous Old Testament holiday portrays Biblical prophecy unfolding. God's *moedim* (appointed times) are beautiful and meaningful. — David ★



Genesis 3:7 *"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons"*
... or perhaps a nice thatch roof for a *sukkah*. 😊



DNA Shows Origins of Philistines

SCIENCE: BY DAVID LAZARUS (r) IsraelToday.co.il



credit: Melissa Alaj / courtesy Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon

DNA in skeletons excavated at the ancient city of Ashkelon (present-day Israel) shows that Philistines came from southern Europe

New DNA testing has shown that the Philistines, that arch-enemy and nemesis of Israel, came to the Land from Europe more than 3,000 years ago.

The giant Goliath was a Philistine. So was Delilah, who entrapped legendary warrior Samson. They proved to be among Israel's most dangerous adversaries, yet for all their appearances in the Biblical texts, the origins of this seafaring people, and why they came to this land, remained a mystery ... until now.

Findings from DNA samples taken from skeletons buried beneath Philistine houses in Ashkelon, one of the five main Philistine cities in southern Israel, now show that **the Philistines came to Israel from southern Europe**.

"Our study has shown for the first time that the Philistines immigrated to this region in the 12th century B.C.," said Daniel Master, director of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, the coastal city where the first ever Philistine cemetery was found.

The Biblical Record

The Bible says that the Philistines originated in Caphtor, the Hebrew name for the island of Crete and the whole Aegean region (Amos 9:7; Jeremiah 47:4). We know that the Philistines were an aggressive, warmongering people who occupied territory southwest of Israel between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. The name "Philistine" comes from the Hebrew word *Philistia*. (See "Ask the Chaplain" on [p. 12](#) for the mutation to "Palestine.")



Historic map of Crete created in Paris in 1719

Philistines were also considered foreigners who immigrated to the region, and the Israelites frequently referred to them as "uncircumcised." Swine remains

(continued next page)



uncovered in Philistine cities also point to the Philistines coming from beyond the borders of Israel.

The Scientific Record

Testing the DNA taken from 10 Bronze and Iron Age skeleton samples uncovered in the Philistine cemetery in Ashkelon revealed that the Philistines left their southern Mediterranean homelands during a time of flux," Master explained. "It was the period of the Trojan War, and with the collapse of the 'heroic empires' in the 13th and 12th centuries B.C., these Philistine migrants sought a new life in a new land. They settled primarily in five cities: Ashkelon, Gaza, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron, along or close to the southern coast of modern Israel."

According to Michal Feldman, lead author of the Ashkelon cemetery study, "This ancestral component derived from Europe, or to be more specific, from southern Europe, so the ancestors of the Philistines must have traveled across the Mediterranean and arrived in Ashkelon sometime between the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age."

credit: Malissa Ahr/courtesy Leon Levy Expedition To Ashkelon



Skeleton excavated at the ancient city of Ashkelon

It appears that it was not only a new life these war-mongering Philistines sought in the Land of Israel. From the Bible we learn that the Philistines proved a resilient adversary in battle, for they fought with iron weapons and chariots. 1 Sam. 17:7 reports that they came with 30,000 chariots, and Goliath's spearhead alone weighed 15 pounds! **This was the Age of**

Iron, and these Philistines arrogantly came to Israel intending to invade and conquer the "land of milk and honey." But Scripture confirms that ultimately, it is not by chariots and not by horses that victory comes, but by calling on the name of the God of Israel (Psalm 20:7).

We, too, heard of the Philistines coming from Crete — a memorable and relevant stop on our Greek islands cruise with Zola Tours. Please come on a [Bible study tour](#) next fall to get more of this fascinating story! Note also that the Bible is once again proven to be accurate. — Kirsten ★

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS



(For an enlightening take on false prophets, see Zola's article on [p. 4.](#))



Nano-Vaccine for Skin Cancer



MEDICINE: BY HANA LEVI JULIAN (r) JewishPress.com



Researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU) have developed a novel nano-vaccine for melanoma, the most aggressive type of skin cancer. Their innovative approach has so far proven effective in preventing the development of melanoma in mouse models and in treating primary tumors and metastases that result from melanoma.

Research Focus

The focus of the research is on a nanoparticle that serves as the basis for the new vaccine. The study was led by Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, chair of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and head of the Laboratory for Cancer Research and Nanomedicine at TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine, and Prof. Helena Florindo of the University of Lisbon while on sabbatical at the Satchi-Fainaro lab at TAU. The results were published on August 5 in *Nature Nanotechnology*.

Melanoma develops in the skin cells that produce melanin or skin pigment. "The vaccine approach, which has proven very effective against various viral diseases, has not materialized yet against cancer," said Prof. Satchi-Fainaro. But the study shows that it is possible to produce a nano-vaccine against melanoma and sensitize the immune system to immunotherapies.

An Innovative Approach

The researchers harnessed tiny particles, about 170 nanometers in size, made of a biodegradable polymer. Within each particle, they "packed" two peptides — short chains of amino acids. Then they injected the nanoparticles (or "nano-vaccines") into a mouse with melanoma.

"The nanoparticles acted just like known vaccines for viral-borne diseases," Prof. Satchi-Fainaro explained. "They stimulated the immune system of the mice, and the immune cells learned to identify and attack cells containing the two peptides. This meant that, **from now on, the immune system of the immunized mice will attack melanoma cells if and when they appear in the body.**"

The researchers then examined the effectiveness of the vaccine under three different conditions.

PROPHYLACTIC EFFECTS: The vaccine was injected into healthy mice, and an injection of melanoma cells followed. "The vaccine prevented the disease," says Prof. Satchi-Fainaro.

(continued next page)



TREATING A PRIMARY TUMOR:

A combination of the vaccine and immunotherapy treatments was tested on melanoma-bearing mice. The synergistic treatment significantly delayed the progression of the disease and greatly extended the lives of all treated mice.



From left, Prof. Helena Florindo, Dr. João Conniot, Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, and Dr. Anna Scomparin at TAU

METASTATIC TREATMENT: Finally, the researchers successfully validated their approach on tissue taken from patients with melanoma brain metastases, suggesting that the nano-vaccine can be used to treat brain metastases as well.

The vaccine approach “opens the door for effective treatment of melanoma, even in the most advanced stages of the disease,” concluded Prof. Satchi-Fainaro. “We believe that our platform may also be suitable for other types of cancer and that our work is a solid foundation for the development of other cancer nano-vaccines.” ★

Crossword October 2019: *First Christians, PART 2 (KJV)*

(answers on [p. 35](#))

ACROSS

3. And as ye go, ___... (Matt. 10:7)
6. ...and shalt wash them with ___. (Exodus 29:4)
7. ...Well done, thou good and __ servant... (Matt. 25:21)
8. Two men shall be in the ___... (Luke 17:36)
10. Hear, O __: The Lord our God is one Lord: (Deut. 6:4)
13. The Lord bless thee, and __ thee: (Numbers 6:24)
14. But ye are a chosen ___... (1 Peter 2:9)
16. Boast not against the ___... (Romans 11:18)

DOWN

1. ...For there is no __ but of God... (Romans 13:1)
2. ...but the __ giveth life. (2 Cor. 3:6)
4. And the __ that went before... (Matt. 21:9)
5. Every __ shall be exalted... (Isaiah 40:4)
6. ...but gather the __ into my barn. (Matt. 13:30)
9. ...whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, ___... (Matt. 21:22)
11. ___ is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. (Matt. 23:39)
12. For as in __ all die... (1 Cor. 15:22)
13. And I appoint unto you a ___... (Luke 22:29)
15. ...My kingdom is not of this ___... (John 18:36)





SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

An Israel Antiquities Authority-dug tunnel in Jerusalem

Jerusalem's "Pilgrimage Road"

UnitedWithIsrael.org

Imagine striding up the same stone path on which millions of people walked to arrive at the Holy Temple in Jerusalem during Biblical times. It is known as the "Pilgrimage Road."

That fantasy is about to be reality as Israel prepares to open to the public an excavation project that has taken nearly a decade to complete. This new archaeological attraction will permit visitors to literally see the ashes of the Jewish people's Holy Temple, which was burned to the ground by Roman invaders in A.D. 70.

Get an early glance at this amazing discovery when you watch [this clip](#).

Israel Residency Reward for Palestinian Family

i24News.tv

A Palestinian man who saved the children of a West Bank rabbi in the aftermath of a 2016 deadly terror attack that killed their father has been awarded residency in Israel. Rabbi Miki Mark was murdered in a shooting that also seriously wounded his wife, Chava, and injured his two children.

The Palestinian rescuer and his wife, who request anonymity, helped the surviving Mark family escape their overturned vehicle and provided first

aid until first responders arrived on the scene.

A resident of the Hebron area, the Palestinian man initially received a temporary visa to live and work in Israel after receiving death threats in his West Bank hometown. Following a campaign by several Israelis, including settler leaders, and a television report about him, he and his wife and son were recently awarded Israeli residency.

Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh Deri praised him for his "selfless, noble" actions and said he would now be able to begin a new life in Israel, presenting him with his identity documents.



(facebook)

left: Rabbi Miki Mark

bottom: The children of Rabbi Miki Mark mourn at a service prior to his funeral



credit: Hadas Panush/FLASH90

(continued next page)



West Bank settler leader Yossi Dagan, who campaigned on behalf of the Palestinian hero, said it was the “moral and righteous thing to do for a man who risked his life to save Jews.”

Multinational Earthquake Drill

[Jewish News Syndicate / JNS.org](http://JewishNewsSyndicate.com)

The Israeli Navy led a first-of-its-kind multinational exercise dedicated to earthquake response this summer, in a drill that brought representatives from 10 naval forces and NATO to the Haifa Port.

credit: IDF spokesperson's unit



“Mighty Waves,” the Navy’s large-scale multinational exercise simulating the aftermath of a major earthquake

The week-long “Mighty Waves 2019” exercise, which included ships and personnel from the United States, France, and Greece, and representatives from the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Italy, Cyprus, Chile, and NATO, was the largest-ever naval exercise led by the Jewish state.

Haifa’s Rambam Medical Center also participated in the drill.

The navies simulated a 7.5-magnitude quake centered in northern Israel with tens of thousands dead, wounded, or homeless, and extensive damage, including hospitals and infrastructure such as water and power supplies.

Goals of the exercise included establishing a “sea gate” to enable the safe passage of humanitarian aid to Israel, the coordination of multiple national and international organizations, and search and rescue operations at sea. The drill operated on the assumption that most of the humanitarian aid would arrive by sea rather than air, given the greater storage capacities of sea vessels and Israel’s hostile neighbors.

It also factored in possible damage to the country’s ports. Simulation scenarios were developed by Israel’s National Emergency Management Authority, known by its Hebrew acronym RACHEL, based on the earthquake scenarios in Haiti in 2010 and Japan in 2011.

Israel is situated on the Great Syria-Africa Rift, a fault line running along the border between Israel and Jordan. The last major quake along that fault was a 6.2 magnitude temblor in 1927. Seismologists have warned that Israel is due for another tectonic event. One occurs approximately every 100 years. ★

THE ARGYLE SWEATER BY SCOTT HILBURN



Gold Jewelry Excavated in Mt. Zion National Park



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY DAVID ISRAEL (r) JewishPress.com

Archaeologists with the University of North Carolina in Charlotte working along the southern wall of the Old City in the National Park around the walls of ancient Jerusalem recently discovered the remains of the Crusaders' siege that led to the fall of Jerusalem 920 years ago.

A small building from the same period was excavated in the same location, with gold jewelry, pearls, and precious stones embedded in its floor, alongside two crosses and a number of arrowheads.

The Crusaders

The Crusader siege that lasted five weeks ended on July 15, 1099 with the conquest of the city by Christian forces; the slaughter of its Jewish and Muslim defenders lasted another week.

Although most of the Crusader forces concentrated on the northern side of the city, one of the forces led by Raymond of Saint-Gilles and his men from Provence in southern France tried to break into the city from the direction of Mount Zion on the southwestern side.

The chroniclers tell us that Raymond's men encountered a problem when they tried to bring their siege tower closer to the wall of the city: There was a moat between the city and the siege forces. Raymond paid his men with gold to fill the moat under the cover of night and guide the siege tower to the wall. The efforts to plug the moat were successful, but the Muslims and the Jews set the tower on fire.



The excavation near the Old City's southern wall



credit: Virginia Winters courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Jewel discovered in the floor of a small building near the area of 1099 fighting

(continued next page)

credit: Virginia Winters courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority



The moat, which until now was known only from descriptions of the Crusader chroniclers, was unearthed, showing evidence of fighting. The moat was about 50 feet wide and about 12 feet deep.



“It’s the closest you can get to time traveling,” said archaeologist Rafi Lewis, co-director of the Mount Zion team and an academic at the University of Haifa and Ashkelon Academic College. The other co-directors are *Zola Levitt Presents* contributors Shimon Gibson, a professor of practice in UNC Charlotte’s History Department, and James Tabor, a UNC Charlotte professor of religious studies.

Reconstructing History

“This is a significant contribution to our knowledge of the Crusader period,” said Dr. Lewis, who is an expert on Crusader and battlefield archaeology. “Because we found the moat mentioned in the sources, we are able to reconstruct the line of the fighting front.”

The gold jewel (*pictured*), along with the other important findings, was found by archaeologists who carefully exposed it from the layers of soil where it was embedded. It was suggested that the jewel may be Egyptian in origin and could have been used as a complex earring that was also used to close a woman’s veil.

In addition to these exciting findings, the excavators uncovered the remains of buildings from the First and Second Temple Periods, as well as the extension of the city’s Byzantine *Cardo Maximus* avenue. ★



Jewish Heritage Calendar 5780 (2019–2020)

With the Seven Feasts of Israel in mind, imagine the usefulness of our delightful and inexpensive Jewish Heritage Calendar. This beautiful calendar began in September and spans 13 months, through September 2020. It provides the dates of all the Biblical feasts and Sabbaths plus the names of the months, the Holy Days, and all the rest through English phonetics like those in our monthly Hebrew Lesson in the *Levitt Letter*. Enjoy Biblical feast graphics, Hebraic regalia pictures, and inspiration.



Repercussions for Defending Israel

BY TOVAH LAZAROFF (r) JPost.com



credit: Sarah Idan/Social Media/Via Reuters

Miss Iraq, Sarah Idan (R), in a selfie with Miss Israel, Adar Gandelsman (L), at the Miss Universe 2017 pageant in Las Vegas

Former Miss Iraq Sarah Idan has turned to Twitter to halt a drive in Baghdad to strip her of her Iraqi citizenship after she spoke in defense of Israel at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva last June.

In a separate speech at the UNHRC, she also spoke out against Iraqi human rights abuses. Idan, who now lives in California, also made waves in November 2017 when she posed for an Instagram photo (*above*) with Miss Israel Adar Gandelsman at the Miss Universe beauty pageant.

Idan tweeted:

"2 weeks ago Iraq denied my statements at the UN that I don't have freedom to speak about Israel; now they're taking my citizenship. This is inhumane. I'm speechless..."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's son Yair immediately tweeted his support for Idan. "We love you in Israel! you have a lot of fans in Israel, America and around the world!" he wrote.

Idan tweeted back: "Thank you, Iraq wants to do to me what they did to Iraqi Jews back in Farhoud: take my citizenship & not allow me to return. I must fight to keep it cause this is a fight not just for my rights but also against antisemitism. Hope both Israel & US step in to fight this decision."

She also appealed through Twitter to U.S. president Donald Trump to pick up her cause. Referencing her work as a translator with U.S. troops in Iraq, she wrote:

"I fought beside US to end tyranny & deliver democracy to Iraq. Freedom of speech is the base of democracy & must be protected."

UN Watch director-general Hillel Neuer explained that it is illegal to stop citizenship over a UN speech and that he was writing to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on her behalf.

Idan is the recipient of this year's UN Watch's Ambassador for Peace Award. ★



JEWISH HUMOR, ETC.



A cheerful heart is good medicine—
Proverbs 17:22

Children writing to God (part 2)

- Dear God, My brothers told me about being born, but it doesn't sound right. They are just kidding, aren't they?
- Dear God, I don't think anybody could be a better God. Well, I just want you to know that I am not saying this because you are God already.
- Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother and me.
- Dear God, I want to be just like my daddy when I grow up, but not with so much hair all over.
- Dear God, Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that, or was it an accident?
- Dear God, We read that Thomas Edison made light. But in Hebrew school, we learned that you did it. So I bet he stole your idea. ★

Dry Bones

Anti-ballistic Missile Test



(See related article on [p. 7.](#))

Answer Key for October 2019 Crossword ([p.29](#))

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Across:</i> | | <i>Down:</i> | |
| 3. Preach | 10. Israel | 1. Power | 9. Believing |
| 6. Water | 13. Keep | 2. Spirit | 11. Blessed |
| 7. Faithful | 14. Generation | 4. Multitudes | 12. Adam |
| 8. Field | 16. Branches | 5. Valley | 13. Kingdom |
| | | 6. Wheat | 15. World |



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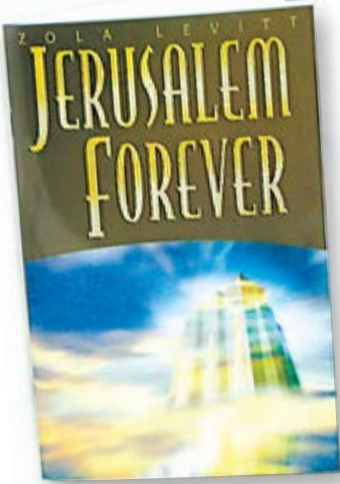
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