



Levitt LETTER

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

inside: What Does
"Hebrew" Mean? p.8



Esther, Purim, and and Why It All (Still) Matters

By Andy Koenig / JewsForJesus.org

Esther — a story of bravery, palace intrigue, and, of course, the origins of Purim — has always held a special place in the hearts of the Jewish people. Yet Esther is often ignored or rejected by those outside the Jewish community. Some common objections have been leveled against the book since ancient times. Fortunately, there are good reasons not only to trust the Book of Esther, but also to find in it guiding principles and lessons for our own lives.

Why is God never mentioned?

Scholars have long set Esther apart from the rest of Hebrew Scripture. Esther concerns human affairs, it does not mention Jews outside Shushan, and — the biggest sticking point for scholars — it does not mention God by name.

But we see everywhere in Esther evidence of a sovereign God at work behind the scenes. We see God's presence if we're willing to entertain the possibility in faith. Why does Esther, a

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REMEMBER:

Purim: Sunset on March 16 to sunset on March 17



Anthony (Tony) Derrick

APRIL 18, 1955—JANUARY 11, 2022

Well done, good and faithful servant!
by Mark Levitt

Shortly after I began working as ZLM's business manager in 1988, Zola and I hired a humble shipping assistant who soon became our shipping manager. Throughout the '90s, whoever ordered teaching materials from our organization received them from Tony Derrick.

Tony, however, steadily aspired to be and do more. In 1994, he graduated with a Master of

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Well done, good and faithful servant! *continued from cover*

Divinity from Criswell College in Dallas, Texas. From 2000–2008, he served as the Zola Tours Travel Manager. Beginning in 2007, he independently arranged and led numerous pastor tours to Israel, Petra, and Greece, while continuing to serve ZLM as a consulting theologian. In 2017, he became

ZLM's interim spokesperson. And through the years, Tony wrote regular articles and Bible studies for the *Personal Letter* and the *Levitt Letter*.

On the evening of January 10, 2022, Tony

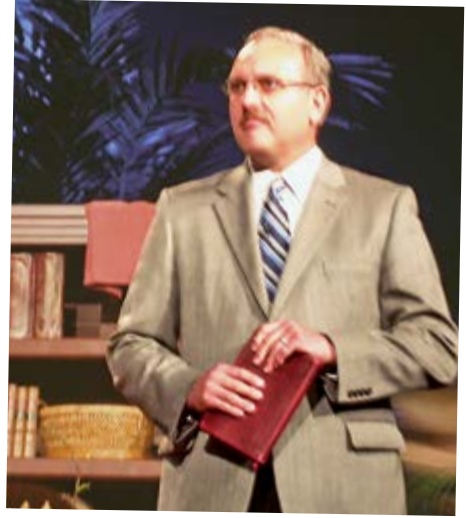
emailed the editor of our *Levitt Letter* that he needed a break from writing because he wasn't feeling well. But before the next morning's breakfast, Tony joined Yeshua, his Savior, in Heaven. He must have heard the Lord say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" (Matthew 25:23)

For over 30 years, I witnessed steady growth in Tony's Christian walk. In addition to being a loving husband, father, and grandfather, he was a

theologian, pastor, praise and worship leader, and Bible teacher. Tony always served cheerfully and capably wherever and however the Lord wanted to use him. He taught at many Biblical sites in Israel when Zola was filming. At Zola's memorial service in 2006, Tony gave the eulogy.



Tony and Jane Derrick introduced in the February 1993 issue of the *Levitt Letter*



Tony giving the eulogy for Zola in 2006

Abraham Lincoln reportedly vowed, "I will prepare, and some day my chance will come." Like Lincoln, Tony prepared; and his opportunity came... again and again. Like Lincoln, it seems Tony's time on Earth was much too short.

Our ministry has experienced a great loss, but we are thankful for this promise: "*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*" (Psalm 34:18). And we are more thankful for the words of Jesus, "*I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die*" (John 11:25–26). While we grieve that Tony now is "*absent from the body,*" we rejoice that he is finally "*at home with the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 5:6–8; see also Philippians 1:23).

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Tony speaking to a tour group



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Tony’s memory lives on not only through stories of the personal impact he had on so many lives, but also through his writing and speaking. A quick search for “Tony Derrick” at levitt.com reveals many articles from and videos involving this gentleman and scholar who had such a tremendous impact during his 66 years on this Earth.

We pray for Jane and the whole Derrick family. May God’s peace that passes all understanding fill their hearts and minds during this time. —David



Tony and Mark at ZLM’s Christmas 2021 office luncheon

Jewish girl and the cousin of Mordecai, find favor with King Ahasuerus? Why does Ahasuerus have trouble sleeping one night? And why, on this sleepless night, does he reach for the chronicles, discovering in them that the Jewish advisor Mordecai saved his life? Why, indeed, should these “coincidences” have taken place in the nick of time, thus sparing God’s people from Haman’s wrath?

But is the story true?

Some scholars point to inconsistencies between the Book of Esther and some non-Biblical sources such as the Greek historian Herodotus, who was long regarded as a reliable authority on Persian and Greek events. However, many scholars have begun to question his reliability and to reaffirm Esther’s authenticity. David Grene stated that Herodotus, “often disowns responsibility for the truth or accuracy of a statement.”

Encyclopaedia Judaica says, “The dates given by the Book of Esther thus dovetail neatly with the known dates and events of [Ahasuerus’] reign; it is improbable this is just a coincidence.” Bible scholar Edwin Yamauchi goes a step further: “In view of Esther’s setting in Susa [Shushan], its Persian background, its Aramaisms [turns of a phrase that are Aramaic, the language Jews adopted in Persia], ... there is widespread agreement that Esther was composed in the eastern Diaspora, quite probably at Susa [Shushan] itself.”

Still, the story sounds so improbable

At times the Book of Esther resembles a soap opera or reality show with its fast pace, dramatic confrontations, and frequent twists. Some Bible scholars have called it a “work of heroic fiction,” a “comedy of errors,” and “imaginative storytelling.”

These criticisms treat the Book of Esther like a novel. But despite appearances, Esther is not a soap opera or fairy tale. History rarely follows the conventions and logic of fictional narratives. Surely the possibility of genocide always seems implausible, whether in the pages of a novel or a history book. But the fact remains that the Jewish people have many times suffered attempts at annihilation.

How does the Book of Esther relate to us?

A man offers 10,000 pieces of silver to a king in exchange for people. A nation in wartime offers to exchange a million people for 10,000 trucks. Sounds improbable, doesn’t it? Yet both of these stories — the first of the advisor Haman, who sought to destroy the Jews under Ahasuerus, the second of the Nazis, who needed reinforcements for the war on the Eastern Front — are true. Sadly, the practice of putting a price on the head of our people is all too familiar. The most improbable schemes and devices have been used to try to exterminate us, oftentimes proving doubly effective because they seem so “unbelievable.”

The Book of Esther affirms that “*there is nothing new under the sun*” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). However, as deep as anti-Semitic sentiment might be, God’s love for His people is stronger. He delivered His people out of the hand of Haman, and He will preserve us in perpetuity.



All the king’s servants, except Mordecai, bow down before Haman, engraving for *The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation* (1873)

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That's why the heart of Purim is "remembering the miracle." Some older translations of the Talmud have it as "publishing the miracle." In other words, we are obligated to retell the miracle of our survival to people everywhere.

Purim, which tells of Haman's plot to wipe out the Jewish people and interrupt God's plan for history, reminds us that it wasn't just God moving behind the scenes in the Book of Esther. Haman's hatred of our people, like the hatred of Pharaoh, Antiochus Epiphanes, and Hitler, went well beyond the bounds of resentment or ill will. Both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament speak of an angelic being who has been in rebellion against God since before the world began. Satan, who many label as fictitious, has always targeted the Jewish people for destruction because we are God's "treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:2) and the people through whom the Messiah would come. It is Satan, which means "adversary" in Hebrew, who has energized the Hamans, Hitlers, and Husseins of the world who try to destroy us.



The Triumph of Mordecai, engraving by Gustave Doré (1832–1883) for *Doré's English Bible* (1866)

By remembering the true miracle of Purim, whether by reciting the Book of Esther, watching Purim spiels (Purim plays), or booing the name of Haman in synagogue, we, in a sense, combat the spirit of hatred against the Jews. We remind ourselves and the world that *"he who touches you [the Jewish people] touches the apple of His [God's] eye"* (Zechariah 2:8).

Another Jewish hero

Esther offers a model of love and sacrifice. In the book's most famous lines, Mordecai persuades Esther to go to the king unbidden — a capital offense — and intercede on her people's behalf. In so doing, Esther broke the law. But without her intervention, the king would have allowed the Jewish people to perish at Haman's hands. Esther is one of many in a long line of Jewish heroes who have stood up for our people in the face of

opposition and evil. Some, like Samson and King David, were heroes in battle. Others, like Esther, did their job a bit more quietly.

Our Jewish people have traditionally expected our greatest Hero, the Messiah, to arrive on the scene as a conquering Warrior. And, according to the Hebrew Scriptures, He will. But those same Scriptures tell us that the Messiah also comes as a despised figure who suffers and dies to atone for our sins. The prophet Isaiah described Him this way: *"He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted"* (Isaiah 53:3–4).

How could both these descriptions of the Messiah be true? Consider the possibility that He already came, almost under the radar, like Esther, but that He will come again as a mighty triumphant Warrior, like King David.

God is never mentioned in the Book of Esther, yet His fingerprints are all over the pages of this beloved book. In the same way, did we fail to recognize God among us when Yeshua (Jesus) walked the earth some 2,000 years ago? Did He, like Esther, come "for such a time as this?"

Please see the [Esther DVDs set on p. 20](#). ★



Marching to Zion

Kirsten Hart
Studio co-host of *Our
Jewish Roots*



The Temple Mount as seen from the Mount of Olives

I'm surprised that I haven't used this title for a *March Levitt Letter* article previously. Perhaps I'm feeling extra clever this year. I'm also feeling a little impatient to be literally *marching* upward and onward

to the beautiful City of God. The act of *aliyah* (*ascending* to the Temple in Scripture) means to climb/walk up to Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. It's not a feat for those who are faint of heart or limb. **Even so, the reward of standing on that holy mountain is worth all the effort.**



David and Kirsten Hart sing before Zola Tours pilgrims

Shortage Intensifies the Desire

Sometimes when you're told you can't have something you desire, you want it even more. In 1983, there was a shortage of Cabbage Patch Kids dolls during the Christmas shopping season. Apparently, it was the most desired toy for little girls that year. Three million dolls had been sold, and store shelves were bare. This demand prompted many people to sell the dolls they had obtained—and they made incredible profits. The simple lack of Cabbage Patch Kids dolls drove a ridiculous desire among parents to do whatever it took to have that doll under their Christmas tree that year.

For the past two years, we've been told that we could not travel to Israel. For the first time in my life, the doors of traveling freedom had been shut. This is an extremely odd feeling, and it has intensified my desire to be there.

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David and I feel a bit spoiled, in a sense, to have been able to host tours since we began with ZLM. This is truly an honor. It's also extremely addictive. If you have had the opportunity to go to Israel, you might understand. Israel gets into your blood, and it's hard to free yourself from its hold! But unlike the Cabbage Patch Kids doll, we can't buy ourselves into the Land of Israel during a pandemic. We simply have to wait, and that's not easy.



A Zola Tours group learning at the Western Wall

Great Expectations

I believe that we will soon be able to travel freely and take a Zola Tours group throughout the Land of Israel. What a sight it will be to once again see the Mount of Olives and the Old City in person. Our desire is that the sacred Promised Land will get into your veins as it has ours, and you will also love the Eternal City, where Jesus will soon reign for 1,000 years.

Will you consider coming with us to Zion when the doors for tourists open again? Together we will march upward to Zion — and perhaps sing that song together as we go.

We're also marching onward and upward in our ministry endeavors. Would you join us by supporting our ministry financially on a regular basis? Please see [page 35](#) for how you can do this monthly. In addition, [Mark Levitt shares wise financial stewardship insights in his article starting on page 12.](#) Those insights can benefit both the giver and the receiver. ★

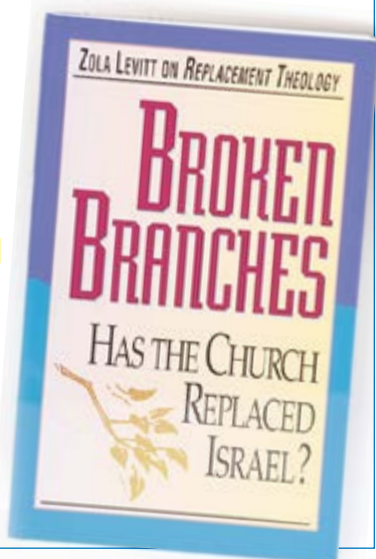


[Broken Branches — Has the Church Replaced Israel?](#) study booklet

Zola Levitt on Replacement Theology

What can replace Israel and the Jews in God's plan? Certainly not America and not the Church. Nonetheless, [well-intentioned denominations seem to have sprouted blinders to their Jewish heritage](#), the very roots of their Christianity. Let us restore the foundation to our Christianity and quit using Grace as an excuse to cast away the Jews and the Promised Land. A must-read booklet for Believers, seminaries, churches, and anyone else willing to celebrate the Promised Land and the Chosen People.

(All titles also available as eBooks.)



What Does the Word “Hebrew” Mean?

ONE FOR ISRAEL

OneForIsrael.org

In Genesis 14:13, Abram was called “the Hebrew,” which is the first time that the word is used in the Bible. Where did this term come from, and what does it mean?

The word “Hebrew” in the Hebrew language is עברי (Ivrie). The root letters are used to mean “cross over” or “pass through.” Today in Israel, we can use the word to talk about moving houses, transgressing laws, going through some difficulties, crossing the road, crossing over a river, and so on. **In the Bible, it seems to have primarily referred to those who traversed rivers.** The symbolic meaning of this should not be lost on us who love the Word of God.

It is speculated that Abraham earned the name “Ivrie,” or “One who has traversed,” because he came from the other side of the river. He and his family had traveled from close to the River Euphrates and crossed over into Haran. Then God called him back over the river again to the land that we now know to be Israel. He also had an ancestor with that name (עבר — *Eber*, Genesis 11:14), which might explain the link, but either way, the association between these Hebrews (עבריים — *Ivrim*, plural) and the crossing of rivers appears a few times in the Bible. Joshua gives us this account of events and a clue to how the descendants of Jacob/Israel became known as Hebrews — *Ivrim* — those who had traversed:



(Wikimedia Commons)

Abraham from *Bible Primer, Old Testament, for Use in the Primary Department of Sunday Schools*, by Adolf Hult (1869-1943)

*“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived **beyond the Euphrates**, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many... Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and **you came to the sea**. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea... Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on **the other side of the Jordan**. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand...’*

*Now therefore fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served **beyond the River** and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region **beyond the River**, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.*

But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

— Joshua 24:2–3, 6, 8, 14–15 (emphasis added)

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These Hebrews, these *Ivrim*, have done a fair amount of traversing! You can see why the Egyptians might have called them *Hebrews*—ones who came from beyond the river—and why Abraham was the ultimate Hebrew. **As if to emphasize the point, the Hebrews went through not one but two miraculous water crossings.** The first and most famous was the parting of the Red Sea. The second came when the Jordan River piled up on either side as the priests set foot on the riverbed and the Hebrews crossed over on dry ground into their inheritance in the Promised Land.



Joshua with the Ark Crossing the Jordan River from *Bible Primer, Old Testament, for Use in the Primary Department of Sunday Schools*, by Adolf Hult (1869-1943)

What is wonderful about this passage in Joshua is that it lines up the idea of leaving behind a life of idol worship and crossing over into worshiping the One True God of Israel.

"Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River ... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

— Joshua 24:14–15

For Joshua, the symbolism was clear: on one side of the river is idol worship, but we have left that life behind when we crossed over to the other side. Now we will serve the Lord.

The astute will notice that just as the blood of the Passover Lamb preceded going through the waters of the Red Sea, and just as the blood sacrifice is offered on the altar outside the tabernacle before the priests come toward the Holy Place and wash themselves with the water of the giant laver, so **blood and water feature in our salvation in the same order:** the blood of Yeshua and the water of baptism. When we come through the waters of baptism, we publicly declare that we are leaving our old lives behind, beyond the river, and are crossing over into a new life of serving God alone.

Thousands of Believers* have come from all over the world to be baptized in the River Jordan. But each one of us who has received forgiveness, thanks to the blood of the Messiah, has crossed over from death to life—from darkness to light. We have left our old life "beyond the river" and have traveled to the other side, into a whole new life.

We can intentionally put away the gods that we used to serve—whether money, attention, success, validation, distraction—leaving all these gods behind in the region beyond the river that we passed through, from death to eternal life. We have joined the *Ivrim* who have crossed over! Let's declare with Joshua, *"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"* (Joshua 24:15). ★



Zola Tours group being baptized in the Jordan River

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

End Times for Believers

PART 1

Classic Zola Levitt
from 2005
17 years ago



This month, I'm going to deal with a question that comes up frequently—End Times prophecy and the series of events that will come about for Believers.

Our Eyes on Things Above

The Church often seems to focus on the future of unbelievers. The oncoming Tribulation Period, the actions of the antiChrist, and Armageddon are repeatedly taught, as if they are the Believer's main concerns.

Studying the Tribulation is very important, since it signals the culmination of God's plan and the return of our Lord. But it's more pleasant to think of those entering Heaven during that period, and later returning with God to populate His Kingdom on Earth. The hallmark of Christianity is our bright future. What we see is not all we get. Earthly life is of little significance to those who have been promised the Kingdom to come.

We're already living our eternal lives, and this is the worst part of them.



Rosa Celeste: Dante and Beatrice gaze upon the highest Heaven, *The Empyrean* by Gustave Doré (1832–1883)

The Rapture: What is it?

The Rapture of the Church is the moment when Jesus will come and take the Believers with Him to Heaven. This promise of Christianity distinguishes it from worldly religions. Buddha and Mohammed won't be making another appearance. But followers of Christ are assured of the deliverance to come.

It's sad that there are churches that haven't disclosed the Rapture to their members. Liberal churches have put away the Bible, losing the prime promise of Jesus, and they live on in a pathetic "Christian ethic"—a meaningless and powerless copy of life in Christ. But those aware of the Rapture who are awaiting Jesus' return will live in a new Kingdom in an ongoing eternal life.

Rapture, borrowed from the Latin Vulgate Bible, appears in the King James Version as "caught up" (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Verses 16–18 contain the prime promise of Jesus' return. Verse 18—*"encourage one another with these words"*—isn't quoted often, but should be, for what is more comforting than knowing we will go beyond this life and be with the Lord forever?

On His last Passover night, Jesus indicated His departure from the Church, promising to return again:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

— John 14:1–3

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After His resurrection and forty days with His Apostles, Jesus rose to His Father (Acts 1:9). In these final forty days, the Lord taught not as much how to behave, as about witnessing to all men in preparation for the Kingdom to come.

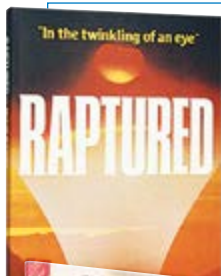
The men in Acts 1:10 were angels, who came to assure the Apostles that in the same manner they had seen the Lord ascend into Heaven, so He would return. Thus, the Lord will not return “in a spiritual way” or “in your heart,” but literally in the manner that He left — bodily and miraculously.

In the same way Jesus spent His last moments on Earth, we also should focus on the Kingdom to come, which starts with the Rapture. We learn more about the Rapture from 1 Corinthians 15:22–23. **Everyone “born of Adam” dies, but those in Christ will be resurrected.** It also indicates that we have an order, which ties in with “*the dead in Christ will rise first.*” Jesus’ number was one, and He is called the “first fruits” because He is the first Man permanently resurrected. First Fruits is the third Jewish feast, Resurrection Sunday, which we have come to call “Easter.” Referring to it as “first fruits,” we realize there is a second, third, etc. We’re all numbered, and we will rise in that order in the Rapture. The dead in Christ, having lower numbers, will rise first.

We will undergo a mysterious metamorphosis: We will be outfitted for eternal life, as our present bodies won’t do for that (1 Corinthians 15:50–53). Death is the common fear of all mortals — except for the true Believer. Paul exults in the face of death in 1 Corinthians 15:55–57. After the Rapture is accomplished, we’re ready for the exciting events of our seven years in Heaven, as the Tribulation Period takes place on Earth.

Next month, Zola looks at the Believer’s life in Heaven.

The Rapture is more fully covered in two books written by Zola Levitt and Dr. Thomas S. McCall: *Raptured* (only available as an eBook) and *Signs of the End* (see below.) Both books are available at levitt.com. ★



Raptured eBook by Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

The Rapture of the Church — discussed in full with relevant Scriptures. The various views of when it might happen are evenhandedly debated as to which seems most correct. A doctrine not always understood by the Church, but one that will affect everyone on Earth — Believer and unbeliever alike. (Currently only available as an eBook.)

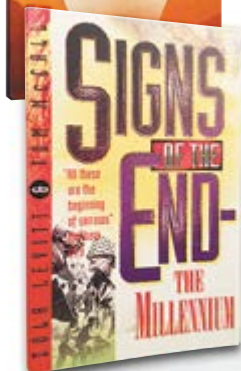
Signs of the End—The Millennium study booklet by Tom McCall and Zola Levitt

Three Books in One!

First, the Messiah’s own Words warn about the conditions that will prevail in the world at the end of God’s plan. Are we now approaching the Great Tribulation and the return of our King?

Second, Zola and Dr. Thomas S. McCall offer a Biblical perspective on world events.

Third, their update, *The Millennium*, makes this a prophecy book of the past, present, and future.



The Wisdom of Giving Now

Wise As A Serpent
by Mark Levitt
ZLM Director



Many ZLMers are very familiar with my high regard for the wisdom of financial advice columnist Scott Burns. His enlightened writing is to retirement planning what Dave Ramsey's is to making ends meet. The excerpted article below, from ScottBurns.com, is entitled, "Giving: Now, Later, or After?" Scott addresses why many donors choose to make contributions while living rather than solely through their wills. — Mark



Scott Burns, financial
advice columnist

Giving: Now, Later, or After?

by Scott Burns (r) *The Dallas Morning News*

Most people think about giving as something to do when they are dead. What a dumb idea. Here's a better idea: be a Now-ist. There's no time like the present.

If you give money to charities and people in need now, *you'll* do it — personally. *You'll enjoy it, which is something you can't do if you are dead.* I can sense some readers leaving the page now, but please stay. This may be useful for people who don't think of themselves as budding philanthropists.

How could that be? Easy. Many folks have more money than they need. Don't laugh; you might be one of them. No way, you say? Well, think again.

It's not about vast wealth

When most of us think about people who have more money than they need, we think about the wildly rich. It's always fun to think about what we would do with vast amounts of another person's money.

But there's another less obvious group, and it's growing rapidly. Demography says the group will be growing for many years. They are the Someday Philanthropists.

They can be single, widowed, or married. But they are older, usually over 70. They may have no children. Or they have grown children who are well-off. Either way, there is no pressing need for them to provide for immediate family.

They've also hit an age where their personal spending is declining. Meanwhile, their income (and net worth) is still climbing. Some of them complain about the high taxes on their unneeded required minimum distributions.

They don't have to be multimillionaires. They only need to be financially comfortable with a combination of Social Security, pension, or other income that easily covers their regular needs and probably wants.

They could share their wealth, but they don't get around to it. Or they've planned to give it all away after they die. *My suggestion: Give some serious thought to giving away some of your nest egg. Do it now.*

Here are two good ways of doing it.

1. *Make donations from your required minimum distributions (RMDs).*

If you are of age for RMDs (presently 72), you can now make qualified charitable distributions from your retirement accounts. You can do this up to the full amount of your RMD without creating a taxable event.

Presto, the dreaded "taxable event" disappears. One limitation is that the distributions cannot be to a donor-advised fund. They must go directly to a registered non-profit organization.

Here's an example ...

Suppose your RMD is \$30,000, and most of that money would be in the 24% tax bracket for singles—taxable income over \$89,075. Then every RMD dollar donated directly, up to \$30,000, would cut your tax bill by 24 cents.



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2. Donate part of your nest egg to a donor-advised fund.

If you have money in taxable investments that have enjoyed large gains, you'll get a good tax break for this. First, you'll get the current market value of the investments as a deduction. Second, you'll avoid paying capital gains tax on the unrealized gains.

That means less of your money will go to taxes. More will go to people and organizations who need it.

Are you worried it won't be tax deductible because you haven't itemized for years? Don't be. With the standard deduction for a single taxpayer at \$12,550 for 2021 and \$12,950 for 2022, you'll have a good deduction even if your taxable nest egg is \$500,000 and you contribute \$50,000.

Here's an example ...

Suppose you have a stock worth \$50,000 that you bought for \$25,000. If you contribute that stock, you avoid the capital gains tax on the \$25,000 gain as well as enjoy a deduction on its full \$50,000 value.

Either way, you're creating hope in a dark and dangerous world.



This isn't Big League giving. The National Philanthropic Trust recently reported that the average size of donor-advised fund accounts was \$159,019 in 2020. You'll be in good company.

Once you've created the account, give away 10% or more of the account every year. Think of it as the core of your annual giving. It's a fund that will last a decade and you'll be providing help now.

My wife and I have shared a donor-advised fund account since 2006, the first at **Fidelity**, the second at **Schwab**. Both are easy to make contributions to and distribute gifts from. You'll likely have a similar experience with **Vanguard**.

While Scott's article appeals to secular readers, Exodus 22:29 advises, "*You shall not delay the offering from your harvest and your vintage.*" Meanwhile, many Christians experience a deep desire to contribute to society as well as to churches and ministries. Consequently, they support worthwhile secular causes as well as religious ones. Thanks for remembering our outreach when you think about giving. —Mark ★

Where to learn more about donor advised funds

1. **Vanguard Charitable**
vanguardcharitable.org/individuals
2. **Fidelity Charitable**
fidelitycharitable.org/giving-account/giving-account-details.shtml
3. **Schwab Charitable**
schwab.com/public/schwab/investing/accounts_products/accounts_trust_estate/donor_advised_fund



Q. What is the Davidic Covenant?

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



A. The Davidic Covenant refers to the promises God made to King David, spoken through the prophet Nathan. The covenant God made with David is unconditional and eternal.

In 2 Samuel 7, God promised three things to King David:

1. God reaffirmed the Land promise to Israel made in the two previous covenants (the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants) as revealed in 2 Samuel 7:10.
2. God stated that Solomon, David's son, would succeed him as king of Israel and build the first Temple in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 7:12-13).
3. God said that He would raise up one of David's descendants to reign on David's throne forever — thus ensuring an eternal King reigning over an eternal Kingdom without end (2 Samuel 7:16).

The fulfillment of the third promise of the Davidic Covenant is found in Jesus Christ. Jesus came from the lineage of David, as noted in both Matthew's and Luke's genealogies. When Mary learned that she would give birth to Jesus, the angel Gabriel alluded to God's promise when he noted that Jesus will reign on David's throne over Israel forever (Luke 1:32-33). Unlike earthly kings whose kingdoms are terminated by their deaths, Jesus' Kingdom will never end since He lives forever because of His resurrection from the dead. This is the point Peter emphasizes about Jesus in Acts 2:29-36.

The Messianic title, "Son of David," is applied to Jesus 17 times in the New Testament. As David's Descendant, Jesus is the Messianic King who will reign on David's throne in Jerusalem forever — in the Millennium and eternity to follow (Isaiah 2:1-4; Revelation 11:15). The Davidic Covenant is referenced throughout the Old Testament (1 Chronicles 17:11-14; Psalm 89; Jeremiah 23:5; 30:9; Isaiah 9:7; 11:1), and Jesus Christ is the Person through whom the promises of this covenant are kept and fulfilled by God's faithfulness and power (Matthew 25:31-32; Romans 1:3-4; Revelation 3:7).



David Anointed at Hebron (artist unknown), engraving from *The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation* (1873)

The Davidic Covenant illustrates that whatever God promises, He will fulfill. God keeps His word without fail, just as He promised to do in His covenant with David in Psalm 89:34-37:

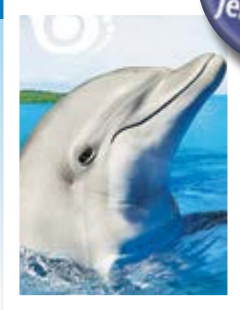
"My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky." ★

ZLM Bulletin Board



Flipper Alert!

The 1964–1967 television series *Flipper* portrayed “America’s favorite dolphin,” unofficially adopted by Ranger Porter Ricks’ family on a Florida coast. Affectionate Flipper performed many heroic deeds, even undermining some criminal enterprises. In the 1996 movie *Flipper*, the dolphin takes on dastardly local polluters of the Florida coast.



Recently, **Hamas has accused “killer Zionist dolphins” of spying** on its operatives and naval forces in its Gazan enclave. Maybe they are Flipper’s grandchildren? Enemies have long accused Israel of using vultures, eagles, and (get this!) **lizards** for military ~~porpoises~~ purposes, including espionage.



Jewish Lives Must Not Matter to ...

... this year’s winner of the anti-Semite of the Year competition, a project of the watchdog StopAntisemitism. **Anuradha Mittal**, chair of Ben & Jerry’s board of directors and a trustee of Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, won first prize. Mittal spearheaded Ben & Jerry’s decision to stop selling its ice cream to Jews living in various parts of Israel. Meanwhile, second place went to **Dua Lipa**, English singer, songwriter, and model.

Please see “A Note to Ben & Jerry” on the [October 2021 Levitt Letter cover](#).

FREE ITEM

Pamphlet of the Month

The 14-page booklet, **37 Things People “Know” About Wills That Aren’t Really So**, begins by explaining why too few people make adequate estate plans. It also briefly refutes dozens of the most common misconceptions about wills, including “Couples who own their property jointly don’t need wills,” “A will is the only way to leave property to others,” and “A good will rarely needs revision.” To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box. **Request POM #3.**



Donate with a Smile!

If you shop at Amazon, log in through Smile.Amazon.com instead of the regular website, and Amazon will donate to ZLM 0.5% of your net purchase total. In the last quarter of 2021, AmazonSmile donated \$608.17, which represents \$121,634 in purchases on Amazon by ZLMers.

You can use the same login that you use for Amazon.com, and you’ll see the same merchandise at the same prices. Please be sure to designate Zola Levitt Ministries as the nonprofit to receive the charitable gift that your purchases generate. Thanks.

“Come Home!”

Zola
Tours
to Israel



See page 36
for details





The Hope of Despair

אֲשֶׁרֵי עֲנִיִּי הָרוּחַ כִּי לָהֶם מַלְכוּת הַשָּׁמַיִם
 ha-sha-ma'-yeem mal-khooth' lah-hem' kee' ha-roo'-ach a-nee-yei' ash-rei'
 the Kingdom of Heaven to them for the poor in spirit blessed

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

- Matthew 5:3

Our most serious struggles are inward — matters of the heart that wrestle with dark emotions like fear, anger, disappointment, and guilt. We often despair over the contradiction between our ideals and our realities; we then deny reality and may feel lost and unlovable in the hardness of unspoken shame.

On the deepest level, however, the presence of despair may be a sign of real hope, since it may express a holy “protest” over what the heart knows is wrong in its yearning for deliverance from its own wretchedness. The desperate heart knows that it must find God or die. This sort of despair laments because it believes, and it believes in the midst of its lament.

As Yeshua said, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit [the needy, the bankrupt, the powerless], for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven”* (Matthew 5:3). The hidden life of the seed is not released until it first is broken and dies (John 12:24).

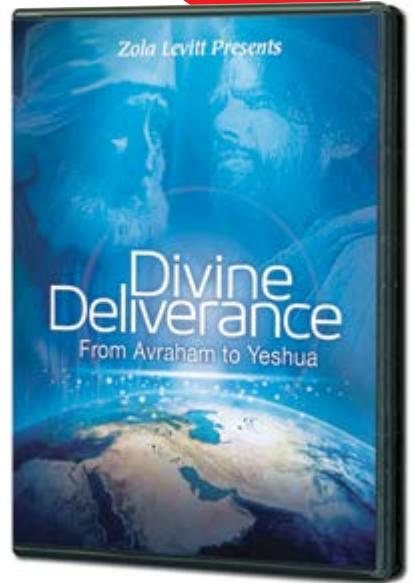
The fact that God knows the number of hairs on your head means that He knows you better than you know yourself. **Your Heavenly Father “sees in secret,”** which means that He can and will save you from whatever is hidden within you that still resists His love and touch. We must trust in God’s power to heal us, even when it seems that healing is not forthcoming, even when we still find ourselves divided, troubled, and anxious. We must believe that God’s help is always present. *“Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope for the LORD”* (Psalm 31:24).

God sees what He does within us, His “it-is-finished” work, the effect of His great salvation within our hearts, even if at this present hour it may be hidden from our eyes. There is appearance, and there is reality; only God sees what is ultimately real. We must trust in His promise to be transformed into the divine nature, even if today we find ourselves sinful, needy, and in disrepair. By God’s grace we are what we are. **So don’t give up. We are saved by hope (ἐλπίδι ἐσώθημεν, Romans 8:24) — a hope for you today!** ★



Divine Deliverance: from Abraham to Yeshua DVD Set Twelve 30-Minute TV Programs on 3 DVDs

This series examines how the Lord offered a message of deliverance through 12 significant Bible characters, beginning with faithful Abraham and culminating with Messiah Himself. Dr. Jeffrey Seif teaches on location in Israel and discusses the lesson's application with David and Kirsten Hart in the studio. We enjoy enlightening dramatic re-enactments from past series, along with Zola's music, completely re-orchestrated and sung by David and Kirsten.



Abraham A journey into an unforeseen future began with a step of faith toward a promised land. The God of Israel still leads those who follow Him, oftentimes through barren places. He shows His power in weakness.

Isaac The promise of a child to an elderly couple came in an angelic message. Father Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, involved an act of obedience by each of them. Their successful test of faith pictures the redemption to come.

Jacob Family dysfunction followed the birth of twin boys. The younger held tightly as he wrestled with the angel, wanting a blessing. Yet the best news of all time, the good news of salvation, came through this man who became "Israel."

Joseph Israel's sons experienced tension and betrayal before receiving redemption and deliverance from famine and drought. It is important that all people discover their Deliverer.

Moses At age 80, Moses heard the call of God to deliver His people out of Egypt. At that time, these former slaves gained access to the God of Heaven through His Holy Sanctuary. Today, Believers also have access to atonement and mercy. Deliverance is only a prayer away.

Ruth The loyalty of a young Moabite widow to her mother-in-law results in their deliverance from deprivation and in hope for the future as Ruth joins Messiah's lineage.

David The young shepherd boy had great confidence in his God. Anointed by the prophet Samuel, David became king of Israel and the ancestor of the King of kings.

Isaiah "He was despised... by His stripes we are healed... all we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:3, 5, 6). The most quoted prophet of the Old Testament, Isaiah's writings point many to the deliverance found only in Yeshua/Jesus.

Ezekiel This exiled prophet saw dramatic visions of transformation: dry bones into living people, and water flowing from the dry mountaintop. God's grace and mercy fills people with a new Spirit and new life.

Daniel Even in the exile, Daniel kept his focus on the Lord, praying habitually. He saw events of the Last Days still to come. In these difficult times, we too should employ the powerful weapon of prayer.

Esther Winning a beauty contest positioned her to avert a pogrom to wipe out the Jewish people. God raises up people like Esther in each generation to deliver His people, culminating in the greatest redemption: through Yeshua.

Jesus On His last night, Messiah said that He wanted to be remembered by a Passover meal. He is the Door, the Light of the world, and the ultimate Provider of deliverance. We pray that you have experienced deliverance and follow Him.



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	\$3	___
___	The Miracle of Passover	\$3	___
___	The Promised Land	\$3	___
___	The Second Coming (pictured)	\$3	___
___	Seven Churches— Does Yours Fit In?	\$3	___
___	The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$3	___
___	Spirit of Pentecost	\$3	___
___	Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	___

Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton)	\$6	___
___	An Epic Love Story (Myles Weiss).... (Part of 50-book offer above)	\$3	___
___	The Beginning of The End	\$8	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read (pictured)	\$10	___
___	Broken Branches — Zola on Replacement Theology (p.7)	\$6	___
___	The Bulletproof George Washington (David Barton)	\$8	___
___	The Green Horse —The Bible & Islam (Archbold) (pictured) ...	\$12	___
___	Heaven and Earth (Ken Berg)	\$18	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif)	\$8	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land	\$2	___
___	The Mountains of Israel (Norma Archbold)	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament (pictured)	\$9	___
___	Our Hands are Stained with Blood (updated) (pictured)	\$16	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium (p.11)	\$7	___
___	The Warrior King (Jeff Seif)	\$12	___
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___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons)	\$39	___

Featured DVDs

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___	Beloved Thief	(64 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Best of Zola's Music Videos	(3+ hours, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Covenants of God	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Divine Deliverance (p.17)	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Esther (p.20)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	NEW! Faith for the Future	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Faith of Our Fathers	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Gospel According to Isaiah	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Jehovah's Treasure	(70 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19	___
___	Jerusalem: Ancient Gates/Future Glory ..	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
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___	Kings and Kingdoms	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	A Pilgrim's Journey	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Revelation (pictured)	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Sons of Israel	(9 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$59	___
___	Thy Kingdom Come	(12 programs, 3-DVDs)	\$69	___
___	Times of the Signs	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	Watch Therefore	(8 programs, 2-DVDs)	\$49	___
___	The Witnessing Series	(4 programs, 1-DVD)	\$29	___

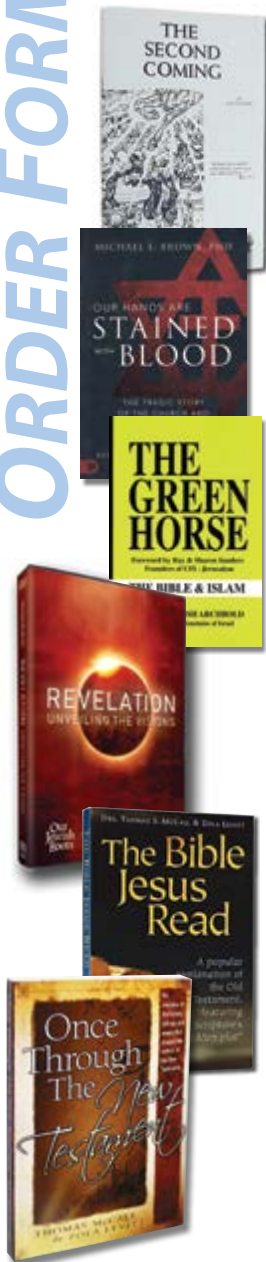
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ORDER FORM continued

UNIQUE WITNESSING ITEMS!

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___	AHAVA Mineral Body Lotion 17 oz.	\$58	_____
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___	AHAVA Mineral Hand Cream 3.4 oz.	\$24	_____
___	Flag of Israel (3' x 5')	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Gold Decal (1.2" x 3" hand-cut)	\$2	_____
___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin	\$10	_____
___	Grafted-In Sterling Silver Necklace (with 18" chain) (p.24)	\$39	_____
___	Guide to Your Christian Will (12 page booklet)	\$2	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5782 / 2022) (pictured)	\$6	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem (p.36)	\$12	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land (p.36)	\$6	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker	\$2	_____
___	Pro-Israel Button (B) (pictured) (4 of 1 design)	\$6	_____
___	The Prophesied Messiah Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	"Things to Come" Witnessing Bookmark	2 for \$1	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies (info only)	no charge	_____
___	The Classic Zola Collection (p.25)	79 products for \$999	_____



Teaching CDs

___	The Beginning of the End (includes music)	(2 CDs) \$12	_____
___	Glory! The Future of the Believers	(CD) \$7	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (pictured)	(6 CDs) \$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	Living Waters	(Music CD) \$12	_____
___	Thy Kingdom Come (pictured)	(Music CD) \$12	_____
___	Zion Song (The Harts)	(Music CD) \$12	_____

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



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For shipments outside the United States, please **DOUBLE** shipping. Please **ONLY** 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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My check is enclosed for \$ _____ or, Please charge \$ _____ to:

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Esther: *For Such a* *Time as This* DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

The Book of Esther is one of the Jewish people's favorites. In this series, Dr. Jeffrey Seif explains the story's details and points out that, like Esther, we Believers may be alive for such a time as this.

Beautiful Inside and Out Does God use women? Yes! We consider Esther's rise and Queen Vashti's fall, and how God elevates individuals to places of influence — then as now.

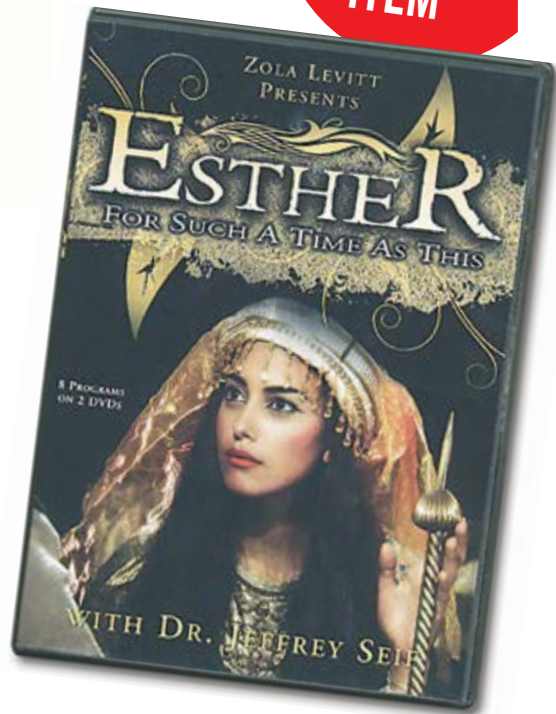
Chosen for a Purpose Though wickedness surfaces in every generation, God positions His people to thwart the devil's plans and fulfill His own. We examine Mordecai and Esther's placement — and our own; for we, too, are called to God's work.

Called to be Courageous Faced with a plot to destroy the Jews, Esther wavers but decides her sacrifice is worthy: "If I perish, I perish!" If only we all had such resolve!

Undone by a Woman Our story's heroine hatches a plan to thwart the scheming Haman. The once-sheepish Esther arises as a shepherdess, boldly taking on the wolf, guiding the saga to its conclusion.



Dr. Jeffrey Seif



God Rewards the Righteous God uses irony to give the wicked and the righteous their just desserts.

Justice at Last! Our story's villain meets his inglorious end as he becomes the object of his own wicked scheme. Seeing the triumphal outcome of righteousness and faith encourages us in our own lives.

Fight We Must! Even with Haman gone, the Jews had to defend their homes and families. Spirited self-defense is Biblical.

The Triumph of God in Human History God turns our mourning into joy. The Jews are bidden to commemorate God's saving power and goodness in an annual celebration, Purim. We should all celebrate God's goodness, thereby banishing the clouds of despair.

Please see the related [cover article](#), "Esther, Purim, and Why It All (Still) Matters."



Bedouins Charged in Negev Forestation Riots



BY EMANUEL FABIAN (*r*) TimesOfIsrael.com

Prosecutors filed indictments against 16 Bedouin residents of southern Israel over rioting in January during protests against a controversial forestation project.

The suspects — three of whom are 17-year-olds — were accused of hurling stones at police officers during the tree-planting project by the Jewish National Fund (JNF). Some of them were also charged with setting fire to tires, blocking roads, and hurling stones at civilian cars.

“Their actions show their danger, their audaciousness, their lack of fear of the law,” prosecutors said in a request to the court to extend the suspects’ remand until the end of legal proceedings.

The offenses listed in the indictments included rioting, disturbing a police officer under aggravated circumstances, acts of recklessness, and negligence, among others.

The protests came amid government forestation work that Bedouins claim encroaches on their unrecognized lands. Negev Bedouin have a contentious relationship with the state. For decades, the government has sought to move them into recognized, planned cities, but many still live in a constellation of illegal hamlets that sprawl across Israel’s southern desert.

Bedouins accuse the JNF of seeking to displace them, but the organization says it is merely fulfilling a request by other government bodies on public land. JNF works across Israel on nature and conservation projects, but some charge the organization has a political agenda. ★



credit: Jamal Awad/Flickr50

Bedouin youth during a protest outside the Bedouin village of al-Atrash in the Negev desert, southern Israel, January 13, 2022



Letters to ZLM

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

Comments from www.levitt.com and YouTube

From E.G.: I saw your discussion on *Our Jewish Roots* regarding television programs in 2022. It was pretty good except for a couple things. I don't understand Kirsten's comment: "Since this is the season of giving" **Why use the pagan Xmas season to collect donations?** I don't understand why your program's set had poinsettias on the desk. We are not supposed to look anything like Xmas. I couldn't even wear my red fingernail polish that I like because at this time of year, people will associate it with this pagan unholy day.

My other concern is Dr. Seif commenting about the Rapture and the Second Coming. I know these little snippets that we saw don't tell the whole story, but do your Bible teachers believe there is going to be a "take the Christians away" so they don't go through the Tribulation? I also hate the term *Christian* as every man-made religion seems to call itself *Christian*.

Dear E.G.,

Please read the answer at gotquestions.org/Christian-Christmas.html. The response there is more detailed than we can offer here. Regarding the End Times, our ministry believes and teaches that the Church will be Raptured. Please read more about the Rapture in the Classic Zola article, "End Times for Believers" on [pages 10–11](#) of this *Levitt Letter*. — Editor



Dry Bones TWO HOLIDAYS, TWO MIRACLES.



From R.M.: Dear Friends in the studio [of *OJR*]: David commented that the big difference between the Apostle Paul traveling in the first century and your production crew traveling to the Holy Land now is that Paul traveled free and your TV program has expenses. **Expenses are not the biggest difference between your travels and those of the Apostle Paul.** The BIG difference is that he risked martyrdom, and you don't. He went to die; you don't. He lived in a dungeon; you don't. I enjoyed the broadcast up to the way you appealed for money. I am sure Paul would forgive you, and I forgive you. Your fund appeal just turned me off.

Dear R.M.,

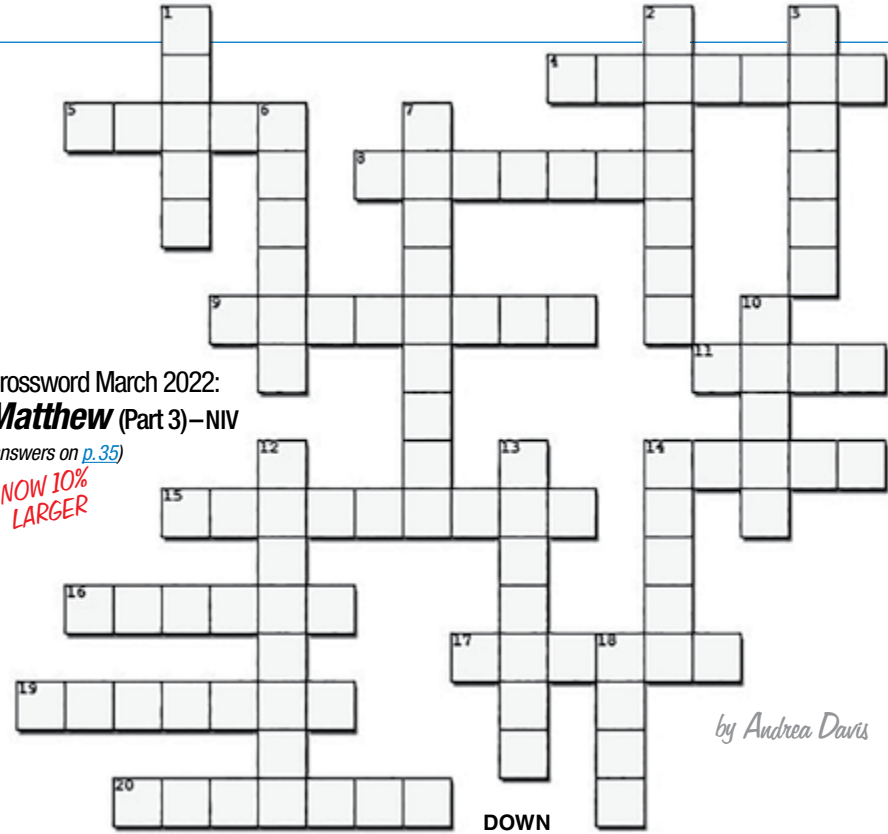
In the studio, it was Dr. Seif who mentioned Paul's travels versus our production crew's journeys.

(continued on next page)

One calling that we definitely have in common with Paul is that we seek to bring Yeshua's message to the nations. One way we accomplish this is through the television program *Our Jewish Roots*. Broadcasting networks require us to pay for our airtime. While we don't enjoy asking for financial support for this ministry, we recall Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:11, "If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?" —David

From C.L.: I really miss Zola Levitt. I'm back in my relationship with Christ now, but even when I was backslidden, I tuned into Zola's weekly TV show. He was an incredible Messianic Jew who had wonderful Biblical insight and teaching.

(continued on next page)



Crossword March 2022:
Matthew (Part 3)—NIV
(answers on p.35)

NOW 10% LARGER

by Andrea Davis

DOWN

ACROSS

4. ... they divided up His ___ by casting lots. (Matt. 27:35)
5. All these are the beginning of ___ pains. (Matt. 24:8)
8. ...the kingdom of Heaven will be like ten ___ ... (Matt. 25:1)
9. ...Watch out that no one ___ you. (Matt. 24:4)
11. ...are you the ___ of the Jews? (Matt. 27:11)
14. He will put the ___ on His right and the goats on His left. (Matt. 25:33)
15. ...a woman came to Him with an ___ jar... (Matt. 26:7)
16. ...so they counted out for him ___ pieces of silver. (Matt. 26:15)
17. ...he (Pilate) took water and ___ his hands ... (Matt. 27:24)
19. ...they all answered, "___ Him!" (Matt. 27:22)
20. ...the spirit is ___, but the flesh is weak. (Matt. 26:41)

DOWN

1. ...but My ___ will never pass away. (Matt. 24:35)
2. ...before the ___ crows, you will disown Me... (Matt. 26:75)
3. ...truly I tell you, one of you will ___ Me. (Matt. 26:21)
6. ...Then he (Judas) went away and ___ himself. (Matt. 27:5)
7. Therefore go and make ___ of all nations... (Matt. 28:19)
10. He is not here, He has ___ ... (Matt. 28:6)
12. ...Well done, good and ___ servant... (Matt. 25:21)
13. The greatest among you will be your ___. (Matt. 23:11)
14. ...not one ___ here will be left on another ... (Matt. 24:2)
18. ...you do not know the day or the ___. (Matt. 25:13)





“Grafted-In” Messianic Sterling Necklace

A solid sterling silver rendition of a classic Messianic symbol that combines the menorah, Star of David, and the Christian fish. Stir curiosities and witnessing opportunities with this tribute to light, God, and abundant love (Malachi 3:3). Includes 18" sterling silver chain.

(1½" x 1½", 1⅝" with bail)

Even though the videos of Zola’s 1988 conference [*Israel, the Church, and the Future*—“Eternity” on YouTube] are 34 years old, they are still awesome teachings of truth.

From D.S.: The Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, Illinois and the Frank Museum in Amsterdam are now asking for vaccination documentation at the door. Like in Nazi Germany, when you needed identification to prove you weren’t a filthy Jew, now you must show papers to prove you’re not a filthy unvaxxed. **Hitler and Goebbels would be proud.** The past repeats itself. Your thoughts?

Dear D.S.,

There is a night-and-day difference between turning away guests at the door and conspiring to annihilate them and their families. Regardless of how you feel about masks (and on whichever side of the vaccine fence you fall), please make the distinction that Hitler and his henchmen were doing much more than trying to protect themselves and others from a virus. —Mark



Investing in the future of Israel?

Dear OJR/ZLM folks,

After receiving your mailings for a few years, I think it’s time I return a little more of the kindness you have shown me. I’m hoping to more than double my annual giving to your ministry this year. Please pray for me and my wife. We need God’s favor and wisdom greatly! I minister to the poor and the mentally ill, and to students and immigrants. It is not always easy to maintain a healthy balance of priorities. We are trusting God to care for our needs. He is doing a wonderful job, though He does keep us dependent upon Himself for daily mercy.

Do you know of any good mutual funds for investing in the future of Israel? As God is recreating and renewing Israel, I would like to put some disposable money where my faith is. I realize that all such investments involve risk, but given the way God is blessing Israel, investing in Israeli innovation seems as good as investing in any other nation. Do you have a list of mutual funds focused on Israeli companies handled by various firms that have a low fee structure and a reasonably high average rate of return over the years?

I’ve been through Zola’s classic DVD collection [see [page 25](#)] and have shared his work with a Messianic Jewish fellow, a non-Messianic Jew, and a gentile Believer. They all benefit from these resources. **They have been a worthy investment.** When I have been unable to attend worship in a local

(continued on next page)

congregation due to COVID restrictions and such, these have been an excellent resource for building my faith.

Our family lost my wife's mother last summer, and we also suffered terrible flooding of Job-like variety. We were both afflicted with COVID and were separated on opposite sides of the globe for over two weeks. Your reservoir of teaching videos helped sustain me spiritually while local saints helped with practical needs. Last year is one I will never forget.

A servant and Samaritan for the Savior — M.H. (MI)

Dear M.H.,

Please accept our condolences for your family's loss. It has been a hard time for so many families, and we are praying for better days ahead. ZLM is grateful for your support, and we are pleased to offer Bible teaching materials that enable spiritual growth. We don't advise about mutual funds. Still, in "28 Ways You Can Help Israel" on our website (levitt.com/essays/help-israel), you can discover how to invest in Israel for as little as \$100 at IsraelBonds.com or by calling 1-888-764-2631. — Mark ★

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Israeli Startup's Drones Deliver Food in U.S.



SCIENCE: BY SHARON WROBEL (r) Algemeiner.com

An Israeli engineer is seeking to spearhead aerial drone deliveries of food and other goods to American suburbs. Yariv Bash is the co-founder of SpaceIL — a non-profit that seeks to make its second attempt at an unmanned moon landing in 2024 — and CEO of drone delivery startup Flytrex.

In 2013, Bash and Amit Regev co-founded Flytrex to develop black boxes for consumer drones for real-time data tracking. Three years later they realized that the “killer application for drones is going to be drone delivery.”

“We are focusing on short range, high volume, and ultra-affordable drone deliveries to suburbs. We have been delivering eggs, hot coffee, hot sandwiches, ice cream, and it works,” Bash said. “I like to call it the future of instant gratification. You can stay home and get that item delivered to you for the same price as in the store without any additional fee.”



(screen grab / YouTube)

Airborne Flytrex drone

In September 2020, Walmart launched a pilot program to use the startup’s fully automated drones for backyard delivery of select grocery and household essential items from their stores around Fayetteville, North Carolina. In June 2021, the restaurant chain El Pollo Loco began testing the door-to-backyard drone delivery in Southern California.

The drones are controlled through the Internet, and don’t require anyone to fly them or drop the packages off at delivery in the backyard. “There is no joystick.



(screen grab / YouTube)

Flytrex aerial drone

There is no video camera. All you have to do is install the app on your phone, choose your products, and press the order button. We can perform 10 to 15 deliveries per hour using multiple drones,” Bash added.

Flytrex drones can carry up to 6.6 pounds, fly at 32 mph for three miles, and reach a customer’s backyard within five minutes. Once the drone

arrives at its destination, the delivery is gently lowered from an altitude of 80 feet using a wire-release mechanism.

“For the customer it is as affordable as going to the store, minus the time and money it costs you to get to the store,” Bash noted. “For the restaurant, it costs much less than the up to 30% they would pay Uber or Wolt.”

Flytrex’s pilot fleet stations are currently set up mainly in shopping malls, where they have runners who pick up orders from restaurants and place them in a box attached to the delivery drone. ★



Rare Surgery Restores Blind Woman's Vision



MEDICINE: BY SHARON WROBEL (r) Algemeiner.com

A blind woman has regained her eyesight after 20 years following a first-of-its-kind surgery at an Israeli hospital.

The rare procedure, carried out at Israel's Beilinson Hospital, restored the sight of 60-year-old Hanan Awad, an Israeli-Arab from Nazareth, who suffered from a severe corneal disease that led to her blindness.



Hanan Awad, patient

During the complex surgery, which was performed for the first time at an Israeli hospital, a piece of bone from Awad's leg and an artificial cornea were implanted in her eye.

"The surgery is performed in the most severe cases of corneal disease in which it is not possible to perform a cornea transplant from donor tissue, and in fact, it is the only option for returning eyesight to blind patients whose condition until now was considered incurable," said Dr. Eitan Livni, head of the cornea unit at Beilinson, also known as the Rabin Medical Center.

Diseases of the cornea, the eye's outermost lens, are the second leading cause of blindness in most developing countries. Every year about two million new cases of corneal blindness are recorded, according to estimates by the World Health Organization.

Awad's two-phase procedure involved surgeries lasting seven hours each. During

the first, a piece of bone from Awad's shin was taken and then carved and sculpted into the shape of a thin disc. In its center, a 3-millimeter hole was drilled, into which an artificial cornea made of plastic material was inserted. As a result, the doctors created a hybrid implant of organic bone and an artificial implant, to be implanted in the affected eye.

For a period of three months, the implant was placed under Awad's skin so that soft tissue and blood vessels would nourish the bone and it would be kept alive. During this period, fresh tissue grows that attaches to the bone. In the second phase of the procedure, the surgeons removed the bone prosthesis with the blood vessels formed around it, and in a complex operation, implanted the bone disc with the artificial cornea in the center of Awad's eye.

Last year, surgeons at Beilinson performed the country's first successful artificial cornea transplant developed by Israeli medical tech company CorNeat Vision, helping Jamal Furani, a resident of Haifa, regain his sight. ★



Dr. Eitan Livni



Jewish Doctor Escaped Nazis and Founded Paralympics

Note: The 2022 Paralympic Winter Games will be held March 4–13 in Beijing, China. —Editor

BY EVELYN FRICK / TimesOfIsrael.com

The Paralympic Games have an inspiring Jewish origin story—thanks to their founder, Ludwig Guttmann.

Guttmann was born on July 3, 1899, in Tost, Germany (now Toszek, Poland), to a German-Jewish family. In 1917, while working as a volunteer at a hospital for coal miners, Guttmann encountered a patient with a spinal injury and paraplegia. At the time, paraplegia was effectively a death sentence; unfortunately, this proved true for the young coal miner. However, the memory of this patient had a deep impact on Guttmann.

Just a year later, Guttmann began training in medicine at the University of Breslau before transferring to the University of Freiburg in 1919, where he graduated with his medical degree in 1924.

By the 1930s, Guttmann was working as a neurosurgeon at the Wenzel Hancke Hospital in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland), as a university lecturer, and as an assistant to Otfried Foerster, a pioneer of neurosurgery. But in 1935, Germany passed the Nuremberg Laws, which among their other anti-Semitic stipulations prohibited Jews from practicing medicine. **Guttmann was expelled from his university appointment, fired from his hospital job, and stripped of his doctor title.** He was assigned to work at the Breslau Jewish Hospital.

Then in 1938 came *Kristallnacht* [Night of Broken Glass].

Facing the SS

“On the 9th of November I took my car and went to the synagogue,” Guttmann recalled. “And there, the whole thing was surrounded by hundreds of people, burning, and SS men playing football with prayer books. I stood there and realized that my tears were running down. But I became quite determined to help persecuted people.”

That evening, 64 people came to the hospital seeking refuge from the pogrom and the Gestapo. Guttmann admitted them all. The next morning, he was called to the hospital.

“I went to the hospital and there were three SS officers sitting there,” Guttmann said. They asked, “Sixty-four people were admitted. How can you explain this?” Guttmann discussed every case, and invented all kinds of diagnoses. He said, “Out of the 64 people, I saved 60.”



top: Ludwig Guttmann early in his medical career **bottom:** Australian Paralympian Tony South receives a gold medal for archery at the 1968 Tel Aviv summer Paralympics from founder, Ludwig Guttmann

© 2018 Australian Paralympic Committee (Wikimedia Commons)



(continued on next page)

Guttman on a 2013 Russian stamp from the series "Sports Legends"



credit:
Wikimedia
Commons

Despite his courage, Guttman and his family were not safe in Germany. But in 1939, the Nazis reinstated his passport and ordered him to travel to Portugal to treat a friend of the Portuguese dictator. With his family in tow, Guttman traveled there, with his return trip to Germany scheduled through England. The Council for Assisting Refugee Academics anticipated his arrival and arranged for Guttman and his family to stay in the United Kingdom. On March 14, 1939, the family arrived in Oxford, and in 1945 Guttman became a naturalized citizen of the UK.

In England, Guttman eventually established and directed the Spinal Injuries Centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital, where he also pioneered treatment and rehabilitation for tetraplegic and paraplegic patients. Later he realized the need to help paraplegic patients build their self-esteem: "It occurred to me that it would have been a serious omission not to include sport in the rehabilitation of handicapped people."

On July 29, 1948, the first Stoke Mandeville Games began on the same day as the opening for the London Summer Olympics. The games consisted of disabled war veterans, all of whom were in wheelchairs, competing in archery. The event was held annually and, in 1952, a team of paraplegic Dutch servicemen traveled to England to compete in the first International Stoke Mandeville Games.

In 1960, for the first time, the International Stoke Mandeville Games were held in Rome, Italy, alongside the Olympic Games. These games are now recognized as the first Paralympic Games. (The term *Paralympics* refers to the fact that they are parallel to the Olympics; the games were retroactively recognized by the International Olympic Committee in 1984.) The Rome event featured 400 athletes, representing 23 countries, with an array of disabilities.

There were challenges for the Paralympics during the first two decades. In 1968, the Olympic host city, Mexico City, backed out of hosting the Paralympics. A determined Guttman accepted an invitation from the Israeli government to hold them near Tel Aviv. On November 4 of that year, nearly 10,000 people watched the opening ceremonies at the stadium of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Then in 1980, the Soviet Union refused to host the Paralympics alongside the Moscow Olympics. When questioned about it, a Soviet official told a journalist that there were no disabled people in the Soviet Union.

Since the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul and the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France, the Paralympics and the Olympics have been held in the same cities and venues.

Guttman died on March 18, 1980, but his legacy lives on. His work surpassed the Nazi eugenics that tried to eradicate him along with the Jewish and disabled communities. ★



credit: AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti

Athletes from Israel enter the stadium during the opening ceremony for the 2020 Paralympics at the National Stadium in Tokyo, Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021





SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

King Mohammed VI of Morocco

Moroccan King Orders Restoration of Jewish Sites

By Shahar Klaiman / IsraelHayom.com

King Mohammed VI of Morocco recently introduced an initiative to restore hundreds of historical Jewish sites in the kingdom, according to Arab media reports. The move is part of the rapprochement between Rabat and Jerusalem, which resumed diplomatic relations in 2021 as part of the Abraham Accords.

The plan is expected to see the renovation of hundreds of synagogues, cemeteries, and Jewish heritage sites in several cities in Morocco, among them the Jewish cemetery in the city of Fez, which includes 13,000 graves.

The monarch has also reportedly decided to reinstate the original names of some of the country's Jewish neighborhoods.

Several Jewish museums have already been opened in Morocco, alongside other initiatives seeking to cater to the growing interest in preserving Moroccan Jewish heritage.

Israel welcomed the initiative, which came as the two countries marked the first anniversary of their new-found alliance.

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz made his first visit to Morocco in November 2021. There he met with his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Loudiyi. The two inked a memorandum of understanding formalizing defense ties between the two nations and

allowing for smoother cooperation between their defense establishments.

In a world of growing anti-Semitism, it is a breath of fresh air to read about Morocco's monarch restoring Jewish sites and allying with Israel. May more countries follow suit. —Kirsten

France Closes Mosque That Incited Violence

JNS.org

In December 2021, the French government ordered a mosque to close for six months for "inciting hatred" and "violence" against Christians, Jews, and homosexuals.



France's Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin

Gérald Darmanin, France's Interior Minister, announced that the government was closing the mosque in Beauvais due to its "unacceptable" sermons, "apology of jihad," and incitement targeting "Christians, homosexuals, and Jews." Darmanin revealed that the mosque also regularly hosted a speaker who "acts

(continued on next page)





as a regular imam” and reportedly made remarks that “glorify jihad and the fighters, whom he describes as heroes.”

A lawyer for the NGO Espoir et Fraternité (“Hope and Fraternity”), which runs the mosque, stated that the organization would appeal the mosque’s closing in court. The lawyer also criticized authorities for focusing on “certain remarks made during preaching by one of the mosque’s imams—who has since been suspended—who was speaking on a voluntary basis.”

In August 2021, France adopted a controversial separatism law that the government said aims to fight Islamic radicalism.

There are reportedly 2,620 Muslim places of worship in France. Darmanin stated that over the previous six months, 99 mosques suspected of promoting a radical ideology had been controlled by authorities. “Of these 99 [mosques], 21 have been closed, and six are in the process of being closed,” Darmanin noted.

Dry Bones

Purim



credit: Melvin C. Depietre/Photo/Getty Images

John T. Earnest at his arraignment hearing in San Diego County Superior Court in San Diego, CA in 2019

Synagogue Shooter Gets Federal Life Sentence

By Shira Hanau / JTA.org

The California man who killed a woman and wounded three others when he opened fire at a Poway, California synagogue in 2019 was sentenced to a second life sentence in federal court in December 2021. John Timothy Earnest had been sentenced to one life sentence in California state court earlier in 2021.

While the second life sentence does not change the length of the prison sentence, the two life terms signify the gravity of the crimes committed.

Earnest, a white supremacist, carried out his attack on the Chabad synagogue in Poway on April 27, 2019, just six months after the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh that left 11 people dead. Earnest cited the attack in Pittsburgh, as well as the March 2019 shooting at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand as inspirations in a manifesto he posted online.

In a call to 911 after the shooting, Earnest confessed to the shooting and told the operator, “I’m defending our nation against the Jewish people, who are trying to destroy all white people.” Earnest was taken into custody that day.

Lori Gilbert-Kaye, a 60-year-old member of the synagogue, was killed in the shooting. ★



Good Shepherd Ring and Other Treasure Found in Caesarea



ARCHAEOLOGY: BY ROSSELLA TERCATIN (r) JPost.com

Some time ago, divers from the Israel Antiquities Authority's (IAA) Marine Archaeology Unit were surveying an area outside the harbor of Caesarea, as they routinely do off the coast of Israel.

"We spotted a broken metal anchor and decided to see if there was more in the area," said archaeologist Jacob Sharvit. "We soon started to find many other artifacts."

That diving led to the discovery of an incredible underwater treasure, from two ancient ships dating back to the 3rd and 14th centuries that wrecked in the same spot just off the coast — over 1,000 years apart. The treasures included hundreds of coins and some unique jewelry.

In the first century B.C., Caesarea was selected by Herod to build a port city. The city remained an important center throughout the Roman and Byzantine periods.

Perhaps the most extraordinary find was a gold ring. Thick and shaped as an octagon, the ring carried a green stone with the figure of a young shepherd wrapped in a tunic and carrying a lamb on his shoulders engraved on it. The "good shepherd" is one of the earliest expressions to refer to Jesus, used multiple times in the Gospels.

(continued on next page)



Good Shepherd ring

credit: Dafna Gazi/Israel Antiquities Authority



Caesarea port

credit: Yaakov Shmida/Israel Antiquities Authority

"I am the good shepherd," reads a verse in John. "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

"We know that similar images were found in the Christian catacombs in Rome," said Helena Sokolov, a curator at the IAA Coin Department.

Caesarea was home to an important early Christian community, and it is mentioned several times in the New Testament. Among others, the Roman centurion Cornelius was baptized in Caesarea by the Apostle Peter [Acts 10:1–48].

"This was the first instance of a non-Jew being accepted into the Christian community," Sharvit stated. "From here, the Christian religion began to be disseminated across the world."

Other artifacts from the Roman period included silver and bronze coins — which allowed the expert to date the findings — a precious gemstone with a lyre carved on the surface, bronze bells, an eagle figurine (symbol of Roman rule), another figurine shaped like a dancer wearing a comic mask, and pottery vessels.

"We were surprised by the quantity of bells we uncovered," added Sharvit. "It is possible that the sailors used them to fish with fish nets during the night, or maybe they were part of the cargo and were goods to sell."

The more modern ship was carrying a hoard of about 560 silver coins from the Mamluk period.

"At the time, Caesarea was not an important center anymore," Sharvit noted. "The Mamluks did not really have ships or a fleet, and they were worried that the Europeans would come to wage war from the sea, so they destroyed many ports."

Sharvit said that it is not possible to determine to whom the ships belonged.

It's absolutely fascinating to read about new archaeological discoveries from centuries ago. Our pilgrims visit Caesarea on every Zola Tour. Its beauty is unparalleled. — Kirsten ★



credit: Dana Gazit/Israel Antiquities Authority

Coins from the Mamluk period



Rabbi Quits Over BBC's Anti-Semitism



BY BATYA JERENBERG / WorldIsraelNews.com

A rabbi who for three decades was a regular commentator for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has quit over the network's blatant anti-Semitism.

Rabbi Y.Y. Rubinstein wrote in his letter of resignation, "I simply don't see how I, or in fact any Jew who has any pride in that name, can be associated with the Corporation anymore."



credit: Rabbi Y.Y. Rubinstein

Rabbi Y.Y. Rubinstein

The most recent egregious example of anti-Jewish bias he cited was the network's report on an attack in December on a bus full of religious schoolchildren in London. When the bus was halted near a bus stop, several men banged on and spit at the bus windows, yelled at the passengers, put up their arms in a Nazi salute, and showed them the middle finger.

The BBC reported that anti-Muslim slurs could be heard from inside the bus, which was categorically proven to be untrue by an exhaustive investigation carried out by the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Yet the network has steadfastly refused to retract or apologize for its reports on the incident.

Dry Bones

BBC Anti-Semitism



Rubinstein wrote, "The obfuscation and denial that followed, was and is utterly damning."

In a separate article for *The Jewish Chronicle*, the Orthodox rabbi wrote about his 30-year career as a regular on several religious and news programs on radio and television. He found almost everyone he worked with to be kind and profes-

sional. "Yet all through my years... I was aware that despite my many friends there, I was never quite part of the club," he wrote.

One of the unofficial symbols of being a member was always carrying a copy of *The Guardian* into work, he noted. The left-leaning paper is highly critical of Israel and has been accused by many Britons of accepting an anti-Semitic slant in its articles regarding both Israel and Jews.

"Those ubiquitous folded copies of *The Guardian* under so many BBC arms... point toward something more worrying, in this case, the widespread cancer of anti-Semitism" at the Corporation, he wrote.

The Orthodox rabbi added that he has "scores" of stories of arguments among editors and writers regarding the wording of scripts that showed the BBC to be far more worried about offending Muslims than Jews. ★





Doctor's Visit

Amos, an elderly Jewish man, has just moved to a new town. He becomes ill and needs to see a doctor.

In the waiting room, Amos tries to find out about the doctor. He asks the man sitting next to him if the doctor is a specialist. The man replies that the doctor specializes in everything.

Amos thinks about this and gets nervous. He asks the man if the doctor's fees are expensive. The man responds: "Well, he is and he isn't. You see, he charges you one thousand dollars for your first visit."

Amos looks even more worried now and exclaims in amazement, "A thousand dollars?" The man replies, "Yes, but all your visits after that for the rest of your life are free!"

Amos thinks about this, and then gets called by the nurse to go in to see the doctor.

On entering the exam room, Amos says casually, "Hello doctor, here I am again!" ★



Answer Key for March 2022 Crossword (p.23)

Across:

- 4. Clothes
- 5. Birth
- 8. Virgins
- 9. Deceives
- 11. King
- 14. Sheep

Down:

- 1. Words
- 2. Rooster
- 3. Betray
- 6. Hanged
- 7. Disciples
- 10. Risen
- 12. Faithful
- 13. Servant
- 14. Stone
- 18. Hour



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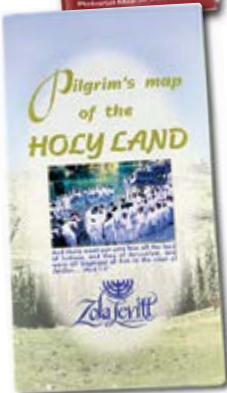
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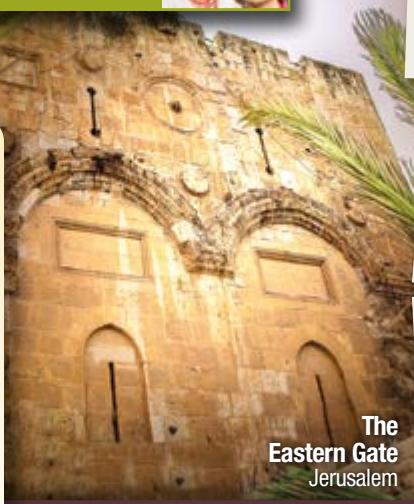
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