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Enhancing Trust

January 2025

Dear Reader,

My wife and I recently finished remodeling our master bathroom. This major project spanned about nine months of 2024 as we sought to minimize disruptions and manage expenses while working when we had the time. Though we enjoy our “new” bathroom and are happy to be finished with this renovation, its completion means that we’re now planning the next makeover.

A new year prompts many of us ZLMers to consider changes that we’d like to make. While it’s easy to start something, it’s difficult to keep at it until completion. But we can’t experience the reward without enduring the rigor. Like the Corinthian Believers, we need to remember the Apostle Paul’s words: “... *be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain*” (1 Cor. 15:58). I pray that you will join me in living these words, empowered by God’s Spirit (Eph. 3:20), as we serve and honor the Lord throughout 2025.

This *Levitt Letter* includes insights from Sarah (cover), Kirsten (6), and John (16) that can help you persevere in your spiritual journey. Don’t miss Joshua and Caleb reviewing their lobster expedition in Maine (8) or Todd sharing about his recent Gospel mission to war-torn Israel (13). You’ll read about notable Americans defending Israel (25, 30) while a prominent website demonizes the Jewish State (28). As usual, this issue includes Israeli innovations in science (26) and medicine (27), new archaeological discoveries (32), and much more.



Please continue to *sha’alu shalom Yerushalayim* — “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Ps. 122:6),

Greg Miller, Editor
Zola Levitt Ministries

P.S. We are so grateful for your continuing prayers and financial contributions for Zola Levitt Ministries. Your partnership enables us to develop Messianic Bible-teaching resources that reach viewers and readers on every continent with Yeshua’s Good News. We look forward to several new, on-location television series that are coming this year. It is your generosity that enables these worthy ministerial endeavors. Thank you!

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



*President Donald Trump with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Palm Beach, Florida, on July 26, 2024. credit: Amos Ben-Gershon / GPO

Netanyahu Hails Trump's "Historic Return to the White House"

By Amelie Botbol / JNS.org

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Donald Trump after his victory in the 2024 U.S. presidential election

"Dear Donald and Melania Trump, Congratulations on history's greatest comeback!" the premier tweeted. "Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America. This is a huge victory! In true friendship, yours, Benjamin and Sara Netanyahu."

Netanyahu accompanied his post with a recent picture of himself and his wife with Trump at the president's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog also congratulated Trump, calling him "a true and dear friend of Israel, and a champion of peace and cooperation in our region." Herzog tweeted: "I look forward to working with you to strengthen the ironclad bond between our peoples, to build a future of

(continued p.4)

From Anguish to Hope

By Sarah Liberman

We have a saying in Israel:
Heege-u mayim ad nefesh,

which means

"The water
has reached

up to my

soul." It

pictures

someone

trapped in

rising water,

in which the

person will drown

if nothing changes. Israelis use

this phrase to express the feeling
that something major needs to

change in a given situation. These
words have been spoken often

throughout 2024. As we are over a
year into this war we didn't start,

while fighting on multiple fronts,
many Israelis feel the water level
could soon be overwhelming.



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From Anguish to Hope

continued from cover



credit: LoveTheWind / iStock



As the war continues, Israelis are pomeled with pain, grief, and trauma. In recent meetings and local conferences, I have witnessed the conflict's devastating effects. It has taken a tremendous toll on families of hostages, on those who have lost loved ones in battle or from unexpected attacks, and especially on young children who are separated for months on end from parents and family members who are serving in the military.

Fear has gripped many people in Israel. Families and small businesses continue to struggle because of the war's detrimental financial impact. Israelis are still deeply divided about judicial reform and Orthodox religious conscription. Without God in their lives, there is only a growing hopelessness on the horizon for many people in this nation.

Even if our country reaches a ceasefire deal, the illusion of peace — fragile as it was previously — is shattered for almost everyone here. Most Israelis now prefer force to platitudes. Many have adopted a Middle Eastern saying, "Peace is made with the strong." This means paying the high price that is required for us to regain our powerful deterrence in the violent neighborhood that surrounds us.

Even for Believers,* it can take time to shift our perspective away from anguish and toward hope — to lift our eyes to the Lord Who provides our help (Ps. 121:1).

When we do this, however, we stop dwelling on the physical devastation that the devil sows and instead find a new way to pray, proclaiming God's sovereignty over our circumstances. The authority of God's Word fuels and empowers this kind of prayer. When we pray in this way, we can rest in the victory that the Lord will bring as He watches over Israel (Ps. 121:4) and is with His people everywhere (Ps. 23:4; Matt. 28:20; Rom. 8:38–39; Phil. 4:6–7).

I am grateful for the opportunity to write the monthly *Personal Letter*, where I share a personal perspective about life in the Holy Land. In reading it, you can discover what is happening here spiritually, and know how to support the people of Israel through your ongoing, targeted prayers.


Thank you for standing with us. ☆

Sarah, please know that Kirsten and I are praying for you, your family, and all Israelis. Our hearts, minds, and prayers are with you. Thank you for the update.
—David

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

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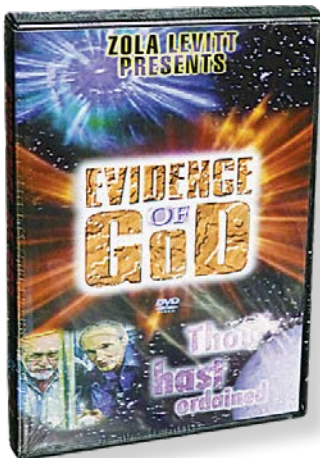


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Evidence of God DVD set Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

Countering claims that the Bible's Creation "fantasy" is incompatible with dinosaur bones, fossils, and carbon dating, nuclear physicist Dr. Gerald Schroeder explains time dilation —how time has shrunk since the Big Bang —and bridges the perceived differences between science and Scripture. Science confirms the Biblical sequence of events that occurred during our planet's first week.

Episodes include:

- The Universe had a Beginning
- Days Two and Three of Creation
- Relatively Speaking
- Day Four of Creation
- Tuned for Life
- Days Five and Six of Creation
- Day One of Creation
- Creation Reviewed

Please see the booklet *Genesis One* on p. 36.

Netanyahu Hails Trump's "Historic Return to the White House"

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(l to r) Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Donald Trump, and Sara Netanyahu

credit: Israeli Government Press Office / AFP

peace and security for the Middle East, and to uphold our shared values. On behalf of the Jewish and democratic State of Israel, and all our people, I wish you much success."

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir retweeted his own post from July 14 stating, "God Bless Trump," with the fresh caption "Yessss," accompanied by images of the Israeli and American flags.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz tweeted, "Congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump on his historic victory. Together, we'll strengthen the U.S.-Israel alliance, bring back the hostages, and stand firm to defeat the axis of evil led by Iran."

Minister-without-portfolio Gideon Sa'ar praised Trump's "historic victory." He tweeted: "As a true friend of Israel with a proven commitment to Israel's security, we welcome your strong and dedicated leadership as we work to build a better future of security and cooperation for the Middle East."

Benny Gantz, leader of the opposition National Unity Party, called Trump "a true friend of Israel — demonstrated through not only his words but actions." Gantz added: "Throughout his former tenure, he brokered the Abraham Accords, officially recognized the Golan Heights as part of Israel, and moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem."

Continuing, Gantz asserted: "Against the backdrop of emboldened Iranian aggression in the region, its race to nuclear capabilities, and the paramount efforts to return the hostages home, President Trump's leadership will not only ensure the U.S. continues to be a special friend and ally to the State of Israel but a vital beacon of moral clarity to the Middle East and the world, Thank you, and congratulations, Mr. President."

Education Minister Yoav Kisch tweeted: "Welcome back Mr. President."

Added Israeli Culture Minister Miki Zohar: "Congratulations to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump. We're already looking forward to the next four years." ☆



Why President Donald Trump is Good for Israel

By Avi Nachmani / IsraelNationalNews.com



credit: Shealah Craighead / Official White House Photo

(l to r) Bahrain's Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Donald J. Trump, and the UAE's Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan after signing the Abraham Accords in 2020.

On January 20, Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 47th president of the United States. Israel has a distinct interest in Trump's victory. In his first term, **Trump was one of the most pro-Israel presidents in U.S. history**. Many Israelis consider him an ardent supporter of Israel who works to promote its interests.

Here are several reasons why Israel needs President Trump again:

Firm support for Israel and its security

— Trump is one of the American leaders who expressed unequivocal and uncompromising support for Israel's security. In his first term, he moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem — a historic breakthrough in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Trump also removed the U.S. from the nuclear agreement with Iran, and imposed extensive sanctions on the Islamic regime. This reduced Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons — which the State of Israel sees as an existential threat to the nation — especially in these days of war.

Promoting normalization with Arab countries

— In 2020, Trump brokered the Abraham Accords, a series of normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab countries. These agreements created new partnerships and opened doors for cooperation in business, security, technology, and tourism. With Trump's return to the White House, many expect him to continue bringing more Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. This will help to reduce tensions in the region.

A tough attitude toward Iran — Trump took an aggressive approach toward Iran,

imposing heavy economic sanctions that reduced its ability to finance terrorist organizations. This weakened the ability of both Hezbollah and Hamas to pose a significant threat to Israel. Because Iran remains a primary threat to Israel, we hope and pray that the Trump administration will continue to exert economic and political pressure on the Iranian regime.

Deepening of economic cooperation

— Trump's first term brought a growing economic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. He encouraged American investments in Israel and created collaborations in areas including technology, security, and medical innovation. A continued partnership can help strengthen Israel's economy and create more jobs in Israel, especially in the high-tech and defense industries.

Influence on the United Nations (UN) and international organizations

— Trump took a critical stance toward the UN and many international institutions that often have a critical stance toward Israel. He withdrew the U.S. from the UN Human Rights Council due to what he called their "anti-Israeli bias." This gave Israel important political support in the fight against unfair condemnations in international institutions. Trump's return may continue to contribute to Israel's defense in the diplomatic arena.

Trump's great victory is an important reminder of the strong and courageous alliance between Israel and the U.S. that, God willing, will go back to its great days. God bless Israel. God bless America. ✨



New Every Morning

People often say, “I’m so ready to be done with this past year!” I never fully identified with that sentiment until 2024. Truthfully, I’ve never been happier to welcome a new year.

Since the beginning of last year, I’ve grieved over the Israelis who have been hostages in Gaza (for over a year now). I also mourn for the many Israelis who have lost their lives — not only from Hamas’s atrocities on October 7, 2023, but also during Israel’s ongoing wars against Iran’s terrorist proxies. In addition, I have agonized with everyone in Israel who lives under constant threat of rocket and missile attacks from Israel’s enemies.

Then in March, my father, a pillar of strength and wisdom, succumbed to failing kidneys. His death left a void in our family. Only 20 days later, my only brother suddenly left this world. In August, we experienced the tragic loss

of an unborn grandchild. These deaths were painful reminders of life’s fragility.

Now, my family has the ongoing struggle of caring for my mother, who is fighting dementia. Many of you understand this daily battle, and this shared experience brings us closer. Yet even when we know that others go through some of our same losses and difficulties, this awareness doesn’t always make the personal struggle easier.

To cap off the challenging year, in November we had to euthanize Snickers, our 20-year-old cat.

So, how do we navigate life’s difficult seasons?

We take them one day at a time.

On the drive home, after saying our goodbyes to my father on his deathbed, I told my mother, “Mom, we’ll take it hour by hour until the end of the day. Then, we’ll focus on surviving day by day until we’ve made it through a full week. After





that, somehow, we'll continue in this world without him by our side."

Throughout 2024, I've often recalled God's continuous mercies: *"Because of the mercies of Adonai we will not be consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning! Great is Your faithfulness"* (Lam. 3:22-23 TLV). This passage has been my anchor in many storms, a constant reminder that even in the darkest moments, God's compassion and faithfulness never waver.

Every day, we must remind ourselves that the harsh realities of this world will not overtake us. Our Lord is always with us (Matt. 28:20). He will never leave or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). His compassions are new every single morning.

Do you, like me, need "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow"?

This common need connects us in our struggles. Couldn't we all use renewed strength as we begin this new year? We can only endure the trials of this world through the peace, hope, and strength that come from our Lord.

May all of the Israeli hostages return home in 2025. May the memory of those we have lost be a blessing to everyone. May you experience more joy than sorrow. Throughout this year, let us continue to *"pray for the peace of Jerusalem"* (Ps. 122:6). ☆



The Lobstermen



That's probably a title you never expected to see in the *Levitt Letter*. Biblical kosher law (which differs greatly from today's kosher) is found in Leviticus chapter 11. In this chapter, God identifies clean and unclean animals — those that were acceptable or forbidden for Israel to eat. Note verse 9: *"Of all the creatures living in the water of the seas and the streams*

you may eat any that have fins and scales." That means you can remove half of your sushi platter — no crustaceans, squids, or eels.

Now that you know about kosher, here's more about the lobsters. For months, we prayed fervently,

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First photo: Filming in Maine

Second photo: Josh catches his first lobster!

Third photo: (l to r) Mike Ferland, Joshua Aaron, Joshua Colson, Caleb Colson, Israel Hanna

Fourth photo: Lobstermen Josh and Bubba Lee training the gang

asking God for insight about our next television series. When God replied, His answer was quite shocking: Don't go to Israel.* That seemed odd, since God usually leads us to Israel, even in the middle of wars. But God's ways are not like our ways.

Throughout Scripture, God often subverts man's prejudices and presumptions. He used women to bring victory for His people. The Lord commanded Ezekiel to cook his food over human feces. And who can forget when God instructed the Prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute? Later, Yeshua healed on the Sabbath, allowed His disciples to eat with unwashed hands, and dined with tax collectors and sinners. (Personally, we would never invite the IRS for dinner!)

So, as we considered God's reply, we didn't ask "why." Instead, we asked "what" — What did He want us to do? You should always be ready to say "yes" whenever you ask God that question.

Here's what the Lord showed us. Before Yeshua ascended into Heaven, He commanded His followers to go into all the world and preach the Gospel — the "Good News" — to every creature (Mark 16:15). Clearly, the disciples never thought that their Messiah intended such "creatures" to include lobsters (that is, gentiles). So instead of going "out," years passed while the Apostles remained "in" Israel. But along came the murderous Pharisee Shaul (Saul) — the most law-abiding, religious zealot of them all. He hated the new Jewish Believers and attempted to kill them. Soon enough, however, Yeshua blinded him and said something like this: "Hey, rabbi. I've got a job for you. You will become My very first Lobsterman!" And the rest is history.

That's right, God sent your beloved Bearded Bible Brothers to the lobster capital of the world — Rockland, Maine

— to teach about first century Believers against the backdrop of contemporary Lobstermen. We were accompanied by Pastor Mike Ferland — our local field-guide — and an ensemble of lobstermen, evangelists, missionaries, teachers, and even Messianic recording artist Joshua Aaron. With their assistance, we unraveled the mystery of Yeshua's call for His disciples to become "fishers of men" and considered the trailblazing ways of the Apostle Paul, the original Lobsterman. As the Church Age barrels toward a cataclysmic finale, there's much we can learn in the Book of Acts from the first Church. Their example in witnessing to the lost, along with empowering and discipling Yeshua's followers, can prepare us in the Body of Messiah for our glorious future.

This groundbreaking new series is coming this spring, after our long-awaited premiere of *Rebuilding the Ruined Cities*. Whether or not you feel qualified, God has appointed you and all Believers to reach your "world" — your sphere of influence — for Him. What does it take to be a Fisherman or a Lobsterman? Find out!

Love,
Caleb & Joshua

Caleb and Joshua

P.S. Get a sneak peek at *The Lobstermen* by scanning the QR code with your smartphone's camera and then tapping on the link that appears.



* Please see "[Bringing Good News to War-Torn Israel](#)" on page 13. As you are likely to surmise, there was no persuading Todd and August to wait any longer on God's calling to return to the Holy Land despite the ongoing turmoil there. —Mark ☆

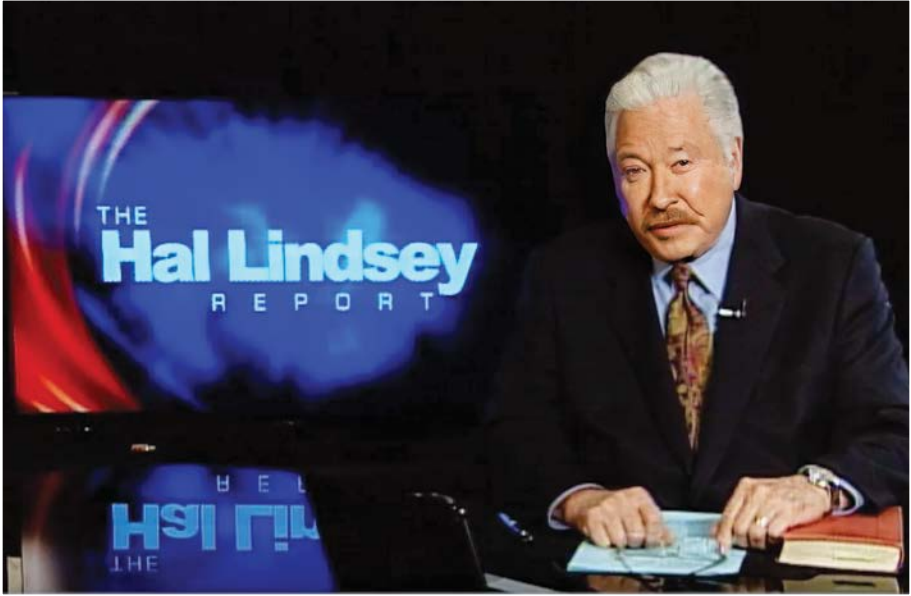
Please see Caleb's new book *Josiah and the Last Reformation* on p. 20.





The Tribulation Period

by Zola Levitt
from 1999
26 years ago



credit: MinistryWatch.com

At a recent prophecy conference, Hal Lindsey made the most interesting statement. He said simply, "The purpose of the Tribulation Period is to convert the Jews."

I certainly like the idea of bringing the Jews to their Messiah. In fact, it's my life's work. And I certainly don't disagree with Brother Lindsey on this or almost any other statement he has ever made. But with that said, I must also point out that the Tribulation Period is also a time of salvation for the gentiles. In fact, although it is not usually widely published, the Tribulation will probably be the most vital seven years of conversion to Christ that the world will experience since the days of Paul.

I surmise this from the fact that 144,000 Jewish people are to be converted immediately (see Rev. 7:4, etc.). Then, these people go to testify of Christ wherever they can. Evidently, these witnesses thoroughly cover the gentile nations because, when the Lord returns, He will set up a Judgment Seat only for those of that seven-year period.

Most of us are familiar with the Lord's statement in Matthew 25:40: *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."* But perhaps we overlook the context. It is somewhat of an "immigration office" into the coming Kingdom for those people who demonstrated their faith by showing kindness to the 144,000.

Obviously, when these Jewish Believers come through a city, they are all outlaws in the antiChrist's society. Often the police will be close behind them. When they knock on a door or approach to testify in the streets, those who encounter them have a choice. If they have a heart for Christ, they will assist these testifiers however they can — especially providing food and clothing, as the Lord notes in the passage.

They will also visit imprisoned Believers, as the Lord also points out. But if they are rank unbelievers, they will, of course, think of themselves first — and turn away the Jewish testifiers. Thus, these — "the least" of the Lord's "brethren" — will be forsaken by those whom they



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approach with the gift of eternal life. But those who turn them away will themselves forsake the Kingdom and eternity with God!

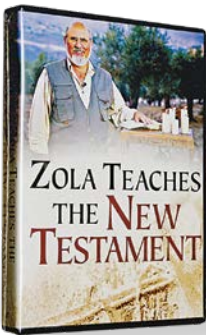
The force of Lindsey's statement is that the 144,000 would naturally go "to the Jew first" (Rom. 1:16), as we are all supposed to do. The difference between those testifiers and today's Church is that they really will fulfill that verse and start their witnessing in the Jewish community. God knows that is the most efficient way to reach out to the gentiles. Eventually, a veritable army of Jewish evangelists will visit all countries of the world, it seems, since the Lord will find so many to be sheep rather than goats when He returns.

It won't be a simple task to testify to today's Israelis. They can be very opinionated and arrogant. The Orthodox among them are practically conducting a civil war against those whom they consider unbelievers. The sad part is that they're all unbelievers so far as the Messiah is concerned, and fighting among themselves isn't helping. I think the Orthodox will eventually commit what *TIME* magazine once called "monopoly suicide," just as certain doctors and certain lawyers (and certain

TV preachers) have done. They will be universally disliked and dealt with only as a matter of necessity. They will pull down their own walls upon themselves, much like Samson did in the Philistine temple.

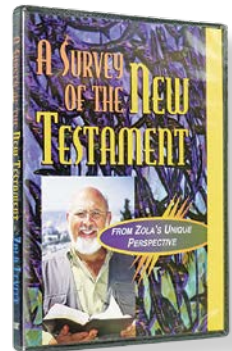
I guess it's only fair to add that the Muslims have far greater internal strife caused by their own "Orthodox." Certainly, the clerics of Islam have totally mastered what Revelation 2:15 calls "the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes" — the conquering of the people (laity) by the priesthood. When this happens to the crazy degree that it has in fundamentalist Muslim areas, the people are so crushed and the priesthood are so uncontrollable that lives are lost, terrorism is undertaken, and everyone in the society is poorer for it.

The Tribulation Period is of little concern to today's Christians, truth to tell. We just won't be here for it. But we need to know it as part of End Times prophecy and a proper inspiration to witness. We see how the unbeliever is concerned in 1999 that the world is ending. Imagine how he's going to feel when the antiChrist is present, and everything is going to Hell in a handbasket! ☆



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Please see the books [The Bible Jesus Read](#) and [Once Through the New Testament](#) on p. 13.

Who Are the Elect of God?

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



Part 2

Divine election is based on predestination, which comes from a Greek word that means “to predetermine; to decree or decide beforehand.” In His love, God determined to save sinners ahead of time — before creation (Eph. 1:4–5). God chose to redeem the elect through their faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Rom. 10:9–10). **Even with God’s choice, election does not exclude a person’s freedom to accept or reject Christ**, for the Bible teaches both human responsibility and divine sovereignty.

God’s sovereignty is His absolute authority and control (Isa. 46:9–10; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11). This is clear throughout the process of salvation, from start to finish: *“For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified”* (Rom. 8:29–30).

God’s elect includes Israel (Deut. 7:6; Ex. 19:4–6; Ps. 135:4; Isa. 41:8–9; 43:10; 44:1–2; 45:4; Amos 3:2; Rom. 11:1–3) **and the Church** (John 10:4–5; 1 Thess. 1:4–5; Eph. 1:4–14; 1 Pet. 1:1–2; 2:9; 5:13). **Beyond these, God has elected and will elect others to**

be saved, serve Him, and accomplish His divine plan. In ancient times, the Lord chose men like Enoch, Noah, and Job to accomplish His plans. In the coming seven-year Tribulation Period, God will select and seal 144,000 male Jewish evangelists from the twelve tribes of Israel to witness to the world (Rev. 7:1–8). During that time, God will elect the Two Witnesses, whose work will start and end in Jerusalem, to reprove the world for their iniquities (Rev. 11:1–11).

God chose Jesus the Messiah to be His Elect One to bring salvation to Israel and the world, as prophesied in Isaiah 42:1 and fulfilled in Matthew 12:18. In the Church, God also elects people to serve Him through the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12; 14; Eph. 4:11–16).

In Romans 11:33–36, Paul concluded his discussion of God’s election of Israel — past, present, and future — by praising God for what He has done. Ultimately, the elect are chosen to glorify God for His sovereign decision (Eph. 1:12) and to elicit praise from those whom He chooses and redeems in this age and in the age to come, so that *“He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”* (Eph. 2:7). ☆



*He might show the exceeding
riches of His grace in His kindness
toward us in Christ Jesus*

EPHESIANS 2:7





Bringing Good News to War-Torn Israel

Dr. Todd Baker
ZLM Staff Theologian
TJF Team Leader

In October 2024, August Rosado and I returned to Israel to share the Good News of Yeshua — a vital outreach during a major ongoing existential threat to the people of Israel. Despite the war, God has promised that the people of Israel will endure forever as a nation before Him under the saving reality of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31–34).



Tomer



Nir

After arriving in Tel Aviv, we met **Tomer**, who worked at the rental car agency. We explained why God compels us to come to Israel, even during the current war. After sharing the Gospel of Yeshua with Tomer, we offered him a Hebrew Study Bible. He received it and replied, "I will be happy to have it." Tomer heartily thanked us for coming to Israel, despite the risk, to stand with the Jewish people.

Later, we met **Nir** after we arrived at our hotel. As we explained that we came to Israel to bring the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah, Nir asked, "What is salvation?" Surprised by this direct question, we answered that salvation is essentially

the free gift of Yeshua, whose very name means "salvation."

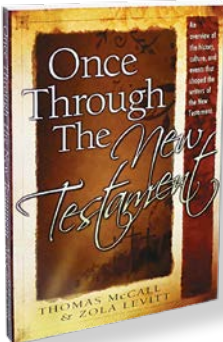
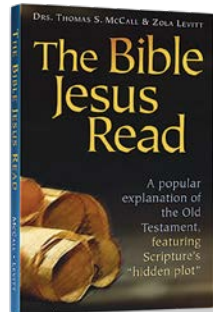
This salvation that He alone provides delivers us from the penalty and punishment of sin, death, and the devil (Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; Heb. 2:14). Nir wanted to learn more of this "great God and Savior," so he gladly accepted Messianic literature and a Hebrew Study Bible from us.

Please join us in praying for these two Israeli men. Pray that the Lord will produce the gift of repentance and faith in Yeshua for their salvation. Your prayers and financial support enable our Gospel witness in Israel "to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). ✨



[The Bible Jesus Read](#) book by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt

A popular explanation of the Old Testament, featuring Scripture's "hidden plot." Relevant to all who want to understand the beginning of God's plan and the roots of the Church on Earth.



[Once Through the New Testament](#) book

by Thomas McCall and Zola Levitt

A most readable and clear survey of the New Testament. The theology is understandable and treated with thoroughness in this compact, but complete, study. These and many other titles also available as eBooks.

Please see the CDs *Zola Teaches the New Testament* and *A Survey of the New Testament* on p. 11.

Pretending That I'm Dead

Mark Levitt
ZLM Director
since 1988



credit: Photo from L7's *Pretend We're Dead* DVD

Members of the band L7

Not that I have one foot in the grave, but now I can rest in peace, knowing that this ministry will be in excellent hands whenever I give up the ghost or retire. Rapidly approaching age 65, I no longer fear the reaper — partly since the Rapture may beat him to the punch.

L7, formed in Los Angeles in 1985, is a girl (now old-woman) band known for its pandering, tough-broad demeanor and punk rock attitude. The band is living proof that “You’ll never go broke by underestimating the taste of the masses.” Their “music” is exactly the sort of sophomoric *dreck* that Zola abhorred. Even so, the group’s incessantly repetitive hit song *Pretend We’re Dead* inspired me to ponder a post-Mark ZLM.

Several decades ago, when Zola and I disagreed on a decision, he pointedly reminded me that this ministry prospered before I came aboard in 1988. Even when he was dying of metastasized lung cancer in March 2006, he quipped, “I still run this ministry until I’m gone!” Beyond that, stubborn warrior for the Lord that he was, he filmed studio segments of his Bible teaching that our producer inevitably deemed unusable since Zola was just too frail. Nonetheless, what proof of his devotion!

This past November marked my 36th ZLM-management anniversary; Zola’s passing occurred after I served here for 18 years. In less than three years, I will be 67, the age at which Zola graduated to his Heavenly glory. Now he likely looks down with pride upon you donors and our staffers, including potentially the

best generation of ministerial leadership yet — and I’m talking about Josh, Caleb, and (if the Lord tarries another decade) my probable successor, Andrea Davis. She managed Berg Productions for 18 years before Ken Berg retired two months ago at age 81 and our ministry hired their key staffers. (See [“The State of the Ministry” on p. 14 of the September 2024 Levitt Letter.](#))

Robert Baden-Powell (1857–1941), founder of the Boy Scouts, preferred to “lead from behind,” which is what I’m increasingly doing with ZLM. The more I’ve done so, the more humbling it is to witness the excellence of:

- Josh and Caleb’s multiple talents, boundless energy, and unceasing burden for the Lord’s work. Oh, how those two Messianic Jews can pinch a TV production penny!
- Sarah Liberman’s *Personal Letters*. Written by our Sabra living in northern Israel, these have become progressively more captivating. Wouldn’t you agree?
- You — with your endless prayers, moral support, and financial sustenance; thanks so much!

Incidentally, our unbelieving TV production vendors in Maine, who initially were skeptical and downcast about our new *Lobstermen* series, *all* insisted on donating their time and use of equipment!

Considering Romans 8:28, I’m on cloud nine — happy enough to die and go to Heaven. ✨



ZLM Bulletin Board



For Lovers of Jews

I'm That Jew is a six-minute video by Eitan Chitayat, producer of the video from last month's Bulletin Board item "For Haters of Israel ..."

Visit <http://y2u.be/sjEXomjpXPU> to watch *I'm That Jew*. Dozens of sentences start with "I'm that Jew who ..." or "I'm that [fill-in-the-blank] Jew." With 1.8 million views, its description begins: "Lest any Jew forgets — because of all the violence directed at us ... the deafening silence of the world that we all feel right now — we should be proud of our heritage."



Eitan Chitayat speaking at TEDxZürichberg

credit: Screenshot / TEDx

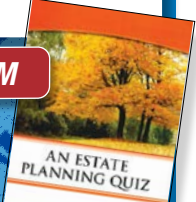
Do Israeli Lives Matter?

Lt. Adar Ben Simon, 20, died battling Hamas after their invasion on October 7, 2023. She is survived by her parents, Zehava and Erez, and siblings Raz, Shahaf, and Aviv — her twin. Adar was one of the senior commanders at the Zikim training base when Hamas attacked. She went to the front lines to fight, telling the young trainees to seek shelter, which saved their lives. Her sister Shahah grieved: "Adar ... I'm so proud of you, my whole body is burning with pain and with a sense of pride that you ... saved so many lives." Visit <https://bit.ly/3Zjsv0I> to read more about Adar.



credit: IDF

FREE ITEM



Pamphlet of the Month

An Estate Planning Quiz. Your answers to an informal, 25-question quiz may indicate areas of your estate and financial plans that merit consideration. The True-False questions serve as a checklist of sorts. A grading scale at the end suggests where you stand between "unusually prudent" and "your loved ones will probably experience significant difficulties." To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at staff@levitt.com or write to our P.O. Box.

Request POM #9.



Columbus was a Sephardic Jew ...

... born in Western Europe. That's the conclusion of forensic expert Miguel Lorente, who led a 22-year investigation that compared DNA from Columbus's burial site with that from his descendants. "We have DNA from Christopher Columbus [and] from Hernando Colón, his son. And both in the Y chromosome (male) and in the mitochondrial DNA (transmitted by the mother) of Hernando, there are traits compatible with Jewish origin."

Please Don't Throw Me Away

This *Levitt Letter* wants you to read it, save it, and read it again. Later, you could share it by strategically placing it with reading materials at your church, doctor's office, or hair salon. You could black out your mailing address — or even write in your phone number/email if you are open to subsequent readers contacting you.

"COME HOME!"

Zola Tours to Israel



See page 36 for details





Courtesy: The Jerusalem Connection

Fearing No Evil

by John Parsons
Hebrew for Christians
Hebrew4Christians.com



גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּנֵיאַלְדָּרְךָ לֹא־אִירָא רָע כִּי־אַתָּה עִמָּדִי

“Yea, even if I walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me...” – Psalm 23:4

גַּם	כִּי־	אֵלֶךְ	בְּ	נֵיאַ	לְדָרְךָ	לֹא־	אִירָא	רָע	כִּי־	אַתָּה	עִ	מָדִי
(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)
ee-ma-dee'	kee'-a-tah'	rah'	loh- ee-rah'	tzal-ma'-vet	be-gei'	kee'-e-lekh'	gam'					
	for You are with me		I will fear no evil	in the valley of the shadow death	yea even if I walk							

Read Hebrew right to left! ←

The devil wants you to be afraid — very afraid — and inciting fear is the primary weapon that he uses against us. Our adversary understands that fear profoundly affects the way the human brain processes images and messages: Fear colors the way we see and hear things. And since the mind and body are intricately interconnected, fear is the root cause of many physiological problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, clinical depression, and other ailments. Left unchecked, fear can be deadly.

Most of our negative emotions come from fearful thoughts, including anger, frustration, and rage. On a spiritual level, fear and worry can cause people to question God’s love, to doubt His promises, and so on. The devil knows that frightening people causes them to be unsettled, off-balance, and therefore vulnerable to all sorts of sickness, manipulation, and deception. Living in fear is a form of slavery (Heb. 2:15).

The war for truth began in the orchard of Eden when Satan lied to Eve by saying that she would not die if she disobeyed God (Gen. 3:4). Satan cunningly played on Eve’s fear of being deceived as he

persuaded her to disobey. Fear, then, is the emotional center of sin and the opposite of faith. The fearful are referred to as the “unbelieving” and those who “love and make a lie” (Rev. 21:8; 22:15).

God repeatedly tells us not to be afraid — of man, war, tribulation, various plagues, or even of death itself (Rom. 8:35–39). Indeed, one of the most frequently occurring commandments in Scripture is simply *al-tirah*, “Be not afraid.”

But how do we overcome our fear? How can we live our faith amidst a worldwide cultural slide into deception and insanity? How else but by wholeheartedly trusting that God is with us? The Lord will never leave nor forsake us, even if we face difficult circumstances. The antidote to fear is heartfelt faith in God’s love for us (1 John 4:18). God saves us from our fears (Ps. 34:4; 2 Tim. 1:7; Heb. 2:15). When we trust that God *personally* cares for us, we find the courage to face life without fear. ✨



[The Bible: The Whole Story](#) DVD set

Seven programs (2 DVDs)

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

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

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

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

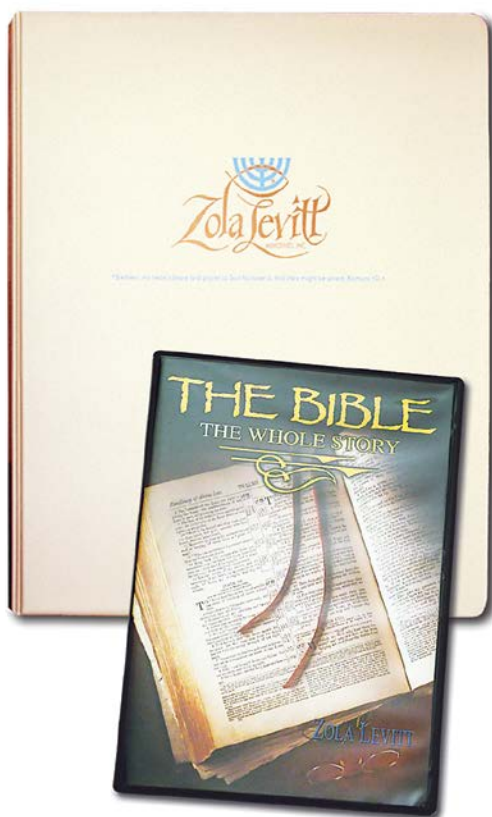
The Messiah — Why Jesus of Nazareth? Overview of Jesus as seen through the eyes of different cultures as well as through the revelation of the Word.

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

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

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

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



[Zola's Notebook](#)

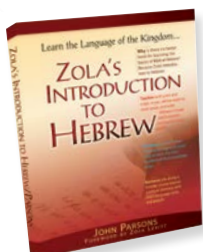
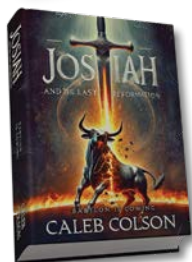
Seven vital doctrines are examined in a very readable and clear style. One of the most popular items offered by this ministry, *Zola's Notebook* explains the Bible cover to cover.

The *Notebook* has pockets for our newsletters, and also provides space for notes to be taken by the reader. Doctrines covered thoroughly include: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Law, Prophecy, the Messiah, Grace, the Church, and the Kingdom.



Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

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



Books

___	America's Godly Heritage (David Barton).....	\$8	___
___	Antisemitic Beliefs (booklet)	2 for \$3	___
___	The Beginning of the End	\$9	___
___	The Bible Jesus Read (p.13)	\$11	___
___	Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$12	___
___	The End (Mark Hitchcock)	\$26	___
___	Genesis One A Physicist Looks at Creation (booklet) (p.36)....	\$6	___
___	The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif)	\$9	___
___	Israel's Right to the Land! (booklet)	\$3	___
___	Israel Shines and Israel Pocket Facts (one of each)	\$2	___
___	Jerusalem Forever	\$5	___
___	Josiah and the Last Reformation (p.20) (pictured)	\$12	___
___	The Mountains of Israel	\$10	___
___	Once Through the New Testament (p.13)	\$10	___
___	The Prophesied Messiah	\$10	___
___	Satan in the Sanctuary	\$10	___
___	Signs of the End: The Millennium	\$8	___
___	What About Us?	\$10	___
___	The Warrior King (book)	\$12	___
___	What Should We Think About Israel? (Randall Price)	\$12	___
___	Whose Land Is It? (booklet - free with <i>Whose Land</i> DVD)	\$4	___
___	Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (pictured) ..	\$39	___



Featured DVDs

___	The Bible: The Whole Story (p.17)... (7 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$39	___
___	A Child is Born	(30 minutes, 1-DVD)	\$19
___	Close Encounters with Yeshua	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$59
___	Divine Deliverance	(12 progs., 3-DVDs)	\$69
___	Eretz Israel (The Land of Israel).....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	Evidence of God (p.3).....	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	Faith for the Future	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	Faith of our Fathers	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	The God of Miracles	(9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	The Gospel According to Isaiah	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	The Holocaust (pictured)	(6 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$39
___	Jerusalem: Ancient Gates	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	Joshua: More Than a Conqueror	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	Journey of Restoration	(10 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$59
___	Mine Eyes Have Seen (p.27)	(1 program, 1-DVD)	\$19
___	Revelation: Unveiling the Visions	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	Times of the Signs	(8 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$49
___	Whose Land Is It? (pictured).....	(3 progs., 1-DVD)	\$19

To order:

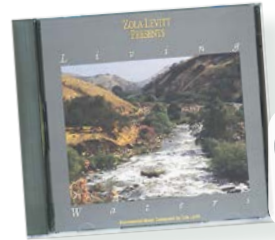
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Dallas TX 75225

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___	2-flag Collar Pin.....	\$2	_____
___	#BeardedBibleBrothers T-Shirt (small) (pictured).....	\$25	_____
___	#BeardedBibleBrothers T-Shirt (medium).....	\$25	_____
___	#BeardedBibleBrothers T-Shirt (large).....	\$25	_____
___	#BeardedBibleBrothers T-Shirt (XL).....	\$25	_____
___	#BeardedBibleBrothers T-Shirt (2X large).....	\$25	_____
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___	Bookmark "The Prophesied Messiah".....	2 for \$1	_____
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___	Grafted-In Lapel Pin (pictured).....	\$10	_____
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___	Hebrew Names of God Notecards (12 unique cards).....	\$24	_____
___	Jerusalem Magnets (set of 3 different designs).....	\$12	_____
___	Jewish Heritage Calendar (5785 / 2025).....	\$6	_____
___	Pictorial Map of Jerusalem.....	\$12	_____
___	Pilgrim's Map of the Holy Land.....	\$7	_____
___	"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Bumper Sticker.....	\$3	_____
___	Pro-Israel Button "Pray for the Peace" (pictured) (4 of 1 design).....	\$8	_____
___	Zola's Notebook (p.17).....	\$25	_____
___	Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies.....	Info Only	_____



Teaching CDs

___	The Beginning of the End (includes music)..... (2 CDs)	\$14	_____
___	A Survey of the New Testament (p.11)..... (1 CD)	\$8	_____
___	Zola Teaches the New Testament (p.11)..... (6 CDs)	\$29	_____

Music CDs: Hear samples at levitt.com/music

___	Living Waters (pictured)..... (Instrumental Music CD)	\$12	_____
___	The Works I..... (Zola's first 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____
___	The Works II..... (Zola's next 8 albums on 4 CDs)	\$49	_____

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



We Accept PayPal!

<p>Please fill out area below and send the entire page.</p> <p>Shipping & Handling Chart up to \$15.99, add \$6 \$16 to \$30.99, add \$8 \$31 to \$60.99, add \$11 \$61 to \$97.99, add \$12 \$98 and over, FREE SHIPPING</p> <p>For shipments outside the United States, please TRIPLE shipping. Please ONLY send U.S. funds.</p> <p>Please allow about 2-3 weeks for delivery.</p>		<p>Subtotal _____</p> <p>Shipping (see left chart) _____</p> <p>UPS shipping (\$6 extra) _____ (only within the contiguous U.S.)</p> <p>Rush! (\$5 extra) _____</p> <p>8.25% Tax (Texas only) _____</p> <p>Donation? _____</p> <p>Total _____</p>
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[Josiah and the Last Reformation](#) book

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

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

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

A companion guide to the epic television series [Josiah and the Last Reformation](#).

Please see Caleb and Joshua’s article [The Lobstermen](#) on p. 8.

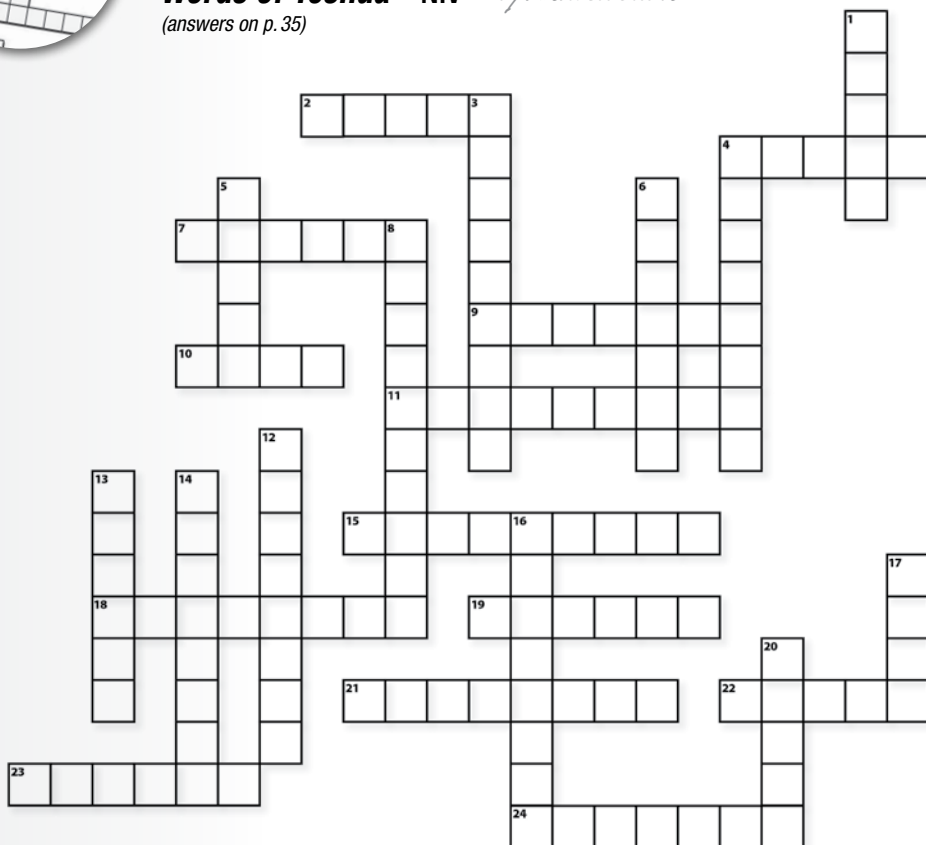


Crossword January 2025:

Words of Yeshua - NIV

by Andrea Davis

(answers on p. 35)

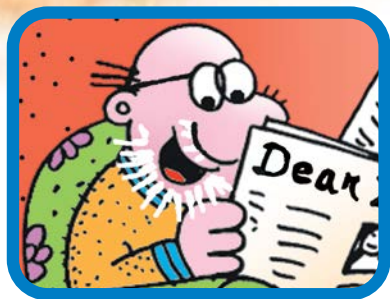


ACROSS

2. Man shall not live on __ alone...
(Matt. 4:4)
4. I do not accept __ from human beings.
(John 5:41)
7. ...But unless you __, you too will all perish.
(Luke 13:3)
9. ...a __ is not without honor except in his own town... (Mark 6:4)
10. ...your Father knows what you __ before you ask Him. (Matt. 6:8)
11. Do not store up for yourselves __ on earth...
(Matt. 6:19)
15. ...I have not come to call the __, but sinners.
(Mark 2:17)
18. ...Son, your sins are __. (Mark 2:5)
19. Enter through the __ gate... (Matt. 7:13)
21. I am the good __... (John 10:14)
22. Each tree is recognized by its own __.
(Luke 6:44)
23. For My yoke is easy and My __ is light.
(Matt. 11:30)
24. ...The Son of Man is the Lord of the __.
(Luke 6:5)

DOWN

1. ...Therefore I tell you, do not __ about your life. (Luke 12:22)
3. Therefore go and make __ of all nations...
Matt. 28:19)
4. This is the first and __ commandment.
(Matt. 22:38)
5. ...Worship the Lord your God and __ Him only. (Luke 4:8)
6. ...didn't you know I had to be in My __ house? (Luke 2:49)
8. Watch and pray so that you will not fall into __. (Mark 14:38)
12. ...Watch out that no one __ you.
(Mark 13:5)
13. ...The Son of Man must __ many things...
(Luke 9:22)
14. ...But take heart! I have __ the world.
(John 16:33)
16. Watch out for the __ of the law...
(Mark 12:38)
17. You are the __ of the earth...
(Matt. 5:13)
20. I am the way and the __ and the life.
(John 14:6)



Letters to ZLM

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

Standing with Israel

From V.G.: Thank you for continuing to bring us truth in your programs and in the *Levitt Letter*. With the attacks on Israel, we can clearly see that God's hand is on His people. I stand, as do many Americans, with Israel. Also, I pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation for them — and for us Believers as well. Shalom and blessings.

Dear V.G.,

We stand with you in praying for Israel. A year ago, who could have imagined that Israel's war against Hamas and now Hezbollah would have lasted so long? Our prayers make a difference. —David

Repentance in America

From P.R.: How do we get our nation to repent? I'm asking seriously.

Dear P.R.,

Your honest question is the reason God directed us to create the *Josiah* television series. Long ago, one man — Josiah — changed his nation. Even now, one person turning to God will spark a revival in their family, which will then spread to their church. That could overtake their city, which might then spread throughout their state and finally overtake their nation! All it takes is one of us, walking in obedience to God wholeheartedly. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Full Interview with Jonathan Cahn on YouTube

From V.L.: You asked Jonathan about his thoughts on a revival. I hear there's a massive movement of God in Iran, and I also know that a lot is happening on the African continent. America, maybe not so much. I pray that a revival comes soon, but who knows? While I think that the Lord is turning His eyes away from America, I pray that we Believers can change this.

Dear V.L.,

God is moving in amazing ways in Iran. We also hear many reports of revival and repentance there. The Persian people are turning to Yeshua by the thousands!

—Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

P.S. Here's the link for the interview with Jonathan: https://youtu.be/U_H_YqCojA8

(continued on next page)



Jonathan Cahn

credit: Video screenshot / TBN.org





Connecting with our Jewish Roots

From J.L.: Each *Levitt Letter* we receive and every *OJR* program we watch is so encouraging. The *LL* has become our best source of information on what is really happening in Israel, not only politically but also domestically with the advances in medicine, technology, and archaeology. Israel truly is the most

remarkable country. Thank you for helping us to connect with our Jewish roots.

Dear J.L.,

When David and I joined ZLM eight years ago, we were amazed at the quality of the *Levitt Letter*, which has only gotten better. It's visually stunning, but also chock full of TRUTH, which is vitally important these days. —Kirsten

The World's Problem Won't Change

From J.W.: People don't realize that the entire world has a sin problem, which won't change until Jesus comes back.

Dear J.W.,

Jesus called us to be His representatives on Earth and tasked us to change the climate of this world by using His name and authority. **If we did not have that power to enact change, then He wouldn't have left us in charge while He prepares a place for us.** This is why we try to encourage the body of Messiah to stand in the liberty, authority, and power that Yeshua died to give. His sacrifice is enough, not just to cover our sins, but also to deliver us from sin perpetually. His blood is enough. — Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Learning from the BBB

From V.V.: I am 95 years old. Many years ago, I watched Zola on television. Since then, I discovered the Bearded Bible Brothers on your program, and I have enjoyed them greatly. I have learned so much from them and I want to be a part of their ongoing ministry. God bless you. I look forward to every *OJR* broadcast.

Dear V.V.,

What a wonderful heritage you come from. And congratulations on 95 years of life! Thank you for your financial support of our program, which ensures that this ministry will continue our Bible teaching. God bless you. —David

From D.S.: Thank you for your wonderful Bible teaching videos. I don't know how I missed them before, but **I'm binge-watching them now** and sharing them with my son. Some Bible passages I find difficult to understand, but your teaching makes it so easy to understand them. Please continue showing us beautiful Israel. Blessings to you and your families.

Dear D.S.,

Thanks for joining us! We are so blessed to receive your encouraging report. We pray that God continues to reveal Himself to you powerfully. He didn't intend for His Word to confuse people. It's our desire to reach every continent with the Gospel of Yeshua.

—Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

(continued on next page)

How God Can Use You

From P.G.: Can you expand on making ourselves available to use? I pray and ask the Lord to use me. I am involved with a small group of Believers, and in a men's ministry, and I'm helping in the junior high youth ministry. As a Jewish Believer in Yeshua, I feel responsibility to bring others to a deeper understanding of our Messiah. But sometimes I feel like I'm not doing enough or I'm not sure that what I'm doing is what God really wants.

Shalom P.G.,

It sounds like you're working to get involved in your congregation and serve in ministry. Most people consider their church as the only avenue where God wants to use us. But God likes to think outside the box — the box that is our local churches and synagogues. Yeshua stated that we are the Church, which means that we are walking and talking Temples of the *Ruach Ha'Kodesh* (Holy Spirit).

God wants us to be available to share His love with everyone in our sphere of influence. Only you can bless the checkout person at your grocery store, the attendant at the gas station, and/or your neighbor. These possibilities (and more) are what Yeshua meant when He called us to go "out" into all the world. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:16–20) is not about converting everyone you meet. Just show love and kindness to those who normally receive none, and we promise that you will have a lasting impact beyond your wildest dreams. —Love in Yeshua, Joshua and Caleb

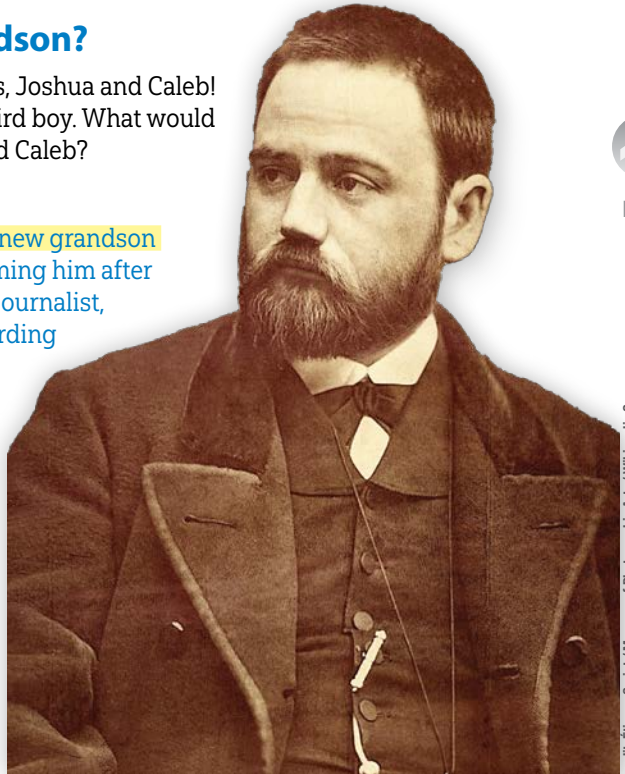
Name for a New Grandson?

From R.F.: I have two grandsons, Joshua and Caleb! Their parents are expecting a third boy. What would be a name to go with Joshua and Caleb?

Dear R.F.,

Have you thought about your new grandson being named Zola? Imagine naming him after Emile Zola, the French novelist, journalist, playwright, and naturalist. According to Wikipedia:

Emile Zola was a major figure in the political liberalization of France and in the exoneration of the falsely accused and convicted army officer Alfred Dreyfus, which is encapsulated in his renowned newspaper opinion headlined *J'Accuse...!* Zola was nominated for the first and second Nobel Prizes in literature in 1901 and 1902.



Emile Zola

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credit: Etienne Carjat / Museum of Photographic Arts / Wikimedia Commons

My father Zola was named after Emile Zola and came to be known as Big Z by our jovial Israeli tour guides and bus drivers. Years later, when I joined a tour, they saw that I was notably taller than Big Z — and, with no shortage of laughter, called me Little Z! Therefore, it could make sense for your new grandson's nickname to be Little Z as well. —Mark ☆

Dr. Phil: Defending Israel “Just Duty to Me”

By Dave Gordon / JNS.org



credit: Screenshot via Dr. Phil Primetime

Dr. Phil interviewing Benjamin Netanyahu in May 2024.

Phil McGraw — “Dr. Phil” — isn’t Jewish. Nonetheless, the clinical psychologist and talk show host explained that his staunch support of Israel is “really not anything other than just duty to me. Everybody should be doing what I’m doing.”

The well-known psychologist has often denounced Jew-hatred. He commented that he was “appalled at the silence from so many people,” including colleagues and fellow broadcasters, “who should be speaking out about” it.

Dr. Phil never expected to hear the anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiments on U.S. college campuses, where students and professors “are encouraging or allowing this. They are absolutely supporting terrorist organizations,” he noted, of those he termed “useful idiots.” He asked, “How are people in the United States not standing up and calling this out more than they are?”

Growing up, Dr. Phil learned about a “very clear distinction between right and wrong,” adding that “good and evil are not relative.”

“There is no moral equivalence to what the Hamas invaders did, when they were killing infants in their cribs, versus a child who loses their life from a piece of shrapnel from above,” he explained. “One is a war crime. The other is an act of war. There is no equivalence between the two.

“You can’t come across a boundary and kill non-combatants, kill children in their cribs, kill elderly people that are

sleeping in their beds unarmed, then run back and hide behind children in schools and patients in hospitals,” he added. “Those deaths, that blood is on the hands of the Hamas invaders.”

Last year, Dr. Phil traveled to Israel, where he witnessed the aftermath of Hamas’s atrocities. He recalled his conversation with a first responder from the Nova site: “He was there by himself for a long time, and he collected bodies and body parts and brought them to a central location. It changed me forever to hear this man — what he went through and what toll it took on him.”

Asked about the difference between Gazans and Hamas, Dr. Phil asserted, “Sometimes, it may be a distinction without a difference,” because of the involvement of “supposed civilians.” He mentioned Israelis who hid during the atrocities while listening to Gazans “laughing, and ... going through everything and carrying things out of their homes.”

Dr. Phil called the terrorists “monsters,” who’ve been brainwashed. “They’re teaching them that the Israelis are evil. They’re programmed to kill them and brag about it from the time that they’re old enough to be reasoned with,” he said.

To those who call the Jewish state “apartheid,” Dr. Phil countered, “I don’t know of a country that is more accepting of different lifestyles, beliefs, countries, ethnicities than Israel.” ☆

You go, Dr. Phil! (I knew that I liked him!)
He’s speaking TRUTH! —Kirsten



Thoughts into Words: Artificial Speech for Paralyzed People

AllIsrael.com

Israeli researchers have achieved a groundbreaking scientific breakthrough that can transform thoughts into words without using the mouth. This could enable people with paralysis from brain injuries, brainstem strokes, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) to “speak” artificially, using only the power of thought.

The study was led by Dr. Ariel Tankus of Tel Aviv University and Dr. Ido Strauss of Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center.

During the experiment, a patient with depth electrodes implanted in his brain imagined saying one of two syllables. The electrodes transmitted the electrical signals to a computer, which then vocalized them.

“The 37-year-old patient in the study is an epilepsy patient who was hospitalized to undergo resection of the epileptic focus in his brain,” Tankus noted. “He has intact speech and was implanted with depth electrodes for clinical reasons only.”

Afterward, the patient was asked to articulate two syllables — “a” and “e” — out loud. Researchers recorded his brain activity while he spoke the syllables and then trained artificial intelligence models to identify the brain cells that indicated the desire to say “a” or “e” based on their electrical activity. As the computer learned to recognize the pattern of electrical activity in the patient’s brain associated with the two syllables, researchers instructed him to imagine saying “a” and “e.”

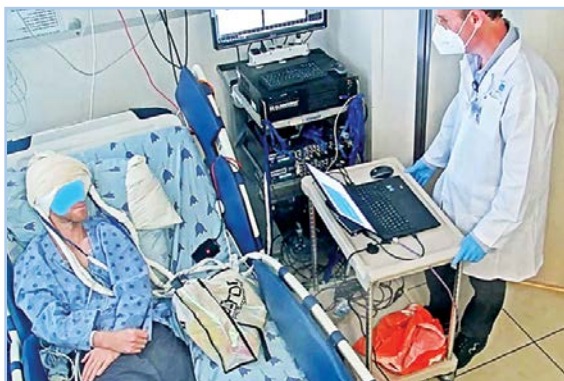


The electrical signals in his brain were then translated by the computer, which then played the pre-recorded sounds of the syllables.

“For the first time in history, we were able to connect the parts of speech to the activity of indi-

vidual cells from the regions of the brain from which we recorded. This allowed us to differentiate among the electrical signals that represent the sounds “a” and “e.” At the moment, our research involves two building blocks of speech — two syllables. Our ambition is to get to complete speech, but even two different syllables can enable a fully paralyzed person to signal ‘yes’ and ‘no,’” Tankus noted.

In the future, the researchers believe that it will be possible to translate thoughts into speech in the early stages of ALS, while a patient can still speak. The computer would learn to identify and interpret the electrical signals in the patient’s brain and later express the patient’s thoughts in artificial speech if the patient cannot speak. ✨



An image from the research shows the participant with his mouth closed, imagining a syllable, which the laptop then “speaks” for him.



Israeli Researchers Discover Mechanism to Destroy Tumors

JNS.org

Israeli researchers have discovered a way to stimulate the immune system to fight cancer cells, including those that were considered resistant to prevailing forms of immunotherapy. The “chance technological breakthrough” by researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU) essentially reverses a mechanism in cancer patients that prevents the immune system from attacking tumors.

The academic lab that made the discovery studies both cancer and the effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun on the skin and body, both of which can suppress the immune system.

“While in most cases, we cancer researchers worldwide focus on the tumor and look for mechanisms by which cancer inhibits the immune system, **here we proposed a different approach: investigating how UV exposure suppresses the immune system and applying our findings to cancer,**” said TAU Prof. Carmit Levy, one of the study leaders.

“The discovery of a mechanism that inhibits the immune system opens new paths for innovative therapies,” she added.

The researchers found that after exposure to UV radiation, the immune system’s T cells — which play a critical role in fighting cancer — begin to



Prof. Carmit Levy, left, and Prof. Yaron Carmi

express high levels of the protein Ly6a, explained PhD student Avishai Maliah.

“We suspected that Ly6a serves as a brake through which UV inhibits the immune system, and that by releasing this brake, optimal activation of the immune system might be resumed,” he added.

He treated cancer in the lab with Ly6a antibodies, which significantly reduced the tumors. Moreover, cancers resistant to known treatments reacted substantially to Ly6a antibodies.

“Immunotherapy has revolutionized the treatment of cancer,” noted TAU Prof. Yaron Carmi, a global expert on the immune system and co-author of the study. “However, about 50% of the patients do not respond to the currently prevailing treatment.”

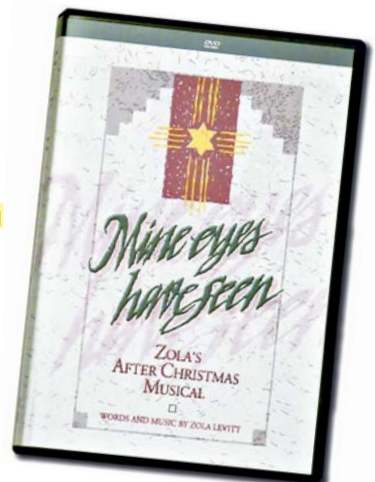
The Israeli team is now working to translate their findings into a drug for cancer patients, hoping to offer an effective new treatment. ☆

Mine Eyes Have Seen

Zola's After-Christmas Musical DVD
One 30-minute TV program

In this “after-Christmas musical,” **Zola narrates the moving story of Simeon**, the aged-but-faithful servant who waited to see the Messiah face to face. This beautifully staged half-hour presentation will have you singing along with Simeon and Anna about the arrival of the King of kings, the Holy One of Israel.

Soundtrack available on *The Works II CD* (p.19) and in MP3 format from iTunes and Amazon.



Weaponizing Wikipedia Against Israel

By Rabbi Shraga
Simmons
Aish.com



credit: Screenshot

Wikipedia Arabic

Wikipedia — the world’s fifth-leading website with 100 billion visits annually — is no longer a bastion of objectivity. Research now reveals how a secret network of anti-Israel activists is engaged in a massive “edit war” to nefariously insert anti-Israel propaganda through-out Wikipedia.

Although Wikipedia professes a strict neutral point of view, **its open editing model** — allowing anyone to edit articles, often without a login — **makes the system vulnerable to abuse.**

Organized efforts such as “Tech for Palestine” and “Wikipedia Collaboration,” **likely funded by Iran**, are currently conspiring to hijack Wikipedia. Working in small rotating groups to evade detection, these activists have made over **850,000 edits to Israel-related articles, demonizing Israel as a “colonial, apartheid, genocidal regime.”**

Slowly and incrementally, these “minor edits” — often one word or sentence at a time — cumulatively account for most of the content on key Wikipedia articles, distorting the narrative, and turning Wikipedia into a swamp of anti-Israel bias.

Systemic Bias

In thousands of Israel-related articles, Wikipedia’s core value of “neutrality” is blatantly violated:

- The first sentence on Wikipedia’s main Zionism page characterizes the Zionist movement not as the return of the Jewish people to their 3,800-year-old indigenous homeland, but as “the colonization of a land outside of Europe ... to create a Jewish state in Palestine with as much land, as many Jews, and as few Palestinian Arabs as possible.”
- Wikipedia’s main article on Hamas never mentions that Hamas’s 1988 charter calls for jihad and the destruction of Israel.
- Wikipedia pages such as “Israeli Apartheid” turn spurious accusations into definitive facts. An article initially titled “Allegations of genocide in the 2023 Israeli attack on Gaza” is now titled definitively, “Gaza Genocide.”
- **Anti-Israel activists created a dedicated page comparing Israel to Nazi Germany**, while erasing the actual Nazism in Palestinian society and downplaying the Palestinian Mufti’s alliance with Hitler.
- Wikipedia cites Nadia Abu El Haj — a fringe Columbia professor and staunch anti-Zionist — who questions whether Ashkenazi Zionists are Jewish: “The Ashkenazi Jew



is the most dubious Jew, the Jew whose historical and genealogical roots in ancient Palestine are most difficult to see and perhaps thus to believe.”

The website’s bias includes silencing mainstream pro-Israel voices. Wikipedia banned the Anti-Defamation League as an “unreliable source” on anything related to Israel, while rating anti-Israel sources like *Al Jazeera* and Amnesty International as “reliable.”

Hijacking the System

Exposing this bias is crucial because Wikipedia is a key influencer of information pipelines:

- Wikipedia is the default result of routine info requests on Google, Alexa, Siri, etc.
- Students, educators, journalists, and policy-makers often rely on Wikipedia as the starting point for research.
- Wikipedia’s billions of words are a key component of popular AI tools like ChatGPT.

This “unprotected back door” is insidiously exploited by activists who manipulate Wikipedia to spread anti-Israel views as “established fact.” For example, Candace Owens supported an anti-Semitic claim that the Star of David is used in child sacrifice and black magic when she stated: “If it’s on Wikipedia ... it’s an irreversible fact.”

More blatantly, activists have hijacked **Wikipedia Arabic**, where every page — over a million articles — **displays the Wikipedia logo wrapped in the Palestinian flag**. The top of every page also features a black banner proclaiming “solidarity with the rights of the Palestinian people” and promoting blood libels against the Jewish people: “No to genocide in Gaza ... no to killing civilians ... no to targeting hospitals and schools...”

Why It Matters

This struggle for the “digital narrative” is not merely a public relations contest. Misinformation about Israel translates into negative sentiments toward Jews

and a rise in anti-Semitism. Indeed, the Nazi genocide was made possible largely by their propaganda campaign to defame the Jews.

For Israel — the only country in the world whose right to exist is challenged — Wikipedia’s bias exacerbates that existential threat. As Diana Buttu, former legal advisor to the PLO, remarked: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is “a battle over language sometimes more than over anything else.”

This insidious drip, drip, drip — via thousands and thousands of edits — is difficult to detect and even more difficult to reverse. Yet without taking action to combat it, the bias (and its ramifications) will get incrementally worse. AI models will grow in power and scope, and as long as Wikipedia maintains a reputation for objectivity, it will continue to forge the basic narrative.

What to Do About It

On Wikipedia, another drop of history is rewritten every moment. To help reverse this trend:

- Use Wikipedia only as a reference point for primary sources. Research the sources and reach your own logical conclusion.
- Consume information with a critical eye. Identify bias and filter it out.
- When you read something that sounds biased, compose your own version of the text in a more fair and balanced way. This is the difference between complaining and constructive criticism.
- If you see something amiss, share it. Make your voice heard. Freedom of information is guaranteed only to those who guard it.

By keeping this issue at the forefront, we put Wikipedia on notice that we won’t assume its credibility and that information channels must not operate unchecked and unrestrained.

Otherwise, humanity could end up outmaneuvered and manipulated, victims of this *jihadi* media war. ☆





credit: Yossi Farro / Instagram

SELECT MEDIA BRIEFS

Floyd Mayweather with IDF soldiers at the Western Wall in Jerusalem

Floyd Mayweather: Israel is “Home Away From Home”

By Ellie Grant / TheJC.com

Legendary boxer Floyd Mayweather returned to Israel in October 2024. The undefeated champion, known for his philanthropic efforts, noted in an Instagram post: “There’s nothing like returning to such warmth and hospitality! ... It feels like home away from home! Actions speak louder than words, and I’m here to support in every way I can.”

Mayweather has supported Israel since the outbreak of the war with Hamas. He has used his private plane to deliver essential medical supplies to the nation. During a previous visit in March 2024, he met soldiers, rescue workers, and civilians, showing solidarity with those affected by the war.

During his recent trip, he went to an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) base, where he hosted a barbecue for military personnel. He also visited the headquarters of United Hatzalah, Israel’s largest volunteer emergency medical service. Earlier, Mayweather donated \$100,000 to United Hatzalah to help purchase 100 bulletproof vests, enhancing the safety of their volunteers amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict.

In Jerusalem, Mayweather received the Champion of Israel award for his advocacy against anti-Semitism and hate. This honor is reserved for individuals who actively stand against such issues and support Israel. ☆



credit: YouTube screenshot / MEMRI

Mohammad Ali Al-Husseini

Lebanese Shi’ite Scholar: No Islamic Religious Value to Jerusalem

MEMRI.org

Mohammad Ali Al-Husseini, a Lebanese Shi’ite Islamic scholar said in a September 2024 interview that all Shi’ite religious scholars agree that there is no religious value to Jerusalem or specifically to the Dome of the Rock.

Interviewer: “What does Palestine mean for Hezbollah?”

Mohammad Ali Al-Husseini: “The city of Jerusalem is a cultural, multi-religious, and historical city ... All the Shi’ite religious scholars and sources of authority, with no exception, say that there is no religious value to Jerusalem...”

“There is no hadith or quote from the descendants of the Prophet Muhammad about its virtue or status. Moreover, it has no special status in Islam ... This was a



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political issue between Ibn Zubayr and Ibn Marwan ... Ibn Zubayr took over Mecca and the *Hajj* pilgrimage, so Ibn Marwan ... instated the *Hajj* and the circling of the Dome of the Rock. In any case, this has been exploited politically. So, there is

no mention, and no special status is given in the Shi'ite books ... I asked for a fatwa about this from the sources of authority. There is no Shi'ite religious significance to Jerusalem, and specifically to the Dome of the Rock." ✧



Israeli company Rafael has created Iron Beam, a high-energy laser weapon.

credit: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems



Israel's Iron Beam Air-Defense Lasers

By Tzally Greenberg / DefenseNews.com

The Israeli Ministry of Defense recently announced that its Iron Beam systems will enhance the network of Israeli air-defense weapons sometime in 2025. The Iron Beam will operate alongside Iron Dome batteries, noted military-research chief Daniel Gold. "The combination of laser interception and missile interception will further tighten the defense envelope against rockets, missiles, drones, cruise missiles, and other threats."

Two Israeli defense contractors are constructing the Iron Beam directed-energy weapon. Rafael is the primary developer of the system, while Elbit supplies the laser cannon for it.

Iron Beam is a laser air-defense system that operates against a variety of smaller airborne threats. It can be programmed to follow low-flying targets, zapping them with just enough energy to disable them. It proved its

capabilities in a series of tests in southern Israel about three years ago, after which it entered operational development and adaptation to the battlefield.

The price of a Tamir missile, which is the interceptor launched by Iron Dome, is about \$100,000. In contrast, the cost of interception using a laser shield is the price of the electricity used to launch it. **Laser interception should revolutionize the expense of air defense**, which so far has favored attackers because missiles and drones are cheaper to deploy than to shoot down. Still, the laser system is more limited than Iron Dome in its ability to deal with large rocket barrages, along with limitations on days of impaired visibility because of clouds, rain, or sandstorms. ✧



The Iron Beam system

credit: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems



How Assyria's Military Campaign Impacted Judah

credit: Benjamin Storchel / IAA



Archaeologists working on the dig at Mordot Arnona



Assyria's siege of Jerusalem in 701 B.C. is mentioned in the Bible, in Assyrian records, and by ancient historians such as Herodotus. As part of unifying the empire under King Sennacherib, the Assyrians moved to quash rebellions by states in the region, including the Kingdom of Judah, which was ruled by King Hezekiah.

According to the Biblical account, the Assyrians ravaged the country surrounding Jerusalem and laid siege to the city. However, a plague disrupted Sennacherib's army, causing thousands of deaths among his troops. [\[Editor's note: Isaiah 37:36 specifies God's involvement in the destruction: "And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies." The event is recorded in 2 Kings 18:13-19:36; 2 Chron. 32:1-22; and Isa. 36:1-37:37.\]](#)

Both the Bible and Assyrian records agree that the Assyrians didn't conquer Jerusalem. They returned home after Hezekiah agreed to continue to pay tribute to Assyria while maintaining nominal independence.

New discoveries by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) reveal how the Assyrian campaign affected Jerusalem's economy and how Judean tributes were collected.

Recent excavations in Mordot Arnona, a neighborhood in southern Jerusalem, unearthed two large buildings, one destroyed and the other built on its ruins. Archaeologists also found 180 ceramic jar handles engraved with Hebrew inscriptions that identified the owner of the contents.

"We discovered remains of a significant royal administrative center from the days of King Hezekiah, and perhaps even from the reign of his father, King Ahaz," the excavation directors noted. This center "was destroyed down to its

(continued on next page)



foundations and buried under a massive heap of stones. The stone pile formed a platform upon which a subsequent structure was erected ... Large building stones originating from the early structure were deliberately incorporated into the heap." Both of the monumental buildings stored agricultural products before they were sent to Jerusalem or elsewhere.

The archaeologists believe that with the destruction of the first building and the subsequent construction of the second, the Assyrians were making a statement about "who [was] really in charge."

Inscribed handles from large ceramic storage jars offer a clue about how the Assyrians reorganized this agricultural production. Researchers found a total of 180 handles, most of them stamped with the Hebrew letters *LMLK* — "(belonging) to the king." This inscribing was a common practice at the time, as the Kingdom of Judah collected and controlled the agricultural products that farmers used to pay taxes.

However, 17 of the handles were inscribed with individual names including Menachem Yubna, Peqach Tavra, and Tzophen Azaryahu. These handles were only found in the early building that the Assyrians destroyed. The archaeologists explained that these "private stamp impressions" were probably part of King Hezekiah's preparations "to rebel against Assyria, at which time taxation to the Assyrian Empire ceased."

After the rebellion, the private impressions disappeared and the jug handle impressions "differ from the earlier types and mark the return of Assyrian taxation," they added.

"The amount of these handles and the names are important," noted Natan Ben-Ari, one of the excavation directors. "It seems that they were government officials or administrators in senior positions" who were receiving some of



credit: Yoel Schwartz / IAA



credit: IAA



credit: Emi Aladjem / IAA

Top: The *LMLK* stamp impression — "(belonging) to the king"

Middle: Close up of the *LMLK* impression

Bottom: A Hebrew "private" stamp discovered at Mordot Arnona

the agricultural production — likely olive oil or wine — which was then diverted to the Assyrians after the invasion."

The jug handles are on display at the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel, the IAA's newly opened headquarters in Jerusalem. ✨



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An Anti-Semitic Tsunami Explodes Across Europe

By Dale Hurd
CBN.com



Three days after a “Jew hunting” attack in Amsterdam, protesters in the city clashed with police during a pro-Palestinian demonstration on November 10, 2024.



Outside the Brussels Stock Exchange, on the one-year anniversary of Hamas’s atrocities on October 7, 2023, pro-Hamas demonstrators joined in a public prayer for Allah “to burn the Jews.”

Since the terror attacks on October 7, 2023, pro-Hamas, anti-Israel demonstrations — which feature the chant “From the river to the sea” — have been a daily occurrence in Brussels. Even the leaders of Belgium’s major left-wing political parties have joined some of those demonstrations.

Though the European Union has designated Hamas a terrorist group, Hamas-affiliated organizations are operating in several countries.

Joël Rubinfeld, president of the Belgian League Against Anti-Semitism, commented that Brussels today feels like Gaza, and Jews in Belgium and across Europe are asking if it’s time to leave. “It’s just crazy,” he noted. “It’s a tsunami of anti-Semitism that is spreading all over the Western world. Just the fact that Jews say that they think about leaving their country because they are not safe anymore as a Jew is a failure of the democracy. It’s a failure of Belgium.”

Both France and Germany reported that the number of anti-Semitic crimes doubled in 2024 compared to 2023.

In Britain, the number of reported anti-Semitic incidents has more than doubled. And in a nation that has been a safe haven for Jews, some have raised

the specter of 1930s Germany. While comparisons to Nazi Germany are over-used, there are some disturbing parallels for British Jews. Because of threats, some Jewish organizations now have secret addresses. Virtually all need security.

Gideon Falter, Chief Executive of Britain’s Campaign Against Anti-Semitism, remarked, “We are seeing the radicalization of society. We are seeing young people who believe that they are doing a righteous thing by discriminating. We see graffiti. We’re hearing from Holocaust survivors who say, you’ve got to be really careful about this stuff.”

British Journalist David Collier, a Jew, doesn’t believe that the situation for Britain’s Jewish citizens will improve because of how the influx of Muslim immigrants has changed perceptions of Israel and Jews. In describing today’s Britain, Collier commented: “It’s a different country with a different demographic, a different outlook. Everything about it is different.”

In Belgium, Rubinfeld added that it feels as if European Jews live in “a kind of parallel world” where Israel, Jews, and democracy are evil, and Hamas is good. “It’s what I call the ‘anti-Semitic metaverse’ — where black is white and wrong is right. It is an inversion of values, an inversion of truth.”

Collier is afraid that Europe will never again be a safe place for Jews. “I see Europe as ‘lost.’ I just don’t see a way back.” ☆





Jewish Humor, etc.

A cheerful heart is good medicine —
Proverbs 17:22

From Classic Jewish Entertainers

"My doctor told me that jogging could add years to my life. I think he was right. I feel ten years older already."

—Milton Berle

"I was the only Jewish kid in a Catholic neighborhood. They all did Hail Marys; I did Hail Murrays."

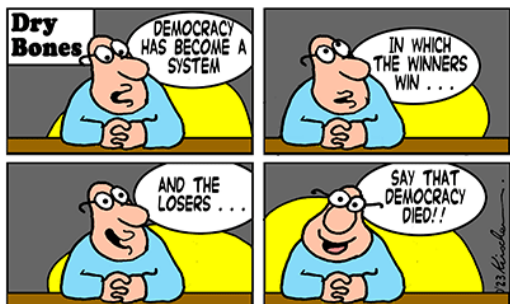
—Joan Rivers

"A doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill, so the doc gave him another six months."

—Henny Youngman

"Happiness is having a large, loving, close-knit family in another city."

—George Burns



Answer Key for JANUARY 2025 Crossword (p.21)

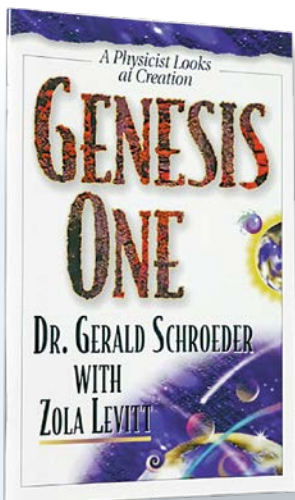
- | ACROSS: | DOWN |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 2. Bread | 1. Worry |
| 4. Glory | 3. Disciples |
| 7. Repent | 4. Greatest |
| 9. Prophet | 5. Serve |
| 10. Need | 6. Father's |
| 11. Treasures | 8. Temptation |
| 15. Righteous | 12. Deceives |
| 18. Forgiveness | 13. Suffer |
| 19. Narrow | 14. Overcome |
| 21. Shepherd | 16. Teachers |
| 22. Fruit | 17. Salt |
| 23. Burden | 20. Truth |
| 24. Sabbath | |



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By Dr. Gerald Schroeder with Zola Levitt

The *Genesis One* study booklet is a transcription of the first two programs from the *Evidence of God* TV series.

Please see the DVD set *Evidence of God* on p. 3.

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Zola Levitt Ministries is ECFA approved and has Charity Navigator's top rating of 4 stars and MinistryWatch.com's Transparency Grade of A with a 100 Give With Confidence score.



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