

Purim — the festival of Esther — is the most lighthearted of the Jewish holidays. Perhaps that's why the sages of the Talmud ask, "Where is there an allusion to Esther in the Torah?" They answer with a reference to Deuteronomy 31:18, where God warns Israel of exile to come: V'anochi haster asteer panai, "And I will hide, yes hide My face." Asteer ("hide") sounds like Esther. So does the term hester panim — to hide the face — which describes the conditions of Israel's long exile. Rashi wrote, "In the days of Esther there will be hester panim, hiding of the divine countenance." Accordingly, there is no mention of God in the whole Book of Esther.

Purim, then, is the festival of exile, a time when God seems hidden, which extends even to this day. Believers in Messiah, however, might not consider themselves as being in exile. If Messiah is risen and present among us, how can we say that God's face is hidden?

(continued p.4)

REMEMBER:

Purim: Sunset March 13 to sunset March 14

Christian Church Grows Despite Intense Persecution

By Samantha Kamman ChristianPost.com

A Christian who twice escaped prison in North Korea is praying to see his child again and share Jesus with his family member.

This shows the determination that persecuted Believers have to keep God's Word alive despite surges

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Christian Church Grows Despite Intense Persecution

continued from cover

in anti-Christian violence across the globe.

The story of Jung Jik (name changed for security reasons) appeared alongside several others in the recent Open Doors US 2025 World Watch List report, which chronicled the 50 worst countries where Christians are oppressed for their faith.

"Even in some of these places where persecution is extreme, the Church continues to grow," noted Ryan Brown, CEO of Open Doors US.

About 380 million Christians — one in seven worldwide — face high levels of persecution and discrimination. North Korea was worst — number one on the World Watch List, as it has been for over 20 years. The communist country "continues to be a place that is incredibly difficult for Christians," Brown stated. "Reports of violence have continued to escalate within North Korea, and it is expansive throughout the State."

Christians in North Korea could face execution or imprisonment in a labor camp if their faith is discovered. Yet despite the targeted oppression, around 400,000 Believers* in North Korea continue to bear witness to the love of Christ, according to the latest World Watch List.

Jung, who now lives in South Korea, remembered hearing his grandmother mumble Christian prayers, not realizing what they were at the time. His father also became a Christian after fleeing North Korea in search of food, which led to his imprisonment. Jung would later follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a Believer and by fleeing North Korea.

"My heart still yearns for North Korea,"
Jung declared. "There's still a large underground Church. Because you pray, many people are miraculously healed, and they experience God's power. They come to faith."

Brown said that Christians like Jung, who refuse to forsake Christ, are a model for

Christ-followers in Western countries who have religious freedom. Throughout Christianity's history, Brown stressed that the Church has continued to thrive, even when persecution is extreme.

Brown added that there are places where "the life is being squeezed from" the Church. He specifically cited the North African country of Algeria, which ranked 19th on the 2025 World Watch List. The report noted that "all Protestant churches [in Algeria] have been forced to close, and the number of Christians awaiting trial and sentencing is at an all-time high."

Other countries that have forced the Church underground include Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, which ranked No. 10 on the list. People who renounce Islam to accept Jesus Christ face imprisonment or death.

Open Doors noted increased persecution in 15 sub-Saharan countries — including Sudan (5) — where Islamic extremist groups are taking advantage of government instability. Nigeria, which ranked seventh on the list, stands out from many of the sub-Saharan countries, as there wasn't much room for conditions to worsen from previous years. Christians in northern Nigeria are targeted by Fulani militants, Boko Haram, and other Islamist groups who murder or abduct people of faith. Thousands of Nigerian Christians have been killed in recent years.

Brown explained that persecution of Christians creates instability in many of the places noted in the report. He urged world leaders like President Donald Trump to address the issue of Christian persecution by prioritizing religious freedom and making it "part of the conversation" when trying to achieve peace and stability in these countries.



^{* &}quot;Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."





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Classic Zola
Does it Really Matter?
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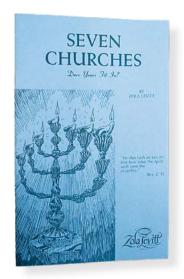
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<u>Seven Churches</u> — <u>Does Yours Fit In?</u>

study booklet by Zola Levitt

The Lord appeared to the Apostle John at Patmos and dictated the dramatic Revelation of Jesus Christ. He began with commentary on seven churches of the time, which has remained an object lesson for all generations. This booklet addresses the seven churches of Asia as seen by the Head of the Church.

This and many other titles are also available as eBooks.

Please see the article "What is the Church? (Part 2)" on p. 14.

Purim and the Hidden Messiah

continued from cover

Isaiah 53:1 provides a clue: "Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" "The arm of the LORD" normally describes God's mighty and undeniable acts, as in the first Passover, when He revealed Himself openly both to Israel and Egypt by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. "Arm of the LORD" is almost a synonym for God's revelation, but Isaiah asks whether anyone has seen it. We again confront hester panim — God alive and well, but hidden.

The Gospel of Mark sounds this same theme. It opens by announcing that this is "the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of God" (1:1). Then, it records John's testimony (1:7-8) and a voice from Heaven: "You are My Son, whom I love; I am well pleased with You" (1:11). While the demons recognize that Yeshua is the Son of God (1:24; 3:11; 5:7), Yeshua silences them. Indeed, He repeatedly instructs those who experience His healing power to tell no one (1:44; 3:12; 5:43; 7:36; 8:26). When Yeshua visits His hometown, the people ask, "Where did this Man get all this?" (6:2). Rather than recognizing Him as Messiah, the Son of God, they take offense at Him. His own disciples, when Yeshua performs the great miracle of calming a storm on the Sea of Galilee, ask "Who can this be, that even the wind and the waves obey Him?" (4:41).

Mark announces who Yeshua is, but there's still something hidden about Him, and we, the readers, get drawn into the question: "Who can this be?" If we answer too quickly, we're bound to get it wrong, because Yeshua hides that He is Messiah to reveal what kind of Messiah He will be. He turns the normal expectations of His day — and our day — upside down. As Purim reminds us, things are not as they appear. Those who seem powerful and in control will be put in their place by

The turning-point in Mark comes in 8:27–30, when Yeshua asks His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" Peter nails it: "You are the Messiah." Even so,

outsiders, including a God who is hiding.

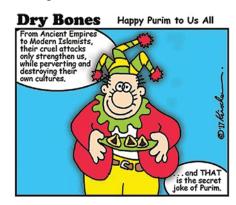
Yeshua orders them not to tell anyone.

The secret is out, but now Yeshua focuses on the suffering and crucifixion that He must endure to fulfill it. Furthermore, Yeshua reveals that even after He rises from the dead, there will be continuing exile and persecution — God's hidden face — until He returns (13:33–37).

Yeshua hides His Messianic identity to ensure that His followers understand what kind of Messiah He is. But He has another purpose in remaining hidden

— to prepare them for the long period between His resurrection and His return in glory. During this time, He will often seem hidden, and His followers may be tempted to lose hope and become complacent. Instead, Yeshua warns us to stay alert, to believe actively, and to serve Him before all else as we watch for His return. The way of loyalty to a hidden Messiah is different from what we might choose for ourselves. And it's definitely different from the way carved out by the religious consumerism of our day.

Purim reminds us of Isaiah's question: "to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" (Isa. 53:1). Purim provides the answer: It will be revealed to those who actively rely on Him, despite the delays and disappointments of exile. In the same way, Yeshua — Who seems hidden to many, and Who fails to meet the expectations that this world cherishes — is the source of deliverance to Israel and the nations. Purim reminds us to remain faithful to Yeshua's words and example during this time of hester panim, the hiding of God's face.



ZLM Store

FEATURED ITEM

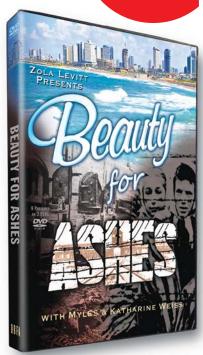
Beauty for Ashes DVD Set

Nine 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

In this nine-program series, Myles and Katharine Weiss contrast the horror that was the Holocaust with the miracle that is the modern State of Israel. Throughout the series, we hear firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors Noah Klieger, Meir Stern, and Eva Mozes Kor.

The Hope To Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe, the "Work Makes You Free" sign over the entrance to Auschwitz offered false hope. In 1948, Jewish hopes materialized when the modern State of Israel was born in a day (Isaiah 66:8).

The Ground Holocaust survivors recount riding in cattle cars bound for Auschwitz. The blood-soaked ground beneath the Death Wall contrasts significantly with the life-giving produce that grows in Israel today.





The Survivors In Auschwitz, we hear about the Jewish people's extremely slim chances for survival. In Israel, a "start-up nation" today, we hear from executives of high-tech companies.

The Chosen A survivor recounts her experience of Auschwitz, where many were sent to their deaths. From Caesarea, we hear about Israel's restoration and desire to "repair the world" (Tikkun Olam).

The Heart The crematoria at Auschwitz grimly remind Believers of the battle between good and evil. Myles and Katharine speak of Jewish contributions in the arts.

The Process After hearing how Holocaust survivors survived Dr. Josef Mengele's barbaric medical experiments, we visit Be'er Sheva's impressive technology center where science in Israel advances mankind's welfare.

The Future Believers standing with the Jewish people and with Israel are an important component of the nation's Divine deliverance and resilience.

The Peace After viewing the stunning fields in Northern Galilee from a hot-air balloon, we hear from Israelis who endured hardship to become established in Israel. Myles sings a benediction over the pond at Auschwitz.

Extended Interviews with Holocaust Survivors (bonus program) Holocaust survivors speak further about being sent to death camps, survival techniques, liberation, and overcoming the traumatic experiences of their youth to live meaningful lives.

Kirsten Hart Studio co-host of Our Jewish Roots





My father was a sports enthusiast. While he enjoyed watching every type of sport on television, he especially loved March Madness — the annual NCAA college basketball tournament. To say that he was glued to sports on TV is an understatement. Although I don't share my father's enthusiasm for watching sports, I still appreciate his passion and love for the game.

This March, however, my feelings of madness won't be sparked by basketball but by the lingering sadness in my heart for the ongoing situation in Israel.

As I write this, it's quite frustrating to realize that hostages' bodies are still being found in the tunnels of Gaza while the lives of other hostages are still hanging in the balance. When will all of the remaining hostages be freed? When will missiles cease flying over the Holy Land? When will peace reign once again?

Rarely a day passes that we don't hear news of sirens being sounded, IDF soldiers being killed, or terrorists attacking innocent civilians. As the psalmist cries out, "How long, ADONAI? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?" (Ps. 13:2). Don't we all feel the same?

When will all this madness end? Only the Lord knows. We must choose to walk in

hope because living in discouragement does nothing to improve the world and only leads to despair. We must be people who believe that God will "make a way" (Isa. 43:19) for the hostages, their families, and everyone affected by this horrific war.



After the U.S. Army deployed our oldest son, Tyler, to Iraq, I daily sought mental and spiritual peace. As his mother, I couldn't let myself dwell on worst-case scenarios. I had to hold on to my faith and believe that he would come home safely. Although he still struggles with PTSD as a result of his service, I am deeply grateful that he returned alive.



How can we cope with seeing the faces of IDF soldiers who have been killed in battle, as well as the desperation in the eyes of innocent people severely affected by this war? We must choose to dwell in hope every day. As noted in Acts chapter 2, where Peter quotes King David, we are encouraged to embrace hope: "I saw God before me for all time. Nothing can shake me; He's right by my side. I'm glad from the inside out, ecstatic; I've pitched my tent in the land of hope" (The Message, emphasis added).

This March, instead of focusing on the madness, dwell on hope. May complete peace once again return to our beloved Israel. 🌣

ZLM Store

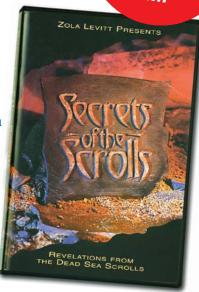
FEATURED ITEM

Secrets of the Scrolls

DVD Set (also available as an eBook Transcript)

7 half-hour TV programs on 2 DVDs

In 1947, a Bedouin boy in search of a lost goat threw a stone through the narrow opening of a cave. Hearing the sound of breaking pottery, he entered the cave and happened upon a 2,000-year-old treasure. He had discovered the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS). Secrets of the Scrolls gives a historical account of these treasured manuscripts and presents some remarkable revelations. The authors of the Scrolls were intensely Messianic and appear to have documented the fulfillment of prophecy in the person of the Messiah. Terms such as "son of God," "branch of David," "stripes or piercings," "being put to death," and



"raising the dead" all strike a familiar chord. Quite possibly, these incredible Scrolls represent the first extra-Biblical revelation of Jesus Christ in history.

The Scrolls — A New Revelation We quickly produced this half-hour program when the DSS first became widely accessible for study. Zola quotes from the Associated Press news release and emphasizes the significance of access.

The Scrolls: Part 2 Within days of our first program's broadcast, Dr. James Tabor phoned Zola to initiate a series of interviews that would unveil one of the 20th century's most dramatic revelations. This program is the first of these interviews. A professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Tabor delivers an incredible lesson.

The Scrolls: Part 3 During this interview, Dr. Tabor refers to several books about the DSS, including *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* by Vermes (Penguin Press), *The Dead Sea Scriptures* by Gaster (Anchor Doubleday), and *A Facsimile Edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2 Volumes) by Robert H. Eisenman and James M. Robinson.

The Scrolls Special This program consolidates the first three programs and delivers their powerful message in only thirty minutes. Later discoveries in Scrolls research inspired the three following programs.

The Wilderness Group Michael Baigent, an English author, lectures in Qumran about the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes various approaches to excavation and how they pertain to the Scrolls. Dr. Robert Eisenman, a professor of Middle East religions at California State University at Long Beach, discusses the fascinating history of the Scrolls.

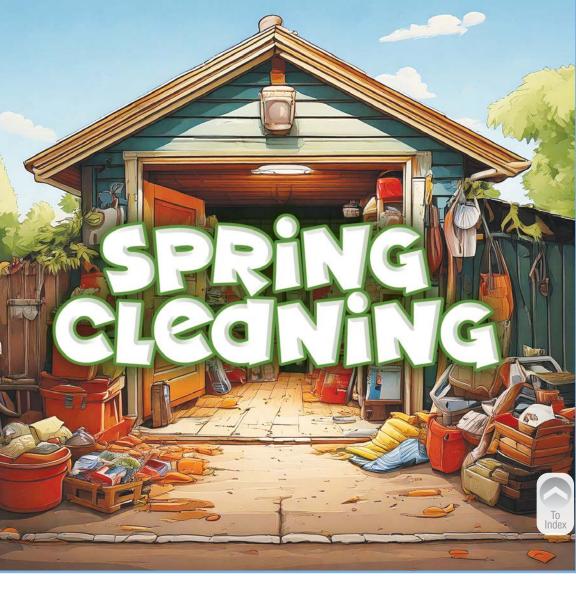
In Search of Answers Dr. Eisenman recaps his quest to gain access to the Scrolls. Dr. Tabor describes his archaeological team and how they map the caves in Qumran.

Prof. Michael Wise An in-depth interview with a professor of Aramaic, the language of Yeshua. University of Chicago professor Wise helped translate the fragments when they were first released and enthusiastically discusses The New Jerusalem text, telling how the future will be.

Please see the article "Rare Oil Lamp with Jewish Decoration Found in Jerusalem" on p. 32.







Most people know a neighbor with the perfectly manicured yard, who might even vacuum the sidewalk (the HOA's best friend). But we are not those people. While we both enjoy cleanliness and order, our garages do not suit their intended purpose, having become a dumping ground for all of life's misfit paraphernalia. Upon opening Caleb's garage door, one must leap out of the way as ceiling-high boxes pour out on the driveway. Josh's garage isn't much better, as his wife recently discovered an obese opossum shacked up inside, having gorged itself on Josh's giant containers of protein powder.

Remember the classic showdown in Matthew 15? The Pharisees caught Yeshua's disciples eating without washing their hands. What sinners! This sent the religious spirits operating in the Pharisees into a frenzy. Yeshua declared: "What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them" (v. 11). In addition, most Christians have heard these words from Yeshua: "For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).

"Follow your heart" is a popular and overused saying in the media. The warm and fuzzy phrase is used to validate all sorts of terrible life decisions. In romantic comedy films, this excuse pushes a "brave" woman to cheat on her spouse, find her "true love," and break her marriage covenant through divorce. The problem with following your heart is that most people's hearts are like garages overflowing with all kinds of junk — sinful thoughts, past sins, and lingering addictions that they refuse to surrender to the Father. Jeremiah 17:9 warns: "The heart is deceitful above all

Caleb & Joshua Colson The Bearded Bible Brothers™



things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Salvation by the blood of Yeshua is awesome. It crucifies a person's spirit with Messiah and then resurrects the spirit to become one with the Savior of the universe. The Holy Spirit then seeks space in that crowded heart, which still needs to be crucified daily from all the fleshly desires that once consumed it. The problem, however, is that many Believers allow those negatives to creep back into

their hearts.

Since we have God's promise of grace, we consciously harbor our beloved sins. Then, those dark

iniquities become like viruses in the body or black mold in a house that eventually causes sickness and even death. Generational curses, fears, bitterness, and unforgiven sins are just some of the neglected burdens and transgressions that many Christians carry. Yeshua specifically stated: "For out of the heart come evil thoughts — murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person" (Matt. 15:19–20).

While it's beyond detrimental for Believers not to deal with the above stubborn issues, unbelievers who ignore them will eventually experience the most devastating evil. Satan loves it when his wicked accomplices fill the voids of a man's heart. Those evil spirits are happy to control a man's actions once he readily surrenders to them. The true nature of evil was evident in a December 2024 incident in New

York City. As a woman slept on a subway train, an illegal immigrant approached her and set her on fire. Security cameras showed the woman screaming in agony as she burned to death.

The greatest tragedy was that no one came to help her; even a police officer walked by and did nothing. This was a contemporary example of Yeshua's Good Samaritan parable! The demon-possessed assailant was arrested and eventually appeared in court, where he had no

Now is the time for all of us Believers

to cleanse our hearts by surrendering

completely to Yeshua.

recollection of committing the murder. Years of surrendering to evil spirits made him a willing vessel for their horrific desires.



While this violent crime is an extreme example of a neglected heart, none of us are any different if we hate our neighbor; we are guilty of the sin of murder (1 John 3:15).

Now is the time for all of us Believers to cleanse our hearts by surrendering completely to Yeshua. There is nothing that any of us can do to cleanse sin's dark stain in our lives; only His blood can wash us white as snow (Isa. 1:18; 1 John 1:7). We don't deliver this message in condemnation, but in love, knowing that Believers can only be effective for Messiah if we walk in complete obedience to Him.

Love,

Caleb and Joshua



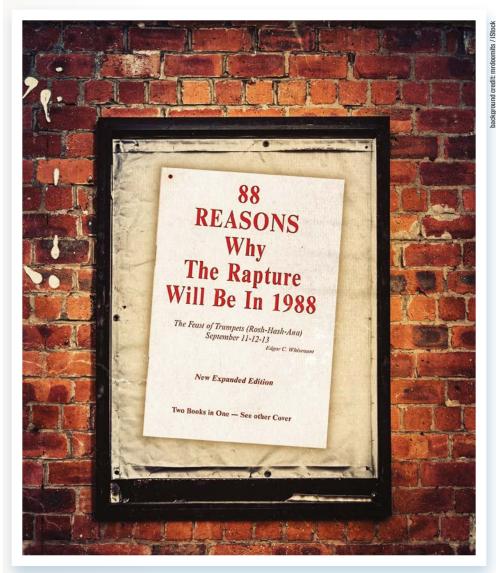


Classic **Zola**

Does it Really Matter?

Part 2

by Zola Levitt from 2000 25 years ago



Our view of End Times prophecy is certainly important to how we are living, especially in today's pressurized and unpredictable world.

A case of a lack of prophecy knowledge affecting many people was the 1988 publication of the Rapture-prediction book, 88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988. Many of us recall the prediction that the Rapture would occur on the Feast of Trumpets that year, and that we'd better prepare ourselves. The book was everywhere. Yet in 1989, after the noise died down, Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas asked me to teach a

six-week series on "89 Reasons Why We Can't Predict the Rapture!"

The problem with predicting the date of the Rapture is that it would, of course, cause people to believe in something seen rather than unseen, as faith is described in Hebrews 11:1, "... faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Truly, we live in an age of faith, and not an age of evidence, at least not worldly evidence.

And now, the important subject of Israel — I should say the crucial subject, since the whole Church will be going there for the 1,000-year Kingdom, and I don't

(continued on next page)

believe that any professor at any Evangelical seminary would dare contradict that very Biblical view. Furthermore, the restoration of the Jewish people to the Promised Land comes in fulfillment of 3,500-year-old prophecies (see Deut. 30:1–5).

One could have lived at any time in the past 35 centuries and not understood that prophecy was seeing its literal fulfillment. Yet, when the Chosen People started returning to their land, many Christians turned against that land and invented new doctrines that, in effect. made it unimportant. Progressive dispensationalism de-emphasizes Israel to the extent where there is almost no point in trying to discuss affairs in the Promised Land with graduates of any seminary teaching that doctrine. They are, in effect, cursing Israel, and may well come under Genesis 12:3, "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee..."

And lastly, the seminaries themselves become all the poorer spiritually for adopting doctrines that simply will not stand the test of ordinary Bible exposition. Personally, I am not really a theologian, but I can easily see the errors in this doctrine. My heart goes out to the young men and women being trained for important church work, including the pastorate, who will graduate in ignorance of some of the most vital doctrines of Biblical learning.

No wonder our churches are insipid, and our nation's support of the Holy Land is so flagging. No wonder no voice was raised when Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus Christ, was given to Muslims, who have turned it into a typical Arab town that is hardly fit for pilgrims to visit. Truly, I shudder to think what some of the conversations at the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ will be like. We must keep in mind that each of us will face the King of the Jews when we get to Heaven. and we will account for our attitude toward the Chosen People and their land. As our Lord will say to the Tribulation Period souls in His Throne of Judgment, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren [the Jews], ye have done it unto Me" (Matt. 25:40).

This theological complaint about our major seminaries is not mere quibbling. This deviation from Scripture is a very serious problem that can only be solved by a concerted Christian effort to oppose those who teach false doctrines and, in effect, clean our own house. The Apostle Paul made the point that, when we support a ministry, we have a part of that ministry and its accomplishments in Heaven. That point may have a reverse side; if we support false teachings, we may have to account for those in Heaven also.



What Should We Think About Israel?

book

We hear about Israel in the news regularly. But beyond the many opinions and preconceptions, what should we make of the conflicts and controversies in the Middle East? What Should We Think About Israel? exposes the current primary issues and provides well-researched, objective facts to help you discover the truth about Israel's past, present, and future. Learn from respected scholars how to look beyond the heated debates and discern for yourself what is important to know about Israel and how that affects you today.



A Note from Mark

Shock Jocks for Jesus?

Mark Levitt ZLM Director since 1988





Dear Reader: Over the last four decades, our weekly TV program has been preempted for broadcaster fundraising telethons, for being too pro-Israel (we briefly offered a no-holds-barred series called The Censored Foursome), and now suddenly for being overly comedic, as noted in the following email that I received from a TV station manager. Evaluating if and how much Joshua and Caleb — our fearless Bearded Bible Brothers™ — should dial down their use of humor and various antics to capture and hold the attention of channel hoppers recalls all the distractions of late against which they must either aggressively compete or inevitably perish. -Mark

Dear Mark:

After 40 years of broadcasting your weekly television program, we can go no further with your present format.

A viewer complained that the Bearded Bible Brothers (BBB) act so stupidly, they joke too much, this doesn't go with Christ; I'm shocked that you have them on. She told me that while she will continue to view our station, she will no longer watch your program.

Frankly, Mark, your "Hanukkah Hoedown" episode reveals an unacceptable persona of Our Jewish Roots. While the serious parts do get to the heart of the message, the comedy routines detract immensely and go over the top.

I was shocked to see Josh standing in his bathroom, facing the mirror, wearing a tank top and towel wrapped around his waist singing, "I'm dreaming of a blue Hanukkah." He told the viewers how he had just washed all his major body parts which included washing between his toes and in his bellybutton. He then sprayed his armpits with deodorant, lifting his arms high, revealing his hairy

The program shows one of them manning a mistletoe (kissing) booth. In another scene, he has his tongue stuck to an inflatable candy cane. They jokingly spoke of the abomination of desolation. They mentioned Antiochus Epiphanes outlawing circumcision, to which Joshua responds, "What a tool." Caleb replies, "We won't get into that." Really?

Throughout the episode, one is wearing a Snoopy Christmas shirt. In another scene, one is dressed like Charlie Brown and the other as Linus, carrying a blue blanket and sucking his thumb as they imitate Peanuts characters. Then, after a serious message of salvation, we go back to an inflatable nativity scene with



a bearded brother wrapped up in white cloth, sucking his thumb, and crying out like a newborn.

Zola approached the weekly program with dignity, sincerity, and respect to the message without comedy routines. While OJR still conveys good elements of spiritual truth, it is overshadowed by attempts at comedy. Should OJR return to the principles that drew our ministries together some 40 years ago, we will be glad to reevaluate. May the Lord grant you wisdom and quidance.

In Christ, [The station manager who fired OJR]

Dear Reader:

Howard Stern and Don Imus are two of the most famous "shock jocks" of recent decades. Blue comedians George Carlin, Redd Foxx, and Lenny Bruce are other examples of entertainers who attracted attention and developed loyal followings using humor and melodramatic exaggeration that offended some listeners.

Decades ago, Zola offended some viewers. Millennia ago, Jesus offended some listeners. It is arguable that offending some people is the Christian way, particularly when they hear the sometimes unwelcome message that despite their best efforts to be good people, they're going to burn in Hell right along with murderers and rapists (Rom. 3:23). Many Jews consider proselytizing to be worlds more offensive than Howard Stern's comedy. And that's really saying something.

In fact, since you're reading this news magazine, you'd be well advised *not* to explore for yourself Howard's profanity, bathroom humor, explicit topics, locker room banter, and the list goes on — unless you like being offended.

Speaking of being patently offensive, Howard Stern's movie *Private Parts* (1997) is a biographical comedy drama. IMDB.com characterizes him as the radio rebel who is also a TV personality, author, and movie star. And he's Jewish. The movie's title likely stems at least in part from his joking about his wife's miscarriage, leading to their divorce, attributable to his failure to keep certain topics private. Howard explained that he had to be himself to deliver his best persona to listeners.

Paul Giamatti passionately portrays Howard's exasperated boss, Kenny, a well-intentioned radio station manager who fails to rein in Howard's eccentricities. In the movie's ratings scene, Kenny is frustrated to learn that:

- The average radio listener listens to Howard's program for **18 minutes**.
- The average Howard Stern fan listens for (are you ready for this?) an hour and 20 minutes! Why? "I want to see what he'll say next."
- The average Howard Stern hater listens for 2½ hours. Why? "I want to see what he'll say next."

Josh and Caleb, however novel their tactics tend to be, are simply *not* shock jocks — neither for Jesus nor for anyone else. The distinction is this: Jackhammering Bible teaching through viewers' inattentiveness is the brothers' objective rather than entertaining in order to drive up their numbers and sell soap.

Please take to heart that they are combating 1) shortened attention spans and 2) fierce competition for viewers who hotly pursue instantaneous gratification at sources such as YouTube's curated short videos. The agenda of the BBB's dog-and-pony show, if you will, is to make Biblical points in ways that stick all while defying a downward trend in television viewership. Plus, they're gearing to increasingly appeal to social media junkies. Please prayerfully and financially uphold their courageous, heroic endeavors to convey the Gospel's message of salvation by faith through grace (Eph. 2:8-9) despite many opposing forces. —Mark 🌣





Ask the Chaplain

What is the Church?

Dr. Todd BakerZola Levitt Ministries
Staff Theologian
staff@levitt.com



Part 2

There are two aspects of the Church. The *visible* Church encompasses the physical assembly of presumed Christians who gather together in numerous locations around the world. In contrast, the *invisible* Church includes all born-again Believers throughout history, whom God alone sees and knows

The visible Church is evident now — a mixture of Believers and unbelievers, that is, true and false Christians — similar to the wheat and tares noted in Matthew 13. Not everyone who claims Christ's Name, however, has been spiritually transformed. Both Paul and John noted people who initially seemed to know the Lord but later "deserted" (2 Tim. 4:10) or "went out from" the Church (1 John 2:19). Jesus explained that such people are like a seed in rocky soil — it looks promising as it starts to grow, but eventually withers because it has no root (Matt. 13:5–6, 20–21).

The invisible or universal Church is comprised of all genuine Believers, both living and dead. Coming from every tribe, kindred, tongue, and nation, these have been saved by Jesus Christ and are united in one Body (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 1:22–23; Rev. 5:9; 7:9). Without any specific denominational banner, the invisible Church includes Believers from various backgrounds within the boundaries of Biblical orthodoxy.

The function of the Church is to obey Christ's Great Commission — to proclaim the Gospel, baptize new Believers, and make disciples for Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:16–20; Acts 1:8). This involves preaching and teaching God's Word (2 Tim. 4:2; Col. 3:16) to unbelievers and Believers, along with training and equipping Believers for the ministry of evangelism and discipleship (Eph. 4:12).

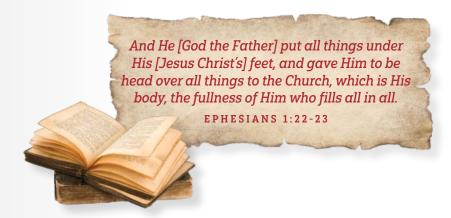
In the Church, Believers worship God, pray for one another through the name of Jesus Christ, and strengthen each other in the faith (1 Thess. 5:11). In addition, Believers in the Church observe the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus Christ's sacrificial death for our salvation.

The New Testament uses several metaphors to illustrate the reality of the Church: the spiritual Bride of Christ (Rev. 19:7–8; 21:9); the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph. 5:30); a spiritual temple or house of God (Eph. 2:19–22; 1 Pet. 2:5); and the family of God (Matt. 12:49–50; 1 Tim. 5:1).

The completion of the Church will occur at the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:50–54; 1 Thess. 4:14–18), when the Lord Jesus Christ takes His Bride to His Father's house in Heaven (John 14:1–6). The Church will return to Earth with Christ immediately after the seven-year Tribulation, where Believers will rule and reign with Him in the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 19). ❖







Please see the booklet Seven Churches — Does Yours Fit In? on p. 3.

ZLM Bulletin Board



Most Israeli Jews Oppose ...

... a Palestinian state under any conditions.
Knesset member Ariel Kallner, from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, noted that creating a Palestinian state would be the equivalent of national suicide for Israel. "And," Kallner added, "we are finished with committing suicide." The recent Institute for National Security Studies survey found that one-third of Israeli Jews support Israel's annexation of the Gaza Strip. And half of



respondents indicated that they favor building Jewish settlements in Gaza.

Do Israeli Lives Matter?

Noy Aviv, 29, from Eilat, was an English teacher and singer with an incredible voice. Hamas murdered her while she was trying to escape the October 7 Supernova music festival massacre. She fled to a roadside bomb shelter, which Hamas terrorists attacked. Her father, Mati, had talked with her by phone that morning: "She told me, 'Dad, do me a favor: Call security; send rescue!" Speaking again about a half hour later, Noy stated, "Dad, there's smoke coming in the bunker." Those were her last words. Days later, Mati learned that Noy's body had been found. "Beloved by her students and colleagues," the Education Ministry commented, "she set an example and gave love and support to all her pupils."



Hezbollah's recent attacks on northern Israel have damaged around 5,000 acres of forests.
Since 1901, when the World Zionist Congress established the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to purchase land in Israel for Jewish

settlement, the JNF has planted more than 260 million trees throughout the Holy Land! A portion of your contributions to this ministry can be designated for replacing trees lost to fire and helping Israelis make the desert bloom. The trees cost only \$10 each. We can even send you a personalized certificate if you ask.



GIVING THROUGH RETIREMENT PLANS

Pamphlet of the Month

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

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

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

Request POM #18









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



אַל־תִּירָא כִּי עִמְּדְ־אָנִי

"Fear not, for I am with you..." - Isaiah. 41:10



Read Hebrew right to left!



Why do we often feel anxious? Why are we filled with unease and worry about what might happen to us? Is it not because everything seems out of our control? The world around us seems threatening and unstable. Our interpersonal relationships are fragile and vulnerable; our bodies are sick and faltering. We grow despondent, lonely, and grieved. Time relentlessly passes and dissolution seems omnipresent; we feel distressed, swallowed up, overwhelmed, and powerless — the smoke and ashes from our depths.

Now while it is true that everything is out of our control, it is not true that we are utterly alone, the victims of unhappy chance and sorrowful fortune. Instead, we find life in relationship with a loving God who has repeatedly told us that He is with us always, through all the byways and valleys, and that He will never leave nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). The Lord has promised to shepherd us through the present darkness; He is the "ground of our being," the place of our refuge. He is always between you and your wounds.

We are not alone; the Lord will help us get through. "I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion (ἐπιτελέω) at the Day of Yeshua the Messiah" (Phil. 1:6). The Lord is able to guard you (φυλάζαι) from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy (Jude 1:24).



Do you feel weighed down in your life? "The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down" (Ps. 145:14). Are you concerned about your future? "He will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the Day of our Yeshua the Messiah" (1 Cor. 1:8). He who calls you is forever faithful; He will surely do it (1 Thess. 5:24). Yea, "the Lord is faithful (נְאֵמֶן הַרְּאֵוֹ הַרְּאַ): He will establish you and guard you against the evil one" (2 Thess. 3:3). The Spirit of the Lord says, "Fear not, for I AM with you always, even to the end of the ages" (Matt. 28:20). Amen and amen. \$\square\$

ZLM Store



The Covenants of God DVD Set

Eight 30-minute TV programs on 2 DVDs

The covenants that God made with men throughout the Bible act as guideposts for understanding Scripture. In this series, Zola reviews the eight major covenants by analyzing verses and interviewing experts. We now live under the New Covenant, which will be completed when our Lord returns.

Edenic Covenant Made with Adam (mankind) before man's fall. Physicist Gerald Schroeder explains how a 15 billion-year-old universe does not contradict a six-day creation.

Adamic and Noahic Covenants God's covenant with Adam after the fall promised a Redeemer. His covenant with Noah established human government.

Abrahamic Covenant Confirmed the Adamic promise of redemption and founded the nation of Israel.

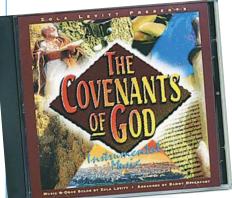
Mosaic Covenant Gave Israel commandments, judgments, and ordinances because "Man's heart is evil" (Genesis 8:21).

Land Covenant Secured the final restoration of Israel.

Davidic Covenant Established David's kingdom forever and God's plan of redemption through the future Messiah.

New Covenant Rests on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and secures unconditional eternal life with Him for Believers. Zola's interviews focus on the relationship of Jews and Christians.

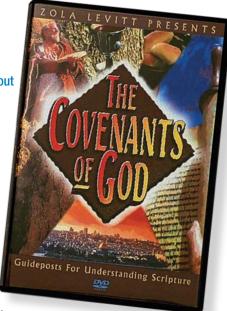
Review Understanding God's covenants enriches our faith and expands our knowledge of the great Creator we are privileged to call "Father." To Him be the glory forever!





Composed by Zola and played by him on his 1941 Lorée oboe, this album's music reflects the beauty Zola saw, the sadness he felt, and the pure inspiration God gave him. Heavenly!

All of Zola's music is available online in CD or digital format.

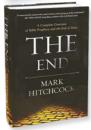


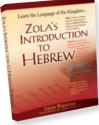


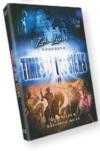












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Zola's Classic Study Booklet Library

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The Miracle of Passover	\$4	
The Promised Land!	\$4	
The Second Coming (pictured)	\$4	
Seven Churches — Does Yours Fit In? (p.3)	\$4	
The Seven Feasts of Israel	\$4	
The Spirit of Pentecost	\$4	
Mix or Match: 50 Classic Study Booklets (above)	\$49	

Books

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_ The Beginning of the End	\$9
_ The Bible Jesus Read	\$11
Broken Branches (booklet) Zola on Replacement Theology	\$7
_ Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy	\$12_
_ Don't Die in Your Sins	\$9_
_ The End (Mark Hitchcock) (pictured)	\$26
Genesis One A Physicist Looks at Creation (booklet)	\$6 _
_ The Iranian Menace (Jeff Seif)	\$9
_ Israel's Right to the Land! (booklet)	\$3
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_ JESUS the Jew's Jew	\$8
_ Josiah and the Last Reformation (p.24)	\$12_
_ The Mountains of Israel	\$10_
Once Through the New Testament	\$10_
_ The Prophesied Messiah	\$10_
_ Satan in the Sanctuary	\$10_
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_ What About Us?	\$10_
_ The Warrior King (book)	\$12_
What Should We Think About Israel? (Randall Price) (p.11)	\$12_
Whose Land Is It? (booklet - free with Whose Land DVD)	\$4
Zola's Introduction to Hebrew (John Parsons) (pictured)	\$39_





Featured DVDs

Beauty for Ashes (p.5)	(9 progs., 2-DVDs)	\$59
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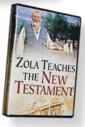
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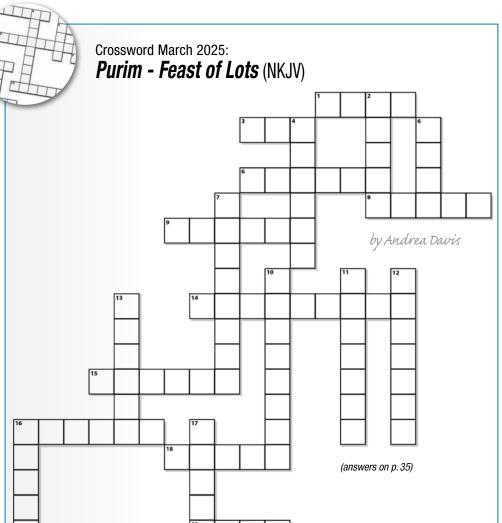
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- 1. ... My maids and I will __ likewise. ... (Esther 4:16)
- 3. For Mordecai the __ was second to King Ahasuerus ... (Esther 10:3)
- 6. You yourselves write a __ concerning the Jews ... (Esther 8:8)
- 8. So they called these days __ ... (Esther 9:26)
- 9. Esther had not revealed her __ ... (Esther 2:10)
- 14. ... that they should __ yearly ... (Esther 9:21)
- 15. ... Queen __ has not only wronged the king, ... (Esther 1:16)
- 16. So they __ Haman on the gallows ... (Esther 7:10)
- 18. After these things King Ahasuerus promoted __ ... (Esther 3:1)
- So the king and Haman went to __ with Queen Esther. (Esther 7:1)

DOWN

- 2. That night the king could not ___. ... (Esther 6:1)
- 4. The adversary and enemy is this ___ Haman! ... (Esther 7:6)
- 5. Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of __ ... (Esther 9:1)
- 7. ... __ sat within the king's gate. (Esther 2:19)
- 10. ... What is your ___? It shall be granted you. ... (Esther 5:6)
- 11. ... Let a __ be made, fifty cubits high ... (Esther 5:14)
- 12. ... Haman sought to __ all the Jews ... (Esther 3:6)
- 13. ... But Mordecai would not bow or pay __. (Esther 3:2)
- 16. The Jews had light and gladness, joy and ___. (Esther 8:16)
- 17. ... the Jews themselves overpowered those who __ them. (Esther 9:1)





Letters to ZLM

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

Calvinist leaning?

From S.E.: I love you guys and your ministry. However, from reading the December 2024 and January 2025 "Ask the Chaplain" articles in the *Levitt Letter*, it looks like you have a Calvinist leaning. When God says that He wants all men to be saved, and "for God so loved the world" (John 3:16), I truly believe Him. Election and predestination always refer to service or sonship in the Bible — never favoritism of who will be saved or not. Please cancel my subscription.

Dear S.E.,

I'm not sure that you correctly understood what I was saying in the articles. I am not a Calvinist; I'm a Biblicist. I actually believe in unlimited atonement, unlike Calvinists who believe in limited atonement. It's true that God doesn't play favorites because His choosing to save us is based on His Grace and mercy alone — not in anything inherently worthy in us, as was the case with Israel being His Chosen People (Deut. 7:6–8). —Todd

Zola's Classic Study Booklets

From B.P.: I ordered 40 study booklets; I will use them in my classes and for personal witness. Thank you so much. Your study booklets are greatly appreciated by the students and those to whom I give them for a witness.

Dear B.P..

Thanks for appreciating the timeless value of Zola's teaching booklets — easy reads for bargain prices. They are excellent gifts to share with friends, family, and others. —David

Israeli attitudes toward Christians

From S.F.S.: I'm elderly and have supported Israel my entire life. Before the October 7 war began, my brother made a pilgrimage there. I was shocked to see video footage of Israelis yelling at foreigners, "Go home; you're not wanted here!" and Orthodox Jews spitting at Christians wearing a Cross. Is this the real sentiment of most Jews in Israel?

Dear S.F.S..

Such behavior does not reflect the sentiment of most Israelis, but only a small fraction of Orthodox Jews in the Land. Just as every Church has their hard-hearted, we cannot judge the entire body on one individual's failures. On our last visit to Israel, we were amazed at how loving and receptive the Orthodox Jews were to Christians. We were warmly welcomed as they realized that followers of Yeshua never drop their support for Israelis during their hour of need. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

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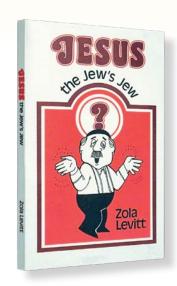


Physical and emotional healing

From P.P.: I was encouraged to read about the supernatural healings that the BBB have experienced throughout their lives. I'd appreciate prayer for my continued recovery from my second surgery following a 2019 assault at a mall. I have months of physical therapy remaining, and I continue to get counseling for PTSD.

My assailant still seeks parole, which I fight. I have an artificial shoulder joint due to his violent, daytime purse snatch. While I can't do some things I used to do, I know I must keep a forgiving spirit.

I have been a ZLM supporter since reading Zola's book JESUS the Jew's Jew in 1979. I went to Israel with Jeff Seif and Sandra (Levitt) Turner in 2008 and I'm also a King David Club supporter. Thanks!



Dear P.P.,

I am so sorry for what happened to you! We are praying for your complete, miraculous healing. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support of this ministry. —Kirsten

To order the classic book *JESUS the Jew's Jew*, please visit **store.levitt.com/books/JJJ** or order on <u>p. 18.</u> —Editor

Daystar Network

From L.L.: I implore you to stand for righteousness's sake against the improprieties and spiritual abuse uncovered at Daystar Network. To stay silent is to aid and abet the abusive behavior. It is beyond time for the Church to say "Enough!" At the very least, Daystar must humble themselves, apologize, and conduct a complete and impartial outside investigation into the credible accusations brought to light. They are not a business I can support, and any ministry who continues to align with them should not be supported either. Do the right thing!

From L.G.: You guys need to take a stand against child abuse and get off of Daystar TV. I cannot watch your programs anymore until you do this. As children of God, we are called to take a stand against evil.

Dear L.L. and L.G.,

Like our Savior Yeshua, we gravitate toward hating the sin rather than the sinner, and focusing on the planks in our own eyes rather than the splinters in others' eyes. Our small ministry is analogous to mom-and-pop merchants who rent retail spaces in malls. The substantial amounts we must pay for airtime every month don't allow us to dictate how they run their business enterprises or personal lives — or, for that matter, how they manage the affairs of our neighbors (fellow ministries who, like us, buy TV airtime in order to cast their bread upon the waters).

Please think of ZLM, the *Levitt Letter*, and *OJR* broadcasts as beacons of light in the darkness that benefit our vendors and staffers as well as supporters. The darker the places we go, the more our Bible teaching is needed.

Even so, Daystar boycotters can still watch the Bible teaching programs of the BBB and their predecessors, including Zola, Jeff Seif, and many others at *levitt.tv* and on YouTube. —Mark

(continued on next page)





p.18

Why we don't support the third temple. #shorts on YouTube

From G.E.: It is time to accept that most Jews will never accept the Messiah as Lord. They know of Christ and Christianity and willingly reject Him.

Dear G.E.,

Romans 11:26 begs to differ. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

IRS employees need the Lord

From S.M.: In their article in the *January 2025 Levitt Letter* (pp. 8–9), the Bearded Bible Brothers wrote: "Personally, we would never invite the IRS for dinner." This grabbed my heart. My daughter has worked for the IRS for several years. Who makes up the IRS? It's not just the politicians and federal government. What about all the people who work for the IRS? There are many who know the Lord and many who need Him. We need to pray that not just IRS employees, but all federal employees will be invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb of God.

Dear S.M.,

Please revisit the context of the BBB's lighthearted remark and consider cutting them slack since they were speaking about how God, throughout Scripture, often subverts man's prejudices and presumptions. They humbly made a point about being more prejudiced and less gracious than Yeshua. (See Matt. 9:10–13.) —Mark Dear S.M..

We couldn't have said it better than Mark. Our IRS-related joke was merely a comparison of how the Jews of Yeshua's day despised tax collectors, like many Americans also do. But that mindset is an unfair assessment of the IRS employees who are doing honest work. We'd love to have dinner with any federal employee to tell them about Yeshua. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb



Deaf ministry?

From L.L.: Does anyone have a ministry to the deaf and hearing-impaired communities?

Dear L.L..

While we don't have a direct relationship with them, we have heard of Deaf Ministries International. In addition, we broadcast all of our *OJR* television programs with closed captions, and YouTube

-\/\-\

uses auto-caption for our social media videos. —Blessings, Joshua and Caleb

Returned to the Lord

From S.A.: Josh and Caleb, your teachings (discussions) opened my eyes and brought me back to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. He used you two and your ministry work to bring me back to Him. Thank You!

Dear S.A.,

ZLM Store







Josiah and the Last Reformation book

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

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

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

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

Fake Social Media Accounts Seek to Sow Discord Among Israelis

JNS.org





Fake social media posts by Iranian bots

Iranian social media accounts intending to demoralize Israelis have recently resurfaced with new names and identities, according to an Israeli online watchdog group.

FakeReporter identified about 60 profiles, mostly on Facebook, which accounted for over 18,000 posts across social media. According to YNetNews, the "meticulously crafted identities" were produced by bots — automated programs that often mimic human behavior.

The accounts, which had disappeared from social media for months, were either locked or temporarily deactivated to evade detection. Now they're back, some with new names.

Some of the profiles have built up long friend lists of Israelis. "These connections enable the profiles to easily spread hostile, inciting messages and amplify content that serves the network's goals," reported YNetNews.

"This is a serious and troubling phenomenon. Foreign elements are successfully infiltrating Israeli networks to spy, incite, and spread propaganda. Once exposed, they simply change the profiles' identities without facing any consequences," said Achiya Schatz, CEO of FakeReporter.

Schatz criticized Meta, Facebook's parent company, for failing to alert Israeli users

about the profile changes or provide tools to defend against them. "If we were in the European Union, Facebook would be required to inform the public about what's being done in this regard," he explained.

"But there's no legislation or regulation in Israel, so the platforms choose not to share information with the

public about those who endanger their safety," he continued, adding that as a result the Israeli public "finds itself abandoned online."

Some examples of old profiles that have resurfaced: "Daniel Oz" is now known as "David Abraham," with about 800 friends. "Maya Lee" is now "Maya Lipschitz." Its profile picture is of a high school student in Canada.

Also returning is "Aliza Ariel," with 6,000 followers. So is "Shira Levi," now a doctor, which has 2,400 followers. Other suspicious profiles include "Avraham Moshe," with 2,400 followers and "Keren Ovadya," with 3,800 followers.

"Rebecca Elia" frequently changes its profile photo to feature different women and urges users to join a Telegram group called "Patriotic Israelis" that disseminates Iranian propaganda.

Fake profiles have become more convincing because of artificial intelligence, which produces correct Hebrew and creates graphics that make posts more impactful.

I value connecting with friends and family on Facebook, but what began as a platform for college students to connect with other students has unfortunately been corrupted by individuals with malicious intentions. —Kirsten 🌣



Science in Israel

Going Bananas for a New Protein Source | By Yulia Karı

By Yulia Karra



"I've always loved proteins," stated Michal Mayer. "You don't dedicate your life to this if you don't love proteins," added the biochemist and head protein researcher at Day 8. This Israeli startup specializes in extracting RuBisCO protein from discarded leaves.

Dr. Michal Mayer holding banana leaves

The name "Day 8" is rooted in the belief that the world was created in seven days, and on the eighth day, humans had the responsibility to protect and nurture it. "On this symbolic eighth day, we find our purpose — to safeguard the planet and its resources by revolutionizing the way we produce and consume food," notes the company's mission statement.

RuBisCO (short for ribulose 5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase) is stored in all green leaves and is considered the most abundant enzyme on Earth. Unlike many other plant proteins, RuBisCO is complete — rich in essential amino acids, vitamins, nutrients, minerals, and antioxidants.

Recently, the plant-based market industry has begun promoting RuBisCO as a sustainable protein source. But high production costs have hindered its commercialization.

This is where Day 8 comes in. The company — started by Daniel Rejzner, CEO, and Dana Marom, CTO has developed a novel approach to extracting RuBisCO from discarded crop leaves, focusing primarily on banana leaves.

"Bananas have an advantage ... because they grow all year round," explained Marom, a biochemist with over 20 years of food industry

experience. She added that "banana cultivation is one of the most prevalent in the world."

In the alternative protein market, taste is a major challenge when comparing the alternatives to animal-based protein. Day 8's extracted protein has a neutral taste. In addition, it is 100%

natural, unlike some alternative proteins that involve genetic modification of the host plant.

Plant-based dairy alternatives often have a lot of ingredients, most of which are added to emulate the consistency of animal-based dairy. "Often, these products have a lot of fat and very little protein. Our goal is to minimize that list of ingredients; fewer chemical ingredients and more healthy ones," Marom noted. She added that Day 8's protein powder is the same consistency as the protein derived from eggs.

According to Rejzner, Day 8 products can be a potential replacement for

whey protein — widely used in the fitness industry - which is a byproduct of cheese production. "Our product is absorbed better by the body; it's hypoallergenic, vegan,

cheaper, and has no aftertaste."



Daniel Rejzner and Dana Marom holding banana leaves

The first target market is the U.S. "Once it's approved by the FDA, it will be easier to get approval in Europe and Israel," Marom stated. 🌣

> A vial with banana leaf substance that will become protein powder

Medicine in Israel

Israeli Breakthrough in Prostate Cancer Treatment

By Pesach Benson TPS.co.il



Stages of Prostate Cancer

- Staging is an assessment of the size and location of tumor.
 - Important factor in determining treatment
- Stage A (T1) early cancer, tumor in prostate gland but can't be detected by rectal exam



- Stage B (T2) Tumor confined to prostate but detected by rectal exam
- 30
- Stage C (T3-T4) Tumor has spread to surrounding areas



 Stage D (N, M) – Cancer has spread to nearby and distant organs



Source: American Cancer Society

An Israeli medical breakthrough could cut in half the number of radiation treatments needed for prostate cancer patients.

Prostate cancer remains one of the most common malignancies among men worldwide. Half of these are detected early, when radiation therapy is a highly effective treatment option. Even so, the current standard of five sessions requires significant time, preparation, and emotional resilience from patients.

Research at the Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center at Israel's Beilinson Hospital has demonstrated the effectiveness of delivering high-dose external beam radiation therapy for prostate cancer in just two sessions, without compromising safety or outcomes.

Dr. Elisha Fredman (right), who led the research, noted that the reduction "can significantly ease the physical and emotional toll on patients, making the treatment process



more tolerable. Treating patients more efficiently also allows them to start therapy sooner, benefiting everyone involved."

Fredman's inspiration came from the more invasive brachytherapy — surgical implantation of radioactive particles into the prostate, effectively treating the cancer in just two sessions. Building on this concept, Fredman developed a non-invasive alternative using external beam radiation, delivering high doses over two sessions instead of five.

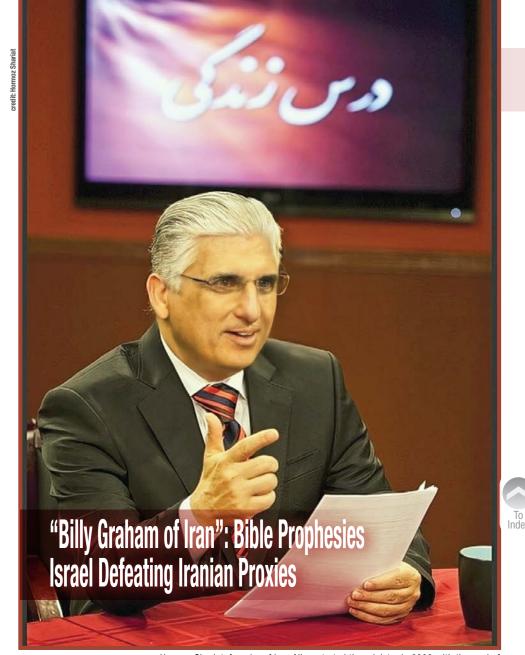
By shortening treatment schedules, a hospital can treat more patients and reduce waiting times, all while minimizing long-term side effects.

While similar studies are underway in New York, London, and Toronto, Fredman's study is expected to surpass these in scale, marking a significant milestone in global cancer research.

Since the study's inception, more than 40 patients have participated. "The response to treatment has been excellent so far, with no unusual side effects," Fredman reported. \$\phi\$



27



Hormoz Shariat, founder of Iran Alive, started the ministry in 2000 with the goal of transforming Iran into a Christian nation.

A ministry leader known as "The Billy Graham of Iran" believes that Israel's ongoing conflict with Iranian proxies aligns with Biblical prophecies. Moreover, he predicts that a prophesied peace between Israel and Arab nations is coming soon.

While fighting a war against Hamas following the terror group's attacks on October 7, 2023, Israel also dealt with missile attacks from two other Iran-backed terrorist groups, Hezbollah and the Houthis. Then in October 2024, Iran fired approximately 200 missiles into Israel following Israeli attacks on Hezbollah leaders in Lebanon and the assassination of a key Hamas leader while he was visiting Iran.

Hormoz Shariat, founder of Iran Alive — an organization that shares the Gospel in Iran online and through satellite — noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran lost respect among many nations and its proxies because of Israel's operations. Shariat believes that Iran's motivation for the missile attack was not to inflict damage but to regain respect from its proxies.

According to Shariat, many Iranian citizens, however, are celebrating the destruction of Hezbollah, as the people there despise the Islamic regime of Iran and its leaders. He claims that the Iranian people want to see Israel and the U.S. bring down the regime.

By Samantha Kamman ChristianPost.com





The ministry of Iran Alive reaches an average of six million Farsi-speaking Iranians daily and has seen over 115,000 documented decisions for Christ since 2001.

"The first opportunity that they can bring down the government, they will," Shariat noted. "This is like the first time in history where people of a country are asking foreign powers, 'Would you attack us?' They're asking Israel, 'Would you attack us and surgically remove these mullahs and set us free?'" he added.

Shariat hasn't been to Iran since 1979 but stressed that he is still there daily, in a sense, through media and his connections with Christians who live there. He grew up surrounded by Islam before becoming a Christian in 1980. In 2000, Shariat founded Iran Alive, which has planted the largest underground church network in Iran.

Since 2001, the ministry has documented over 115,000 people dedicating their lives to Christ after receiving the Gospel through satellite broadcasts. Iranian citizens can also access the Gospel online through virtual private networks.

The Iranian people's discontent with their government is due in part because many live in poverty, their family members have been killed by the Iranian government, and they're leaving Islam for Christ. "So, in general, there is misery in Iran, number one. Number two, they have rejected not just the government, but they have rejected Islam altogether," Shariat asserted.

"The majority are moving toward secularism. They are very open to other ideas, including Christianity. That is why Iran has the fastest-growing Evangelical population in the world."

Citing Jeremiah 49 and Ezekiel 38, Shariat declared that these passages prophesy the current

events happening around Israel. He predicted that Israel making peace with its neighbors is "not far off," stating that Iran's Islamic government is "on its way down," having lost the support of many of its people.

"Why aren't Israel's neighbors listed in Ezekiel 38? The reason, you can see with your own eyes, is either that Israel has made peace with them, like the Abraham Accords that has happened, or it has destroyed its enemies," he explained. "So, in one sense, what Israel is doing is aligning with Bible prophecies in Ezekiel 38."

Israel's destruction of Iranian leaders was prophesied in Jeremiah 49, according to Shariat, as well as the current revival in Iran.

While some lawmakers and activist groups have demanded that Israel stop fighting against Iranian proxies, Shariat noted that many in the U.S. don't understand the mindset of Middle Easterners, though Iranians and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu do.

"The language of the Middle East is force," Shariat stated. "And the people of Iran say, 'You have to speak their language.' You cannot appease them. You have to use force against Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Iranian government."





Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (front right) with then-Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (front left) in Caracas, Venezuela in June 2023

Iran Strengthens Ties with Venezuela

By Maria Villaroel / LatinTimes.com

Iran is increasing its military presence in Venezuela, while some members of Iran's elite are acquiring properties in the Latin American country and being offered political asylum should they eventually need it.

As the relationship between the two countries has grown over the years, Iran recently established a drone development project at a Venezuelan air base. That venture includes the production and training in the use of a wide range of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including the ZAMORA V-1 (Shahed-131), which is used for one-way attack missions. This and other drones represent a significant technological advance in Venezuela's military capacity.

Iran is also looking to sell drones to other countries in the region, which could destabilize the geopolitical landscape in Latin America.

Venezuela and Iran have also sought to strengthen economic ties. Direct flights between Caracas and Tehran have reportedly been used to transfer Venezuelan gold in exchange for Iranian gasoline and refinery equipment, which violates international sanctions imposed on both countries.

Iran's economy has been crippled by a mix of bad management, corruption, and international sanctions. Power shortages have shut down government offices and schools and have disrupted production

at dozens of manufacturing plants. In addition, Iran's military threat has been blunted as Israel has battered Iranian allies and much of Iran's air defense

Meanwhile, economic and humanitarian crises continue in Venezuela, where Nicolas Maduro claimed a new term as president despite widespread condemnation from the international community, which sided with the opposition led by Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who presented ballots to support their claim of having won the recent election.



PA Advisor: Jews Came to Israel for Money

Ephraim D. Tepler and Itamar Marcus PalWatch.org

One of the classic anti-Semitic libels is that Jews will do anything for money. This libel was propagated recently on official Palestinian Authority (PA) TV. A PA advisor spouted that since Jews have no religious connection to the land, they were enticed to come to Israel with the promise of higher salaries than in the West (spoiler: salaries are not higher in Israel). Essentially, the PA says that Jews came to Israel not because of the right to self-determination in their historical homeland, but just for money.

Ayed Morrar: "If an opportunity was given to the expansionist occupation (i.e., Israel) to settle in Egypt and Jordan, they would not miss the opportunity ... There is no religious or emotional connection between a resident (i.e., Jews) of the occupation state and this

(continued on next page)





Ayed Morrar on PA TV

state. They told him: You earn \$1,000 in France. In Palestine, you can earn \$1,200 or \$1,500, and therefore he came for this reason, with international support, to be a military base for the West in the Middle East."

Morrar used classic anti-Semitism to dismiss thousands of years of Jewish religious, historical, and cultural history and ties to the Land of Israel while perpetuating the lie that Jews are a foreign, invasive force. This isn't surprising considering how PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has explained Hitler's hatred as the result of Jews having "worked based on usury and money — in other words, they caused ruin in his opinion." Morrar's libel is just another attempt to use ancient anti-Semitic hate to justify modern political narratives aimed at delegitimizing Israel.

Lies, lies, and more lies! —David

Muhammad, Abigail Most Popular 2024 Baby Names in Israel

JPost.com

In Israel, the most popular baby name for Jewish girls in 2024 was Avigail (meaning "father's joy"), according to recent data from Israel's Population and Immigration Authority (PIA).

This is the second consecutive year that Avigail has topped the list, with 1,137 babies named.

Tamar (meaning "date palm") ranked second with 833 names, followed by Yael

(meaning "ibex") with 714. These Biblical names continue to be popular among Jewish girls in Israel.

Among Jewish boys, Ariel (meaning "lion of God") was the leading choice with 1,013 babies named. Dovid (meaning "beloved") was second with 990, followed by Lavi, which was chosen for 944 newborns.

Notably, Dovid, the favorite from 2023, dropped to second place in 2024.

Across the general Israeli population, Muhammad (the name of the Islamic prophet) remained the most popular name for boys, with 1,740 babies given this name. Yosef was the second most common name with 1,201 babies given that name, followed by Adam, with 1,196 babies given that name.

For girls, Avigail remained at the top across all demographics with 1,156 babies named. Miriam followed with 1,015 names, while Tamar was third with 841.



According to the PIA, 181,000 babies were born in Israel in 2024, showing the country's continued population growth.

Dear Reader: You may recall our November 2024 Levitt Letter cover article, "A Hebrew Twist on Thanksgiving," by Chad Bird, originally published at 1517.org. Zola Levitt Ministries is not affiliated with 1517, but as we value their Bible teaching, we selected Chad Bird's article to share. Reprinting it with edits to fit our newsletter space was an oversight on our part. We sincerely apologize for this and thank 1517 for bringing it to our attention. We encourage you to read the original, unaltered article on their website:

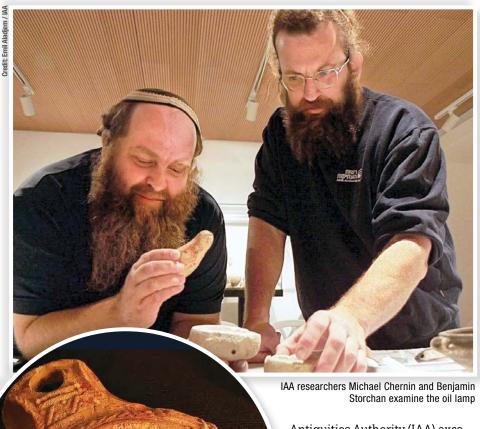
1517.org/articles/a-hebrew-twist-on-thanksgiving

-Editor



Archaeology

Rare Oil Lamp with Jewish Decoration Found in Jerusalem



Antiquities Authority (IAA) excavation director.

Based on the soot marks on its nozzle, researchers estimated that the lamp was used about 1,700 years ago, during the Late Roman Period. Chernin noted that this is one of the few archaeological finds that provide evidence of a Jewish community in and around Jerusalem during that time. Jews were expelled from the city after the Roman emperor Hadrian suppressed the Bar Kokhba Revolt in A.D. 135. The Romans destroyed the Second Temple in A.D. 70.

Benjamin Storchan, an IAA research archaeologist, noted that the lamp belongs to the "Beit Nattif" type — named after a production workshop that was identified in the 1930s near Beit Shemesh. The nozzle and lamp shoulders were decorated with geometric designs and its center features a detailed depiction

A rare ceramic oil lamp, decorated with depictions of the Temple menorah, incense shovel, and *lulav* (the ceremonial date palm branch), was recently uncovered during an archaeological dig near Jerusalem's Mount of Olives.

"The exquisite artistic workmanship of the lamp, which was found complete, makes it outstanding and extremely rare," stated Michael Chernin, an Israel

(continued on next page)

The

rare oil lamp



of the seven-branched menorah with a tripod base.

"The choice of symbols on the lamp is not accidental. This is a fascinating testimony connecting everyday objects and faiths among ancient Jerusalem's inhabitants. It's likely that the lamp belonged to a Jew who purchased it because of its religious affiliation and memorial to the Temple," Storchan commented.

According to Storchan, the lamp was made using molds carved out of limestone. These molds had an upper and a lower part, into which the potter pressed the clay. Afterward, the molds were pressed together, and the vessel was fired. "This method of producing lamps

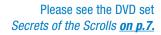
The oil lamp alongside stone molds used for producing similar lamps

in molds allowed for refined designs as well as the addition of delicate and intricate decorations. It's evident that the lamp maker dedicated a great deal of time and effort to its decoration."

After the Second Temple's destruction, "the menorah's image

became an important icon in the Jewish collective memory both within Israel and the Jewish Diaspora," Storchan remarked. "The menorah occasionally appeared on personal objects such as oil lamps, which, being illumination vessels, perhaps evoked a feeling of lighting the Temple menorah."

Heritage Minister Rabbi Amichai Eliyahu commented: "This unique oil lamp, which in an exciting manner bears the symbols of the Temple, ... expresses the deep and long-standing connection of the nation of Israel to its heritage and to the Temple's memory."







Antisemitic Beliefs booklet

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

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



Muslim Focus

Egyptian Student Arrested for Plotting Massacre at Israeli Consulate in NYC By Stephen DinanWashington Times.com





The Israeli Consulate in Manhattan

An 18-year-old Egyptian student at George Mason University in Virginia was arrested in December on charges of plotting a terror attack against Israel's consulate in New York City. Abdullah Ezzeldin Taha Mohamed Hassan worked with an associate on the plans, providing information on

the consulate's location, debating whether a gun or bomb was the better weapon, and crafting an escape plan. But the confederate with whom he was working turned out to be an FBI informant

Hassan's social media posts were littered with praise for Osama bin Laden and recruiting materials from the Islamic State (ISIS) terror group. Court documents indicate that he reveled in being labeled an "extremist" who was "obsessed with jihad" and had a "deep-seated hatred" toward Jews.

According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials, Hassan entered the U.S. on a legal visa in July 2022. But after violating the terms of the visa, officers lodged a deportation case against him in October 2022. He remained free in the U.S. while awaiting his hearing.

FBI agents interviewed Hassan in 2022, when he was still a juvenile, over some of his pro-ISIS activities.

Court documents re-

vealed that Hassan maintained at least three online accounts from which he spread ISIS messages. He also engaged in debates about Islam's teachings, arguing that it was more a religion of justice than of peace. "If your entire family was murdered by someone, would you give them hugs and kisses?

Islam is a religion of justice," he wrote in a March 2024 post on X.

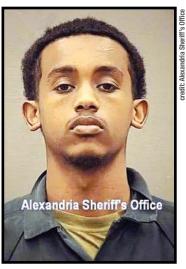
In August 2024, Hassan shared the results of an artificial intelligence analysis of his online profile:

"Based on our AI agent's analysis of your tweets, you are a young, radical Islamist extremist who is obsessed with jihad and violence against perceived enemies.

perceived enemie Your tweets suggest a deep-seated hatred and intolerance towards those of other faiths, particularly Jews," the analysis revealed.

"Yep, I am an extremist," Hassan posted.

☆



GMU student Abdullah Ezzeldin Taha Mohamed Hassan



A cheerful heart is good medicine— Proverbs 17:22

Presidential Dreams

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called U.S. President Donald Trump and said, "Donald, I had a wonderful dream last night. I could see America, the whole country, and on each house, I saw a banner."

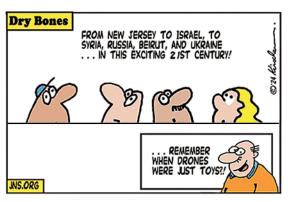
"What was on the banners?" Trump asked.

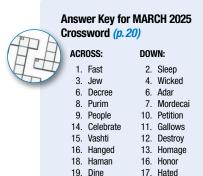
Pezeshkian replied, "UNITED STATES OF IRAN."

Trump responded, "You know, Masoud, I'm happy that you called, because believe it or not, last night I also had a dream. I could see all of Tehran, and it was more beautiful than ever, and on each house flew an enormous banner."

"What was on the banners?" Masoud asked.

Trump replied, "I don't know. I can't read Hebrew."







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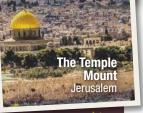
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