

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 2, Number 2

February 2004

## Sharing "Good tidings" to Zion Isaiah 40:9-10

Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries/To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions to B'rit Hadashah Ministries, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible.

## PART 2: A MINYAN FOR THE MESSIAH!

**O**n this amazing Gospel outreach to the Jewish people of Israel, the Lord indeed *"did awesome things we did not expect"* (Isaiah 64:3). A powerful example of this very thing happened in Jerusalem while witnessing for the Messiah to the Jewish people living there.

After prayer on the morning of November 5, we felt led by the Spirit of God to go and pray at the Western Wall and then walk through the Jewish quarter of the Old City. Our stop at the Western Wall was undoubtedly a distinct display of the providence of God; for while we were at the Wall praying, an Orthodox Jew approached Robert and me to ask us if we were Jewish. I told him through an interpreter that we were Jewish in our hearts by virtue of the fact that we have Jesus the risen Messiah living in us. He asked us this question because he wanted us to help him make a minyan in the synagogue adjacent to the Western Wall so that he could say formal prayers from the Siddur (the official prayer book of Judaism). A minyan is a group composed of ten men above Bar Mitzvah age (12 years old) and, in Jewish law, is required in order for a prayer or synagogue service to occur. Both Robert and I jumped at this opportunity - we knew that this was a golden opportunity from God by providential arrangement to witness to these Orthodox Jews about why Jesus is the Messiah of Israel.

After the prayer service, one of the Orthodox Jews asked where we came

**min-yan (min'yən, men-yän')** \n.  
The minimum number of ten adult Jews or, among the Orthodox, Jewish men required for a communal religious service.



Todd Baker

from. When we told them that we lived in Dallas, Texas, one of the men asked me if I knew a certain Rabbi there. I said that I not only knew him well, but also that he comes to visit Jewish patients in the hospital where I am currently working as a chaplain. The other two Orthodox men said they knew this Rabbi as well.

One went to Yeshiva school with his son and the other had attended this Rabbi's synagogue when he used to live in Dallas ten years ago! What are the chances that these three men, totally unrelated to each other, as well as I, knew this rabbi?

God obviously arranged this meeting in the Synagogue next to the holiest site in all of Judaism so that the Messiah Jesus could lovingly be shared with them. For the mutual association we shared in knowing this Rabbi allowed Robert and me to relate to them our love for Israel and the Jewish people. We explained how God is regathering them back to their ancient homeland in preparation for the return of the



Messiah as foretold by Moses and the Prophets. We then said plainly to them that the Scriptures both from the Tanach (Old Testament) and Brit Hadashah (New Testament) reveal this Messiah to be none other than Yeshua min Nazarit (Hebrew for "Jesus of Nazareth"). Incredibly, they listened to us without rebuff or visible displeasure as one might expect, but gladly received our testimony concerning Jesus in their own synagogue and received from us Messianic Jewish Gospel tracts giving further explanation and proof from the Jewish Scriptures why Jesus is the Messiah and must be believed in for salvation.

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God the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of grace, continually ministers God's gracious love toward us as we fellowship with Him in prayer and the study of His Word (Romans 8:15-16; Hebrews 10:29). The prophet Zechariah predicts that when Jesus returns to this earth at the Mount of Olives (a hill that looks east towards Jerusalem) in power and great glory, the Holy Spirit will give to the Jewish people *"the Spirit of grace and supplication"* enabling them to finally repent and accept the long rejected Jesus of Nazareth as their Lord and Savior (Zechariah 12:10).

Grace is a sovereign act of God whereby He kindly elects many to be saved while permitting many others to remain in their sins. The Bible calls this *"the election of grace"* (Romans 11:1-7). God used the nation of Israel as an example for all, electing some to the grace of salvation, while allowing others to be blinded in unbelief and left to perish in their sins because of their willful rejection of Jesus Christ. The grace of God freely bestowed on sinners is not based on our intellectual, physical, or moral abilities but solely upon the sovereignty of a mercy showing God in electing some by grace to receive eternal life (see Romans 9:14-16). Grace is boundless in its saving power. The cross of Christ contemplates and concludes all sin. It forever and completely absolves the believer from

*God's grace enables us to  
live godly in this present  
evil world system.*

*(Titus 2:11-12)*

every sin. The grace of God is thus limitless in forgiving power (see Ephesians 3:17-19; Colossians 2:13). Grace is God's unrestrained infinite love abundantly showered upon us.

Divine grace is the supernatural dynamic power of God that enables and

# The Doctrine of Divine Grace Part 5

*(Psalm 86:15, 103;*

*Romans 5:21;*

*Ephesians 2:4-9)*

keeps us. God's grace enables us to live godly in this present evil world system (Titus 2:11-12). Those who truly receive saving grace will consistently exhibit such in an upright conduct before God and man. The lifestyle of a born-again Christian will be morally conformed to the ethical image of Jesus Christ and above reproach. This translates into holy living. *"For God has not called us into immorality, but to holiness"* (1 Thessalonians 4:7). God's grace enables us to bear the trials and infirmities of everyday living; the testing of our faith; and the constant opposition faced by the world, the flesh, and the devil. In spite of all this, Jesus assures every believer, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Corinthians 12:9; 4:6-16). Whatever enemy or obstacle may come our way the Word of God promises us that we are more than conquerors

through the Lord Jesus Christ who loves us (Romans 8:37). The grace of God abundantly enables us to establish His will in whatever He has called us to do (Ephesians 3:20). Through the power of Christ that indwells us, God is able to do superabundantly above what we ask, think, or expect. This divine

superabundance far exceeds the greatest abundance man can produce or offer. Grace given by God before and after salvation is not given first to save us, but first to glorify God. So in the end it is by the sheer unbounded kindness of God that any of us are accepted of Him.

God's grace enables us to walk our salvation out and produce good works acceptable to God through Jesus Christ our Lord (see Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17). The great Reformer Martin Luther wrote, *"One is not saved by doing good works, but a saved person does good works."* These good works are done after spiritual regeneration and are wrought by the new nature after the image of Christ. By

*"One is not saved by doing  
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person does good works."*

*- Martin Luther*

God working in us and through us we are able to render good and acceptable works before Him, but only after we are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit producing His fruit expressed in our lives. All of which owes to the grace of a

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## Search the Scriptures

This is a monthly newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries. Special thanks to several people who helped to make this newsletter possible:

Zola and Mark Levitt • Nancy Baker • Pat and Claudia Rutherford  
Don and Elisa Retzlaff • Greg Hartwig • Sean Robinson

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# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

Part 2 - the Parable of the  
Wheat and the Tares  
(Matthew 13:24-30; 37-43)

Once the divine seed is received within the barren womb of the unregenerate heart, it instantly causes a person to become "born again." After this spiritual rebirth occurs, the believing individual becomes a child and heir of the kingdom of God by means of spiritual regeneration. The individual's citizenship changes from earthly to heavenly. Without being spiritually born from above in Christ, it is utterly impossible to be saved and inherit eternal life. This is not an option for mankind, but a necessity for entrance into heaven. Jesus clearly says in John 3:7: **"You must be born again." For, "unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God"** (John 3:3).

The wheat are then in fact all those who by faith in Christ have a redeemed nature **"by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit"** (Titus 3:5). The good seed sown is simply the Word of God—holy, pure, and untainted from the mortal erosion of time and circumstance. God's precious Word is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). The Word of God is without deceit and falsehood. **"For Your Word is truth"** (John 17:17). The Word of God has the power to impart eternal life (John 8:51).

The field in which this invaluable seed is planted is the world Christ ransomed with His shed blood. Jesus declared in verse 38, **"the field is the world."** The ever-saving truth that Christ died to save sinners is the kernel, or seed, if you will, of the Gospel. In the Great Commission given to the Church by Christ, the children of the kingdom are called on to sow this great Gospel seed in the field of the world. They are to joyfully proclaim that God so loved humanity that He gave His one and only unique Son to the death of the cross for the salvation of sinners. Christ gave all He had to buy the field of the world (Matthew 13:44). He is thus the sole owner of it as

Creator and Redeemer. **"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein"** (Psalm 24:1).

The children of God are not without

considerable challenge. The tares, which Christ identifies as the children of the devil, are sown in the field along with the wheat as a clever imitation of the children of the kingdom. The tares are spurious Christians, who in reality

*"Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and sowed his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn'"* (Matthew 13:24-30)."

In verses 37-43, Christ gives the interpretation of this parable. *"He answered and said to them: He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

**bastards, and not sons"** (Hebrews 12:8).

Satan's detestable spiritual offspring, the tares, have one united desire

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are brutal enemies of the cross walking in the ungodliness of the flesh, **"whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things"** (Philippians 3:19). The tares are strategically planted along side of the wheat by Satan, their father, to oppose and fight the redemptive power of God's Word seed with its testified accompaniment of the offspring it produces, that being the children of the kingdom metaphorically referred to by Christ as the wheat.

The subtle satanic imitation of true wheat is an indicative feature of tares. In agricultural terms, tares are known as darnel, or more commonly called "bastard wheat." Darnel takes on the detailed appearance of wheat and is virtually indistinguishable from the true wheat by the everyday casual observer until the harvest time when the ears of the tares shockingly reveal black grains, which are poisonous. Prior to harvest time, though, the tares look exactly like the wheat positioned by them and are considered such based on their outward appearance. This disillusioning truth indeed disproves the old trite saying: "What you see is what you get." Darnel is a mendacious form of wheat. It looks like wheat but is not wheat. For it is totally degenerate in nature lacking fruitful outgrowth. It looks like wheat until fully-grown and ripe. Of such a lot belong the ungodly throngs in world Christendom that draw near to God with their mouths and honor Christ with their lips while their hypocritical unregenerate hearts are far from Him.

The tares are pseudo Christians who continuously resist the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and turn away from the discipline of the heavenly Father with offended disgust. They pridefully refuse to heed the life-giving rebuke of the Church to repent in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. It is written of such weedy counterfeits: **"But if you are without discipline, whereof we are all partakers, then you are**



# Israel: The Super Sign of the End-Times (Part 10)

**T**he prophecy of Ezekiel 37 is surely by far the greatest singular fulfillment of Bible prophecy in the present day since the time of Christ. The prophecy begins with Israel in a moribund condition of despair, desolation and hopelessness. The prophecy opens with a vision God gave the prophet Ezekiel of the fallen nation of Israel depicted as a scattered pile of dry, bleached, and lifeless bones lying across an open valley floor.

***“The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry”***  
(Ezekiel 37:1-2).

The Lord informs the prophet that this disturbing scene of skeletons strewn as far as the eye could see pictures the scattered and hopeless state of the Jewish people throughout the world, cut off and without a national homeland seemingly left for dead as a people in the nations where they had long been dispersed.

***“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’”***  
(Ezekiel 37:11)

One cannot help but see here in this macabre imagery how accurate of a picture this was for Israel during the Diaspora, especially during the time of the Holocaust when literally millions of the people of Israel were gathered in mass open graves where bodies were left to decay into skeletons indiscriminately piled one on top of



the other. When the Western Allies liberated the Jews from the Nazi concentration camps, they were utterly horrified to see the very thing Ezekiel describes about Israel in Ezekiel 37:1-2; skeletal remains and corpses of thousand and thousands of Jewish men, women, and children carelessly scattered and piled in heaps everywhere. One British soldier and liberator's description of what he saw at the Nazi concentration camp of Belsen hauntingly underscores the Vision of Dry Bones when he observed that, *“Corpses in every state of decay were lying around, piled on top of each other in heaps. There were corpses in the compound in flocks. People were falling dead all around, people were walking skeletons.”* The

## THE DRY BONES VISION OF EZEKIEL 37

Holocaust was the last and the worst of what the Jewish people endured in the Diaspora from the anti-Semitic Gentile nations and left many of them feeling, according to the prophetic words of Ezekiel 37:11, *“hopeless,” “cut off,”* and seemingly abandoned by the God of Israel to face such a terrible end.

But what was a hopeless condition for Israel beyond the help and ability of themselves and man to repair and rectify was not beyond the power of God. For in verse 3, God rhetorically asks Ezekiel if indeed the scattered House of Israel, pictured as dead dry bones scattered in an open valley, can ever be restored to live again.

***“And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ So I answered, ‘O Lord God, You know.’”***

Ezekiel wisely knew that what lay before him was humanly impossible to fix and that only the power of the Sovereign Lord could repair the



irreparable. From the outset, we see here that the origin of Israel's national restoration to their God-given ancient homeland would be supernatural in nature and a sole act of God in the affairs of man — a thing recently witnessed some 55 years ago with the rebirth of Israel in 1948! Furthermore, this restoration of Israel from the graveyard of the Gentile nations would be by the supernatural power of the Spirit of God. Thus we further read in Ezekiel 37:4-5,

***“Again He said to me, Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: ‘Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.’”***

Here we see from the opening of Ezekiel chapter 37 that the Spirit of God reveals (vs. 1-2), predicts (vs. 4,7), and brings to pass that which concerns Israel's physical restoration as a nation and their spiritual regeneration (as predicted in verses 13-14) as a redeemed nation under the future reign of the King Messiah (verses 24-28). The breath of God mentioned here (who is revealed in the New Testament as the third Person in the Triune Godhead) is called *Ruach* in the Hebrew text of Ezekiel 37:5 and is variously translated in Scripture to mean “breath,” “wind,” and “spirit.” The same Hebrew word used for the breath or Spirit of God here is also found in Genesis 2:7 when God made man a living, spiritual being and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and now the same Spirit is found again in Ezekiel 37 to be the very agent and Person involved in the resurrection and regeneration of the nation of Israel. The Spirit of God is the One who gives life to both the physically dead and the spiritually dead (see John 6:63; Romans 8:11, respectively) through the Word spoken and given to man. For

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As we were returning to our car that evening, we noticed a man in a wheelchair playing with his puppy. We stopped and petted his small dog and began to share with him about Jesus being the Messiah of Israel. The man's name was Joseph. He was obviously interested in what we were saying. The



Ruach Hakodesh (Hebrew for the Holy Spirit) of God was opening Joseph's heart to the Gospel, so much so that he invited us into his house for a deeper conversation.

In the course of our conversation with Joseph, he told us that he had a friend who was a Jewish believer

in Jesus the Messiah, and that he had extensively shared with Joseph the same things we were telling him about Messianic prophecy in the Tanach and how they are fulfilled in Yeshua alone. We had an hour-long Bible study with Joseph from both the English and Hebrew texts of the Scriptures. One major subject of Messianic prophecy we studied with him was the fact the Messiah would be raised from the dead as King David foretold 1,000 years before Jesus was born (Psalm 16:10-11) and the corresponding fulfillment by the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth in Acts 2:22-36.

In broken English, Joseph said he could accept that Jesus is the Messiah and was the same as God! Robert and I made sure this is what he said and meant; it was, and we were quite amazed at what the Spirit of God was doing

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*He then exclaimed to us several times over "Yeshua Ha Mashiach" (Jesus is the Messiah) and "Yeshua is the same as God."*

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here in bringing this Jewish man to faith in the Messiah of Israel. Robert and I then went over Scriptures that clearly pointed to Jesus as being the only valid way to God and the sole means by which one is saved from the penalty of sin, and the power of hell and death. This salvation consists of believing that Jesus is Adonai (Hebrew for "Lord") and that God raised His Son from the dead to give us life with Him forever (see John 14:6-7; Isaiah 49:7-8; Romans 10:9-10).

After this, we went through the plan of salvation as laid out in Paul's New Testament book of Romans known as "The Roman Road of Salvation". When we completed this study with Joseph and made sure he understood this life-giving message of the Gospel, we asked him if would like to invite Yeshua into his heart as Lord and Messiah to become a fulfilled Jew born anew in Messiah. Joseph eagerly answered "yes" and prayed with us and was gloriously saved right there on the spot! He then exclaimed to us several times over "Yeshua Ha Mashiach" (Jesus is the Messiah) and "Yeshua is the same as God."

Needless to say, Robert and I greatly rejoiced with the angels in heaven over this soul who repented and believed in Jesus the Messiah to truly become a son of Abraham. Coming out of Joseph's house after witnessing this miracle of salvation, I thought to myself that if I were unable to go to Israel anymore or my life should abruptly end, it was worth all the arduous toil, long hours of witnessing, and twenty years of hardship, struggle, and studying the Scriptures to see this dear Jewish brother become a child of God through his faith in the Jewish Messiah.

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The following morning, Robert and I went to an outlet mall about three miles north of where we were staying. Once we got there, Robert noticed a store where lamps and light fixtures were sold. He told me that he once sold lighting merchandise and so we used this past occupation of his to establish a point of contact with the store manager. This further opened the door to share the Gospel with him.

The manager's name was Asher. In our witness to him, we explained how both the Tanach and the Brit Hadashah are bound as one in the Messiah Jesus. Just as God gave prophetic signs for His first coming in the Scriptures that were literally fulfilled, so even



now God has given the world a sign in Scripture that the Messiah is about to return - the prophetic sign and fulfillment of the Jews' return to their ancient homeland from the Diaspora (Isaiah 11:11-12).

Asher replied that he had briefly studied the New Testament in school for only its historical value. We encouraged him to study the detailed prophecies of the Messiah as foretold in the Tanach and their accurate fulfillment in the life of Jesus of Nazareth as recorded in the New Testament. We concluded our witness to Asher and his co-worker by saying that Jesus was more than a mere man but was the divine Messiah who conquered death by His resurrection; and if someone claiming to be both Lord and Messiah as Jesus proved Himself to be by rising from the dead, we had better listen and believe in what He has to say.

We thanked them for their time and left them with a Hebrew New Testament and Gospel tracts so that they could search the matter for themselves and come to the knowledge of the truth. This is exactly what Yeshua commands every person to do in John 5:39. **"Search the Scriptures. For in them you think you have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me."** ☆ †

Join Todd Baker in an enriching evening of teaching the Bible and the Jewish roots of Christianity. The Shalom Shalom Congregation meets each Friday evening at 7:00 at Fellowship Bible Church located at Meadow Road and Central in Dallas, Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.levitt.com/congregation.html> or call (214) 356-2583 during normal business hours.

# NEW MISSION TRIP

## TO ISRAEL

## MARCH 14-31!

### PRAYER AND DONATION REQUEST

Dear readers,

Our newest Gospel outreach to Israel is planned for **March 14-31** of this year. Our team, again consisting of Robert Cuccia and myself, will conduct a witnessing campaign sharing the Gospel of Yeshua with His people. It is because of your prayers and God's will that each mission has been so amazingly successful.

Please pray for us, and pledge what financial support you can afford to underwrite some of the cost for this outreach. May God bless you as you do so in blessing the Jewish people (Genesis 12:3).

Here is a suggested prayer list to use when praying for us. We will give a full report of how things go over there in future newsletters.

Your servant in the Messiah,  
Todd Baker

- ✧ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).
- ✧ Pray that we have the Father's wisdom and guidance in everything we do (Psalm 32:8; 48:14; Colossians 4:5).
- ✧ Pray for witnessing opportunities (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8).
- ✧ Pray that God will open the hearts of those who will hear (Psalm 110:3; Acts 16:14).
- ✧ Pray that God will give us the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to the Jew first and also the Gentile (Acts 4:31; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19).
- ✧ Pray for spiritual unity and agreement among us (Psalm 133:1).
- ✧ Pray for our health, protection, safety, and God's protection from the hand of the enemy, both seen and unseen (Psalm 91; Matthew 6:13).
- ✧ Pray for spiritual fruit that will last (John 15:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23).
- ✧ Pray for favor among the Chosen People as we share the Gospel with them (Proverbs 12:2).
- ✧ Pray that the Chosen People will come to faith in Messiah (Christ) Jesus (Romans 10:1; Matthew 15-16; Mark 8:27-29, 14:61-62; Luke 9:18-20; John 4:25-26). †

#### Israel: Super Sign... *Continued from page 4*

when God speaks, it is done as witnessed by the creation of the cosmos (Genesis 1) and is now currently being seen with the restoration of the Jewish people back to the land of Israel — a thing spoken and predicted by God some 2,580 years ago through the prophet Ezekiel presently witnessed and fulfilled in our day with the Jews continuing to return to Israel since they became a nation again in 1948!

But observe from verses 5-8 that this national restoration currently happening in the last five decades will be progressive and gradual in nature as the bones first come together on the skeletons, and then flesh forms on them with the skin to cover them following after to complete the physical process. For God goes on to say about this gradual restoration of Israel,

***"I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live... So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over..."***



This at once shows the regathering and restoration not to be a sudden and completed event, but one that will be gradually fulfilled over an extended period of time and then will finally culminate in a complete restoration when the King Messiah Jesus returns to Israel to establish His universal kingdom over all the earth as the closing verses of Ezekiel 37 clearly predict (read Ezekiel 37:21-28).

Failure to recognize the particular feature of this prophecy concerning Israel's gradual restoration to the land before Messiah Jesus returns has caused several Bible teachers (Dr Mark Bailey President of Dallas Theological Seminary and Dr D. James Kennedy with all his misled signatories of "The Open Letter" of Knox Seminary to Evangelicals and other interested parties) and noted Seminaries (like Moody, Dallas, and Talbot, to name a few), that were known for supporting Israel in the past, to question and doubt that present day Israel is a fulfillment of End-Time Bible prophecy. They apparently do so in ignorance of not carefully looking at the verses of Ezekiel 37:1-12 that predict the gradual restoration of the Jews back to the land of Israel in the last days before the return of Christ and therefore fail to rightly correlate it with what is presently being fulfilled today with the modern state of Israel restored and reborn right in front of their very eyes! One can only tragically conclude about them, by their refusal to see and believe this, what Jesus said of the Sadducees: ***"You do err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God"*** (Matthew 22:29) †



## ***YOU CAN BE ...***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Signature:*

compassionate, saving God and nothing more. God's grace keeps the believer in Christ from permanently falling away from the Lord (Jude 1:24; 1 Peter 1:2-5). 1 Samuel 2:9 states: *"He will keep the feet of His saints."* If we should stumble or fall into sin, the grace of God empowers us to stand again and resume our walk with the Lord. We stand approved and righteous, not by our own merits or strength, but by faith in God's grace given to us in Jesus Christ—*"by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein you stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* (Romans 5:2). Proverbs

(Romans 5:2). Proverbs  
*man falls seven times, and*  
because *"God is able to*  
*stand"* (Romans  
warned from  
to stand in our  
sufficiency:  
*thinks he*  
*heed, lest he fall"*

by God-given faith alone at all—*“For by faith you* 1:24). Christ promises *never leave you or forsake* person, demonic, or however adverse is able unconditional love Christ (Romans 8:31-39). None elect from the heavenly



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Disc

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**Todd Baker** is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries — a Gospel outreach ministry to the Jewish people of Israel. He is also a full-time chaplain at Medical City Hospital. Since called to the ministry in 1984 his ministering experience includes Bible teaching, jail and prison chaplaincy, counseling, evangelism, and church ministry. Todd is also a theological consultant, writer, and tour leader in Israel for Zola Levitt Ministries. He has led several Gospel outreaches to the Jews of Israel commissioned and sent by Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation of Dallas, Texas. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies and a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is currently a Doctoral candidate at Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England.†

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## See inside for more stories about our most recent missionary trip to Israel!

Matthew... Continued from page 3

and shared objective in operating under a "religious" disguise of various sorts; their infernal mission is to combat, remove, and destroy the redemptive and regenerating power of God's seed of the Word planted in the field of the world. One of the primary attributes of the devil is the art of imitation and the expertise of mimicking what is real and true with what is false and counterfeit. Satan is not an innovator but an imitator. Notice in Matthew 13:25, 29 Satan, like Jesus, the Son of Man, becomes a sower himself, sowing his masquerading tares in the world and primarily in the Church to frustrate, ruin, and curtail the kingdom program of Christ for the present age. Therefore in doing this, it is necessary for the Enemy to work undercover to insure his own personal safety and prevent any premature exposure that would utterly defeat his damning purpose before his appointed time of judgment and doom by Almighty

God. Soon Christ will triumphantly return from heaven to earth and destroy the devil's influence and

his anti-Christ kingdom of darkness with all its diabolical works of lawlessness and spiritual iniquity with the mere breath of His mouth (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

The Word of God warns the Christian not to be led astray by the devil's cunningly convincing masquerades

of pretentious "truths" that are really deceiving doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). This should be no surprise to the discerning and observant Christian.

***"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works."*** (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

The tares are the servants of Satan found in Christian churches. They are false ministers of every denominational stripe that are cloaked to look genuine and thereby try to pass themselves off as true ministers of Christ. Satan uses them as agents of deception to fabricate the truth into a lie, and the lie into a truth. This has been his character and method from the beginning (Genesis 3:1-6). Ever since the creation of man, the devil continually seeks to discredit the only true way of God by creating clever counterfeits, transforming his false religions to appear as true while simultaneously making the veracity of Christianity look false. The end result of this deceiving metamorphosis is the abandonment and substitution of divine saving grace for the ineffectual, non-saving dead works of men. But God emphatically declares: ***"Therefore by the works of the law (good works) there shall no flesh be justified in His sight, that no flesh should glory in His presence"*** (Romans 3:20). †

