

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 2, Number 7

July 2004

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.

On our second day of witnessing in Tiberias, Robert Cuccia and I went back to visit a man by the name of Yehudah who owns a fishing supply shop (please see the July 2003 issue about our first witnessing encounter with Yehudah). He remembered us from the last time we visited him



Todd Baker



Todd speaking with Yehudah

a year ago and wanted to know if we were still doing the same thing in Israel. Robert and I said that we are committed to sharing the good news to the Chosen People about Jesus the Messiah until death.

Yehudah seemed more open than he was a year ago when we talked to him the first time about Jesus being the Messiah. Like the last time, Yehudah continued to have questions about the problem of evil and the existence of God. As we patiently answered his questions from the Scriptures, you could visibly see that he was more open to listen about the supernatural reality of Jesus the Messiah.

Last year, he declined to accept a free Hebrew copy of the New Testament. But this time, I felt moved by the Holy Spirit to offer a free copy to him again, and this time he accepted it and said he would read it. Robert and I were encouraged as we left him at how God is slowly opening this man's heart to the Gospel. We shall continue our witness to him when we return, Lord willing, in the fall.

† ☆ † ☆ † ☆ †

Next, we revisited Katrina at the tourist information center. This time Robert and I witnessed to her and her co-worker, Nara, who was also there. Katrina believes that the Jews will receive the Messiah, whoever He may be, when He comes, whether He be Yeshua or some other person. We flat out told her that the Messiah has already come to Israel and is coming again when Jesus of Nazareth returns. He has to be the only One who could have fulfilled all the major prophecies made about the Messiah's first coming in the Tenach.

Anyone can claim to be the Messiah and there have arisen over forty false messiahs in Jewish history. But not one of them fulfilled those specific messianic prophecies like Jesus obviously did. God spelled out through these prophecies who would be the true Messiah when He comes.

We went through some of these prophecies with Katrina and Nara. Robert told them that if the Jewish people reject the Messiah Jesus, they



Nara listening to Todd

are liable to accept the false messiah (the Anti-Christ). Indeed, Jesus predicted this very same thing in John 5:43 when He said to the unbelieving Jews of His day, ***"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me: if another comes in his own name, him you will receive."***

Of the two, Nara appeared more open to the Gospel truth. I gave her a gospel tract detailing God's historical program for the Jewish people



and how it revolves around the first and second comings of Jesus the Messiah, and a Hebrew Bible containing the New Testament.

Dear reader, pray that both of these Jewish ladies search and study these Messianic prophecies from the Scriptures to behold and believe that Yeshua is the Messiah.

† ☆ † ☆ † ☆ †

The next day, we journeyed to Qiryat Shimona—a city near the Israeli and Lebanon border. As we were walking in the business district, Robert and I decided to go into an arts and crafts shop to talk to the owner, Armand. He expressed a calm interest in wanting to read the Scriptures that we offered him, especially the Bible that included a Hebrew New Testament. Amazingly

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# The Doctrine of Divine Grace Part 9

*"Christ has become of no effect to you, who attempt to be justified by the Law, you are fallen from grace." (Galatians 5:4)*

**T**he Greek word for "falling" here in this verse is *ekipto*. It means to lose and become inefficient. This passage does not mean to say that by falling from grace, salvation is lost. The context and circumstance of the epistle to the Galatians provides the true meaning of what it means to fall from grace and how it happens.

The churches from the region of Galatia (the northern region of Asia Minor—present day Turkey) were being disrupted by a group of heretics called the Judaizers. They were a group of Jews that taught one could be saved or sanctified by grace plus the observance of the Law of Moses, such as being circumcised, keeping the Sabbath, eating kosher food, and so forth.

The Judaizers taught the Galatians that they had to not only believe in Christ but also follow the Law of Moses in every point to be saved. Salvation according to these false teachers consisted of keeping the Law of Moses in accordance with the prescribed rituals of Judaism. Faith in Christ alone was not enough to secure salvation from sin without trying to keep the Law of Moses.

Paul proclaimed salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ apart from the works of the Law. The Judaizers of Galatia taught, contrary wise, that salvation is attained by a combination of faith and by trying to keep the Law. Divine grace for the Judaizers served merely as an extra help for the Christian to keep the Law. Paul quickly corrected this damnable heresy in his epistle to the Galatians. He wrote to the Galatians that salvation is alone based on faith in the complete and finished work of Christ's death on the cross apart from the works of the Law (Galatians 2:16); for because of man's sinful and flawed nature, he is unable to perfectly obey all that the Law demands.

Therefore trying to keep the Law cannot justify the sinner before God. Instead, the sinner must trust

and fully believe that Christ died on the cross and shed His blood to pay the price for sin and rose from the dead three days later. There is no other way the sinner can obtain pardon or approval from God except by the precious blood of Christ.

To teach and believe we can earn salvation by working for it blatantly denies what is taught in the Scriptures. Salvation is given through Christ alone and received by faith alone in a forgiving God. In Galatians 1:8-9, the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul pronounced God's curse of eternal damnation on those that preach a gospel of self effort and works which is contrary to the Gospel of salvation by grace alone received through faith alone.

Thus to "fall from grace" is to accept and follow a belief system that teaches salvation can be earned by working for it: by trying to be good, or by following a set of religious laws and practices instead of what Christ did on the cross alone.

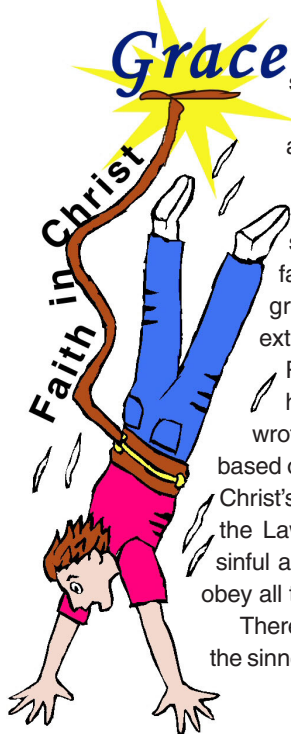
To fall from grace is to then rely on human effort instead of the love and power of God revealed at the cross. Even to teach that grace plus our good works is enough to earn salvation is still an utter repudiation of salvation by grace alone received through faith alone in Jesus Christ. If we were able to indeed earn salvation by keeping the Law, then the death of Christ would be for nothing (Galatians 2:2). We fall from grace every time we look to ourselves and try to earn or work for God's approval instead of basing our total acceptance with God on the saving work of what Christ has done.

To fall from grace is to adopt the attitude that we can in some way merit God's favor

by our good works combined with Christ's achievements (a grace plus works mentality). It also means to think that by being a good person to the best of your ability somehow will make you worthy of God's love. Millions of unsaved souls have been damned by the devil's convincing lie that God will weigh their good deeds against their bad ones, and if their good deeds outweigh their bad ones, they will be saved and go to heaven.

But Scripture declares there is no other way to be saved except through Jesus Christ. ***"Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved"*** (Acts 4:12). This is the clear testimony throughout the Word of God (see John 6:29; 14:6; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7). Falling from grace is a failure to trust Christ alone for salvation and fall away from the freedom of grace by reverting back to the slavery of trying to keep the Law as a means of obtaining salvation from God. †

## Falling from the Grace of God





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.



# A Special Appeal

B'rit Hadashah Ministries is a young but groundbreaking ministry. We are among the very few who take the Jewish Gospel of Jesus to His homeland, Israel, to share it boldly with His own ethnic people—the Jews. As an active Messianic ministry, we are striving to serve both Israel and the Church. This principally involves educating Gentile Christians about the Jewish roots of their faith, and teaching the Jewish people about the Jewishness of the New Testament and the Messiah Jesus. Our goal is to be able to do this on a full-time basis, as funds permit.

I wish, therefore, to simply say that if the Lord lays it upon your hearts to support this ministry, we would greatly benefit from your help. From my previous Gospel outreaches to Israel, I can certainly tell you that the Jewish people are open to hearing the Gospel message that Scripture says is to go to them first (Romans 1:16).

Present circumstances only allow us to go once or twice a year for two weeks each time we go. Being funded full-time will allow us to conduct more Gospel outreaches to Israel.

Very few ministries are doing what we are doing. It is critically and urgently important that these outreaches to the Jews go forward on a full-time basis because we are living in the Last Days near the return of the Lord. When Christ returns, it will be to the land of Israel to redeem the Chosen People (see Zechariah 12-14). The Jewish people should not be left in the dark about what is prophetically approaching for them. Much of End-Times Bible prophecy focuses on the Jewish nation of Israel. It is our duty given by God to warn, persuade, teach, and preach the Gospel to them so that they can be saved and secure in their Messiah forever.

To that end, we are making a sincere and special appeal to those of you who receive this newsletter to pray about helping us to financially fulfill this calling. The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should be sustained and supported in doing this (see 1 Corinthians 9:9-14). We ask, therefore, that you pray about supporting these outreaches and teaching ministry.

By God's grace, I have recently been given the weekly opportunity to teach on DCTV (Dallas Community Television). DCTV is a local Dallas cable television channel. This will allow the ministry to extend its teaching of the Bible to a wider audience so as to educate them about the importance of the Gospel, Israel, and the Jewish people. Also, we have plans to make VHS and DVD recordings of this program available. More on this in the future.

Your servant in the Messiah,  
*Todd Baker*

## About the Author

**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.†

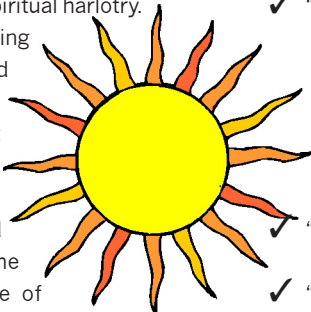
# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



he process leading up to the separation between the tares and the wheat has already begun within Christendom. The religious but apostate tares are already being gathered together within the visible church. Today, one sees the great push for unity and tolerance under the banner of ecumenism with the avowed intention of uniting all religions as one while conveniently tossing aside Biblical truth and doctrinal integrity. In God's eyes, this is nothing more than spiritual harlotry.

Such a compromising action defiles and distorts the doctrinal truths of Jesus Christ by mixing them with false, non-Christian, pagan religions and practices that have the outward resemblance of Christian theology, but lack the power and truth of God within. The "gospel" of the ecumenical movement preaches a superficial, misplaced love that overemphasizes religious and ecclesiastical oneness all in the name of Christian unity at the dangerous expense of discarding doctrinal verity, the supreme authority of the Bible, repentance, and exclusive salvation alone in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Word commands the true people of God **"to come out from among them, and be separate says the Lord, and do not touch the unclean thing."** Christians are commanded to abstain from all evil appearance (1 Thessalonians 5:22) and separate themselves from any evil association or practice that conforms to this present evil world system in revolt against the authority of God under its current spiritual ruler, the devil, and the demonic powers in league with him (see 1 John 5:19; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17). This holy injunction most certainly includes coming out of the so-called "Christian" churches that teach contrary to the Scriptures, where the Bible is not accepted as the fully inspired, inerrant Word of God and the final authority.



The word "bundle" (Matthew 13:30) implies a great number. This is underscored by the definition of the word "bundle" itself, which means, according to the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary: "A considerable amount." The following quotations from the Scriptures provide ample proof that the gathering of religious tares into bundles involves **"many"** counterfeit Christians for the final formulation of Satan's false super church of the End times.

- ✓ **"Many"** will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonderful works in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from Me you workers of iniquity' (Matthew 7:21-23).
- ✓ "But **many** that are first shall be last, and the last first" (Matthew 19:30).
- ✓ **"Many"** are called but few are chosen" (Matthew 19:30).
- ✓ "Take heed no man deceive you. For **many** shall come in My name, saying, 'I am Christ' and shall deceive **many**" (Matthew 24:4-5).
- ✓ "Then shall **many** be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another and many false prophets shall arise and deceive **many**. And because evil will abound, the love of **many** will grow cold" (Matthew 24:10-12).
- ✓ "Enter in at the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are **many** who go in by it" (Matthew 7:14).
- ✓ "Little children, it is the last hour; and you have heard that the Anti-Christ is coming, even now **many** anti-Christ's have come, by which we know it is the last hour" (1 John 2:18).
- ✓ "And through his (Anti-Christ's) policy he shall cause deceit to prosper in his hand. And he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy **many**" (Daniel 8:25).
- ✓ "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because **many** false prophets have gone

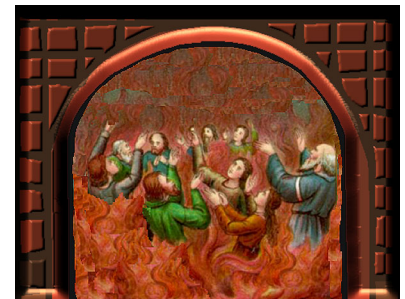
Part 7 - the Parable of the  
Wheat and the Tares  
(Matthew 13:40-43)

*"Therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall 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 their kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear"* (Matthew 13:40-43).

out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

- ✓ "And **many** shall follow their pernicious ways by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:2).

Let the prophetic Word of God boldly speak for itself. The fourteen times the word "many" is mentioned in the Scriptures quoted above unequivocally predict that "many" professing believers will be deceived, and will with fatal reciprocity mislead and deceive many others in return. The Apostle Paul prophetically forewarns of this for the last days in 2 Timothy 3:13: **"But evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."** Thus we have today an unprecedented amount of



multiplying tares being gathered into bundles for the burning in the great fire at the end of the present age described by the Lord Jesus as the harvest of the earth that will conclude the inter-advent period. †



# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

## needs your support

Asking for money is not what this ministry is about. B'rit Hadashah Ministries is a Non-denominational evangelistic and teaching outreach devoted to proclaiming the Gospel to the Jewish people (Romans 1:16) with particular focus on Gospel outreaches to Israel. We seek to explain the Jewish nature of the Christian faith to Gentile and Jewish believers and explore the integral relationship between Israel and the Church. But we need your help in continuing this mission.

Your financial donations go directly to help our outreach and operational costs only. That means they go either into the production of this newsletter, into the expenses of traveling to and around Israel speaking to those to whom God leads us, or into the tracts and Bibles which we distribute in Israel. Please help us in our mission as much as you feel led to contribute. And remember, donations are tax deductible as you give to this Non-profit ministry. God bless!

*Checks and money orders can be made out to:*  
B'rit Hadashah Ministries.

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Donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## other ways you can help...

If you would like to help this ministry but can't afford a financial commitment, suggest to your church pastor that Todd Baker come speak to your congregation about his work in Israel. Todd is available for speaking engagements in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, and can be reached via e-mail (toddbus@yahoo.com) or phone (214-356-2583) for scheduling information.

If you have access to the internet and the world wide web, would you consider receiving our newsletter via your e-mail rather than through the postal system? The money you would be saving our ministry in printing and postage cost by doing this would be a big help to us. Thank you to those of you who have already done this!

You will be able to see the newsletter in its full color form! And you will of course be able to print the newsletter at any time if you so desire. You will also have access to past editions. All you need is Adobe Acrobat reader (which is free).

Just send an e-mail to Todd at [toddbus@yahoo.com](mailto:toddbus@yahoo.com) and tell him to remove your postal address (include it in your note) and add your e-mail address. It's that simple!



## thank you for your support

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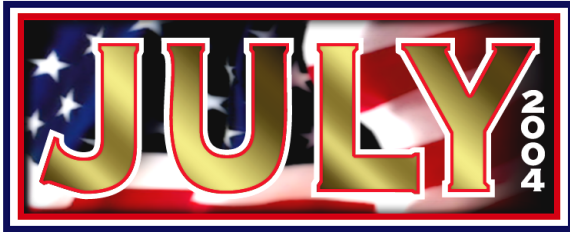
July 2004 issue

## B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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Comforting... Continued from page 1



*Todd showing scripture to Armand*

enough, this Jewish man never owned a copy of the Scriptures and was quite eager to accept a copy from us.

We shared with Armand that the portrait that is painted within the sacred pages of Scripture is a picture of the Jewish Messiah of Israel Who came to redeem man from the power of evil and death. Armand replied that the identity of the Messiah couldn't be known as of yet since He has not come.

We affirmed that the Bible does

in fact provide numerous prophecies about the Messiah and the person who fulfilled them would, by virtue of that fact, be the Messiah! Robert and I explained to him that the only person in history who has done this is Jesus of Nazareth.

To that end we offered historic proof of this to Armand. We gave him a list of the major Messianic prophecies fulfilled by Yeshua and told him to look them up in the copy of the Hebrew Scriptures we gave him. He thanked us. Several minutes later, after we left his shop, I looked back from the end of the street and saw Armand at the entrance of his business reading the Scriptures.

Pray that in doing so the Ruach Hakodesh (Hebrew for the Holy Spirit) will enlighten him to see Messiah Jesus in all the Scripture and lead him to trust Yeshua as Lord and Messiah. ✚

## Search the Scriptures

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

• Zola and Mark Levitt • Nancy Baker • Don and Elisa Retzlaff • Greg Hartwig

**For more information** about our ministry, or to be added to our subscription list, you may contact Todd Baker by mail:

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