

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



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Comforting the People of God (Isaiah 40:1-2)

Part 3

Strange, But Sovereign

Continuing on our third day of witnessing to Israel, while in Qiryat Shimona, Robert and I decided to stop in a department store to look at watches. A sales lady by the name of Natalie asked us if we needed any help. In the course of our conversation with her, we discovered that Natalie was from the Ukraine and immigrated to Israel when she was 14 years



Todd Baker



Speaking with Natalie

old. We told her that the immigration of the two million or so Russian Jews to Israel since the early 1990's was foretold to occur in the last days right before the return of the Messiah to Israel.

We showed her the prophecies found in Jeremiah 16:14-15 and 23:7-8 that predict this very event, adding that her immigration from the former Soviet Union to Israel was by the hand of God a preordained event that was foretold in the Word of God some 2,500 years ago! Robert and I further said to her that God not only wants to restore the Jewish people to their ancient homeland He gave them, but most of all desires that they receive Yeshua the Messiah who will eventually return to the land of Israel.

Natalie said her mother was a believer in Yeshua and she knew about Him. We gave her a Gospel tract in Hebrew that shows how one can be saved through faith in Yeshua the Messiah. She heartily thanked us and said she would read the Hebrew Scriptures and the Gospel literature we gave her.

† ☆ † ☆ † ☆ †

After lunch, Robert and I went to an open market place. While walking through there, we stopped by a stand to look at a strange looking instrument for sale. After we inquired as to what it was, the young vendor told us that the instrument was for cutting corns that grow on one's toes. The young vendor selling these things and other eccentric stuff was a young Jewish man by the name of Valleré. Our curiosity over this strange looking object served as an open door to witness to this young man about having a personal relationship with the God of Israel through His Son Jesus the Messiah.

Valleré told us that his father is Jewish but his mother is a Russian Orthodox Christian. So from this mixed religious background, he had some



Valleré speaking to Todd

knowledge of Jesus and Christianity. Robert and I boldly challenged him, with care and concern, about making a personal commitment of his life to Yeshua as Lord and Messiah. He told us in reply that he had been thinking about this very thing for some time but was afraid of the negative reactions he would receive from his Israeli peers if he did make such a commitment of faith. Robert and I told him that when we came to trust Christ and follow Him faithfully, we also had faced scorn and rejection from many of our peers and so-called "friends" who were not true friends in the end.

We went on to tell him that God has made Jesus the only one who can deliver us from the power of evil and remove the fear of death by promising us a home in heaven and a resurrection body (John 14:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58). At the conclusion of our effective witness to him, Valleré expressed that our deep, spiritual discussion with him established a spiritual connection between him and us.

Dear readers, pray that Valleré's fear of man will be replaced with a bold faith in the God of Israel and His Son Jesus the Messiah. We left him with a Gospel tract showing from the Scriptures how one can be saved by trusting in Christ. Lord willing, we will follow up on Valleré when we return to Israel in the near future. †

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The Doctrine of Divine Grace Part 10

In order to fully understand the biblical truth that a person cannot possibly earn God's gracious love and salvation by his own work or merit, we must understand what man is under the Law and what God declares him to be by Saving Grace.

The Law is all 613 commandments God gave as recorded in the Pentateuch wherein the standard of right and wrong was to be judged by the holy and righteous character of Yahweh.

The Law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

The Law has three elements to it: (1) **The moral law (Exodus 20:1-17)** as summed up in the Ten Commandments. (2) **The civil law (Exodus 21:1-24:18)**.

This aspect of the Mosaic Law involved how the citizens of Israel were to live in proper relationship with one another as a nation and community. (3) **The ceremonial law (Exodus 25-40:38; Leviticus)**. The ceremonial law covered and dealt with how the sinning community of Israel could acceptably approach a holy God through the appropriate animal blood sacrifices and offerings ordained by the God of Israel. All three elements compose the Law God gave to Moses and Israel on Mount Sinai. ***"The Law is holy, just, and good"*** (Romans 8:12).

Under the Old Testament economy, if a man were to be accounted in right standing with God, he had to obey all the numerous commandments contained in the Law of Moses. This meant salvation under the Law entailed keeping all the Law required to the very jot and tittle (the smallest stroke and letter in the Hebrew alphabet) both in outward conduct and in the inner self of the heart. There are over 600 rules and ordinances contained in the Law of Moses. The Law stated, ***"Cursed be he who does not obey all the words of the Law"*** (Deuteronomy 27:26). Thus to fail in one commandment or statute out of the many the Law contains was to violate and be guilty of breaking the entire Law itself. ***"For whoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"*** (James 2:10).

The Law was binding upon all Jews and Gentile

proselytes to Judaism (see Exodus 12:49; Numbers 15:15-16). The Law was given to the nation of Israel only (Romans 3:2). God will judge the Gentile nations for their active conduct in accordance with the "unwritten law" inscribed in their individual hearts with their moral conscience bearing witness in them by either excusing or accusing them in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel (Romans 2:15-16). The Law of God demands a complete and perfect obedience from all who would seek to be justified by it. This is what Paul meant in Romans 10:5. The Law required perfect obedience (Leviticus 18:5). But since no person can ever do this, the Law then condemned men and placed them under its punitive curse.

The moment Adam sinned and transgressed against the commandment of God in the Garden of Eden, he rendered all of his descendents, whom he represented as their federal head, flawed, imperfect and unholy with an inherited sin nature (see Romans 5:18-19). No one can be saved by perfectly obeying the Law. This is not only true in past history, but is proven daily in a world rife with sinful humanity full of hatred, violence, deceit, injustice, murder, crime, strife, and immorality. The whole world therefore stands guilty before God as transgressors of His Law. Hence, no one can be saved and justified (declared right before the Lord) by the works of the Law (Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16).

If the Law of Moses cannot save, then what purpose does it serve, and why was it given? The question can best be answered by showing what the Law does in the greater context of divine grace.

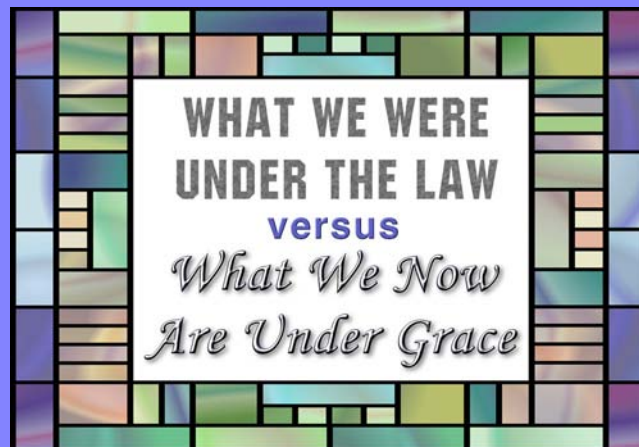
1. The Law was given to define, inform, and expose sin that indwells every human being. Simply stated, the Law shows us we are sinners by nature. The Bible says in Romans 3:20, ***"By the knowledge of the Law is sin."*** Sin is the transgression of God's

Law (1 John 3:4) The Apostle Paul wrote, ***"I would not have known sin, but by the Law. For I had not known covetousness, except the Law had said: You shall not covet"*** (Romans 7:7).

2. Grace reveals who God is and expresses His love and forgiveness towards the sinner. Grace informs us that God loves sinners and sent His one and only unique Son to die for them in their place. ***"Hereby we perceive the love of God, because He laid down His life for us"*** (1 John 3:16). The ultimate proof and demonstration of God's love was demonstrated by the atoning death of Christ. ***"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world to be the propitiation for our sins"*** (1 John 5:9).

The Law says: ***"You are a sinner."***

Grace says: ***"You are a saint."***



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, I srael, to share it boldly with His own ethnic people-the Jews. As an active Messianic ministry, we are striving to serve both I srael 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 I srael, 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 I srael.

Very few ministries are doing what we are doing. I t 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 I srael 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 I srael. I t 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.

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 only part of this parable without any figurative illustration that stands out in all of its clear, horrifying and literal content is the eternal lake of fire—the inescapable fate of the unbelieving wicked *“where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* Words cannot adequately describe the horrid realities of hell fire that await the evil and wicked, and all souls who have died in their sins without Christ.

In verse 42 of Matthew 13, as in many other places in the Gospels, Jesus speaks very graphically about the eternal abode of the unrighteous. It is a solemn fact that Christ spoke more about the reality of hell than any other person in the Bible. He did so out of His matchless love to warn sinners in advance that they might repent and turn to Him and escape the eternal damnation of hell.

What on earth has happened today? One hears very little about the awfulness of the everlasting perdition of hell fire. Why? Is it not because many so-called Christian pastors and “leaders” are afraid of offending the carnal “believer” and rank unbeliever? Instead of warning the wicked sitting in their pews, they preach smooth things to them, tickling the itching ears of their Laodicean lukewarm congregations “proclaiming, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace” (see Jeremiah 6:13-15 whose verses are applicable to the apostate conditions today in American Christendom).

May God in this dark hour raise up the Elijahs and John the Baptists in spirit to passionately warn the wicked within and without the Church to repent of their ungodly ways before it becomes too late and their souls are lost forever simply because we did not want to offend or hurt

“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).

their feelings. Real love tells the truth despite the feelings of others. *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend”* (Proverbs 27:6) and, *“Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed”* (Proverbs 27:5).

Remember beloved, we are not called by God to compliment, cater, or serve the affections of men, pastors, church leaders, and congregations for self promotion as many are doing now; for *“the fear of man brings a snare”* (Proverbs 29:25). *“But you are bought with a price, do not be the slaves of men”* (1 Corinthians 7:23). Our top priority as Christians is to serve God first and foremost. We as the servants of Christ are commissioned by God to *“blow the trumpet”* (Joel 2:1) and warn the unsaved of sin’s eternal

penalty and the utter folly of neglecting so great a salvation. If we conveniently disregard this indispensable responsibility to the godless, then God will surely require their blood at our hands. *“When I say to the wicked, O*

Peace,
peace! 



Part 8 - the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:40-43)

wicked man, you shall surely die. If you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at your hand” (Ezekiel 33:8).

The end of evil in the present age will apocalyptically commence at the great harvesting of the earth’s inhabitants when the Son of Man shall come in the clouds of heavenly glory to thrust His sickle into the earth ripe for judgment. Then shall literally come to pass the prophetic words of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:12.

In that day, the Word of God will judge the unrighteous for their lawless behavior and unbelief. *“He that rejects Me, and does not receive My words has one that judges him. The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (John 12:48). Just as fire easily consumes chaff (tares in the case of this parable), so the judgment of God will be ignited as fire upon the unbelieving world. *“What is the chaff to the wheat says the Lord? Is not My word like fire?”* (Jeremiah 23:28). The wheat of the householder who owns the field will be collected from the field of the world and placed in his barn. Likewise, we who are the Church of Jesus Christ can expect at any moment the trumpet of God to sound and be translated into heaven to meet the Lord Jesus in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18). All the saints of God from the Church who have been sown in dishonor will be raised with immortal and incorruptible power and strength when the heavenly householder comes to take them home (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).



The children of God will be an eternal display of Christ’s everlasting love. All the saints will be given the incomparable privilege of shining forth the radiance of God’s eternal glory. For just as the stars emit brilliant light, so too shall the Church of Jesus Christ reflect the dazzling and effulgent glory of God, but with a much greater intensity than the luminaries of the heavens. O how utterly incomprehensible this is to the finite mind of mortal man, yet awesomely true

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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:
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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 and tell him to remove your postal address (include it in your note) and add your e-mail address. It's that simple!



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B'rit Hadashah Ministries

P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

e-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com



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

B'rit Hadashah Ministries
P.O. Box 796127
Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

or by E-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com

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Matthew 13... Continued from page 4

as foretold by the Lord concluding the second parable mystery of the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 13:43.

The last verse of this parable corresponds to the prophecy concerning the glorification of the saints mentioned in Daniel 12:3. *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the heaven, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."* The children of God's kingdom (the wheat) will be victorious and glorified overcomers at the end of the present age. They will not be forsaken by the Lord despite the continual opposition of the devil and his many tares. When Christ returns, these enemies will be assuredly and permanently "cut off" out of the land of the living with God's omnipotent sickle of divine judgment.

The Psalmist foretold these apocalyptic events yet to occur in Psalm 37:28-29: *"For the Lord loves judgment, and forsakes not His saints. They are preserved forever. But the seed of the wicked will be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein."* When the harvest of the earth is finally executed with the judgment of God at the end of the age, then shall come to pass the wonderful proclamation of Revelation 11:15 announcing the triumphant advent of Messiah's sovereign and eternal rule on earth in all

its visible and
victorious
display. *"The*

*kingdoms of this world have
now become the kingdoms of our
Lord and of His Christ, and He
shall reign forever and ever."* †

