

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



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In This Issue:

- Ambassadors of Messiah to Israel* 1
Roadmap to Nowhere 2
Matt. 13 & the Prophetic Parables 3

Search the Scriptures

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Part 1: A Pilpul On a Plane

March 2005's Gospel outreach to Israel did not begin there, but on the plane going over there from JFK Airport in New York city. Paul Colley, a personal friend, missionary, and co-laborer in Christ for twenty-one years, accompanied me on this outreach. Once Paul and I boarded our flight bound for Tel Aviv, Israel, we immediately felt led by the Holy Spirit to pray that any Jewish person sitting next to us on the flight would be especially open to a witness about Yeshua being the Messiah of Israel.

Not long after that prayer was said, two men sat next to us. One man was named Joseph. He sat next to Paul on the long flight to Israel. He was a middle-aged man with an Orthodox background. He was very genial, tolerant, and open to our bearing testimony about Yeshua being the Jewish Messiah. He asked us about our reasons for traveling to Israel. Paul and I told him that we were sent by several ministries (Zola Levitt, B'rit Hadashah, and Shalom, Shalom Messianic congregation) who support Israel and send us there to spread the good news of Yeshua the Messiah's first coming and His soon return to the land of Israel as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The man sitting next to me was a cordial fellow from Beit Shemesh (a small city located one hour

southwest of Jerusalem). The man's name was Opher. He informed us that he was a pantomime artist who did mute dramas of the great Bible characters in the Old Testament like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He showed us a presentation on his mini-DVD player. After viewing his reenactment of the Akedah (Abraham offering up his son Isaac), I shared with Opher that this was a Messianic type of Abba God offering up for Israel and the world His one and only unique Son for our sins.

Opher quickly surmised we were believers in Yeshua.

Paul and I affirmed that not only did we believe He is the Messiah but that all of Jesus' first followers were Jewish. I then gave him a Gospel tract in Hebrew that gave a list of all the major prophecies made about Messiah in the Tanach and the corresponding fulfillment by Yeshua in the B'rit Hadashah (the Hebrew phrase for The New Testament).

Opher wanted to go through some of these prophecies with us. At this point in our conversation, a young Orthodox man from the Chabad movement rudely interrupted our conversation. He had been sitting in the row in front of us. This man was attempting to discourage and dissuade Opher from hearing the Gospel. The Chabad movement promotes the



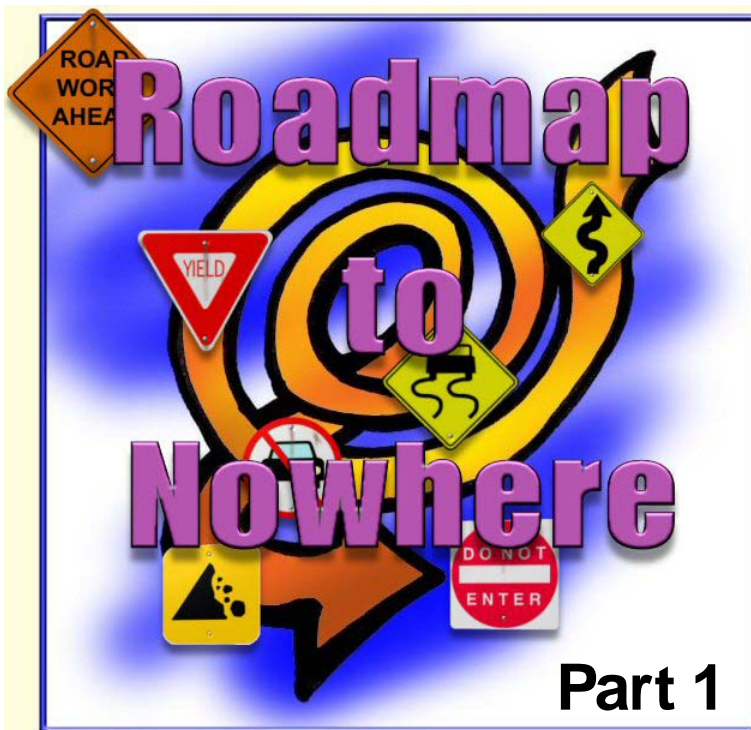
Todd Baker



Todd and Paul with Opher



Continued on page 4



Roadmap to Nowhere

Part 1

Will King is a journalist who lives in Israel. He has appeared on Zola Levitt Presents several times. With his extensive military background and experience, Will provides a practical and unique insight about the current Roadmap peace plan, which frankly is setting the stage for the war of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39) and the seven year tribulation period. Will is also a personal friend and I have asked him to share in this month's newsletter why the Roadmap plan simply won't work, now or ever!

Todd Baker

Why is the highly publicized, highly promoted roadmap plan for peace in the Middle East doomed for failure? Several reasons, but primarily because it relies on the promises of the Palestinians to cease all violence against Israelis, end incitement, and stop those who are responsible for the violence. Promises that were sought in Oslo, Madrid, Taba, Aqaba, and several other places and documents, but never upheld.

The very first sentence of the road map reads, "In Phase I, the Palestinians immediately undertake an unconditional cessation of violence according to the steps outlined below; such action should be accompanied by supportive measures undertaken by Israel." The key words in that sentence are "immediately" and "unconditional". The Palestinians must at once stop all violence against Israelis, without having prisoners released, without having towns given to their control, without a halt to settlement activity, but unconditionally. Once the violence has stopped, then further steps can be taken by both sides along the road map.

Since the Palestinians will never undertake an immediate and unconditional cessation of violence against Jews, then

"In Phase I, the Palestinians immediately undertake an unconditional cessation of violence ..."

- the first sentence of the Roadmap

the road map should be dead there. Instead, the Palestinian propaganda machine repeats over and over their commitment to the road map and UN resolutions, focuses on Israeli violations of these agreements, while failing to mention their own commitments, thereby making Israel the obstacle to peace in the eye of the media. Once the media is sold, then world politicians, many of whom have never been to Israel, are already sold the Palestinian lie.

The primary argument that the Palestinians make against Israel is that they are illegally seizing "Palestinian land" through the building of the security fence and the expansion of settlements, thereby violating the road map and not truly desiring peace. Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator, has said, "Settlements in the West Bank are an obstacle to peace as much as the ones in Gaza Strip. They all must go." Muhammed Dahlan, a PA affiliated strongman in Gaza, said of the security fence, "We refuse this wall, because it has no security purpose. This wall will only increase hatred between the Palestinian and Israeli sides because it

is a racist, separation wall."

Statements like these make it daily into the world media and help form the majority of opinions about what's really happening here. The Arab and Muslim world already believe this message, Europe has been completely sold on it as well, the underdeveloped nations of Africa have been strong supporters of the Arabs, and the majority of the new former Soviet 'stan' states are Muslim. The majority of people in South

America are Catholic, and subscribe to replacement theology and the WCC's recommendation to divest from Israel. Several of the states in the Far East are either Muslim or Communist, staunchly against a Jewish and democratic Israel. So, what about America?



*Will King
Guest Author*



*A Palestinian policeman helps his children with a Hamas flag.
Photo: Will King*

Continued on page 6

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



Part 9 - the Parable of the Mustard Seed
(Matthew 13:31-32)

Notice in this parable that the birds of the air found comfortable and secure lodgment within the tree when the mustard plant grew beyond its limited extension and became a tree of enlarged proportions, shooting forth and budding many branches that provided a permanent shelter and home for the seekers of pleasure and luxurious convenience, housing "men who suppose godliness is a means of gain." Once the visible church reached a plateau of material excess, brimming over with financial opulence, political power, sectarian rivalry, and special interest groups, it became individualized and divided through countless man-made denominations. Those who had the inordinate desires for religious fame, self-enrichment, and worldly grandeur were instantly drawn to the opportunity for these things, which the worldly church shamelessly offered for the price of blind devotion. Thus, we witness here the development of evil and avarice as instigated by the devil as prophetically anticipated and outlined by Christ in the first three parables of Matthew thirteen.

In the first parable, Satan was seen stealing away the effective abilities of the good seed planted in the unregenerate heart of man. In the second parable, the devil is busy creating a counterfeit version of Christianity. In the third parable, we see that the final result of this

anomalous masterpiece afforded the devil and his demonic legions ("the birds of the air") hidden shelter and advantageous positions within the high places of authority in the Church.

The parable of the mustard seed can be concluded with the following observations:

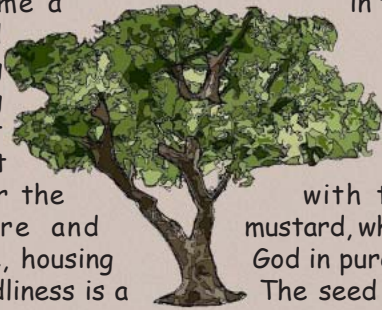
The parable commences with the planting of the mustard, which is the Word of God in pure, simple content. The seed is planted in the field. The field is the world. The mustard seed is allowed a period of grace to grow and develop into a full mature plant. But from the small, minute kernel of the seed unnaturally emerges an unusually large and monstrous tree which, being interpreted, is a powerful ecclesiastical hegemony counterfeiting the true Church ruled by demonic agents of the devil through pride, worldliness, temporal power, and carnal inclination. This worldly church stands in direct opposition to the teachings of

Christ who stressed to his people meekness, self control, humility, and doing good to friend and foe alike. The final development of the tree, seen as world apostate Christendom, has become a secure dwelling place for the devil's emissaries via the presence of false teachers, false apostles, false brethren, and false prophets, within the sphere of professing Christendom.

The Church, in her infancy, was supernaturally equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to wage war and defeat upon the Devil and his kingdom of darkness. The church was

largely successful in the early going. But as time passed on, the Church decadently lapsed into overt worldliness and blatant compromise. With selfish ambition, the church leaders sought after and obtained a high and acceptable standing in the ungodly world system. This in turn allowed the enemy and his foul-feathered cohorts a perpetual roosting place to dwell in and establish strongholds for the demonization of the visible church.

Behold here a demonized church with the princes of Satan ruling over it, replete with sin and gross debauchery to the fullest! To such a counterfeit whore, harlot church the Lord has promised solemn judgment. ***"For woe to them that call evil good, and good evil, that substitute darkness for light, and light for darkness, that substitute***



Continued on page 4

bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. For she says in heart: "I sit as a queen and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death and mourning, and famine, and she shall be utterly destroyed. For strong is the Lord God who judges her" (Isaiah 5:20; Revelation 18:7-8). When this finally occurs at the end of the present age, that which came to pass of rebellious Israel of old will also be fulfilled concerning the pompous, wayward tree of false Christianity. **"With the noise of a great tumult he has kindled fire upon it, and its branches are broken. For the Lord of hosts that planted you has pronounced doom against you"** (Jeremiah 11:16-17). ✠



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.

Ambassadors of Messiah to Israel... Continued from page 1

ridiculous notion that the late Rabbi Menachem Schneerson of Brooklyn New York was the Messiah. I bluntly challenged this man and told him in no uncertain terms that all the evidence from Scripture and Jewish history indubitably point to Jesus of Nazareth being the only One who is the Messiah foretold by Moses and the Prophets. The young man replied by claiming that Yeshua could not be the Messiah since His father was not Jewish. By this I assumed that this man was reflecting a tradition of Orthodox Judaism from the Talmud that teaches Jesus' father was a Roman soldier named Pantera who had an illicit relationship with his mother Mary. This was further verified when the man told me to read the Gemara,



This picture of Schneerson taken in Jerusalem says of him in Hebrew: "Long live the King and the Messiah."

which is the second part of the Talmud providing commentary and explanation of it. A *pilpul* (a theological debate in Jewish circles) began to develop between this intrusive fellow and me.

My reply was to say that Yeshua's Father was God and His lineage was indeed Jewish on His mother's side. I went on to inform him that Joseph, particularly, could not have been the natural father since he came from king Jeconiah's genealogical line (see Matthew 1:12), which God cursed and spoke through the prophet Jeremiah that none of Jeconiah's descendants would ever sit on the throne of David as king of Israel! **"O earth, earth, earth, bear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord: 'Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling Judah anymore"** (Jeremiah 22:29-30). Thus, Joseph, the legal father of Jesus, could not have been the physical father of Jesus because of this curse pronounced on Jeconiah's descendants that would include Joseph and prevent him or his children from reigning on the throne of David as king of Israel. But

Jesus was not affected by this curse because his physical Jewish descent came from David through his mother Mary, who conceived him by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18; Luke 3:21-38).

When asked, the Orthodox man expressed complete ignorance about this key prophecy in Jeremiah 22:29-30. So I went on to say to this man that Jesus could not have had Joseph as his physical father. Furthermore, the prophets foretold that the Messiah would be the Son of God and therefore have God as His father (see Psalm 2:6-8; Isaiah 7:14)!

The Orthodox man angrily expressed his bewilderment over this. When I point blank asked him if he had read the evidence for Yeshua being the Messiah as historically written by Jewish eyewitnesses in the New Testament, he of course smugly answered, "no." Then I replied, "You can't very well dismiss something you are ignorant of, nor have honestly investigated." After this, the man said nothing more to me. Satan, no doubt, was using his interruption to discourage Opher from investigating these important matters for himself. Nevertheless, Opher accepted a copy of the New Testament in Hebrew and a Gospel tract as well.

Pray now that nothing and no one will keep him from coming to faith in the Messiah Jesus. ✠

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. ✠

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!

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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, 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 made the switch!

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).

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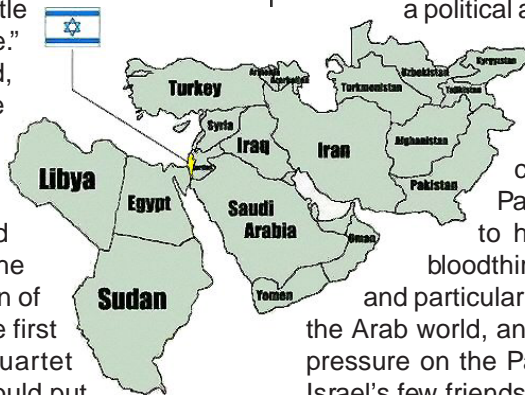
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Roadmap to Nowhere... Continued from page 2

Speaking on the responsibilities of the PA, President Bush has said, "The Palestinian Authority must undertake sustained, targeted and effective operations to confront those engaged in terror and to dismantle terrorist capabilities and infrastructure." However, the President has also said, "Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories must stop."

There are two different messages from the President, when there should be only one. First, the President should return to his first quote, demanding the immediate and unconditional cessation of Palestinian violence, as required in the first step of the road map. The other quartet partners, Russia, UN, and the EU, should put forth similar messages as well. For the plan to work, the quartet must put forth a single, unified message, point by point as outlined in the road map, and hold the sides accountable. Once a point has been accomplished and verified, move to the next point, put forward a clear and unified message on it, and hold sides accountable. This is how to get the road map moving



again, not with predetermined Palestinian elections and "confidence building" measures (prisoner release, territorial concessions, etc.) by Israel.

However, the problem is that each quartet member has a political agenda of their own that sometimes runs counter to steps in the road map, particularly Palestinian steps. The UN, as well as the EU, is an extreme leftist, secular organization, and has been completely sold on the idea of a historical Palestinian people who are daily subjected to humiliation and death by a cruel and bloodthirsty Israeli occupation machine. The EU, and particularly Russia, have deep economic ties with the Arab world, and don't want to upset them by applying pressure on the Palestinians. This leaves the US, one of Israel's few friends in the world.

While I truly believe that America is a friend to Israel, based primarily on belief in the Bible and support of a fellow democratic nation, I also believe that America is at the point where they just want to see the problem go away. President Bush is at the point now where he must try and make the problem disappear, while not applying too much pressure on Israel and upsetting the electoral base that got him, and hopefully future Republicans, elected to office. The result of this balancing act is contradictory statements that emanate from the White House and other government offices, one day supporting Israel and the next berating her. ☆

