

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



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Search the Scriptures

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Nancy Baker
Don and Elisa Retzlaff
Greg Hartwig

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Part 2: CROSSING THE BARRIER FOR CHRIST

The first day in Israel was spent over night in Tel Aviv. The next day we left for Tiberias. Halfway to our destination, the Holy Spirit compelled Paul and me to stop at a national park in northwest Israel where Tel Megiddo is located. This is an ancient archaeological site that stands on an imposing hill overlooking the Valley of Armageddon. This is where the future battle of Armageddon will occur between Jesus Christ and His heavenly armies who will defeat the Anti-Christ and the armies of the world (see Revelation 16:16; 19).



Todd Baker

Once we arrived at this historical location, the Lord led us to witness to a lady whose name was **Esther**. She

land of Israel so that they will be no more. But Yeshua will return in power and great glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to rescue His Chosen People from annihilation and establish His Kingdom over all the earth (See Joel 3 and Revelation 19). When we learned that Esther had read the Tanach, we suggested that she read the Brit Hadashah so as to have a complete knowledge of the Messiah, prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament.

The Lord then providentially arranged for her brother to be called in so that he could also hear our witness about Messiah Jesus and what Bible prophecy says about the future battle of Armageddon. Esther's brother, **Eli**, also translated for us so that his sister could



Todd witnessing to Esther at Armageddon

owned a jewelry shop there. Paul and I were able to share with her about the prophetic significance of the future Battle of Armageddon that will soon take place at that exact location. We shared with Esther that the Bible teaches that this last battle ending the present age will be Satan's last attempt to remove the Jewish people from the



Eli (Esther's brother) and Todd

understand better what we were saying about these various things that concern Israel's role in End-Time Bible prophecy. Both of them received a Hebrew New Testament and Gospel tracts that give a biblical overview of Israel's divine history from the Exodus event to the second coming of the Messiah at the Battle of Armageddon.

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Roadmap to Nowhere

Part 2

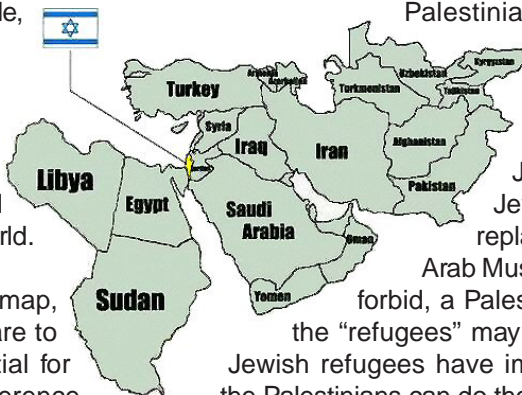
Will King is a journalist who lives in Israel. He has appeared on Zola Levitt Presents several times. With his extensive military background and experience, Will provides a practical and unique insight about the current Roadmap peace plan, which frankly is setting the stage for the war of Gog and Magog (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

Continuing from last month's article -

These are the reasons why the road map to peace will never get off the ground:

- ➡ the requirement for an immediate and unconditional cessation of violence that the Palestinians will never live up to;
- ➡ world opinion stacked against Israel, pressuring her to make concessions on other road map issues while ignoring Palestinians' requirements to end violence;
- ➡ a divided quartet that doesn't send clear, unified messages and hold sides accountable, and that is unfairly aligned with the Palestinian side for political and economic reasons of their own;
- ➡ contradictory statements from the US, the true author of the road map and only remaining superpower in the world.

Jumping ahead to Phase III of the road map, the phase where "final status agreements" are to be concluded, we see even greater potential for disaster. There is to be an international conference,



Will King
 Guest Author

hosted by the quartet, to determine "...final, permanent status resolution in 2005, including borders, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements; and, to support progress toward a comprehensive Middle East settlement between Israel and Lebanon and Israel and Syria, to be achieved as soon as possible."

Let's look at each objective, one by one. The issues of borders should be negotiable, as Israel has in the past been willing to swap parts of land within the Green Line in exchange for large settlement areas on the other side of the line. However, the Palestinians have been insistent on a full Israeli withdrawal to the Green Line. One reason settlements were built was for security, placing them on key hills or along major road networks. If Israel can keep some of these, then her security is enhanced. By insisting on a full withdrawal to the Green Line, the Palestinians gain half of Jerusalem, as well as all of the strategic Judean and Samarian hills.



Jerusalem is nonnegotiable for 99% of Jews, especially after nearly 2000 years of exile from her. The Arabs want it because of its historical and religious significance to the Jewish people; they simply want to take. If the Arabs can again split Jerusalem, then they will have severed the heart of Israel and the Jewish people.

Next, whenever you see the term "right of return" for the Palestinian refugees, simply replace that with "the death of Israel as a democratic Jewish state." Millions of Palestinian "refugees" pouring into Israel would kill the Jewish nature of the state, putting Jews into the minority and simply replacing Israel with another extremist, Arab Muslim dictatorship. If and when, God forbid, a Palestinian state is ever created, then the "refugees" may go there if they wish. Millions of Jewish refugees have immigrated to their tiny state, and the Palestinians can do the same.

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Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

The Parable
of the Leaven
Part 1
(Matthew 13:33)



Before going into expository detail on the fourth mystery parable of the kingdom of heaven, it is necessary first to make mention of why the popular interpretation commonly attributed to the parable of the leaven is totally incorrect.

Many well-intentioned Bible commentators of a post-millennial inclination assert that the parable of the leaven prefigures the Gospel's effusive power upon the whole of humanity that will eventually bring about a world-wide assimilation of it in the hearts and minds of people everywhere. Consequently, according to this misinformed school of thought, the whole world will be converted and entirely won over to Christ at the preaching of an expanding Gospel by the Church, literally bringing in a perfect utopia that will usher in the millennium kingdom on earth prior to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ to this planet. If this erroneous meaning were correct then Christ blatantly contradicts His own teachings in Matthew 13 regarding the historical unfolding and final consummation of the mystery phase of the kingdom of heaven in the present age! What Christ forecasted in detail within the three preceding parables of Matthew 13 is diametrically opposed to any type of world reformation or conversion to Christ before His return.

In the first parable (*The Parable of the Sower and the Seed*) of Matthew 13, the Lord expressly taught that the good seed sown on every part of the field yielded, for the most part, minimal results.

Instead of the seed abundantly producing fruit within the entire scope of the field, the soil basically remained fallow and barren, ultimately proving that in this age the majority of the planting ground was unproductively inimical to the seed that was sown. At the conclusion of the parable, the Lord informs the disciples of the gradual declension of the productivity of the soil (100, 60, and 30), which decreases worse and worse as the coming harvest hastens in its day of arrival.

"The Kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, until the whole was leavened."

- Matthew 13:33



In the second parable (*The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares*) of Matthew 13, the Lord declared that the tares were

planted along side of the wheat by the "evil one" (Satan) for the purpose of counterfeiting to counteract and nullify the advancement of the Gospel by the children of the kingdom. The satanic interaction of the tares mixing with the wheat until the expiration of the present age positively refutes the idea and reality of the complete conversion of the world to Christianity before the return of Christ. The Lord stated the tares would remain in the field with the wheat until the harvest of the earth when Jesus Christ will personally return to remove them.

In the third parable (*The Parable of the Mustard Seed*) of Matthew 13, the Lord intimates that Christendom would undergo a perverse transformation of such horrendous proportions that it would allow the devil and his demonic legions open access and secure shelter in its places of authority. This enabled them to rule over its vast domain. Recognizing these unpleasant facts, which can easily be seen from Church history and present day experience, how can it be the fourth parable should divert away from the clear and consistent teaching of Christ in the three parables that come before it? The fourth parable is, therefore, not opposite in meaning, but is a simple continuation of the negative aspects of Christendom within the kingdom of heaven, and the various stages of evil that is seen in it down through the centuries as prophetically revealed in these four parables spoken by Christ. The kingdom of heaven mentioned from the outset

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I have already talked some on settlements, about their security purpose. These places are each an oasis in the desert, built on empty, rocky hilltops (the Arabs take the flat land for agriculture), with nary a Palestinian to be seen. As far as the settlements are concerned, after borders of a Palestinian state are decided upon, the question will be what Jew will feel safe living in those places in the new Palestinian state under their “protection”?

As for peace with Lebanon and Syria, this should be accomplished through dialogue outside of the road map. The road map here tries to connect too many problems to the Palestinians, and assumes that peace in the region will be achieved within the framework of solving the Palestinian issue.

Because it should never really ever get off the ground, it is a road map to nowhere. But because of the contentious “final status” issues that it leaves wide open until the end, it truly is a road map to chaos. ✧

✠✠✠ **Last Minute Update** ✠✠✠

We were contacted by Will King, the author of the previous article, to say that the Israeli Government Press Office (GPO) seems to be discriminating against Christian journalists and their organizations, limiting freedom of the press in a democratic society. To learn more about this situation and how Israel is hurting Christian support, you can go to the following web address to read the article Will has written:

<http://www.newsinIsrael.com/Articles/2005/May05/GPO.html>

Ambassadors of Messiah... *Continued from page 1*

Next, we stopped in the town of Afula. The language barrier proved difficult there and several Israelis were not interested, to say the least, in engaging in conversation—a rare exception here. At one point, two ladies in a thrift shop said we were “crazy” in their broken English when we attempted to converse with them about Yeshua being the Messiah of Israel—a hazard that comes with this calling.

As we were leaving this little town, Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to stop at a mini-mart. A woman at the counter greeted us with an English, “hello.” Paul responded by asking her if she spoke English. She answered in the affirmative. Her son **Moshe** (Moses) came from the back of the store and asked if he could help us. Paul asked if they sold dried Apricots. Such a mundane request opened the door for us to share the Gospel of Yeshua Who as the preeminent descendant of Abraham came to bless the entire world with redemption.

Messiah (see Galatians 3:16). He listened attentively and then made a surprising declaration that when a Jewish person blesses a genuine Christian who loves Israel, the former will truly be blessed by the latter—a divine work of mutual reciprocity here. Although Moshe was not open to receiving a free copy of the New Testament in Hebrew, he did accept a Messianic Jewish Gospel tract detailing the historical and biblical evidence for Yeshua being the Messiah.

A few hours after we arrived in the city of Tiberias, we went to the Galilee Experience bookstore (thanks to Eric Morey and his staff there for faithfully providing Hebrew

Bibles to distribute to the Israeli people every time we go to Israel) to pick up Hebrew Bibles. A Russian shop owner who has a grocery market next to the bookstore motioned us over to look in his shop. We were able to share God’s love for the Jewish people with



Todd going through the Russian Gospel tract with a Russian shop owner

him by using a Russian Gospel tract declaring how much Yeshua loves all of mankind and what He did to prove that love. We left this tract with him and pray the Holy Spirit will win his heart over to faith in Yeshua as Savior and Lord. ✠



Paul, Moshe, and Todd

Paul and I shared with Moshe from the Hebrew text of Genesis 12:1-3 how such a prophecy has been historically fulfilled in the history of the Jewish people and how the Abrahamic seed of blessing is talking about Yeshua the

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

Growth in any ministry is a very important thing to happen, says Todd Baker, founder of B'rit Hadashah Ministries. For the first two years, we have greatly been supported by fewer than anticipated supporters whose donations, combined, average less than \$1500 per month which is far short of the \$7000 monthly budget needed to go full time. However, we do see growth, which is very important. In this age of "the prosperity gospel," we dislike having to ask for financial support, but the reality is that it is a necessity.

Presently, B'rit Hadashah Ministries is comprised of all volunteer staff so the majority of funds received goes straight to ministry newsletters, mission trips, Tanachs and other materials needed for the mission field. Even Todd Baker himself does not receive compensation at this point, but instead chooses to continue to work as a chaplain at a local Dallas hospital while nearing completion of his Doctorate degree.

One thing for sure though, God is working through this Ministry in Israel. One of the ministry's faithful supporters is none other than Zola Levitt as well as others who give their financial support, as well as time and talent like Eric Oler and Elisa Retzlaff. These two are indeed sowing good seeds in heaven.

Most importantly, says Todd, we are very thankful to all who can support the ministry and are encouraging members of the ministry to take the challenge and sign up for any automatic contribution they can afford. Even with as little as \$15 per month, contributions from many supporters can make the difference we need to make our budget goal and increase the mission trips to Israel. We are undertaking a great mission with a greater reward.

May God Bless each of you as you give and may it be on a consistent basis.

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, 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).

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. Or go to our updated web site (www.searchthescrituresonline.org) and you can make the change yourself! It's that simple!



thank you for your support

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John
5:39



June 2005 issue

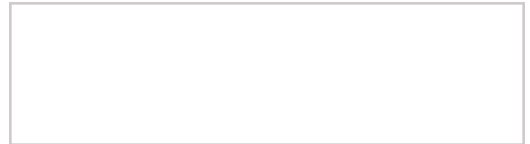
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Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

of this parable representatively includes the entire scope of the Christian world mainly comprised of Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Eastern Orthodox Christians.

There are multitudes upon multitudes of unsaved people that belong to each one of these main-line denominations. Those who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone within these three primary denominations have experienced genuine spiritual rebirth through such a faith. Today, coming from these three main factions of Christendom, is composed *the visible church* that contains a mixed profession of both true believers with non-believers. Within this visible sphere of the Church is found *the invisible church* that contains all true born-again believers scattered throughout the various denominations. The first symbol we will focus on in this parable is the three measures of meal. †



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.

