

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 3, Number 8

August 2005

As always, 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 3:**  
BE ALWAYS  
READY TO GIVE  
A DEFENSE  
(1 PETER 3:15)



Todd Baker

Continuing our witness in Kiryat Shimona (located in north west Israel), Paul and I stopped to witness and talk with two Air Force soldiers on the street to discuss the current conditions in Israel and the safety factor of the country. Both soldiers had the same name—**Tomer**. They said that the



Paul with Tomer and Tomer

nation of Israel must always be on the alert for terrorism and ready for attack since the tiny democratic nation is surrounded by hostile Arab nations who want nothing less than their destruction. We assured them that despite the constant threat of terrorism and being on the verge of war, the God of Israel will protect the Chosen People so that they will never be uprooted or removed from the land again as God promised in Amos 9:14-15. Of course, Israel's final victory over the anti-Semitic nations of the world awaits the return of the Messiah, we said to the soldiers. We left them with Bible literature proving the case for Yeshua being the Messiah of Israel. Pray for these brave defenders of freedom and democracy in the Holy Land and the Middle East that the God of their ancestors will reveal His Son to their restless hearts.

Next, we revisited **Armand**—a middle-aged man Robert Cuccia and I visited in March 2004. At that time, Armand received a copy of the Brit Hadashah. This time he readily greeted us and remembered the fact that we had given him



Paul, Armand, and Todd

the Bible in Hebrew a year earlier. Armand said he had been reading it continually. When we asked him if he still had a certain gospel tract I gave him a year earlier, his answer was that he remembered reading it but did not know if he still had a copy of it. At this, Paul and I asked him if he would like another copy. He quickly responded, "Yes." So we gave him another tract sharing the Gospel in a Jewish context.

An elderly Jewish couple saw us and approached Paul and me and challengingly asked what we were doing. We said we came to Israel to spread the good news about Israel's long-forgotten Messiah. The elderly couple instinctively knew we were talking about Yeshua. The wife said to Paul that she appreciated the support we showed for Israel, but sternly charged us not to proclaim the message of Yeshua to try and "change the Jews". Paul wisely informed her that our purpose was not to take away Judaism from the Jewish people but to realize that it finds its ultimate meaning and fulfillment in Yeshua the Messiah and whoever believes in Him is already Jewish in heart, whether he or she be Jew or Gentile (see Romans 2:28-29). The woman's husband, Moshe then made the unsubstantiated claim that the New Testament was not reliable because it

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Will King, Guest Author

# WHAT ABOUT SAMARIA?

While much of the focus of Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan has been on Gaza, little has been said about the impending evacuation from northern Samaria. In all, 21 settlements will be uprooted from the Gaza Strip, compared to 4 in Samaria. However in northern Samaria, Israel will be giving away control of a greater amount of land, providing the Palestinians a nearly contiguous bloc from Shechem (Nablus) to Jenin. Why then is there not more outcry to stop the disengagement from northern Samaria?

The religious and secular divide in Israel is part of the reason that the main focus has been cast on the Gaza settlements. The religious settlers of Gush Katif are perceived as more fervent in their convictions and defense of the Greater Israel ideal, belief that Jews have the God-given right to settle in any part of Eretz Israel. For their part, secular settlers are generally looking for a higher quality of life that comes at a lower cost across the Green Line. Many have large homes, cars, and other luxuries that they would otherwise not be able to afford in Israel proper.

In deciding where to focus their efforts in fighting the disengagement plan, the mostly religious Yesha Council (Hebrew acronym for Judea, Samaria, and Gaza) also chose to focus on Gaza. The mostly secular residents of Homesh, Ganim, Kadim, and Sa-Nur (the 4 settlements in Samaria near Jenin) were left largely on their own, and many of them have already agreed on compensation deals with the



Settlement of Anatot, near Jerusalem, with the settlement of Adom in the Background.

government and made plans to move. By contrast, the mostly religious settlers of Gaza came out with t-shirts, stickers, slogans, marches, and demonstrations against the disengagement, and some have now begun making preparations for a last ditch stand against the security forces. While both security forces and settlers have agreed that resistance should be limited to only nonviolent means, if any

extremists are to be found during the disengagement, they will likely be in Gaza.

One of the popular slogans against the disengagement is "a Jew doesn't expel a Jew". The slogan is meant to conjure up



pictures of primarily European Jews who were for centuries driven away from their homes, or worse, at the hands of the Christian states in which they were living. The Land of Israel is supposed to be the one place where this doesn't happen anymore, and certainly

not by fellow Jews. However, there are two examples that show how this has already happened in the past.

The first example takes place after the Exodus from Egypt. Joshua and the Israelites conquered the major kingdoms in the Land and then divided the Land according to each tribe's inheritance. Each tribe was then responsible for finishing the fight against the smaller armies in their areas, however the



Part of Ma'ale Adumim, with the Mount of Olives in the background. Ma'ale Adumim, with over 35,000 people is the largest settlement in Judea and Samaria.

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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.

# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

The Parable  
of the Leaven  
Part 3  
(Matthew 13:33)



The first ingredient of the meal is the Lord Jesus Christ, our Manna from heaven. Christ is the spiritual bread of God Who came down from heaven to give eternal life to the world.

***"For the bread of God is He who came down from heaven, and gives life to the world."***  
(John 6:33)

Jesus candidly proclaimed, ***"I am the bread of life"*** (John 6:35). He alone is the Bread of Life that every man, woman, and child invariably needs and cannot survive without.

Bread is a staple food, and provides excellent nourishment for the body giving additional fiber to the muscles and rugged durability to the bones. Similarly, if a man is to spiritually sustain himself at all, he must eat the bread of Christ so that he might live forever. To eat of Christ is to literally appropriate, in totality, the very life



and teachings of Him through the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit begetting a spiritual rebirth in the quickened spirit of the believing individual, so that one may live and not die. When the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ, is digested by faith, He gives eternal life to those who can swallow Him without hesitancy or reserve.

***"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If any man eats of this bread he shall***

***"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



***live forever. And the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."***

(John 6:51)

The second ingredient that contributes to making up the three measures of meal is the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is none other than the eternal Word of God. Once the Word of God was spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ it released the dynamic power and life creating ability to keep alive those who by faith choose to be nurtured and fed by it. According to John 6:63 it is the spirit of Christ, Who is the living Word of God, that alone empowers the Written Word to regenerate man with everlasting life.

***"It is the spirit that gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you, they are spirit, and they are life."***

(John 6:63)

Truly, it is in believing the sacred testimony the Scriptures give of Jesus Christ that a soul finds eternal life



with an endless supply of provision for a thirsty, hungered soul. The bread of this world can only temporarily maintain the physical life of the fleshly body. The life-sustaining power of it cannot be maintained indefinitely since it is subject to decay and corruption. The bread of all mortals is ultimately extinguished by death. But to those who sumptuously ruminate upon the incorruptible eternal Bread of Life, they shall find their spiritual hunger met in Jesus, the Author and Benefactor of eternal life. Christ earnestly bids searching souls to,

***"Search the Scriptures. For in them you think you have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me."***

(John 5:39)

Every human spirit is potentially designed for the simple digestion of the Word of God.

Whoever refuses to eat this bread of life will perish from spiritual starvation. But whoever eats of this

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bread shall have eternal life. Receiving the words of Christ is a must for eternal salvation and spiritual stamina. Physical food is not sufficient enough.

***"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."***

(Deuteronomy 8:3)

The third ingredient completing the doughy constitution of the meal is the Body of Christ—His Church. For just as dough or meal is kneaded and



rolled into a conformable state for proper baking usage, so the Church of Jesus

Christ is also being tempered through testings, tribulations, and trials by the purging fires of the Holy Spirit. This is done for the sole intention of bringing the Church into a cohesive bond of love, spiritual maturity, and holy service as the "one bread" of the Body of Christ.

***"For we being many, are one bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread."*** (1 Corinthians 10:17)

In order for meal to amalgamate properly so that it can be useful for baking, two substances are needed—water and oil. The main emblems of

the Holy Spirit and the Word of God found in Scripture are oil and water! Both are indispensable ingredients for the subsistence of God's people and for bringing them together. The Holy Spirit brings the convert into the Body of Christ to be united with all converted members,

***"For you are all one in Christ Jesus".***

(Galatians 3:28)

All members, therefore, partake of God's Holy Spirit who indwells and pervades in them all.

***"For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body...all have been made to drink in one Spirit."***

(1 Corinthians 12:13)

The Word of God, like pure water, cleanses the Church from the defiling effects of sin as they continue in a world full of the filthiness of the flesh

and moral uncleanness (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26).

We, the Church, are one body of bread offered up to God as a holy living sacrifice. The apostle Paul encourages all believers in Christ to consecrate their bodies as a living, holy, and acceptable sacrifice to God, which is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1). The apostle Peter exhorts us as Christians

***"to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."***

(1 Peter 2:5).

All true Christians are in a sense a perpetual meal offering unto the Lord, that they might serve Christ and His body of believers, and to win the lost of the world for Him—

***"for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased."***

(Hebrews 13:16) †

## 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. †

was written some 200 years after the alleged events. I quickly retorted that all the Gospel accounts were indeed written by eyewitnesses who had seen and been with Jesus all throughout His three and a half years of ministry in Israel.

These eyewitness accounts agree in essential details and have proven to be admissible in any



court of law by any qualified jurist. All these accounts were written within a generation of the events themselves (covering a period of twenty to sixty years after the events). Furthermore, the risen Messiah was seen by over five hundred eyewitnesses as documented in 1 Corinthians 15:1-7. Moshe then attempted to claim that when the Messiah comes, He would come to reign over the earth. We said to Moshe that he was confusing the Second Coming for the First Coming. The Messiah had already come to suffer and die for the sins of Israel and the world. He will return in the future to Israel and establish His reign on the earth as the prophets have foretold. Paul and I alluded to Isaiah 53 as a first coming prophecy that Jesus clearly fulfilled in His sufferings and death that atoned for the sins of

Israel. Moshe said that Isaiah was speaking about Israel collectively and not Yeshua or the Messiah, which by the way, is a modern Jewish interpretation of the text to avoid the obvious reference to Jesus. But we accurately said that the majority of the ancient rabbis believed Isaiah 53 was talking about the suffering Messiah. So, therefore, the rabbinic testimony of ancient, biblical Judaism was on our side here.

We ended our friendly but spirited debate with Moshe and his wife by giving them a Messianic Jewish Gospel tract introducing the evidence from Scripture and Jewish history proving that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel. Amazingly, Moshe took it to read and thanked us for our support of the Jewish people. †

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.searchthescrituresonline.org)) and you can make the change yourself! It's that simple!



## thank you for your support

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Danites couldn't maintain control of their inheritance and voluntarily evacuated, leaving it to their enemies. They went to what is today the northern Golan Heights and conquered Leshem, renaming it Dan (Joshua 19:40-48). God had a

specific plan for His Land and His people, but the Danites chose to go against that plan and to conquer another people by the sword. It is interesting to note that John doesn't mention the tribe of Dan when describing the 144,000 sealed from the tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:4-8).

*We'll continue this article next month and look at the second example of Israel being forced out of their God-given land by Jews. ☆*



*Jerusalem neighborhood of Har Homa with the Herodian fortress in the background - considered a settlement because it is over the green line.*

## 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 Levitt - Mark Levitt - Nancy Baker - Don and Elisa Retzlaff - Greg Hartwig

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