

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 3, Number 9

September 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 4: YESHUA, THE JEW FOR ALL JEWS



Todd Baker

Returning from Qiryat Shimona in northern Israel, I decided to show Paul the ancient ruins of Capernaum where Peter and some of the apostles lived and where Jesus' home base for ministry was located. As we were leaving from there, two young Israeli women came running up to our car wanting to hitch a ride to Tabgha—the traditional place where Yeshua multiplied the five barley loaves and two fish. Both of these Jewish girls were hitchhiking (which is common among the young people in Israel proper) to visit each of the historical sites of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. This was simply amazing to hear when you sadly consider that most Jews in Israel will not visit the "holy places" where

Yeshua the Messiah taught and performed His miracles.

The two girls told us that the rabbis traditionally forbid in the strongest terms their own people from venturing to these important biblical locations. But the Ruach HaKodesh (Hebrew for the Holy Spirit) of God obviously placed the desire in the hearts of these two girls to visit these Messianic locations where Jesus walked so that Paul and I could powerfully and boldly share with them the life and message of Yeshua the Messiah. The names of the two girls were **Hadarah** and **Ortal**.

They listened as Paul and I carefully explained to them that the life of Jesus was and is supremely important for the Jewish person to know because His life and divine authority as the God of Israel in human flesh has the absolute power to change lives and determine our eternal destiny (see John 5:24-30).

Ortal and Hadarah listened but suddenly balked when we offered them a Hebrew New Testament, telling us that their rabbis prohibited them from reading it. Both girls placed a high esteem on the opinions of the rabbis who they said would determine when

the Messiah comes and who He would be. They, like so many in modern Israel, have been erroneously taught that Jesus and the New Testament is a Gentile religion that

They, like so many in modern Israel, have been erroneously taught that Jesus and the New Testament is a Gentile religion that opposes the Jewish people.

opposes the Jewish people. But we responded by pointing out that the Scriptures, not the rabbis on their own authority, is the only reliable source for identifying the Messiah. Rabbis have failed of themselves to correctly identify the true Messiah as Jewish history has shown time and time again with the recurrence of false messiahs. Two examples from ancient and



Ortal takes a picture while Todd speaks to Hadarah

Continued on page 4



Will King, Guest Author

WHAT ABOUT SAMARIA?

PART 2



Continuing from last month's article, the second example from the past of Jews being driven away from their homes by fellow Jews is more recent - the evacuation of Yamit from the Sinai in 1982. As part of their peace treaty with Egypt, Israel agreed to give the Sinai to Egypt and withdraw all military forces, bases, and settlements. The settlers of Yamit put up a great resistance to the evacuation, but in the end they were removed and the settlement razed under the direction of then Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon. As described in Genesis 15:18-21, the Sinai was encompassed in the Promised Land borders, from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates River. In the first example, Jews (the Danites) voluntarily evacuated from God's Promised Land, whereas in Yamit they were forcibly removed by fellow Jews.



Israelites were a sub-state under the control of Persia (who had conquered Babylon), and soon after came the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Moslems, and more.

The Jewish people did not gain full control and firmly plant themselves in the Land until the founding of the modern State of Israel in 1948. God blessed and protected them from their enemies, expanding their borders in 1967 to include control over all of Jerusalem (Joel 3:20), Gaza, Judea, Samaria, Sinai, and the Golan. Now more than 2700 years after Amos prophesied of it, Jews were in control of their Biblical homeland (the full Promised Land borders being still bigger), and began to build cities and agriculture, making the desert bloom.

Whether voluntarily or by force, abandoning **God's Land to God's enemies** goes against **God's plan** for His people. Amos prophesied about the upcoming Babylonian exile, and how after God then will plant His people in the Land never again to be uprooted (Amos 9:15). It is important to note that even though the Israelites returned to the Land after the Babylonian exile and rebuilt the temple under the direction of Ezra and Nehemiah, they were not fully in control of the Land. The

And here is where the political plan of disengagement comes into conflict with God's plan. The disengagement sends the wrong political message, that terrorism works and that organizations such as the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, Hizbullah, Islamic Jihad, and others should continue their fight against Israel in anticipation of even greater rewards in the future. On a broader scale, other terror groups throughout the globe will be encouraged to strike against democracies, such as what happened



Continued on page 4

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

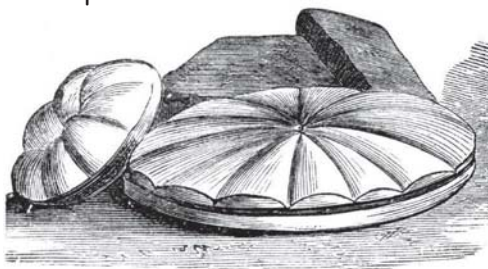
The Parable
of the Leaven
Part 4
(Matthew 13:33)



We are told in this parable that once the three measures of meal were prepared for baking, the leaven was immediately inserted into the batch of dough. In other words, something totally foreign and alien was subtly introduced. What exactly is the true intention of the leaven? Is the presence of it good or evil?

There are two basic opposite views concerning the moral meaning and practical application of the leaven in the fourth parable of Matthew 13. The first view holds that the leaven is a *good* influence, while the second view says it is *evil*. The best reliable source for finding the key to the actual moral meaning and practical application of

the leaven is found by tracing the use of it as it is consistently portrayed in the context of Scripture.



The first occurrence of leaven is found, strangely, by its obvious omission in Genesis 19:3. Here, it is used in a negative sense by the very absence of it. The passage reads that Lot baked "unleavened" bread for his angelic guests.

"And he pressed upon them greatly, and they turned in to him, and entered into his house, and he made them a feast, and did make unleavened bread, and they did eat." (Gen. 19:3)

The evident inference of Genesis 19:3 is that the visitors of Lot simply rejected anything that had to do with evil, or the resemblance of it. The two angels would not allow any corrupt, unclean elements of Sodom to enter in them, or "pass through their lips." One of the major sins for which Sodom and Gomorrah was judged by God was their superabundance of bread which later resulted in the sins of wasteful excess and gluttony (see Ezekiel 16:49). With so much at their disposal, these twin cities of iniquity did not see fit to help the poor and

needy by giving them the abundance of what they so richly had by way of food and possessions. For this particular reason, and for others, Lot's angelic visitors refrained from eating the leavened bread of Sodom and Gomorrah. But the eating of unleavened bread was an exception. They willingly chose to eat of it, since it is seen as a symbol of purity devoid of any sinful or impure content that would tend to putrefy like leaven. To do otherwise would have soiled their righteous position. ***"Be not deceived, evil communications corrupt good manners"*** (1 Corinthians 15:33).

There are two basic opposite views concerning the moral meaning and practical application of the leaven in the fourth parable of Matthew 13.

The next place where leaven is mentioned in Scripture is in Exodus 12:15-20. God commanded the Israelites, while in Egypt, to thoroughly purge all leaven from their houses on the eve of Passover. Those who foolishly disobeyed this commandment would suffer excommunication from the congregation of Israel.

"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



Continued on page 6

modern Judaism were mentioned at this point in our conversation with the two girls. Rabbi Akiva mistakenly proclaimed that Simon Bar Khocbah was the Messiah in 130 A.D. when the latter led the second and last revolt against the Roman Empire and subsequently was shamefully defeated and killed, never to rise again. In our time we have the Lubavitch movement loudly claiming that their late Rabbi Menachem Schneerson was the Messiah despite the fact that he fails to have even remotely fulfilled any Messianic prophecies of the Bible.

When we showed them from the Brit Hadashah that Yeshua was a born and bred Israeli Jew who loved Israel and its people, they were genuinely shocked. Paul and I further shared with them that God gives us free will and therefore the freedom to

choose and think for ourselves, unlike most rabbis who control and restrict their people from looking into the New Testament (written



Todd with the girls and their accepted tracts in Hebrew

from cover to cover by Jews) presentation and case for Jesus being Messiah of Israel. Besides, we further pointed out to these two

girls, if they were already visiting places Jesus went, they should logically complete the picture by reading the whole account of His living in Israel as a Torah-observant Jew.

The Holy Spirit used our simple but inescapable logic to convince these two young ladies to reconsider and read the truth about the very Jewish Jesus written by His Jewish followers in the New Testament. Consequently, they received our tracts entitled "Love The Jewish People" and also accepted, at last, a Hebrew translation of the New Testament.

Our sincere prayer is that both Ortal and Hadarah will feel compelled to read this sacred volume and come to the saving revelation God gave Peter in Matthew 16:16 when saying to Yeshua, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ✠

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. ✠

What About Samaria? Continued from page 2

in Britain and Spain, in the hopes that they too will capitulate to terror (as Spain did by removing their troops from Iraq). Terrorism requires a tough response in order to keep it in check (the Bush Doctrine), while retreats and weakness will only encourage more terror.



After the disengagement, the Palestinian terrorists will have mini-terror states in Gaza and Samaria. This terror state in northern Samaria, when added to the presence of Syrian backed Hizbullah in Lebanon and the skyrocketing Arab population in the Galilee, paints a difficult picture for Israel's security in the north. Religious and political arguments aside, the surrender of northern Samaria to the terrorists doesn't make sound military sense.

Politically, militarily, and religiously the disengagement is wrong for Israel. However, as is the case with a hot stove, sometimes the most difficult lessons are only learned through doing. What remains to be seen is just how badly Israel will be burned. ✠✠✠



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.

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!



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In This Issue:

Ambassadors of Messiah to Israel 1

What about Samaria? 2

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables 3

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables... Continued from page 3

"Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. And in the first day there shall be a holy convocation to you. No manner of work shall be done in them, except that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. And you shall observe the feast of the unleavened bread. For in the same day I have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore, shall you observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at

evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses. For whoever eats that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger, or born in the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; for in all your houses you shall eat unleavened bread" (Exodus 12:15-20).

If leaven were a symbol of good, why then was Israel strictly commanded to abstain from eating it during the Passover week? It is because leaven is used in Scripture as a symbol of impurity and evil. †

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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