

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 4, Number 1

January 2006

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

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

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

or by E-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com

To view these newsletters electronically and in color, just go to our main website (www.SearchTheScripturesOnline.org) and follow the links for the newsletter. You can sign up to receive E-mail notifications of updated newsletters, change your mailing or E-mail address, ask to be removed from our mailing list, or make a donation. Or send a note to Todd at his Email address above and we can process your request for you.

In This Issue:

<i>Drawn to Yeshua</i>	1
<i>Matt. 13 and the Prophetic Parables</i>	3
<i>Special Announcement!</i>	4

Published by Elisa Retzlaff using Adobe PageMaker
and Jasc PaintShop Pro
copyright © 2006 B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Drawn to Yeshua

A NOVEMBER 2005 MISSION UPDATE

BY ROBERT CUCCIA
guest author



“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day”

—JOHN 6:44 KJV

Why are some people drawn to God and others not? While looking squarely at the business end of both barrels of the Gospel, some people avoid the subject, growing hostile immediately, angry that you would point such a thing at them. Some evade, hoping you will miss or strike only a glancing blow and not damage their fragile world view, inwardly knowing that their self-constructed philosophy is a mere house of cards. Some are genuinely deceived, their minds being previously poisoned by doctrines of devils like Bahai and Kabbala. Then there are those who are willing to accept the medicine, but only as another “good idea”, adding it to a larger concoction that they hope will immunize them from the Judgement. Finally, there are those who realize what they are looking at and know that they must make a decision.



Recently, (Nov. 2005) Byron Zahm and I took this “Big Gun” to the streets in Jerusalem, Tiberius, and Haifa, Israel. As we search for those who are “drawn,” we try to meet them casually and naturally, avoiding some of the stereotypical street preaching that causes some to think Evangelical Christians are Meshuggeneh (Hebrew for crazy). If anything is to offend, it should be the Gospel itself and not the presentation style. Each situation is different but typically, when we find someone whom the Spirit is preparing, we are sure to mention that we love Israel and its people. Also, we believe in Israel's right to the land and her destiny as foretold by the prophets. We convey that not only does God have a plan for the nation of Israel but also for each individual who would believe in Him. A

Continued on page 4

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.



Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

The Parable
of the Leaven
Part 8
(Matthew 13:33)



"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



The leaven of Herod can really be expressed as the sin of epicurean excess. The Lord Jesus passes judicial "woes" on those who choose to liberally partake in the leaven of Herod, the leaven of rapacious materialism. ***"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep"*** (Luke 6: 25).

Behold in what manner the apostle Paul uses the type of leaven in 1 Corinthians 5:6-8: ***"Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Purge out, therefore, the old leaven, that you may become a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ***

our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Paul's reference to leaven here is a type of sin, "the leaven of malice and wickedness" in its poisonous development. Paul admonished the Corinthian church to properly discipline an erring brother who was involved in an incestuous relationship. The apostle instructed the church that such an immoral person was to be cast out of the congregation as an example to the rest of the flock, lest his sin go unpunished and others presume they can go unpunished also, if they so choose to walk in sin. If this incestuous man were to remain unpunished, then his immoral activity could have a deadly, contagious influence on the rest of the congregation. Hence, Paul commands them to purge out this unclean person from the Corinthian congregation to keep the rest of the believers free and pure from this defiling influence.

This fact deduced so clearly from Scripture, once for all, proves the normative meaning for leaven carries

negative connotations as it is used throughout the Old and New Testaments. It also conclusively proves the erroneous view of the leaven typifying something good totally incorrect. For when Paul

writes, ***"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened,"***

he clearly means that we as Christians are to allow the Holy Spirit full reign in our lives to cleanse the inner

man from any impurities so that we may be purged from its evil influences in order for the

sanctifying presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit to have full possession of our hearts and minds. And we as Christians, already cleansed, are now exhorted to walk in holiness (2 Cor. 7:1).

Obviously, Paul would not have instructed the Corinthian church to purge out anything good, but only something bad and harmful, which is portrayed as leaven depicting sin under the expressions of "malice and



The leaven
of Herod

Continued on page 6

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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!



Dr. Todd Baker

Our own **Todd Baker** has completed his candidacy for a Doctoral Degree from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England!

We at B'rit Hadashah Ministries and the Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation of Dallas, Texas, are very proud of Todd's accomplishment. He has worked extremely hard for this degree and has earned great respect.

Dr. 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 also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies and a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary.

CONGRATULATIONS TODD!!!

Drawn to Yeshua...Continued from page 1

plan of salvation and of blessing. Then we pull the trigger and give it to them. And what a plan it is: God made flesh, the Redeemer Messiah, the wall of sin broken down, the Holy Spirit residing in man. I've said it often and I'll say it again, God is a genius! Praise Him!



The reactions we get are varied as you can imagine. One of my favorites happened recently in Haifa. We were explaining to a Jewish man the Gospel. He is in his 30's and quite knowledgeable in the Scriptures. When we mentioned that Jesus was that sacrifice prophesied by Abraham (though Abraham probably didn't know the full extent or ramifications

of what he said in Gen. 22:8), and prophesied by Isaiah (Isa. 53), the man's eyes grew wide, he leaned forward in his chair and asked "do you know what you are saying"? We said "YES" most emphatically! Over the course of our conversation the lights really came on for him. Suffice it to say that we will stay in touch with our new friend. He did not give his life to the Lord just then but he seems very close and has a genuine zeal for the Scriptures, which we know must have an effect (Isa. 55:11).

A different man named Arie manages a music store in Haifa. He responded to the Gospel by asking many questions for more than two hours. We had witnessed to him a year ago and returned to water what was sown. I hold out much hope that he will be saved, as it is evident the Holy Spirit is dealing with him in a real and tangible way. Pray for these two young men!

So I ask again, why are some drawn to the Father and others seemingly not? Only God knows the whole truth on that subject. One thing is for certain though, pride and

humility are somewhere in that formula. Friends, let us endeavor to model a humble spirit and attitude when we present

*If anything is to offend,
it should be the Gospel
itself and not the
presentation style.*

the Gospel so others will witness a proper response to God's free gift of redemption.

Remember, you also hold the "Big Gun". Use it well.

† ☆ † ☆ † ☆ †

Thanks to all of you who prayed and gave financially to make this witness to the Jews possible. May the Lord richly bless you!

B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Growth in any ministry is a very important thing to happen, says Dr. 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.

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:
B'rit Hadashah Ministries.

Name: _____

Donation amount: \$ _____

Comments? Suggestions?

☐ Check this box if your address is different from that on the other side of this form and make corrections there.



Card # _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. ____/____

Name on Card: _____

Cardholder's

Signature: _____

***If donating by Credit Card, please fill out the information above.*

*** Donations are tax deductible in the U.S. as you give to this 501(c)(3) Non-profit ministry. ***



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 Dr. 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

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



January 2006 issue

PRSRT NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
DENTON TX
PERMIT NO. 11

B'rit Hadashah Ministries

P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

e-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com

Our 3 Year Anniversary Issue!!

Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

wickedness." This fact should put to rest anymore unfounded and fanciful interpretations of the leaven signifying something beneficially good in Matthew 13:33.

The final passage in the New Testament, wherein leaven is mentioned is found in Galatians 5:7-9. Paul counsels the Galatians, as he did with the Corinthians, about "evil practices." He also warned them: **"a little leaven leavens the whole lump."**

The corrupting leaven, which the Judaizers were trying to spread abroad in the Galatian church, was comparable to that of the leaven of the Pharisees—a formal, rigid observance of the Mosaic Law. According to these lethal legalists, circumcision and obedience to the ceremonial aspects of the Law of Moses were necessary requirements for salvation. They sought to alter the gospel truth by adding to it the works of the Law. This doctrinal perversion of the gospel by the Jewish legalists of Galatia was an attempt to put the children of God under the unbearable yoke of the Mosaic Law. The

adding of the Law to grace is legalism. The apostle Paul quickly shot this subversive plot down, condemning it as the leavening of the gospel.

Paul mentions three things about the malicious activity of the leaven in Galatians 5:7-8. First, Paul refers to leaven as something that hinders men **"from obeying the truth"** (Gal 5:7). Second, leaven is seen as a negative force of "persuasion," that which forcibly activates a powerful, coercive influence through strong argumentation (Gal. 5:8). Third, leaven is specifically said to be **"not from Him who calls you."** It was an invading influence foreign to the nature, purpose, and calling of God, something contrary and opposite.

Certainly, the biblical evidence from the Old and New Testaments make it quite clear that the leaven of the fourth parable of Matthew thirteen is not good, but something tremendously evil. This fact, soundly deduced from the Scriptures proves, once for all, that the normative meaning for leaven is negative and evil. †

Visit either of our websites:

www.SearchTheScripturesOnline.org

www.worshipradio.com/B'ritHadashahMinistries.htm