

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John  
5:39



Volume 4, Number 3

March 2006

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.

A NOVEMBER 2005 MISSION UPDATE, PART 3

## Drawn to Yeshua

BY BYRON ZAHM  
guest author



My recent mission to Israel has added to my appreciation for farming. As a child I grew up on a farm in Canada. For the last six years, I have lived in Minnesota where once again I am connected to farmers. In between, however, I have lived the big city life in several U.S. cities. I must confess that I love the direct access we have to farmers and their products.

I found it easier to locate fresh food products in Israel. There is the obvious difference in climatic



conditions between Israel and Minnesota (I wore shorts in Israel and was greeted by snow in MN upon my return). However, walking the streets of Jerusalem, Tiberius, Haifa or Tel Aviv is not like walking down our streets where streams of fast food restaurants make their appeal. Of course they have McDonald's, KFC and Coca-Cola, but those weren't my only options.

How refreshing it was to approach a sidewalk vendor for a cup of fresh squeezed pomegranate juice and more. Talk about fast food, how about a falafel or Schwarma? It's fast, good for you and reasonably priced. Besides, I like supporting the local guy trying to make a living rather than lining the pockets of some food industry executive in his air-conditioned penthouse. The countryside appears to be dotted with

many small family farms or cooperatives as opposed to the mega agri-businesses. I like that. I like getting to know the guy who grows the food I eat.

Now you're probably thinking what on earth has this to do with reaching the Jew first. Well, let me tell you. I did my own farming in Israel. No, I didn't buy farm land or open up a vegetable stand, but I did go about the business of sowing and watering the seed of the gospel. You could count on Robert and me getting more than our money's worth when Robert and I stopped for a meal or refreshment. The juicer got a tract, the server a good "tip" or two and the shop owner with a slow day, a friend to talk to and more than he bargained for!

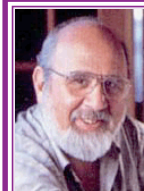
**Avi**, in Tiberius, just returned from a year hiatus in New Zealand. His first day back at the juice bar and us two guys from America are all over him. They buy and smile and all they want to talk about is Yeshua Hamaschiach. He's got a business to run and he can't just close up shop. He's just trying to get out of there or hope somebody else comes by for a sale. Finally, the hour is late and it is time to close. We exchange pleasantries, leaving him a tract.

Later in Jerusalem, as we are converging on the German Colony, I spot a health food store. In America, a store of this kind is likely home to a new age spirit. But this one seems to be different. The spirit of the place seems to be clean and wholesome, not new age. Items are pricey, but there is a stream of clients. Finally, **Odelia**, the lone employee, is free and the dialogue begins. Soon we discover that our purpose in meeting her is to water what has been sown. Apparently, a brother from the U.S. has witnessed to her of Christ. In fact she has been studying the Scriptures including the New Testament. We encourage her to continue her studies as her boyfriend arrives to find these two guys talking to his girl. It's time to bow out now, so we kindly offer her additional reading materials and ask her boyfriend to take a picture of us before we go.

In Haifa, we decide to have dinner at the Giraffe restaurant. It is not exactly kosher, but then neither is

Haifa. Our waitress, as it turns out, has done her (2 years) time in the military and has been saving up for a year of travel to South America. Part of her motivation for this trip is spiritual. I can hardly hold myself back, remembering my days of travel and pilgrimage looking for meaning and purpose in life. Our discussion continues as I relate that I have found what I was looking for and that she can have it, too. She's spending a lot of time at our table. Being sensitive to the fact that she is on the job, we ask for an opportunity to discuss these spiritual matters at another time and place. She agrees this is a good idea. We invite her and a friend to call us Thursday to make arrangements for our meeting.

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### **ZOLA LEVITT** **Announcement**

As some of you may already know, Zola Levitt has been diagnosed with lung cancer which has spread to his liver and his brain. Although he feels ready to go with the Lord at any time, many of us would like more time with him here on earth to continue to learn from him and fellowship with him.

Please lift this situation up to our Heavenly Father to ask for His blessing on all of those involved, especially Zola and his family.

<http://levitt.com/zolastatus/summary/>

# THOSE WHO DO NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY



By Aaron Levitt

*Aaron Levitt's insightful commentary on the "land for peace" fiasco between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist regime shows that once Gaza was given away that such a dangerous and unscriptural gesture merely paved the way for further territorial concessions that now involve Judea, Samaria, and parts of Jerusalem which will further endanger the citizens of Israel. God is clear in His Word that anyone who gives away His land (whether Gaza or any part of the Promised Land) by dividing it and scattering the chosen People in the process invite His sure judgment (see Joel 3:1-3). Obviously Olmert has not learned from Rabin and Sharon and is doomed to repeat recent history and suffer the punitive consequences as they did for giving parts of the Promised Land away to the enemies of God and Israel—Todd.*

**A**fter Ariel Sharon's convenience-oriented decision to give up Gaza to the Palestinians, many Believers, myself included, feared God's judgment upon the now-severely-stricken Israeli leader. Many predicted openly and with conviction that his ordering Jewish soldiers to throw their fellow Jews and law-abiding countrymen out of their homes and off of their land in order to appease mass murderers would not escape God's attention. Many of those Israelis evicted had lived in Gaza for decades, and still were, as they always had been, bravely willing to fight as needed to keep their rightful land. With the Israeli military being among the most well-trained and equipped in the world, Gaza was certainly not given up because it was indefensible against disorganized individual attackers, as many have claimed. Rather, Gaza was surrendered as a well-intentioned political tactic for which Mr. Sharon felt the time was ripe. It was done to be seen. But what Sharon failed to realize or remember – as did the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin – is that the land of Israel is not his to divide.

*"Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession"* (Genesis 48:4).

*"And I commanded you at that time, saying, **The LORD your God bath given you this land to possess it:** ye shall pass over armed before your brethren the children of Israel, all that are meet for the war"* (Deut 3:18).

Sharon himself was a very early resident of Gaza, helped found a kibbutz there, and had long pursued the expansion of its settlements. During the recent withdrawal from those same settlements which he ordered last year, he occasionally said he was saddened by the forced eviction of his fellow Israelis – reassuring us that he felt at least an inkling of the turmoil he was putting them through.

And so, many people felt God's judgment would fall upon this man, the latest of many rulers who tried to divide His land. That Sharon, ever more apparently, learned nothing from Rabin's pursuit of a similar policy, or from his subsequent death, is less

shocking than a recent series of statements made by Ehud Olmert. For this former mayor of Jerusalem can now add Sharon's name to the long list of predecessors he has not learned from. Not three weeks after Sharon's debilitating stroke and cerebral hemorrhage, Mr. Olmert, after being appointed Acting Prime Minister of Israel, stated unabashedly that Israel should prepare to give up yet more land to the Palestinians!

*"We support the establishment of a modern, democratic Palestinian state,"* Olmert said at the Herzliya Conference, which is a forum for important speeches by Israeli leaders. *"The existence of two nations, one Jewish and one Palestinian, is the full solution to the national aspirations and problems of each of the peoples."*

Unbelievable. This man thinks the full solution for peace is to invite the terrorists to move in next door. Sharon and President Bush were neck-and-neck in the race to give away Israel, but now Olmert has taken the lead; I don't want to be standing nearby when the race is over, and the Lord awards first prize. In fact, Olmert's rhetoric goes further down the land-for-peace disaster course than that of any other Israeli leader in history, for though a few have graciously allowed the discussion of a Palestinian state (which would be created out of forfeited Israeli land), none have so enthusiastically, and with such lording-over disrespect, demanded that, in essence, more Israelis must be evicted to provide more homes for those who murder them.

*"In order to ensure the existence of a Jewish national home, we will not be able to continue ruling over the territories in which the majority of the Palestinian population lives,"* Olmert said. There are two serious falsehoods in that statement. First, there *already is* a thriving, safe, and militarily-well-defended "Jewish national home", and that is the current state of Israel. Yet he speaks as if it doesn't exist yet, but will if the Jews give up

more land. (In other words, he speaks exactly like a Palestinian: "Israel does not exist, but can if it divides its land with us.") Second, he defines retainable Jewish land as "land which does not have a Palestinian population majority". (As far as I know, this is a totally brand new method for deciding ownership of land, either in Israel or anywhere in

the world.) Translated, Olmert's statement means: "All the Palestinians have to do to get more land from Israel is to live there and increase in number." That's insane. On a much smaller scale, that would be like giving over El Paso, Texas, to Mexico simply because

Hispanics are the majority there. (But Mexico at least owned and ruled that area before any European immigrants, which is more than can be said for the "Palestinians" – a people that goes all the way back to 1967 – of their claims on the land of Israel.)

So then, we have an Acting Prime Minister in Israel who speaks just like Mahmoud Abbas. Moreover, he is an Abbas who now legally presides over the people of Israel. What greater enemy could they have? Perhaps Ehud could give up his land – the seat of Prime Minister – to Abbas, as a self-sacrificial example for the rest of Israel; it probably wouldn't involve regime change! Let us hope and pray that, one way or another, Abbas – um... I mean, Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert – does not follow through on his threats. ✧



Olmert and Sharon



Rabin with Clinton and Arafat



# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable  
of the Leaven  
Part 10  
(Matthew 13:33)



Dr. Todd Baker

There is one essential feature in this parable to consider—the woman who hides the leaven in the meal. Who does this mysterious woman signify? This woman of pernicious secrecy is symbolically identified in a twofold aspect. The first distinctive mark of her identification is traditionally defined as the apostate church of Rome with her blasphemous doctrine of the Papacy that seeks to usurp the sole headship of Christ over the Church by claiming to be its visible head in the Lord's absence from earth. The act of the woman introducing leaven into the meal stands for the corrupting of God's truth by the various false doctrines of Romanism. But the Church of Rome is only one side of the coin in correctly identifying the woman of this parable. On the other side, the woman is also the apostate church, incarnate, comprised of all denominations, sects, and cults professing to be "Christian" but proven by their overall works to be otherwise. This is the second descriptive feature of the "woman", identifying her as the apostate church of Christendom inserting the poisonous leaven of untruth and deceit into the food of God's people, whereby many are deceived. All down through the present age millions of souls have been

*"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*



corrupted by her lewd religion, befouling and leavening the simplicity that is in Christ.

This infamous "woman" is none other than the spiritual adulteress of Revelation 17:5 **"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE**

**EARTH."** The seat of iniquity this impious woman of desecration holds symbolizes any political system of religion that presumes to dominate and control the international affairs of the world, seducing the rulers of the earth to commit spiritual fornication with her. **"And the woman which you saw is the great city (Rome), which reigns over the kings of the earth"** (Revelation 17:16). The Amplified Bible reads: "And the woman that you saw is the great city, which dominates and controls the rulers and leaders of the world." The woman in the fourth parable of Matthew 13 numerically corresponds with the fourth letter sent to the fourth church in the book of Revelation—the church of Thyatira (see Revelation 2:18-24). Jesus, in His letter addressed to this church, warns them of the false prophetess named after Jezebel, the notorious queen of Israel whose apostate teaching and idolatrous religion turned many aside from truth. The prophetess of Thyatira was the spiritual descendent of Queen Jezebel of 2 Kings chapter nineteen that lived some eight centuries before Christ. Thus, the woman of this parable has no doubt the demonic spirit of Jezebel working

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## About the Author

**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 holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, and he recently earned his Doctorate Degree from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England. †



Dear readers,

Our newest Gospel outreach to Israel is planned for **March 19-April 6** of this year. This year, we will have **TWO** missionary teams going to Israel. **Paul Colley** and I will be teamed up as before, and our new team will consist of **Teresa Brown and Sue LeGrand!** Our teams will conduct a witnessing campaign sharing the Gospel of Yeshua with His people. It is because of your prayers and God's will that each mission has been so amazingly successful. And this year, we look forward to being twice as successful!

Please pray for us, and pledge what financial support you can afford to underwrite some of the cost for this outreach. May God bless you as you do so in blessing the Jewish people (Genesis 12:3).

Here is a suggested prayer list to use when praying for us. As always, we will give a full report of how things go over there in future newsletters.

Your servant in the Messiah,  
Todd Baker

- ✧ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).
- ✧ Pray that we have the Father's wisdom and guidance in everything we do (Psalm 32:8; 48:14; Colossians 4:5).
- ✧ Pray for witnessing opportunities (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8).
- ✧ Pray that God will open the hearts of those who will hear (Psalm 110:3; Acts 16:14).
- ✧ Pray that God will give us the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to the Jew first and also the Gentile (Acts 4:31; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19).
- ✧ Pray for spiritual unity and agreement among us (Psalm 133:1).
- ✧ Pray for our health, protection, safety, and God's protection from the hand of the enemy, both seen and unseen (Psalm 91, Matthew 6:13).
- ✧ Pray for spiritual fruit that will last (John 15:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23).
- ✧ Pray for favor among the Chosen People as we share the Gospel with them (Proverbs 12:2).
- ✧ Pray that the Chosen People will come to faith in Messiah (Christ) Jesus (Romans 10:1; Matthew 15:16; Mark 8:27-29, 14:61-62; Luke 9:18-20; John 4:25-26). †

#### Matthew 13: Continued from page 3

through her in a deceitful and domineering manner to oppose the true doctrine of God with vilifying additions of falsehood and deception.

The Christian should beware of dogmatic feminine personalities that would unlawfully usurp authority over the man, especially in the Church. The Apostle Paul conveys such a warning found in First Timothy 2:12: **"I do not allow a woman to teach (out of turn), nor usurp authority over a man, but to be in silence."** Paul states God's designated line of authority in Christ Kingdom when


writing: **"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Therefore, as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing"** (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:24). For indeed, the woman of this parable openly defied God's



substance into the element of the meal. The chief reason for her doing this was to hasten the process of fermentation. It is highly significant to note here that women founded some of the most popular religions and cults that have corrupted the Word of God with the leaven of error and heresy. The wicked woman Semiramis invented the mystery Babylon religion.

commandment in Leviticus chapter two when she added leaven to the meal and left out the oil which the Holy Word commands to be added to the unleavened meal offering (Leviticus 2:4, 11). The woman of this parable is the sole responsible agent for introducing a forbidden

Seventh-Day Adventism received much of its doctrine from Ellen G. White. Mary Baker Eddy founded Christian Science. Modern Spiritualism got started by Margaretta and Katie Fox in 1848. Helena Blavatsky invented Theosophy. Astara (which is a blend of diluted Christianity and Eastern Mysticism) was originated by Earlyne Chaney. The co-founder and current leader of "The Church Universal and Triumphant" is Elizabeth Clare Prophet. †



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# 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:  
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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 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](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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#### Drawn to Yeshua...Continued from page 1

I wish I could say everything happened as planned. While she had expressed excitement and gratitude about the spiritual nature of our discussion, the follow up call never came. Whether she had to work after all or didn't want to meet with two strangers, we can never blame her. Now we must trust that the words we did share with her will by the spirit draw her to her Messiah. May the Ruach Ha'kodesh send her someone else, and draw her to Himself.

To travel throughout Israel, Robert and I have rented a car. It requires gas, you know, and if the pumping goes slow, you can till a bit of ground with some good spiritual dialogue. The Arab attendant

will take our shekels and an Arabic Chick Tract to give him something to think about while waiting for the next customer. Now, it's Shabbat, and no good Jew is working. However, *Asbraf*, another Arab gas station attendant just around the corner from our Jerusalem hotel, is a friendly guy. We start talking about our mission and suddenly he's swarmed with cars. We ask to come back another day and he kindly obliges.

Two days later we return to find he has an assistant and hot mud coffee on brew. He is not devout, but he admires his wife's Muslim devotion. We talk about God and His plan to demonstrate both perfect justice and mercy in his son Jesus Christ. Now, an Arab seems to understand justice well, but mercy is another matter. Nevertheless, we persist that this is in fact God's plan for mankind. Him doing for us what none of us can do

for ourselves. It makes for friendly yet lively discussion. Business continues to pick up and after several interruptions, we offer to leave an Arabic Bible and tract which he graciously accepts. We are grateful for the opportunity to be ministers of reconciliation (II Cor 5:18-6:2).

During our two weeks in Israel, Robert and I traveled through the four cities mentioned. In each we labored as farmers, knowing that if we sowed sparingly we would also reap sparingly. Wherever it was appropriate, we sowed and we watered. The day is coming when Israel will look upon Him whom they have pierced (Zech. 12:10) and know Him. Until that time we will go about the business of farming, whether it is in the city or the countryside (John 4:30-38). May God give the increase. ✠

## 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 or e-mail, addresses found above.

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