

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

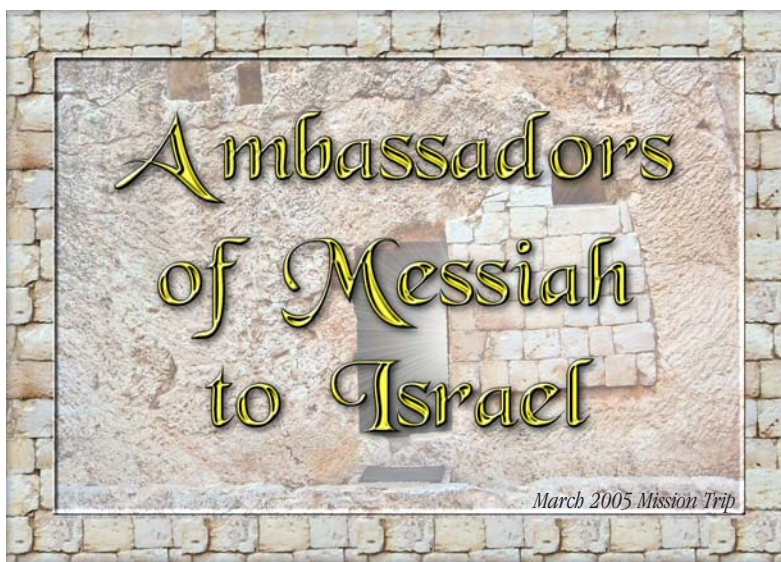


Volume 4, Number 4

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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 8: Soldiers for Messiah Jesus



While Paul and I were in Tiberius, we had a chance to stop and visit our Arab friend **Eli**—the young man Robert Cuccia and I visited and eventually led to the Lord Jesus over a year ago in Israel as previously documented in past newsletters. Eli was exceedingly glad to see us and I am further happy to report that not only did he recall the exact date of his



Todd Baker

salvation when Robert and I led him to the Lord for salvation through this outreach

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*... the Word of God is  
taking root in Eli's life  
and bearing fruit ...*

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Driving to Mount Hermon

ministry to him, but also amazingly relayed to us that he was being currently discipled by a pastor and prominent messianic leader of that area we had recommended to him a year ago. Praise the Lord Jesus; the Word of God is taking root in Eli's life and bearing fruit showing, indeed, that the work of salvation has taken a firm hold of his



life—for that is what this ministry in Israel is all about.

Every Gospel outreach I conduct in Israel, I always endeavor to take one day out to make the arduous drive to Mount Hermon to talk to the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) soldiers stationed there about the Gospel of the Jewish Messiah and to encourage them for protecting Israel's democracy against terrorist incursions from Syria and the hostile Arab nations surrounding them. The Mount Hermon range is the farthest point in the northeastern border of Israel. Mount

*Continued on page 4*



**NOW THAT'S  
A GOOD  
QUESTION!!**

**Q** Some in the Church are teaching that we are living in the Great Tribulation now as predicted in the book of Revelation. Is that true, and how can we know for sure?

**A** No, we are not in the midst of the seven-year tribulation for several reasons. First, Daniel 9:26-27 clearly states that the seven year tribulation known as the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, which consists of seventy weeks of years, cannot begin until the Anti-Christ brokers a seven year peace treaty between Israel and her enemies. This has not historically happened yet. Second, we are not presently experiencing the seven seals because the cosmic and devastating extent and nature of these judgments obviously make it plain they have yet to occur in human history. For instance, under the fourth seal, a fourth of mankind will be killed. The sheer number here exceeds more than 1.5 billion of the world's population at one time! That has yet to happen, terrorism notwithstanding. The Tribulation saints of Revelation 7, though they do not escape it, come through the Great Tribulation unscathed because they did not deny their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They were faithful to Him unto death, facing the guillotine in the process (see Revelation 13:15). Third, the disclosure of the anti-Christ and the subsequent commencement of the Tribulation period cannot begin until the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit in the Church is removed at the Rapture before God's wrath is poured out during the Tribulation period (see 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8). †

**Q** The media and the Arab world, in general, claim that the fault for the Palestinian refugee problem lies with the intransigence of Israel and their refusal to give up more land to accommodate them. Where does the fault lie?

**A** The problem of the Palestinian refugees is the clear and conspicuous fault of their Arab brethren, not Israel! When the Jews were building the young Jewish State in 1947-48, they graciously hired Palestinian laborers coming from the neighboring Arab countries around Israel like Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria to help the Israeli infrastructure.

When the Arab nations planned to invade Israel in 1948, they gave advanced warning to many of the Arab Palestinians working there to leave. Some did and some did not when war broke out. After Israel won this war, the remaining Arabs sought to return to their countries. But these nations refused their repatriation leaving them as refugees with no homeland. These refugees refused to become citizens of Israel for fear of retribution by their Arab countrymen as traitors. The refugees were rejected by Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria and were consigned to limbo in the UN-sponsored refugees camps to this day. The refugee problem is thus the sole responsibility of the Arab world and yet these duplicitous wretches use it as propaganda against the Jewish people. †

### ***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. †



# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable  
of the Leaven  
Part 11  
(Matthew 13:33)

**T**he mother of king Lemeul gave a wise and simple solution to insure safety from deceitful and manipulative women who would contaminate and twist the revealed Word of God into blasphemous lies: **"Do not give your strength to women"** (Proverbs 31:3). God commands His people to come out of the apostate church portrayed as an immoral woman in this parable of Matthew 13 and Revelation 17-18. **"Come out of her my people, that you do not become partakers of her sins, and that you did not receive any of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities"** (Revelation 18:4-5).

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***...the redeemed women  
of God certainly have a  
vital and indispensable  
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advancement of the  
Gospel.***

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The Lord in His providence did not primarily entrust his Gospel into the hands of women. There were none recorded among the Twelve, nor among the seventy whom the Lord commissioned and sent out to formally proclaim the Gospel to Israel. The preaching of the Gospel is predominately an undertaking reserved for men by God Almighty. However, the redeemed women of God certainly have a vital and indispensable part to play in the advancement of the Gospel. Their ministry will always be greatly valued by the Lord and the brethren. Indeed,

a wealthy group of women helped to support the Lord Jesus during his three-year ministry on earth (see Luke 8:3). Finally, we notice the unseemly action of the woman in the parable. Her work was one of stealth, and not an open work. She **"hid"** the leaven in the meal. The Greek word for "hid" means to conceal. This was a deliberate act conducted under the cloak of secrecy.

This secretive act speaks of the enemy, Satan, who sowed the tares among the wheat **"while men slept"** in the darkest of night. If the leaven were indeed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as most Bible expositors and commentators commonly assert, why would it be necessary to hide it?

***"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*



Jesus plainly stated that the woman **"took"** the leaven and **"hid"** it into the meal. She did not receive it. Is this the acceptable way Christ bids all his disciples to preach the Gospel? No, of course not. The Heavenly Master instructs all His followers to openly preach what they have heard and

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***Secret teaching and  
hidden apprenticeship  
walk hand in hand with  
the spreading of false  
doctrine and heresy.***

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received from His infallible Word and not to hide or disguise it in some other way or form. **"What I tell you in darkness (privately), that speak in the light (openly in public), and what you hear in the earth, preach on the housetops"** (Matthew 10:27).

Preaching the word of God in secrecy is never advised in Scripture. The exact opposite is found to be true. The Lord never timidly declared anything under the cloak of secrecy. **"I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth"** (Isaiah 45:19). In Psalm 40:9-10, the Psalmist testifies of proclaiming the word of God publicly before a great congregation of people. **"I have preached righteousness in the great congregation, lo, I have not refrained my lips. O Lord You know I have not hid Your righteousness within my heart. I have declared Your faithfulness, and Your salvation. I have not concealed Your loving kindness, and Your truth from the great congregation."**

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Hermon defines the borders between Israel and Syria. Israel defeated Syria in the Six Day War when Syria unwisely invaded



Israel without the slightest provocation along with other Arab nations for the express purpose of wiping the Jewish State off the map.



Israel defeated Syria along with the rest of the Arab invaders and captured the Golan Heights with part of Mount Hermon. Holding the Golan Heights is crucial for Israel today in that they hold the strategic high ground giving them the vantage point in defending themselves against any future attack from Syria. Before Israel acquired the Golan Heights, Syria regularly fired deadly missiles into Israel injuring

and killing Jews who were living in the lower Galilee region.

When Paul and I reached the military checkpoint leading up to the military base at the top of Mount Hermon, we were able to talk to three IDF soldiers. Two of these soldiers were both named **Alex** and Paul and I stated to both of them that



their expert skills in fighting terrorism have been an excellent form of training for the American armed forces fighting terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. We further shared with these IDF soldiers that we came to Israel to personally thank the Jewish people for obeying God's call to bring His Word and the Savior to the world. At this, the soldiers looked both startled and amazed that people like Paul and I would come to Israel and make the lengthy drive up to Mount Hermon just to share this.

We also said that in order to discharge our spiritual debt to the Jewish people, we come to Israel to give back what they have given to us—that would be the New Testament of Jesus the Messiah, the greatest Jew who ever lived. We boldly spoke to them about God's plan for them as fulfilled in Yeshua the Messiah. The soldiers gladly received a Hebrew New Testament (B'rit Hadashah) and Messianic Gospel, tracts showing how a Jewish person can receive Yeshua as the Messiah. Like the IDF, we too are on a mission as soldiers for Jesus in a spiritual army carrying His message of love back to the people and place from which it came. †



Join Dr. 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 now located at 9330 N. Central Expy, Room 101, Dallas, Texas. For more information, please visit <http://www.levitt.com/congregation.html> or call (214) 356-2583.

שלום





# 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.

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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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Likewise, did the great Apostle Paul rightfully boast: ***"For I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God... and how I kept nothing that was profitable to you, but showed you, and have taught you publicly, from house to house"*** (Acts 20:20, 27). Jesus spoke openly, for all the world to hear, and in secret, He said nothing (John 18:19-21). The Lord commands the Church in the Great Commission to preach the Gospel abroad in the entire world. ***"Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel"*** (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). The holy prophets of God are urged to lift up their voices loudly as a trumpet. ***"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgressions. Set the trumpet to your mouth"*** (Isaiah 58:1; Hosea 8:1; see also Acts 1:8;

2 Corinthians 5:20; 6:1; Ephesians 6:20)

Secret teaching and hidden apprenticeship walk hand in hand with the spreading of false doctrine and heresy. False doctrine was introduced in the early church by false brethren ***"who secretly came in unawares"*** (see Galatians 2:4). False teachers have secretly spread their "damnable heresies" throughout the Church, especially in these last days. ***"But there where false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be blasphemed"*** (2 Peter 2:1-2). †

## 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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