

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 4, Number 6

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DEBTORS OF MESSIAH TO ISRAEL PART 2

"They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings."

Romans 15:27



The store where Sandra works

At the main shopping mall in Nazareth, Paul and I stopped by an office supply store called Kravitz Office Supply that had small backpacks for sale. Paul was thinking about buying one to carry our witnessing materials in. This allowed us to share the Gospel with Sandra, the sales representative. The main focus of the conversation centered on how the God of Israel made it possible to reach out to humanity through the coming of the Messiah into the world so that all of us can have a personal relationship with Him. Sandra listened with noticeable interest. She had told us that she already had a copy of the New Testament in Hebrew and was familiar with its contents. To help her better understand Messiah in the Jewish scriptures, we gave her a list of the major prophecies about the Messiah made in the Tanach and their accurate fulfillment of them by Yeshua in the New Testament. This would allow her to analyze and compare how the life of Jesus followed and fulfilled what the prophets foretold the Messiah would do and say once He came to Israel.

After leaving that location, Paul spotted a music stand with different CDs available for purchase. Paul is a professional musician and this occupation naturally allowed him to initiate a conversation with Asaph, the owner of the music stand. Recall that it was Asaph, a prominent musician of the Levitical priesthood who lived in the days of King David, who authored eleven of the Psalms that are in the Bible (see Psalms 50, 73-83).

Continued on page 6

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.

Search the Scriptures

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

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In This Issue

Debtors of Messiah to Israel (Romans 15:27)	1
The Last Shall Be Difficult	2
Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables	3

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THE LAST SHALL BE ...DIFFICULT

by Teresa Brown,
GUEST AUTHOR

On our missionary training tour in March, one of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities to witness came on the plane flying back from Israel. On this plane full of American tourists, most of whom were on Zola's tour with us, I ended up sitting between two Jewish people. I was pretty tired so I slept, and slept some more.

About three hours before arriving at JFK, Estial (Estelle), a sweet woman from Tel Aviv, wanted to engage me in conversation. She told me she wanted to practice her English on me. We had a great time. She understood me perfectly when I talked but a few times she had to look up words in her English/Hebrew translation to communicate back. She told me about her children in New York that she was visiting and I told her about my trip to Israel. She listened when I told her that we were sent to bring the message of Messiah to her people. She asked questions with interest and I ended up giving her a B'rith Hadashah. We also exchanged phone numbers and emails so that when I come back to Israel I can get in touch with her for a visit.

During this time, the Jewish gentleman on my left also listened in and apparently didn't care for what he heard. Finally, opposition had come. Not that I had been looking forward to it, but I expected it at some point on this trip. This encounter turned out to be one of the most interesting of the journey. I was very tired, and not too sharp at this point, and this 50-something gentleman named Ivor wanted to challenge me. But the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) soon quickened my heart and my words. Ivor explained to me that he is a good person and that good people will make it to heaven on their merit. I challenged him based on the Torah that gives the requirements of the law and I asked him if he has kept them all. Then I reminded him that in this same law God requires a sacrifice for sin, but that today there are no ceremonial sacrifices being offered. So I proposed to him that either one of two things has happened. Either God Himself has provided a sacrifice once for all or He has changed His mind about sin. He asked if I was Jewish and I soon realized that I had no real credibility with him because I was a gentile. So I told Ivor the story of Harvey Chess.

Harvey is a Jewish man that I met on this tour. Harvey went to Hebrew school as a child but became a secular agnostic. About a year ago, He met a Gentile woman on a blind date. This woman was a believer in Jesus and shared the good news of the gospel with Harvey. He was of course not interested at first. He said his belief was that Catholics, Christians, and Jews were very separate and needed to remain that way. He said "I needed something tangible to believe in and a Jew becoming a Christian didn't make sense." When I asked what changed his mind, he said there were two questions that he had.

Let me just briefly mention, in order to demonstrate God's divine orchestration, that I had this conversation with Harvey standing in line at customs prior to getting on the plane in Tel Aviv. Now here I was sharing it with Ivor about 8 hours later.



Teresa Brown

I told Ivor the questions Harvey had:



- The origins of the Christian religion were Jewish. Harvey said "the first Christians were Jews. What happened?"
- The second question was that it is undisputed even among Jews that Jesus was a good teacher and a rabbi. So why are the anti-missionaries so afraid of Him, if He is only a good teacher?

In search of these answers, Harvey said he found the truth and life. There was some silence from Ivor for a minute and then he said "well that's good for you and Harvey, but not for me." He said he didn't believe that the Son of God is the only way to Heaven. I asked him if he had a son and he said he did. Knowing that Ivor can relate to the love of a father, I asked "if you were God and there was another way to Heaven, would you sacrifice your son?" He was thoughtful for a moment and didn't respond.

I tried to give him some materials to read. He told me that he could not accept them because his grandparents would "turn over in their graves." I told him that his grandparents wouldn't be giving an account for him before God one day, only he would. He said that he had made his decision long ago and he was comfortable with it. So I left him with one final thought. That is that if his decision is the wrong one, he won't know until it is too late to do anything about it. If God did sacrifice His son for him, I told Ivor "then you will have to give an account for today because, in this moment, you have an opportunity to believe." I pray that God gives him more opportunities to believe and I told him so. I told him that he will one day remember my words and see God's love for him. I could tell that he was surprised by my boldness but he didn't seem offended.

We parted on gracious terms. He was a nice man. Of all the conversations I had on this "my first missionary trip," this one felt the most productive. His words were opposing but he was more uncertain of his position at the end than at the beginning. Sometimes we are just God's chisel and the Holy Spirit the hammer chipping away one piece of stone at a time from the unbelieving heart. I believe that there is a piece of stone now missing from Ivor's heart. Only God knows how big!

Pray for Ivor, Estial and our brother Harvey. To God be the glory. ✠✠✠

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable
of the Leaven
Part 12
(Matthew 13:33)

Jude tells of those who "crept in unawares" for the destruction of the saints. **"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ"** (Jude 24). Paul wrote to Timothy of the secretive and sneaky manner in which these false teachers would come into the Church and introduce their false doctrines along with the sexual immorality they privately engaged in. **"For of this sort are they which creep into houses and lead captive silly women, laden with sins, led away with various lusts"** (2 Timothy 3:6).

The three measures of meal were not removed, or replaced with a substantial element; rather, an alien substance was secretly introduced to slowly, thoroughly, and eventually adulterate it. The Word of God is highly offensive to the carnal in heart. Subsequently, the false teachers water it down and add something else into it. They mishandle and wrest the Scriptures by disobediently presuming to take the modifying leaven of "malice" and "wickedness" and cleverly insert it into the pure food of God's people to make it appear more appetizing to the mind set on the flesh. It is to these pestilential frauds of

religion God sternly indicts, **"You offer polluted bread upon My altar, and you say, how have we polluted You? In that, you say the table of the Lord is contemptible"** (Malachi 1:7).

The alien element of leaven is busily at work today. The leaven began its fatal work of corrupt dissemination in the days our Savior spoke this parable. Several years later, the Apostle Paul further chronicled this as the **"mystery of iniquity"** already at work in the present world-system, and it shall continue to work there "until the whole be leavened" as Jesus prophetically revealed in Matthew 13:33. It is exceptionally rare in this day for the hungry child of God to find a place where he may receive pure nourishment. But God has risen up just enough places where the bread of truth and holiness are given and digested. Although, few in

number, it is enough to adequately sustain the body of Christ. As long as the Church of Jesus Christ remains on earth indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit, God's truth shall continue to be broadcasted throughout the entire world in triumphant proclamation. The Holy Spirit who indwells the Church of Jesus Christ is

presently a hindering influence staving off the whole world from being leavened with evil. This restraining power will cease at the time of the Rapture of the Church,

"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



when **"He who now restrains will be taken out of the way."** When this climactic event happens, then shall the whole world be thoroughly leavened with evil and all manner of diabolical wickedness. The salt of the earth will leave no more preventative savor, and the light of the Church will be removed as **"the night comes when no man can work."** After this occurs, universal wickedness will abound without any lawful restraint (c.f., Matthew 24:12) and then that wicked one will be revealed, who is none other than the Anti-Christ, the fermented bread of this world bringing havoc and death to whoever receives him. His hellish reign over the whole world will be suddenly terminated by the return of Christ. **"For the mystery of**

Continued on page 4



Continued from page 3

iniquity does already work. Only, He who now restrains will restrain, until He be taken out of the way. And then shall the wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the breath of His mouth, and the brightness of His coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8).

The Anti-Christ will be the direct antithesis of Jesus Christ, "the Bread come down from heaven to give life to the world." The parable of the mustard tree showed us the outward corruption of Christendom in the kingdom of heaven. The parable of the leaven shows the inward corruption of professing Christendom by the surreptitious propagation of heresy and false doctrine with other impure elements affecting it. Two phases are seen, then – the outward aspect of Christendom in its apparent failure, and the inward aspect as well.



The first two parables of Matthew 13 (the parable of the Sower, and the parable of the wheat and tares) reveal the individual aspect of professing Christendom as it is expressed in the mystery phase of the kingdom.

The last two parables (the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the leaven) reveal the corporate view of professing Christendom as it is also seen in the mystery phase of the kingdom of heaven.

The first four parables of Matthew 13 Jesus uttered were spoken to the multitude.



The last four to be considered in this expository study were spoken privately to His disciples in the house after he sent the multitude away. The first four parables of Matthew 13 predict the outward



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. †



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.

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form the kingdom of heaven would take in the present age. The last four reveal the inner reality of it, where the true nature of it is found.

The first four parables Christ spoke to the crowds emphasized the external view of the kingdom of heaven viewed by the public eye as the world sees on the outside looking in. Thus, the first four parables prophetically picture the worldly misrepresentation Christendom would take within the boundaries of the kingdom of heaven during the present age. They point to the earthly expression of it. The last four parables, yet to be examined in this study, will give an internal look at the spiritual reality of true Christianity within the kingdom of heaven from the divine perspective of Christ. They point to the heavenly expression of Christ's kingdom in its true unsullied state.

The number four in Biblical numerics is the number used to represent the world (see *Genesis 2:10; 37:9; Daniel 7:2-3; Matthew 24:31; Revelation 4:6-11; 7:9*). There are four points of the compass: north, south, east, and west. There are four seasons of the year: fall, winter, spring, and summer. The four Gospels present Jesus in a fourfold aspect:

Fall
Spring
Winter
Summer

King, Servant, Son of Man, and Son of God. Four is the number for God's creative works in their material completeness. The first four parables of Matthew 13, divided from the last four, therefore forecast the outward manifestation of the kingdom of heaven under the earthly sphere of its expression during the present age until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to separate the true from the false within it. The first four parables are the pessimistic disclosure of Christ on the unfaithfulness and failure of man to produce a church of godly content. The last four parables declare and look forward to the optimistic conclusion of the present age when Christ victoriously returns to execute the full reign of God on earth and put down all opposition from the world, the flesh, and the devil (see *Revelation 19-22*). **"For He must reign, until He has put all enemies under His feet"** (1 Corinthians 15:25). †

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.

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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) 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!

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Debtors of Messiah... Continued from page 1

Asaph was puzzled, intrigued, and overwhelmed when Paul and I told him about the deity of the Messiah. He genuinely wondered how anyone could identify the Messiah once He arrives. Paul and I shared that God established one fail-proof method so that the inquiring mind would know for sure. He gave specific prophecies in the Tanach about the way this Messiah would come and what striking things He would do once He arrived. These Messianic prophecies subsequently give predictive details about His birthplace, the ministry He would do, how He would die, and His resurrection from death. All of these key prophecies that pertain to the First Coming were historically fulfilled once in history by one man only—Jesus of Nazareth.

At this point, Asaph wanted to know why the Messiah could not come as a different person now instead of allegedly coming two thousand years ago when Yeshua lived in Israel. Our answer was simple and straight from Scripture—the book of Daniel. Paul and I related to Asaph that the prophet Daniel foretold that the second Temple would be destroyed after the Messiah came the first time (see Daniel 9: 26). Once Asaph saw and understood this prophecy, he was forced to agree on this irrefutable fact that only one person in history qualified as being the Messiah within this precise time frame fulfilling not only the prophecy in Daniel but many others in the Tanach.

The purpose for the Messiah's coming is found in the most famous verse in the New Testament—John 3:16. After I quoted this verse to Asaph, he wondered aloud how Yeshua could be the Son of God in a biological and physical way. I quoted from Psalm 2 and said from this passage that the Messiah's divine sonship is not based on a physical reproductive act between God and a woman, but that the Messiah would share in the same divine nature as Elohim in a co-existing, co-eternal, and co-equal relationship. We went on to review from the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah's birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection and how the life of Yeshua, described and documented in the New Testament, fulfilled these pivotal prophecies and thus indubitably demonstrated Him to be the very prophesied Messiah of Israel to come.

We then suggested that Asaph not take our word for it, but to study these Messianic prophecies for himself in the Tanach and their corresponding fulfillment by Yeshua in the B'rit Hadashah. To facilitate him in this effort, we offered Asaph a free copy of the New Testament in Hebrew so that he could freely search the Scriptures to discover that these amazing things are indeed true after all. He took it after much inner struggle. Now may the Holy Spirit open his eyes to the marvelous portrait painted of the Messiah found in the glorious face of Yeshua. ✠



Asaph was very interested in knowing how the true Messiah could be recognized