

#### Volume 4, Number 9

#### September 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.



"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

s Paul and I continued our walk in the Valley of Gehenna, we stopped to converse with two young Israeli women (their names were Hila and Noam). Both of them were thoroughly secular (one was an atheist, the other was an agnostic) and



politically left in their naïve solution to the Arab/Israeli *Toda Baker* conflict. Through the course of our conversation, both Hila and Noam told us their views. As we questioned the wisdom of such overly idealistic views, Paul and I patiently listened to them, even though they wrongly placed blame for the plight of the Palestinians on Israel's shoulders. One of the primary effective principles for sharing the Gospel is to first listen to the person(s) you are sharing your faith with, regardless of whether you agree with that person's philosophy or world-view. This shows that you genuinely care and respect the person you are talking with. The fact that Paul and I took a sincere interest and listened to what these two young Israeli women had to say caused them in return to listen to what we had to say about



After being heard on their views, Hila and Noam listened to Todd and Paul share the Gospel

God's plan for Israel in the context of the first and s e c o n d comings of Jesus the Messiah.

O u r discussion was initially about the historical and biblical significance of Mount Zion standing behind us. I commented to these two girls that Zion is a magnificent place of cosmic proportions, particularly in the future, and that since they have lived here all their lives they were probably accustomed to being around it. They mildly surprised us with their quick response. They both emphatically told us that it was a special place in the Old City of Jerusalem—this, even though they did not profess Judaism which holds Jerusalem as the holiest of all places in the world and the place from which the Messiah will rule the world.

Their acknowledgment that Jerusalem was unique allowed me and Paul, by the Spirit of God, to discuss at length with them the prophetic importance of Mount Zion being the future place where the returning Messiah Yeshua Ben Elohim (Jesus the Son of God) will establish His universal and utopian reign over all the earth (*Psalm 2; Isaiah 2, 25*). Paul and I then outlined what the God of Israel has predicted would happen to Israel during the period between the first and second advents of Messiah Jesus.

Both Hila and Noam were obviously open and listened with noted interest. They received further evidence for the Messiahship of Jesus by accepting a Hebrew New Testament and an accompanying pamphlet listing all the major Messianic prophecies Jesus fulfilled as Israel's one and only true Messiah.

After we parted company with these two ladies, Paul and I walked through what is called *David's Village*—an expensive array of apartments and condominiums starting at a price tag of one million dollars. This palatial community is located next to the Old City of Jerusalem near the Jaffa Gate. There we stopped to talk and witness to the security guard at his station. The man's name was Yosi. He was eager to hear about God's love for him as revealed in the Messiah's first coming to die for us that we might be forgiven and live forever with the God of Israel. Yosi eagerly accepted a B'rit Hadashah (Hebrew New Testament) with Gospel literature to learn more about this great Savior, born a Jew in the land of Israel, sent from heaven to bring Yosi home to the heavenly Father.

## About the Author

Dr. Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas. He has been a chaplain at Medical City Hospital for over a decade. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England. He is a theological consultant and writer for Zola Levitt Ministries and has appeared on Zola Levitt Presents. With his extensive experience in Jewish evangelism, he has led several Gospel outreaches to Israel.  $\hat{T}$ 





BY STUART ARDEN Israeli Correspondent

In this article, our man in Israel, Stuart Arden, gives his prescient and accurate analysis of why Israel sadly did not achieve their objectives in the current war with Lebanon, namely the destruction and disarming of the terrorist organization Hizballah. The fragile UN "cease-fire" deal brokered between Israel and Hizballah is nothing more than a Paper Tiger that will not permanently solve the problem. It will be only a matter of time (sooner rather than later) before the region erupts again into war simply because terrorist organizations like Hizballah, whose sole purpose for their existence is the destruction of the Jewish State, cannot rest. Nothing less will satisfy such Islamic fascists. All of this is leading to the events of the seven year tribulation prophesied in Scripture (Daniel 9:26-27) which will culminate in the return of the Messiah to destroy the anti-semitic alliance of nations who will in vain seek to invade the land of Israel to destroy and dispossess the Jewish people from the land (see Zechariah 10-14).

srael's two main objectives in Lebanon were not met: the stopping of Hizballah's rocketing of Israel, and the return of two kidnapped soldiers (and the same holds true for the confrontation with Hamas!). A cease-fire agreement approved by a 15-0 vote at the UNSC has been agreed upon by all the relevant parties: the terrorist-Hizballah, the puppet-government of Lebanon, and the apparently inept government of Israel. Clauses in the agreement make it clear that Israel is the "loser:" There is no criticism of Iran and Syria, nor any concrete steps to stop them from rearming Hizballah and continuing to use it as their proxy against Israel; the Shaaba Farms, clearly delineated by the UN in 2000 as a part of Syria, and which formed the pretext for *Hizballah's* aggression. against Israel is now open for negotiation, presumably with Hizballah; the dismantling of Hizballah which had been an aim of Israel's, is now "put off" for the future; the deployment of the Lebanese Army will now take place simultaneously with the withdrawal of the IDF whereas Israel had previously said it would not withdraw until the Lebanese Army was in-place; Compliance with the terms of the cease-fire is in the hands of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan whose siding with the radical Islamic bloc in the UN should be obvious by now. Nevertheless, there are those who say that the status of Hizballah, and its sponsor, Iran, has been seriously damaged; even though they appear to be Arab heroes at this time. The daily loss of Israeli soldiers in Lebanon is paralleled by the ongoing loss of American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and as with Israel's woes in Lebanon, America has been completely unable to democratize and pacify those two countries. Nasrallah's supporters shout, "We defeated America, we defeated Israel," and the Mahdi Army, led by Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr may now be emboldened to increase terrorism and violence in Iraq.

### Search the Scriptures This publication is a monthly newsletter of B'rit Hadashah

This publication is a monthly newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries. For more information about our ministry, or to be added to our subscription list, you may contact Elisa at: elisar@cebridge.net.

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The common perception is that Gaza is an Arab "fiefdom," but Abraham and his son Isaac resided in Gerar in the "Gaza Strip" (Genesis 20:1). While Moslems attempt to appropriate "Ibrahim" as their own, they ignore Isaac, and Isaac is proof that the future Israelites were in Gaza two millennia before the Moslem conquest; Gaza was also the chief Jewish port in the 4th century, three centuries before the Moslems. Gaza was one of five cities attributed to the ancient Philistines, who were finally defeated by Jonathan the Hasmonean, the brother of Judah the Maccabee in 145 b.c.e., and there are ruins of an ancient synagogue in Gaza dated 500 c.e. Israelites (or Jews) have been expelled from Gaza seven times: the first time was under the Roman Emperor Gavinius in 61 c.e., then came expulsions by the Crusaders, Napoleon, and the Ottoman Turks; there was a vibrant Jewish community in Gaza during the 19th and early 20th century but Arab rioters spurred on by the notorious Mufti, Haji Amin al-Husseini caused their expulsion in 1929 (actually the British prohibited Jews from living in Gaza, another of their Arab appeasement plans!), then by the Egyptian army in 1948, and finally as a result of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "disengagement" plan in 2005.

What are the consequences of Sharon's action? First there was the frenzied destruction of synagogues and any Jewish remnants, in complete contrast to Muslim shrines left untouched by the Israelis (the Hurva synagogue in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century was destroyed by the Jordanians in 1948 whereas when the Israelis got back the Old City in 1967, they never even touched the minaret next to the ruins of the Hurva synagogue!). Then the greenhouses that had been used to produce high-quality, bug-free organic produce (and could have provided the so-called Palestinians with a means of survival), were ransacked and mostly destroyed. "Survival is the first law of nature," but with the Arabs I guess destroying any traces of your adversary takes precedence over self-survival (and that applies to homicide bombers also); and that brings me to my third point, that the former Israeli settlements and their destroyed greenhouses were turned into terrorist bases and camps for on-going attacks against Israel.

The aftermath of the Israeli expulsion of their fellow-Jews and gifting the Arabs with a Judenrein Gaza had no effect on lessening terrorist activities against Israel because the Arabs viewed this piece of appeasement as a victory for terror, thereby spurring them onward in their desire to destroy Israel completely. After the stunning Hamas victory in the general election of 25 January 2006 (a terrible psychological blow to President George W. Bush who naively thought that only "nice guys" win democratic elections) and the installation of Hamasnik Ismail Haniyeh as Prime Minister of the "Palestinian Authority," terror increased dramatically. Israeli villages, kibbutzim and the city of Sderot (and others) were hit by three or more Qassam rockets every day. Israeli artillery, naval gunboats, air force sorties and targeted killings attempted to stop the Qassams, but then on 26 June 2006 a Hamas gang tunneled under the border between Gaza and Israel, attacked an Israeli military base and kidnapped Gilad Shalit (also wounding four and killing two other soldiers). The Israeli army (IDF) sent troops and armor into Gaza in order to seal the border with the Egyptian Sinai so that Shalit couldn't be spirited away, and to take more decisive action against the daily rocket attacks on its civilian population. Would any civilized nation allow daily rocket attacks on its internationally-recognized land and on its civilians Continued on page 4



The Parable of Hidden Treasure Part 2 (Matthew 13:44)

•hrist spoke the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl ✓of great price to bolster His disciples' faith in the victorious kingdom of God. The parable of the hidden treasure is located in the Gospel of Matthew alone. The other three Gospel accounts do not mention it. This is no accident because the Gospel of Matthew is a book written exclusively for a Jewish audience. And since the Gospel of Matthew is primarily aimed at the Jewish people, so too does the parable of the hidden treasure point directly to the nation of Israel in her past, present, and future state as the earthly elect people of God.

The field that was purchased is not the Gospel or the Scriptures, as the common interpretations claim; but, according to Jesus, is the world (Matthew 13:38). The man that bought the field is the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, Who came down from heaven and gave up all He had to redeem the world "that we through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). The highly esteemed man who found the hidden treasure hid it again and sold all he had to buy the field where the treasure was hidden.

First, let us examine each clause of action associated with each symbol before giving a final interpretation of the parable. The first symbol to be interpreted is the treasure. If the reader will turn back to the sacred pages of the Old Testament, and allow Scripture to interpret Scripture, the identity of the treasure becomes quite obvious in the context of *Matthew* 13:44. The hid treasure is none other than Israel. God spoke of Israel on Mount Sinai as His "peculiar treasure." "Now therefore if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a <u>peculiar treasure</u> to Me above all people, for the earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:5). In Psalm 135:4, we also read "For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, and Israel for His <u>peculiar treasure</u>." These two passages from the Old Testament make no reference at all to the Church of the present age as being God's "peculiar treasure" on earth. Nowhere in the New Testament is the word "treasure" applied to mean the Church of Jesus Christ.

Why then was Israel God's peculiar treasure on earth? There are several reasons from the Scriptures why this is so. The first and primary reason is found in God's special call to Abraham—the Semite from Ur of the Chaldees. "Now the Lord said to Abram, get out of your country and from your kindred and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and will curse those who curse you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3)

God supernaturally called Abraham to be a patriarchal progenitor from

which He would birth the great and mighty nation of Israel. Hence, the Jewish people were to be born out of the designated "seed" of Abraham. In the days of Abraham, the nations of the world were heavily steeped in the idolatrous religions of animism, polytheism, and pantheism.

Yet, Abraham and his descendants through Isaac (the Jews) were the only unique people in the ancient world "Again the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hid in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

- Matthew 13:44



famous for firmly believing in the unity and oneness of God. The Jews were the first to teach monotheism on a large scale to the world. They reverently recite the declaration of the Jewish faith in one God in the *Shema* as found in Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord."

The next major reason God esteemed Israel as His prized treasure is that they were chosen of Him to be the writers, preservers, and transmitters of His inerrant Word, the Holy Scriptures. As the repository of the Word of the Lord, they were called of God to be His light among the Gentile nations. "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people as a light to the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6). To the Jewish people, God committed His oracles for universal proclamation and publication (Romans 3:2).

and not take action? Add to this the kidnapping of one of its soldiers (to be used as ransom in freeing convicted terrorists and murderers incarcerated in Israeli jails). Would the United States accept a kidnapping of one of its soldiers to be used as ransom in freeing Gitmo detainees?!

It is known that movie stars relish any kind of publicity ("Just so long as they spell my name correctly!"), but Arab terrorists have pushed this axiom to an extreme. Whenever a terrorist incident happens in Israel, at least two different groups claim responsibility, and apparently Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the head of Hizballah

(in Lebanon) thought he would do an "upmanship" on the Hamas kidnapping of an Israeli soldier which had occurred two weeks earlier. So, on 12 July 2006, Hizballah took advantage of a lessened Israeli state of alert, crossed the international border. attacked an Israeli Humvee patrolling near Moshav Zarit, and eventually killed eight Israeli soldiers and kidnapped Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser.

It is probably no coincidence that Nasrallah's deadly gambit occurred on 12 July, the same date that the G8 meeting was to have considered Iran's nuclear program, thereby deflecting any motions against Iran (at their benefactor's behest?). Syria's complicity is related to the assassination of former two-time Lebanese Prime Minister Rafig Hariri on 14 February 2005 for which the U.N. has implicated Syria (as well as Lebanese security officials), and any delay in that investigation, is clearly to Syria's liking. In the Iran-Irag War of 1980-1988 Syria sided with Iran and ever since then has been a conduit for Iranian weapons destined for Hizballah. Iran and Syria support Hizballah because of their shared hostility toward Israel, and Iran and Hizballah are also co-religionists, Shiites in a largely Sunni (Muslim) world.

An incident in Gaza and in Lebanon unjustly and dishonestly tarnished Israel's image. On 30 September 2000, during the Second Intifada, in Gaza, a boy named Mohammed al-Dura was killed as he and his father were caught in a crossfire between "Palestinians" and Israelis. The photos of the young boy lying on his father's lap, looking every bit like Michelangelo's Pieta in St. Peter's, Vatican City, were flashed around the world evoking sympathy for the boy and his father, and damaging Israel's image. However, there was no autopsy, no forensic research, and the German television channel ARD said al-Dura was probably shot by the "Palestinians" themselves. Qana, Lebanon, is a village which has tragic memories for Lebanese and haunting memories for Israelis. In 1996, Israel was forced to curtail a previous incursion into Lebanon against Hizballah after Israeli artillery had killed more than 100 people in Qana. Israel fired the shells, so they're responsible, however, isn't Lebanon itself ultimately responsible for allowing an organization on its soil to perpetrate acts of

terror against another sovereign nation?! In the recent confrontation, an Israeli missile hit a building causing civilian casualties on 30 July 2006. Hizballah gave a figure of 56 dead, but the Red Cross and Human Rights Watch said that the actual count was 28 civilians killed. Once again there was a cause celebre to push for an immediate cease-fire so that terrorists and their infrastructure remain intact. Israeli officials

expressed heartfelt regret over the incident, but have also said that Israel has a videotape of men carrying rockets and rocket launchers into that building; also, residents of the village were informed in advance that the village was being targeted, and most provocative of all is that the building in-question didn't collapse until 6-8 hours afterwards; was this due to explosions caused by what was being stored in that building, or could it be an unmentionable cynical use of human beings by the Hizballah themselves? This tragic event occurred because of the usual Arab-terrorist battle plan: Stockpiling weapons in civilian enclaves and firing mortars and rockets from there ("human shields"), as well as positioning themselves alongside U.N. posts. Go to www.hyscience.com/archives/2006/07/ video shows hez.php for a video of the Israeli Air Force "hitting" a Katyusha launcher,



amidst private homes, similar to this picture, and think of the collateral damage that might be trumpeted to the Katyusha launcher world as Israeli "war

crimes." "War crimes?" What are Hizballah's rocket firings on noncombatants and cities in Israel?! See: 4th Geneva Convention, Protocol 1, Article 58.

Israel's longest and least troublesome border is with eastern Palestine (Jordan). In the 1960s, an organization on Jordan's soil committed terrorist acts against Israel (and even attempted to takeover Jordan): Jordan's reaction was to send its army against these perpetrators (the PLO) and drive them completely out of Jordan in 1970. By failing to stop Hizballah's actions, the Lebanese government is ultimately responsible for any actions by the aggrieved party (Israel) in responding to the unprovoked terrorism of Hizballah.

On 9 August, the Israeli Cabinet approved a huge incursion into Lebanon aiming for the Litani River, 30 km. north of Israel. Nevertheless, Israel's Prime Minister vacillated while the UN "debating society" arranged a cease-fire plan to "snatch defeat from the jaws of victory!" On 11 August, the go-ahead for the incursion was belatedly given. If pursued fully, this would have been the "make or break" operation for both Hizballah and the IDF, but that's now moot. Go to www.video.exposetheleft.net/video/brigittegabriel.wmv to get a Lebanese Christian woman's "take" on Hizballah and Lebanon.

The "security zone" idea was tried before (unsuccessfully!) with UN unarmed "peacekeepers." Hizballah was able to amass its massive arsenal while UNIFIL remained oblivious; and much earlier, PLO terror schools were established under UNRWA's administration in Judea and Samaria. In the most damning indictment of the worthlessness of UNIFIL, three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped by Hizballah on 7 October 2000. Relevant information was videotaped by Indian soldiers of UNIFIL but no attempt to interfere was made; at first the UN denied the existence of the video but later relented, let Israel see the video, but the faces of the perpetrators had been blurred-out. An international force, no matter what its "alphabet soup" initialism will be, is not going to go head to head against terrorists, no matter whom they are, nor attempt to chase them down after their terrorist acts: nor will the Lebanese Army do so if they are ever deployed in south Lebanon, and Hizballah has already stated (after the cease-fire) that they will not disarm. Furthermore, they are flowing into southern Lebanon with the tide of returning refugees, so it's only a matter of time before a new war will have to be fought in Lebanon. Finally, while hundreds of rockets per day were raining down on Israel's northern communities, and the IDF was attempting to push *Hizballah* back from its border, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said he still intends to pursue his "convergence" plan for Judea and Samaria, suicidally bringing "Palestinian" terrorists with Qassam rockets and mortars closer to Israel's population centers.



The UN and Hezbollah flags fly side by side at UN observer post in Lebanon

# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

## artheta Partner With Us arphi

This is a humble but effective ministry whose goal is to raise support for missionary trips to Israel and to raise awareness in America about God's preeminent call to take the Gospel to the Jews - Romans 1:16.

Because of the support of our faithful partners, there is a young Jewish woman attending a university in Jerusalem who now has a B'rit Hadashah (New Testament in Hebrew), and IDF soldiers in Haifa who can read that the Messiah Yeshua has come to bring hope and peace to their souls. Your donations have changed the life of an Arab shop keeper in

Make checks and money orders payable to: B'rit Hadashah Ministries PO Box 796127 Dallas,TX 75379-6127 Tiberias who has accepted Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior.

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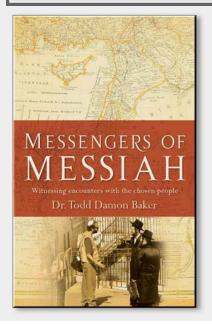
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## thank you for your support

# Watch for Todd's upcoming book to be released this Fall.



There is something subtle going on in the Middle East that is foretold in Scripture. It is a bookmark of the end of the age. Those who know the Word of God can see prophecy being played out and fulfilled in our newspapers and on TV. But underneath the media's deluge of coverage of the Holy Land crisis, God is raising up watchmen to the house of Israel...

### Isaiah 62:6-7

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem: They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the Earth.

In an age of mega-Church and high-profile ministry, this book chronicles the heart and soul of a humble ministry that is reaching out one-on-one, on the streets of Israel, to prepare the Jews for the return of the Messiah, Yeshua. Much like John the Baptist who personally prepared them for the Messiah's first coming to Israel, Todd Baker and his team are one group of Watchmen called "*to make ready a people prepared for the Lord*" (Luke 1:17).

John 5:39 earch the so A

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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To schedule Dr. Toda Baker to speak at your Sunday School class or congregation, please contact Teresa Brown at (940) 367-7939, or email at BHMEngagements@gmail.com.

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## **UPCOMING MESSAGES**

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The Covenant Names of God
The Feast of Trumpets and
Rosh Hashannah
Yom Kippur—The Day of Atonement
The Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles)

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