

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 4, Number 11

November 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.

On our second day in Jerusalem, Paul and I went to the Kotel (the Western Wall). The Kotel is considered the holiest site in Judaism. On our way, we stopped at a souvenir shop in the Armenian quarter of the Old City to visit the congenial owner George, *Todd Baker* whom I have known from prior trips to Israel. George is an Armenian believer in Jesus who is strong and vocal about his faith.



When we arrived, George warmly greeted us and introduced us to his friend, Eli. Eli was a Jewish man who told us that he was descended from the Kohenim (the Levitical priests from the tribe of Levi). He further shared with us his spiritual journey in and out of Jewish orthodoxy. The Lord allowed us to candidly share with Eli the wonderful reality that the Jewish Messiah has already come and is soon to return. The evidence that the Messiah has already come is proven by the many fulfilled Messianic prophecies that found their literal and historical fulfillment in the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Yeshua of Nazareth.

At this point in the conversation, Eli recalled that his name in Hebrew reminded him of the opening verse of Psalm 22, which says, *"My God,*



Todd shares with Eli while George strums in the background

*My God, why have You forgotten me."*

In Hebrew or Aramaic, the verse reads, "Eli, Eli lama sabachthani." Eli in Hebrew means, "My God." I excitedly told Eli that

Psalm 22 was a Messianic Psalm quoted by Yeshua on the cross (Matthew 27:46). Psalm 22, which has been popularly called "The Psalm of the Cross," predicted in detail the type of death the Messiah would suffer. The Psalm clearly speaks of Jesus as the atoning Messiah crucified for our sins. I quoted Psalm 22:16 (*"They have pierced My hands and feet"*) to drive home the point that Jesus' crucifixion was being alluded to here in this verse and was foretold by King David some 1,000 years before Jesus was born!

Eli was noticeably intrigued at all this. Paul and I were able to give him a list of these prophecies found in the Tenach that were fulfilled in the life of Yeshua. To that end, he gladly accepted a Hebrew New Testament for further study. Eli told us he was going to start reading it right away!

At the Western Wall, the Lord opened to us more witnessing opportunities for Yeshua. By the providence of God, Paul and I were able

## DEBTORS OF MESSIAH TO ISRAEL PART 7

*"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

to share with a few of the Orthodox Jews. We identified Yeshua as the Messiah and spoke of the return of the Jews to the land of Israel to be reunited with this returning Messiah. We gave them Messianic Gospel tracts.



At the synagogue adjacent to the Western Wall, we placed some Hebrew New Testaments on the bookshelves. As we were leaving, Paul ran into a young Rabbi whose name was Yoshi. Paul told him that we love the Jewish people, that our hearts are with them, and that God has not forsaken them (Romans 11:1-2). Paul was able to share Yeshua the Messiah with him by giving him a Gospel tract. The Rabbi told Paul that he worked for an organization that helps poor Jewish families in Jerusalem. Paul quoted Psalm 37:25 to encourage Yoshi that God will provide all his needs and Paul gave him a donation to help him along. ✞



Paul shares a tract containing the message of Yeshua with a young Rabbi named Yoshi

# American V I P ( Vision Impaired People )



BY TERESA BROWN  
GUEST AUTHOR

*There is a barrage of criticism both from the Left and from the Right concerning the war in Iraq, Teresa Brown makes a compelling and pragmatic case for why America must stay the course in Iraq. How we fare in Iraq will set the course for how this nation will either fail or succeed in the ongoing war with Islamic terrorism abroad. If we cut and run there, then this will undoubtedly embolden the terrorists to commit more terrorism elsewhere. This has already been proven with Israel to a certain extent when Olmert and company did not finish the job in Lebanon with the complete annihilation of Hezbollah. Appeasement and retreat are simply not options when dealing with such a determined enemy, whether in Iraq or anywhere else. Nothing short of victory will suffice and we must be willing to pay the price to insure that freedom-loving democracies can continue in the Middle East and throughout the world. Brown's article makes the point that sometimes war is a necessary and just thing, especially as it relates to the War on Terror. It is to be confronted if democracy is to have a future—Todd.*

**H**ave you ever been uncertain of where you stand on a particular issue until one day something is said or done that clearly defines for you the truth? I recently had such an experience regarding the war in Iraq. I have listened, I think objectively, to the criticisms and to the explanations on both sides for and against our occupation in Iraq. I have vacillated from time to time as I drink in the news coverage and listen to all the political commentaries. Clearly there are unresolved problems and great challenges that we are facing there. It has been a difficult and costly mission. But that is all the more reason why we need to believe that our American men and women are risking their lives for a purpose, a future free from terrorism.

About a month ago, I met a young American soldier who had just returned from Iraq. I'm a realtor and was showing him a house because he and his new bride (whom he met while they were both deployed in Bagdad) want to settle down and have a baby. Her unit is scheduled to return to Iraq around the first of the year so their baby plans are being postponed for now. We ended up talking for hours and his stories disturbed me deeply. I could not fathom some of the experiences this 26 year old was describing to me. I couldn't imagine it but I could see the horror of it come across his face as he explained how difficult it is to clean up the mess of a human being after a missile head penetrates and explodes inside a humvee. I asked him if he believes in God and his answer was an interesting one. He said, "I do now." What is it inside a young man that would make him believe in a good and Holy God amidst the evil and unspeakable violence of war? I believe it is that strange heavenly gift described in Hebrews that appropriately appears when it's most needed. "***Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not***

*seen*" (Hebrews 11:1). What are we all hoping for with Iraq? Is it simply that it won't all be in vain?

I was troubled for many days about the conversation I had with this young man. His first hand account caused me to question my support for this war. I was and am grieved at the suffering and sacrifice that our young Americans are facing over there. In the clutches of my own emotion, I got angry at our government and began to question God. I felt bombarded everyday from every direction in the media about how wrong this war is and how we need to get out. But in the midst of all of this, God began to show me that sometimes we, especially spoiled and pampered Americans, lose sight of the vision when suffering is involved. Why do we struggle to understand the concept of suffering as a means to an end? Why do we think that if something isn't clean and tidy, it has to be wrong? Then it began to occur to me how easily we forget from where we have come!

What was the cost for the birth of our own nation? And as we look back at a civil war that tore us apart, for a time, wasn't it a necessary war for our society to be freed from the oppression of slavery? It started with Lincoln's vision, but was slavery completely abolished at the end of the civil war?

No, it took generations. Iraq is a work in progress and history has proven time and again that this kind of progress cannot be measured in days or even years, but in generations. The generation of Israelites that were led out of Egypt were the fathers of those who entered the Promised Land. Abraham was given the promise, but his grandson became the father of the tribes of Israel. It seems that Americans have lost the ability to keep the vision of freedom in their scope

while Muslim extremists not only are willing to die for, but also train and sacrifice their children for, their cause. Why can't Americans unite like that?! Why isn't Cindy Sheehan on trial for treason? Because Americans are vision impaired and spoon fed by the liberal media.

I am frustrated at the constant anti-Bush and anti-war protesting. What a nightmare for the families of our troops who have to face this media barrage everyday knowing that their child, brother, sister, husband or wife may never come home and for what? I want to scream from the roof tops... "America get behind your government, get behind your troops! Wake up from your own fascist liberal slumber and get the vision. A future free from terrorism has to start somewhere. Why not Iraq? The alternative is to pull out and give Iran the green light to build up another terrorist infrastructure from which to carry out future plans for the destruction of Israel and America.



*Continued on page 4*



# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of  
Hidden Treasure  
Part 4  
(Matthew 13:44)

Jacob was exiled in the desert of Padan-Aram some twenty years where he worked for his miserly and ill-mannered Gentile uncle Laban. Among the sons of men, who would have ever thought the conniving supplanter Jacob, an aimless nomad of the wilderness, would one day be a royal prince to God, having the name Israel? Based on his scheming character, Jacob certainly showed no outward indication of being a chosen person greatly esteemed by the Lord. Better yet, look at the earthly life of Joseph. Joseph was despised by his eleven brothers, but highly beloved of his father Jacob. Out of envy and contempt, his brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt, hidden away. Later,



after being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, he was forsaken and thrown into prison. There for two long trying years Joseph remained secluded and imprisoned in absolute obscurity. Who would have believed that Joseph, a man apparently forsaken and cast away as a good-for-nothing criminal, would be delivered from the dungeon and placed as co-regent with Pharaoh on the throne of Egypt? Joseph, like the nation Israel, was a precious vessel temporarily hidden but later to be revealed and used mightily by God.

The Patriarchs of Israel were all like a hidden treasure among the multitudes of the heathen world with apparently no outward hint of divine favor, prestige, or great importance. This is where the history of Israel

began, and that is where this parable begins. While in Egypt, Israel existed in a concealed and mundane condition, but in spite of this, God foresaw the special value and redemptive impact they would have on the world through Jesus the Messiah. For this preeminent reason, the Lord saw Israel as His treasure valued above all other people on the earth. ***"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a peculiar treasure to Him, above all people that are upon the face of the earth"*** (Deuteronomy 7:6). Four hundred years after Jacob and his family migrated to Egypt to be with Joseph, the children of Israel multiplied into a community of about three million or so people. What condition were they to be discovered in? For over three hundred years, they were slaves of the cruel despotic Pharaohs. During these long agonizing years of bondage, the children of Israel were reduced to the inhumane level of slavery under the stinging whips of Pharaoh's taskmasters. While in this ignominious state, nothing marked them as the noble, renowned, and distinct people chosen by God to be His nation of kings and priests. To Pharaoh, the Hebrew slaves were a lowly but necessary cogwheel in the Egyptian work industry. But in the Lord's foreknowledge, they were a hidden treasure ready to be revealed in the fullness of time. This came to pass when the Lord powerfully sent forth Moses the great deliverer to bring them out of Egypt by God's high calling to be His holy and superior nation over all nations (Deuteronomy 14:2).

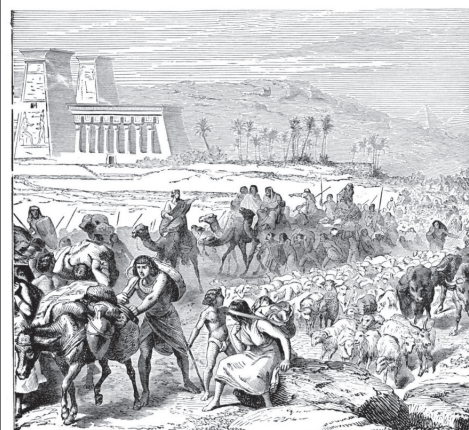
Israel's exodus from Egypt led to the Promised Land and the Lord called them a "holy people," a "peculiar treasure" above all the nations of the earth. They began as an obscure and hidden nation, tiny and unnoticed among the millions of Gentile inhabitants of the ancient world. But

***"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



God brought them out of virtual obscurity to attain spiritual and political supremacy. This happened particularly under the reigns of King David and King Solomon but later went into decline. As Israel dwelt securely in the land God gave to them, they fell away and forsook Him and failed to keep His law. In return, the Lord persistently reminded the disobedient people of how He brought




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In scripture, Nehemiah stands out because he had a vision. But he needed his people to get behind him, to work together with him and when the enemy rose up and tried to thwart the Jews' efforts to rebuild the wall, they didn't let up or allow themselves to be distracted from their vision. Instead they armed themselves with one hand, and with the other, continued to work toward accomplishing the goal.



I think that Americans' response to all who oppose this war should be like Nehemiah's response to those opposed to his efforts in his day, "*I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?*"

(Nehemiah 6:3). The enemy is trying to thwart our efforts to overcome this evil in our world. His tools are strife, division and confusion. I was almost deceived by it all. But I see clearly that if we don't begin to mend our differences and stand together, we won't have to worry about the terrorists' threats to our beloved country. We will implode from within. As Jesus has said, "*a house divided against itself cannot stand.*" 

Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

them up from a small and humble beginning (Hosea 11:1-4). He exhumed them out of the terrible pit of slavery, misery, and abject humiliation and sculpted them into a great nation by His mighty hand. Like a long forgotten treasure, God reminded them of their past in this way when He said: ***"Listen to me, you who follow after righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were cut, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug"*** (Isaiah 51:1). With long suffering mercy, the gracious God of Israel unconditionally extended His outstretched arms of love to Israel at a time when the nation was in their infancy weaned from the bondage of Egyptian slavery. In the wilderness, the Lord taught them to be dependent on Him for everything. As a mother that cherishes her dear baby, God met their every need. But, alas, Israel stubbornly walked after the lustful ways of

their own hearts and turned to serve other gods of wood and stone.

The nation's irreverent expression of ingratitude toward the Lord was amazingly met over and over again with His compassion and mercy. Nowhere is this better found than in the pages of the prophet Hosea. ***"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son...I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I drew them with gentle cords with bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them...and My people are bent on backsliding from Me"*** (Hosea 11:1-3, 4,7). This passage is a beautiful testimony of God's immutable love for Israel from the very beginning, and shows that they truly are God's treasure. ✨

## 2007 MISSION TRIP TO ISRAEL PLANNED FOR MARCH

It's that time of year again when we start preparing for our Gospel Outreach to Israel which is the heart and soul of this ministry. We are excited about the team that God has brought together for this year's mission: Robert Cuccia, Kenny Gee, Teresa Brown, Sue LeGrand and, of course, Dr. Todd Baker.

We invite you, our friends and partners, to intercede with us and for us in the month of November as we begin to prepare and seek God's will and blessing for this next powerful outreach. Also, watch for an opportunity in January's newsletter to be a part of this 2007 mission by purchasing tracts and Bibles for us to take to the people on your behalf. What a way to show your love for the Jewish people, by giving them the words of life.





# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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*This is a humble but effective ministry whose goal is to bring the gospel of Yeshua to Israel and to raise awareness in America about God's preminent 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*

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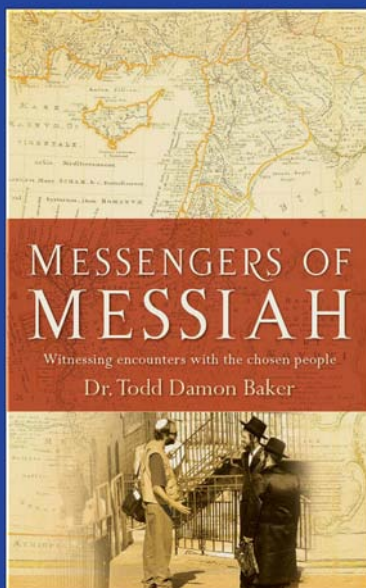
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### About the Author

**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. †

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**B'rit Hadashah Ministries**

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John  
5:39



November 2006 issue

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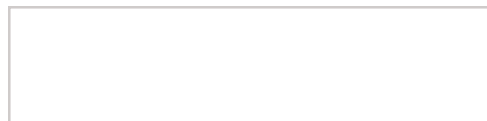
### *Search the Scriptures*

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](mailto:elisar@cebridge.net).

Visit either of our websites:

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*Bring a dish  
and join us on  
Friday, Nov. 24,  
as we give thanks  
for another great  
year of ministry,  
missions and  
fellowship.*



### In This Issue

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(Romans 15:27) ..... 1*

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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

### UPCOMING MESSAGES

Nov. 3	Messiah in the Tabernacle
Nov. 10	Matthew 26 and 27
Nov. 17	Messiah in the Tabernacle
Nov. 24	Matthew 26 and 27 + Potluck Dinner
Dec. 1	Messiah in the Tabernacle