



SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



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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.

DEBTORS OF MESSIAH TO ISRAEL PART 8

"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

**A continuation of Todd's memoirs from the
March 2006 mission trip to Israel**

The next day of our stint in Jerusalem and southern Israel, Paul and I felt led to drive out to the Dead Sea and visit En Gedi. En Gedi is now a national park in Israel. It was one of the places to which David fled to hide from the murderous King Saul (See 1 Samuel 24). En Gedi is literally an oasis of waterfalls and fresh water springs in the Judean desert. When we arrived, Paul and



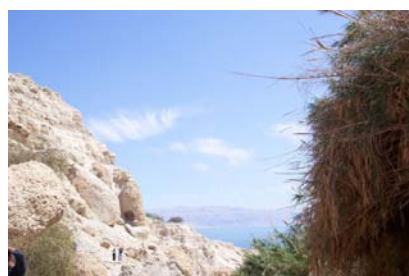
Todd Baker



I passed out Gospel tracts to some teenage vendors and some park rangers. All received them gladly with the customary, "Toda," which means, "thank you" in Hebrew.

Paul and I made the arduous trek up the En Gedi Mountain to see the actual cave where David hid from King Saul in the En Gedi area. It is called Dodim's Cave. I realized just how out of shape I was when I fell down at one of the springs and thought I severely hurt my back. But thanks be to God, I quickly

recovered. At one point during the climb, I thought about quitting out of near exhaustion. But after praying for strength, the Lord dropped a word in my heart instructing me that I needed to go the rest of the way because Paul and I were to share the Word of God and Yeshua's love to the people He prepared us to meet up there. Of course, looking around this beautifully desolate area, there seemed to be no one in sight. But since we walk by faith and not by sight, I resolved to finish



the hike up the side of the En Gedi Mountain. When I got up to continue the hike, as Paul walked in front of me, I noticed the back of his T-shirt. On it was a quote from Philippians 3:14, **"I press on toward the goal."**

God used this to encourage and strengthen me to finish this difficult climb to witness about the Messiah to those on the upper level of the mountain. This was the very Scripture I needed to give me strength for the journey and I did not notice it was on the back of Paul's shirt until that very moment!

When we arrived near the cave, a security guard with an M-16 strapped across his shoulder accompanying a group of High School students on a field trip approached Paul and commented about what a beautiful view one can see of the Dead Sea from En Gedi. This gave us an opening to share with this man whose name was Sholag. We talked about God's indomitable love for the Jewish people and how He gave them this beautiful land we were seeing as an "everlasting possession" (Genesis 17:7-8). He also sent a Savior whom we proclaimed was Yeshua. Before Sholag's group left, he accepted a Messianic gospel tract.



The soldier let Paul check out the M-16

Shortly thereafter, Paul and I found David's cave. We had only been there about five minutes when two young Jewish Orthodox men with backpacks in tow showed up out of nowhere. We both knew this was a sovereign act of the Lord that allowed us to share the Gospel with them. We were able to do just that. We complimented our witness with these two men by leaving them study materials going into detail about God's plan for Israel from the Exodus to the return of the Messiah. Although, at this point, Paul and I shared briefly with a few individuals, I felt in my spirit that God had still another important



Todd stands inside David's (Dodim's) Cave

appointment for us to share the good news of Jesus the Messiah with someone. It was as if I was compelled to make it up the mountain for this very person. More on this next month. ✠

misreading the Lebanon War



BY WILL KING
GUEST AUTHOR

Major General Yakov Amidror (retired) recently gave a talk in Jerusalem about how experts and analysts have misread the aftermath of this summer's war in Lebanon. General Amidror was the head of the IDF's intelligence assessments branch, responsible for analyzing the many strategic threats to Israel and reporting to the nation's leaders.

Many people, myself included, have said that the Hizbullah won the war, which on a level is true. On the tactical level, Israel clearly won, killing over 500 terrorists, destroying much of the group's infrastructure, capturing hordes of weapons and destroying others, and setting the group back by many years. On the strategic level, Hizbullah achieved a great victory. They sustained more than a month of direct combat with the finest fighting force in the Middle East, and although damaged, survived as an organization and gained greater acclaim and praise in the Muslim world, elevating themselves to a level equal to or greater than al-Qaeda in international terrorism. Additionally, they still have the two kidnapped IDF soldiers in their possession, the whole reason Israel went to war to begin with. Finally, they have an unmotivated, ineffective, and very anti-Israel United Nations force on the ground that has no compunction to uphold its own Security Council resolutions.

Where General Amidror takes exception is when analysts say that, due to their perceived loss of the war, Israel has therefore also lost its deterrence. Israel's neighbors have never been able to defeat the IDF, and this mysticism that surrounds them, as well as a high level of training and some of the most modern weapons in the world, has kept the surrounding Arab nations in check, even convincing two of them to sign peace treaties with Israel. But, analysts say that if a group like Hizbullah can so bloody the IDF, then maybe Israel's neighbors will not be so afraid of fighting the IDF, especially Syria who looks to "liberate" the "occupied" Golan Heights.

General Amidror says that first of all, Israel's deterrence is intact due to the determination of the country to engage in a conflict lasting more than a month. He said, "Now everyone around us understands that there are some red lines, that if they will be crossed by Syria, or the Palestinians, or the Lebanese, then the retaliation of Israel will be unproportional, on purpose." Secondly, General Amidror said that while several

IDF soldiers were killed during the conflict, the number of dead for each ground operation fell well below planners' estimates.

In short, Israel remains strong and fully prepared to face external threats from Arab regimes or internal threats from Palestinian terrorists. Because of Israel's determination to go to war in Lebanon and the will power to sustain the conflict for over a month, the nation retains a healthy deterrence factor. While the IDF did suffer casualties, the numbers were low in comparison to the enemy dead, and below even the IDF's own planning estimates. The IDF itself remains a powerful and superior fighting force in the region, well equipped, well trained, and highly motivated.

So, while there may continue to be small scale fighting in and around the nation, especially from Hizbullah, the Palestinians, and near the Golan Heights, the threat of full scale armed conflict with Israel's neighbors has not been increased due to Hizbullah's "victory" in the war.

Israel will undergo a period of self examination after the war, General Amidror says, because it's an Israeli trait never to be satisfied with anything. But, this critical examination is also necessary in order to determine if there was a breakdown in the military command structure, or if it was more on the political level, or if it was in the

relationship and communication between the political and military echelons. The Israeli people want answers as to why we went to war but still didn't get the kidnapped soldiers back. They want to know if the stories of IDF units being sent to Lebanon without food and water are true, and if IDF units were really sent into harm's way and forgot about for days at a time in enemy territory. These kinds of things demand answers.

And according to General Amidror, the Palestinians understand this Israeli mentality better than even Jordan and Egypt who have peace treaties with Israel, because the Palestinians are more closely linked and exposed to Israeli society. However, Amidror warns, the Palestinians also learned a great deal from the Hizbullah during this war. Palestinian terror leaders from several different groups have come out and said that they will now actively pursue the acquisition of anti-tank missiles and Katyusha style rockets, as these did the most damage to IDF soldiers and inflicted the most fear



Sheik Nasrallah claimed victory
for Hizbullah

Continued on page 4

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of
Hidden Treasure
Part 5
(Matthew 13:44)

This month, we will further explore why Israel is likely the hidden treasure referred to in Matthew 13:44 by looking at the evidence found in Deuteronomy 28, and again letting scripture interpret scripture.

Despite the many pleadings and admonitions from the Lord, Israel refused to heed and obey. Right before the nation of Israel possessed the Promised Land, the Lord made available the covenant of blessing or cursing in Deuteronomy 28. If Israel diligently hearkened to the voice of the Lord and obeyed His holy commandments and laws given through the mediator Moses, they would be exalted high above all nations of the earth (Deuteronomy 28:1). The inhabitants of Israel would be overtaken by God's blessings. They would be blessed tremendously in the city and in the field (Deuteronomy

28:2-3). They would be blessed in their children, in the fruit of the ground, and in the fruit of their livestock. Israel would be a highly prosperous nation, chosen and established by Him. As a result of this, the Gentile nations would have a deep fear of them and their God. ***"This day will I begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the nations under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you"*** (Deuteronomy 2:25). God promised Israel, upon the condition of their obedience to His Law, that they would be to Him the chief nation excelling all others. Their enemies would attempt to attack them in one way but flee in total defeat seven ways (Deuteronomy 28:1-4; 7-10).

If, however, Israel chose to transgress the covenant God made with them, they would incur curse upon curse. They would suffer vexation, pestilence, and worldwide dispersion from the land. Drought and famine would plague them severely. Worst of all, they would be subject to foreign invasion by barbarous and cruel armies who would lead them away as captives and slaves into a strange land with their idol gods of wood and stone (Deuteronomy 28:36-52). Tragically, the nation of Israel flagrantly violated the commandments of the Lord in spite of these warnings.

After the death of King Solomon in 975 B.C., the kingdom of Israel became a divided monarchy. Solomon's son and successor to the throne, Rehoboam, retained rule over the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin, the remaining ten tribes were under the

compulsive rule of Jeroboam. At this time the nation began to openly practice idolatry and other forbidden activities condemned in the Law of Moses. From then on, God began to "cut off" Israel from the land (1 Kings 9:8) and gradual deterioration set in, until, eventually, in 721

B.C., the ten tribes of northern Israel were carried away into captivity by the cruel armies of Assyria. A century and a half later, the two tribes of southern Israel, Judah and Benjamin, were also carried

away into captivity by the nation of Babylon.

The twelve tribes taken away into captivity were not to return en masse back to the land of Israel. Only a limited number of Jews returned to the Promised Land. The rest of the dispersed of Israel remained scattered in the different nations of the ancient world.

It is therefore credible that the dispersion of Israel by Assyria and Babylon points to the treasure being hid within the world before the "man" Christ Jesus made His first visitation to the earth. He came to make known and available the kingdom of heaven to the nation of Israel, "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24).

This brings us back to the Lord's parable of the hidden treasure and draws our attention to a second detail that we will explore in next month's article.✚

"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



Misreading.... Continued from page 2

in the Israeli people. The Palestinians have also learned the benefits of prepared bunkers, fortifications, and obstacles as a means of bringing the IDF's advance to a crawl and dragging them into a house-to-house fight in cities and towns, where the playing field becomes leveled.

But perhaps the biggest misread was by Hizbullah leader Hasan

Nasrallah himself. Days after the war ended, Nasrallah admitted in an interview that had he known the extent to which Israel was going to respond, then he wouldn't have ordered the operation to kidnap the IDF soldiers. Nasrallah expected a few days of Israeli air strikes coupled with a possible limited operation on the ground, but nothing more. This very line of thinking supports General Amidror's conclusion: Nasrallah

thought less of the IDF's deterrence before the war than he did after.

The Bible tells us that the nation of Israel will face tough times ahead at the end of days, but the Lebanon war and others have taught us that they will continue to face these threats with great strength and determination. When that physical strength is coupled with the almighty power of the God of Israel, then no enemy can stand against them. ☆



Christmas Bells

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth He sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

*From all of us
at BHM, have
a blessed
holiday
filled with
the love of
our Savior,
Christ the
Lord!*



2007 MISSION TRIP TO ISRAEL PLANNED FOR MARCH

We invite you, our friends and partners, to intercede with us and for us as we 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

† Partner With Us ☆

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

Tiberias who has accepted Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior.

Please consider (if you have not already done so) becoming a monthly partner. As you can read for yourself in the newsletter articles, these worthwhile donations are directly impacting individual lives in Israel. Isn't that what Yeshua's earthly ministry was about?

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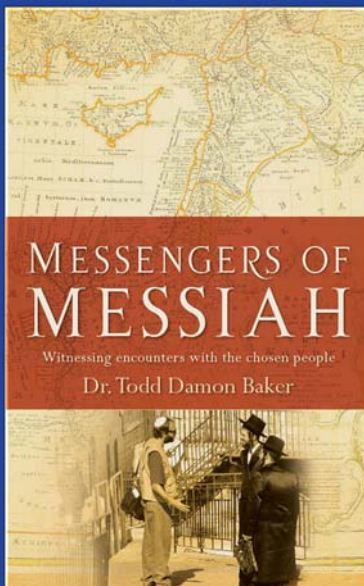
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Saturday, December 9, 12:00 - 3:00pm

or **ORDER YOUR COPY NOW ON OUR WEBSITE!!**

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www.SearchTheScripturesOnline.org

If you would like to have Todd as a guest speaker at your church or function, contact us at BHMengagements@gmail.com or visit our website.

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

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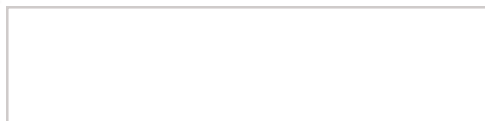
Search the Scriptures

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Visit either of our websites:

www.Brit-Hadashah.org (new address!)

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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

Dec. 1	Messiah in the Tabernacle
Dec. 8	Matthew 27 and 28
Dec. 15	Zola Levitt Teaching Video
Dec. 22	Messiah in Chanukah
Dec. 29	Matthew 27 and 28
Jan. 5	Messiah in the Tabernacle

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