

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 5, Number 1

January 2007

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 9

"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

Paul and I had left the cave of David and were hardly fifty yards away from the cave when a park ranger suddenly came around the bend. She asked Paul, who was ahead of me on the rocky trail, if he spoke English. He told her, "Yes." The young woman's name was Mia. She was making her rounds and picking up trash in the area before the park closed for the day.



Todd Baker

Paul and I had a good twenty minutes of sharing with her about Yeshua the Messiah as portrayed in the New Testament Scriptures. Mia was all ears and eating up what we said. When we asked her if she knew who the greatest Jew who ever lived was, and the only Person to divide history into two periods (B.C. and A.D.), Mia knew the answer. When we further asked her if she read the Tenach (the Jewish Bible consisting of the Old Testament alone), Mia quickly replied in the affirmative. This answer led us to then ask her if she has ever read the B'rit Hadashah (Hebrew for New Testament). Mia said, "no," but added that she had a great interest to do so.

When I pulled a Hebrew New Testament from my pocket, Mia's eyes widened with excitement and joy! When I offered to give it to her, she was so surprised that she exclaimed, "You will really give this to me?" What another marvelous example of God's providence by sending Paul and me from



Mia was so happy to receive a copy of the B'rit Hadashah!

half way around the world to a young Jewish woman in the middle of a desert oasis hungry for the contents of the New Testament to personally grant her this desire.

Paul and I shared with her that it was her people that first gave the Scriptures and the Messiah to the world and we, as His ambassadors, were returning home from whence it came to give back these great spiritual blessings to the Chosen People. Mia was so thrilled that she offered to read and translate from Hebrew to English the preface of the New Testament we gave her. The preface was a prayer for those who read it to recognize the clear evidence for Yeshua being the Messiah.

Mia then read the Messianic prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 which was also included in the preface. The prophecy predicts that the Messiah would indeed come before the destruction of the second Temple. This, of course, occurred in A.D. 70 and means that the Messiah must have come before this event in order for the prophecy of Daniel to be fulfilled. From this observation, we drove home the obvious fact that only one Person came in this time period to Israel speaking and doing what the Messiah was supposed to do according to the Jewish Scriptures. Mia knew whom this Person was and now could read about the life of Yeshua as documented by Jewish eyewitnesses and contemporaries of Him recorded in the documents of the New Testament she now possessed.

Mia said she would definitely study and read this for herself. Our prayer is that by doing this the Holy Spirit will open her eyes and heart to accept the Messiah who came long ago and is soon to return to the land and people of Israel He loves forever.

One last note: Before Paul and I climbed the side of the En Gedi mountain, I decided to leave my carrying bag in the car, deeming it too heavy and cumbersome for the arduous climb. So instead, I took an indiscriminate number of tracts with me. After Paul and I passed these out along the way and returned to the car, I noticed that we passed them all out not consciously counting them at the time. Paul and I were simply amazed that we just happened to take the right amount of tracts for the journey. This was another stupendous example of God's sovereign control in the meticulous affairs of life that causes one to truly marvel.

Doing ministry in the land of Israel, I am constantly amazed each time I go at God's divine appointments in every decision and encounter we have as His unseen Hand guides us triumphantly through every mission we undertake in His name. ✨

THREE-PRONGED ATTACK

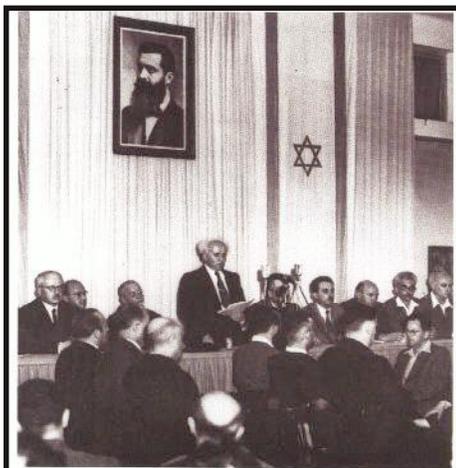
BY STUART ARDEN
ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT



There is an on-going three-pronged attack being waged against the safety, security, and sanctity of the State of Israel, and this attack (or attacks) is unrelenting. First there is the active, physical aggression against Israel called “war,” (or wars); second are the pressure tactics and diplomatic efforts in support of the preceding, and third are the subtle and devious attempts at defaming and delegitimizing Israel.

In every decade, a war (of survival) has been forced upon Israel: 1948-1949 (the War of Independence), 1956 (the Sinai campaign), 1967 (the Six Day War [and the War of Attrition, 1968-70]), 1978 (the Litani campaign in Lebanon), 1982 (the large-scale incursion into Lebanon), 1987-1993 (the 1st Intifada, in Israel), 2000-2004 (the 2nd or Al Aksa Intifada), and in 2006, war against terrorists in Lebanon (*Hizballah*) and in the Gaza Strip (*Hamas*). How did this decennial happening begin? Israel accepted the United Nations’ Partition Plan of 1947 which would have divided western Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state (to go along with the Arab state that had already been created in eastern Palestine [Jordan!]).

Israel’s Declaration of Independence has the following passage: “We extend our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.”



Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, reading Israel's Declaration of Independence, 14 May 1948. (The photo on the wall is of Theodor Herzl, the founder of "Zionism.")

How did the Arabs respond to an offer of peace, good neighborliness, and advancement? Armies of six different Arab nations attacked Israel with the aim of destroying it completely, and that aim (of destroying Israel) has remained unchanged over the years and even has adherents in Moslem nations which are not Arab.

There are those who say that the reconstitution of the Jewish state is a well-intentioned mistake, an affront to the Arabs, or an attempt by the western world to assuage its guilt over the

Holocaust, but Jews have lived in this land continuously ever since the time of the Exodus (from Egypt), and this was the only land in which the Jews achieved independence and nationhood. There was never a 2,000 year exile, but there was a 2,000 year occupation while Jews continued to live in their own land, long before the birth of Islam. The last occupation, Judea and Samaria by the Jordanians (and Gaza by the Egyptians) 1948-1967, was preceded by the British occupation (the League of Nations “Mandate”) with bloody riots and massacres of Jews by Arabs, in 1920, 1929, and 1936-1939.

The Six-Day War of 1967 was undoubtedly a traumatic and humiliating defeat for Egypt, Jordan, and Syria because of the amount of land that Israel captured, and while there was a sense of euphoria in Israel, there was no arrogance. The saying going around Israel at that time, regarding Judea and Samaria was, “We’re waiting for a telephone call from King Hussein.” Indeed, Israel was willing to be so conciliatory in pursuit of peace that it would have given up much of what it had liberated from Jordan’s nineteen year occupation. The

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Arab reaction came in the form of a conference in Khartoum, Sudan, in August of 1967 and “the three noes.” No peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, and no recognition of Israel! Abba Eban, Israel’s first Ambassador to the UN, and later Ambassador to the US, said, “This is the first war in history which has ended with the victors suing for peace and the vanquished calling for unconditional surrender.”

The 1973 Yom Kippur War served as a great dose of reality for Israel’s adversaries. While the Arabs scored smashing successes at the outset and dealt Israel a severe blow in the loss of soldiers and materiel, in the end it was they (as usual!) who had to call the UN for a ceasefire. After the advantage of surprise and initial success, the Arabs came to the realization that in its present state, Israel could not be defeated militarily, and that led to the Cairo conference of 8 June 1974 which stated in Article Two of the PNC’s political program: “The PLO will employ all means, and first and foremost armed struggle . . . to establish the independent combatant national authority . . . on every part of Palestine that is liberated.” One does not have to read too deeply between-the-lines to see the “salami tactic;” the Arabs will take whatever Israel is willing to give and use that as the springboard for the next major war! To this end, the Arabs have tried every stratagem available in order to roll Israel back to that indefensible “green line,” the 1949 armistice line between Israel and Jordan. Once again

Continued on page 4

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of
Hidden Treasure
Part 6
(Matthew 13:44)

Again the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hid in a field, which a man found." The second feature of the parable is the finding of the treasure. The discoverer of the treasure needs no lengthy introduction. It is quite obvious and self-explanatory who this person is that found the treasure. The "man" that found the treasure is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, in fact, refers to Himself as the "man" in verses 24 and 37, and in the parable that follows after this one.

The finding of the hidden treasure alludes to the earthly ministry of Jesus in His offering the Messianic kingdom to the Jewish people. He came first for the unique purpose of revealing this kingdom to Israel. Unfortunately, the Jewish people knew not the time of their Messianic visitation (Luke 19:44). The religious leaders of the nation tragically failed to discern the "signs of the times" (Matthew 16:3). Their self-imposed spiritual blindness led them to bitterly

"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



reject Israel's true King and Messiah—Jesus the Lord of glory. Alas, it is terribly sad to read from the testimony of Scripture that even Jesus' own people according to the flesh did not receive Him. He came to His own (Israel), and His own did not receive Him (John 1:11).

When Jesus came the first time, His earthly ministry was strictly confined to the Jewish people. He gave them a conditional offer to accept the earthly Messianic kingdom if they would only repent and believe in Him. The first words Jesus spoke to the nation of Israel were the same as His prophetic forerunner, John the Baptist. **"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"** (Matthew 4:23). The kingdom was exclusively prepared first for Israel's reception during the three year ministry of the Messiah, as verified in His own words, **"I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"** (Matthew 15:24). The apostle Paul later reaffirms this in his epistle to the Romans. **"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision (the Jews) for the truth of God, to confirm (fulfill) the promises made to the fathers"** (Romans 15:8). Jesus came first to save the Jews.

Therefore, when the "man", who is Jesus Christ here, came to Israel, the treasure was no longer hidden. For when Christ came to Israel the first time, He came to a nation that had faithfully reinstated the Temple and its worship services. The Levitical priesthood and Mosaic Law governed the religious life of the nation. It was in this regathered but impenitent spiritual state that the man Christ Jesus came and found His buried treasure at the first advent. Once Israel turned in rejection against their Messiah, they sealed their own tragic fate for centuries to come.

This sorrowful truth leads us to the next phase of action in the parable: **"Again the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hid in a field, which a man found and**

hid." After the man finds the treasure, he hides it again. This feature parallels with what happened when the nation of Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah at His first coming. Since Israel denounced the divine claim Jesus made of being the Messiah, the Lord had no other choice but to reject them for an allotted period of time. We read of this solemn, lamentable event in Matthew 23:37-39:



"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to her, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is left to you desolate. For I say to you, you shall not see Me from now on until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

The rejection of Jesus the Messiah by Israel resulted in the second and last dispersion of the Jews throughout the world in A.D. 70. This worldwide dispersion has lasted almost two millennia. The Lord has been so complete and thorough in hiding His treasure Israel that even to this day the twelve tribes have been securely concealed so that many modern day Jews do not know with certainty the exact tribe they belong to. For over the past nineteen hundred years, the treasure of Jewry has been concealed from the Messiah Jesus until **"the fullness of the Gentiles be come in"** (see Romans 11:25). †



The "green line," showing its proximity to Israel's populated centers and to Ben Gurion International Airport, as well as controlling the high ground separating Judea and Samaria from the coastal plain of Israel.

we refer to the words of Abba Eban: "We have often said that the map will never again be as it was on June 4, 1967 [prior to the Six Day War]. For us this is a matter of security and principle. The June map is for us identical with insecurity and danger. I do not exaggerate when I say that it has for us something of a memory of Auschwitz." (*Der Spiegel*, November 5, 1969). Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the 1991 Gulf War, said: "It is impossible to defend Jerusalem unless you hold that high ground [in Judea-Samaria]. I look out from those heights . . . and say to myself, 'If I'm the chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, I cannot defend this land without that terrain.'" (*The Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 7, 1991).

It is for the above reason that the second of the three "prongs" is being pursued; the attempt at rendering Israel indefensible by pushing it back to the "green line." In 1969, a mere two years after the Six Day War, US Secretary of State William Rogers formulated the "Rogers Plan" (9 Dec. 1969), which called for Israel's return to the pre-1967 borders without any peace or security arrangements by the Arabs (this plan was rejected by all the concerned parties as well as both Houses of Congress). It would be highly incorrect to say that the U.S. was attempting to weaken Israel's security, but there was however, an additional factor at that

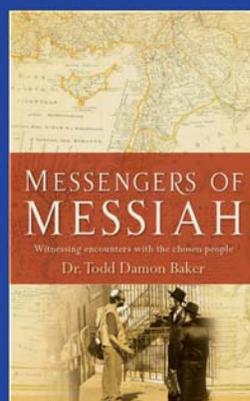
time. In 1969 President Nixon was trying to arrange détente with the then-Soviet Union, and in seeking some sort of an "agreement" in the Middle East, Israel's security became a "playable pawn" on the international chessboard, a factor that continues to haunt Israel's attempts at protecting itself.. This same situation is inherent in the 2006' "Iraq Study Group's" Baker-Hamilton Plan, authored by former Secretary of State James Baker and former U. S. Representative Lee Hamilton. This plan is full of facile conclusions and fanciful ideas, the upshot of which is that currying favor with radical Moslems is more important than supporting democratic Israel (whose fate regarding the impetus for the Baker-Hamilton Plan, is inextricably intertwined with that of the U.S.!). Furthermore it mystifies me how sops given to the so-called Palestinians are going to help the U.S. in Iraq. I suppose that James Baker's law firm's extensive list of wealthy Arab clients has (of course) nothing to do with the conclusions reached in this plan.

Efforts at pushing Israel back to the pre-1967 borders are unceasing, with one of the Arab plans having been the "Saudi Plan," initiated by Crown Prince (now King) Abdallah, published on 28 March 2002. This plan contained the "buzz words" of "full normalization of relations," something which makes any peacenik immediately salivate, but one must consider two things: 1) the source;

and 2) the source's validity. Considering the source: Saudi Arabia, while fearful of al Qaeda attacks on its Wahabi hegemony of power in Arabia, nevertheless has been linked to supporting al Qaeda elsewhere; 15 of the 19 perpetrators of 9/11 were Saudi citizens, with one having actually entered the US on a diplomatic passport; officials of the Saudi government, according to the German daily, *Die Welt*, paid for the weapons on the freighter *Karin A*, intercepted by the Israeli Navy while on its way to make a delivery to the "Palestinian" Authority. Considering the source's validity: As reported by *The Jerusalem Post* in 1995, the mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdel Aziz bin-Baz gave a religious ruling that Islamic law does not preclude peace with Israel, only to append that ruling shortly thereafter with these words: "peace with Israel is permissible only on condition that it is a temporary peace [emphasis mine], until the Moslems build up the [military] strength needed to expel the Jews." Would any sane person even contemplate returning to an indefensible line on the ground knowing what the good mufti was gracious enough to inform us?! Furthermore, that view is shared by all of the Arab belligerents, including, truth be to tell, those who have actually signed "peace" agreements with Israel!

We will conclude this article next month with a look at the third "prong." ✨

January Book Signing



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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 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

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?

We thank you deeply for your support, whether you are able to give monthly or a onetime donation. It all goes a long way in helping us achieve God's purpose and plan for this outreach ministry.

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MARCH 2007 MISSION TRIP TO ISRAEL

Missionary Prayer List

Here is a suggested list from Scripture to use when praying for our missions.

- ☆ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).
- ☆ Pray that we have the Father's wisdom and guidance in everything we do (Psalm 32:8; 48:14; Colossians 4:5).
- ☆ Pray for witnessing opportunities (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8).
- ☆ Pray that God will open the hearts of those who will hear (Psalm 110:3; Acts 16:14).
- ☆ Pray that God will give us the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to the Jew first and also the Gentile (Acts 4:31; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19).
- ☆ Pray for spiritual unity and agreement among us (Psalm 133:1).
- ☆ Pray for our health, protection, safety, and God's protection from the hand of the enemy, both seen and unseen (Psalm 91; Matthew 6:13).
- ☆ Pray for spiritual fruit that will last (John 15:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23).
- ☆ Pray for favor among the Chosen People as we share the Gospel with them (Proverbs 12:2).
- ☆ Pray that the Chosen People will come to faith in Messiah (Christ) Jesus (Romans 10:1; Matthew 15-16; Mark 8:27-29, 14:61-62; Luke 9:18-20; John 4:25-26). †

Be a Part of our 2007 Outreach to Israel

Did you know that the Israeli people do not have easy access to the New Testament (B'rit Hadashah)? Their bookstores usually do not carry it, and even some universities offer courses on Yeshua but only provide excerpts from the B'rit Hadashah.

Your donations during the months of January, February, and March can put the Gospel directly into the hands of Jewish people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to read about their Messiah. Throughout the year, your donations help make these trips possible. But during these months, our focus is on funding the gift of scripture and other materials that we give out as the Holy Spirit leads us.

We are excited about what God is doing through these mission trips. And it's equally as exciting to know that our partners will be blessed through their support which makes all of this happen. Genesis 12:3 speaks specifically of those who bless His people, Israel:

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

What a way to bless the Jewish people, by giving them the words of life. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

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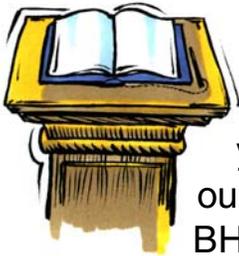
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Search the Scriptures

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



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 www.searchthescripturesonline.org/fellowshiptours.html or call (214) 356-2583.



שלום

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. †

UPCOMING MESSAGES

Jan. 5	Messiah in the Tabernacle series
Jan. 12	Matthew 27 and 28 series
Jan. 19	Messiah in the Tabernacle series
Jan. 26	Matthew 27 and 28 series
Feb. 2	Messiah in the Tabernacle series

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