

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



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DEBTORS OF MESSIAH TO ISRAEL PART 12

"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*

Once Paul and I arrived in Haifa after departing Jerusalem, we went to eat dinner. While ordering from the menu, Paul and I were able to discuss with the waitress (her name was Noa) about God's role and purpose for Israel to bless the world as revealed through the Sacred Scriptures. We shared with Noa that this corporate blessing to the entire world was accomplished (as



Paul and Todd with the waitress, Noa

God foretold in Genesis 12:1-3) through the Jewish Messiah who was the descendant of Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation (Galatians 3:16). At this point in the conversation, an older lady sitting at the table next to us overheard our discussion. She interjected and told us that what we were saying was "quite interesting". The lady's name was Rivkah, and she told us that she was a clinical psychologist. Her ideas were closely akin to the esoteric beliefs of the Kabbalah. Kabbalahism is a pervasive belief in Israel that is a poor substitute for spiritual rebirth in the Messiah.

Rivkah said that she had read a novel about the life of Yeshua written by a Jewish author (probably Shlomo Asch) some time ago. She said that after reading the book, she felt drawn to Yeshua and wondered why! Paul and I told her that Ruach Hakodesh (the Holy Spirit) was drawing her to know Yeshua as Lord and Messiah and providentially brought us to her to further her understanding of Him.



Todd Baker



Todd and Paul with Rivkah who finds herself drawn to Yeshua

She then expressed difficulty in believing that the Messiah could be God. We replied that, with God, this was not difficult at all, and that one of the reasons that God did become a man in the person of Jesus of Nazareth was to empathetically identify Himself with humanity by becoming one of us. Such a miracle, like the

Incarnation, was indeed foretold by the Jewish prophets (Micah 5:1-2; Isaiah 9:6).

Rivkah then said she wanted to ask me a personal question. She asked how I came to believe in Yeshua. At this point, the Lord allowed me to give a detailed personal testimony of how Yeshua came into my life by a glorious and supernatural appearance in my darkest hour of death and despair. Rivkah listened with rapt attention. The Holy Spirit was opening her heart to the Gospel of Yeshua and how He can transform lives like mine. She enthusiastically received several Messianic Gospel tracts arguing the case for Jesus being the Messiah of the Jewish people. Rivkah said she would study them. May this seed planted in her heart, watered by the Word and personal testimony, be used to bring Rivkah salvation in the Messiah. Amen.

One important aspect of sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people is to give your personal testimony combined with the Word of God. Such a method will readily demonstrate to the Chosen People that Jesus is alive today and has the supernatural power to radically change lives for the better. He started this work of redemption in the land of Israel among His own people who brought such a message to the rest of the non-Jewish world. It is only right and proper that it should be brought back to them with great gratitude and godly love. ✠ ✧ ✠

Sticks & Stones!!



BY STUART ARDEN
ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT

Sticks and stones can break my bones but names can never hurt me” goes the saying, but President Jimmy Carter’s “name-calling” in his newest book, Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, deliberately and disingenuously defames Israel with its spurious claim of “apartheid.”

Of all the ethnic groups in the world, it is well-known that Arabs nurse grudges the longest, something that President Carter must have imbibed due to his travels in the Middle East; thereby explaining his *rationale* for Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid. Also, the book’s content is flawed for a number of reasons. Additionally, there are neither citations, footnotes, nor sources listed in Carter’s book, all hallowed prerequisites for distinguishing scholarly works from personal diatribes. Finally, referring to western Palestine (which includes Israel, Judea, Samaria, Gaza, the Golan, and the P.A. territories) as “Palestine” automatically disqualifies Carter as a “disinterested scholar.” In one of his discussions with former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Begin told Carter that Jordan had been a part of Palestine, to which Carter turned to his national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Brzezinski agreed, nevertheless, Carter now uses the word “Palestine” as it is used by Arab propagandists (We already have 79% of Palestine under a different name, let’s go for the other 21%!).

During the negotiations of the Camp David Accords (September 17, 1978), ostensibly a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel (which has allowed Egypt to purchase sophisticated American military equipment [even though no one is threatening them] and to designate “a country to the northeast” as the enemy in their war games), Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin adamantly refused to allow any discussion of concessions regarding Judea, Samaria, or Jerusalem, thus denying Carter the opportunity of presenting a “grand” peace agreement to the world; and incurring Carter’s everlasting enmity. Then, in Carter’s failed re-election bid in 1980, he received the lowest percentage of Jewish votes of any Democratic candidate since 1920. Are these the cause of Carter’s animosity toward Israel, with anti-Semitism having undergone a metamorphosis into “anti-Israelism” (both of which being distinguished by specious and ill-founded accusations, as well as a surfeit of illogic), or is it brother Billy’s acuity in stating, “There’s a helluva lot more Arabians than there is Jews?” (and thank



Two Nobel Peace Prize Laureates (did we say “peace” prize?!)

you Saudi Arabia for your *largesse* regarding the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia).



In the Spring 2007 issue of Middle East Quarterly, Prof. Kenneth Stein (Emory University) writes: “It [Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid] contains egregious errors of both commission and omission. To suit his desired end he [Carter] manipulates information, redefines facts, and exaggerates conclusions. . . . Rather than bring peace, they can further fuel hostilities, encourage retrenchment, and hamper peacemaking.” Bear in-mind that Prof. Stein served as the Carter Center’s first permanent Executive Director, 1983-1986, and a Middle East Fellow until 2006, accompanied Carter on his Middle East trips, and took extensive notes of all diplomatic meetings (in 2006 Prof. Stein left his job at the Carter Center, along with a number of others, in protest at the premises in Carter’s book).

Carter employs devious usage of vocabulary in attempting to promote his own agenda, highly-charged words with negative connotations when describing Israelis, and neutral or even positive words when describing Arabs. He faults the Middle East policies of every American administration (except his own of course), says that Israel is responsible for the declining number of [Arab] Christians whereas it is their Islamic “brothers” who are making their lives difficult, and gives his own prejudiced and negative spin on practically everything Israel does or has ever done. As Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz writes in “The World According to Jimmy Carter” (The Huffington Post, 22 Nov. 2006): “He [Carter] accepts the Palestinian revisionist history, rejects the eye-witness accounts of President Clinton and Dennis Ross and ignores Saudi Prince Bandar’s accusation that Arafat’s rejection of the proposal [by Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak, in the presence of President Clinton at Camp David II, July 2000] was ‘a crime’ and that Arafat’s account ‘was not truthful’ – except, apparently, to Carter. The fact that Carter chooses to believe Yasir Arafat over Bill Clinton speaks volumes.”

Aside from a few sops given to Israel, Carter’s book is basically anti-Israel, and calling Israel “apartheid” is completely unjustified, as anyone having any familiarity with Israeli society would say. Nevertheless, sales of Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid are apparently doing well. Are a lot of Arabs buying it? Maybe Arab governments could pair it with their all-time favorite, that infamous forgery, The Protocols of the Elders of Zion; they could always offer a special, buy one and get the other at half-price; as a matter of fact, since Arab governments reprint The Protocols and disseminate it themselves, they could go one better: “Buy Carter’s diatribe and get The Protocols free!”. ☆

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of
Hidden Treasure
Part 8
(Matthew 13:44)

Amazingly enough "the times of the Gentiles" were fulfilled in the latter part of the twentieth century! This fulfillment of staggering importance happened when the Jews returned back to their ancient homeland of Israel and declared national independence as the Jewish State of Israel in May of 1948. But this prophecy was not totally fulfilled until Israel regained possession of Jerusalem from Gentile dominion for the first time in 2,500 years in June of 1967. This monumental event, known as "The Six Day War" ended once and for all "the times of the Gentiles" upon Jerusalem, and thus prepared the way for Christ's unearthing of His precious people at the second coming. The hidden treasure is now ready to be fully excavated. The Lord Jesus gave us the fig tree sign in Matthew 24 indicating when He would return to uncover His treasure Israel for their salvation. **"Now learn a parable of the fig tree, when its branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So**



likewise, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door" (Matthew 24:32-33). The symbol of the fig tree used in Scripture is a commonly used figure for the nation of Israel (see Jeremiah 24; Hosea 9:10; Joel 1:7).

Christ says when Israel, pictured as a fig tree, is regathered back to their ancient homeland and blossoms into a nation again, His return would be very close at hand—"even at the

door." When the Lord Jesus returns to this earth to reign a thousand years, His treasure of Israel will then be revealed for the entire world to see, never to be put away in shame again. Israel shall universally flourish as never before under His custody. **"He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root. Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the face of the world with fruit"** (Isaiah 27:6) Although the hiding of the treasure by Christ speaks of God's judgment on the Jewish nation for their rejection and murderous treatment of their Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, God has promised His people this shame will pass away when He saves them. **"But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation. You shall not be ashamed or disgraced, to ages everlasting"** (Isaiah 45:17). Christ's second descent into the world will in fact bring spiritual redemption to Israel. God does not want the Gentile believers to be ignorant of this fact. The Apostle Paul states in Romans 11:25, **"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in"** (i.e., when the total number of Gentile believers will be saved). After this dispensational completion, God will turn His face again to the Jews and will save all of Israel at the Messiah's second coming. For it is written, **"And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. For this is My covenant to them, when I will take away their sins"** (Romans 11:26-27).

Now let us consider the last point of action that concludes the parable of the hidden treasure. **"Again the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hid in a field, which a man found and**

"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



hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Notice the purchase of the field is transacted after the treasure was hidden. As noted earlier, the hiding of the treasure parallels Christ's judgment on Israel by the dispersion of the Jews throughout all parts of the Earth. Herein lays another mystery. This parable reveals two distinct elect peoples of God. We find God's earthly elect which is the nation of Israel and the field where the treasure was found representing the Gentile nations. The purchase of the field corresponds directly to the atoning death of Christ for the redemption of both groups. Thereby fulfilling God's ultimate goal; that the owner of the field will call both the treasure and the field His own (John 11:52) "and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one."✠✠



THE LOST TOMB OF JESUS?!

I was immediately interested in the story that broke on National TV in February of this year claiming that the lost tomb of a dead and buried Jesus of Nazareth may have been found. The news clip said that Hollywood director James Cameron and Canadian Simcha Jacobovici are producing a documentary suggesting that a first century ossuary found in south Jerusalem in 1980 contain the remains of Jesus. Then on the night of March 4th as the documentary aired for the first time, I happened to turn on the television and caught the program in its entirety. I knew in my heart that it was more than mere chance that I tuned in and that I was about to go to Jerusalem in a couple of weeks, so I began to pray about this. Todd on the other hand was unenthusiastic about the whole thing and stated that he wouldn't justify such nonsense with a moment of his attention. Understanding totally where he was coming from, I still couldn't ignore the feeling that God wanted me to pay attention and be open to whatever He might want to do.

So 2½ weeks later, I am sitting on a bench in Tiberias, Israel, looking out over the Sea of Galilee and writing this article. In the weeks following the documentary, the Lord has given me a small assignment in 2 parts. As a result, this newsletter article will also come to you in 2 parts. The first thing I did in preparation for part 1 of this article was to research the so-called facts and evidence. By the time you read this article, our missionary team will be in Jerusalem at the Talpiot tomb. We will represent the "Living Messiah" there and reach out in love to the truth seekers, the doubters and even to "enemies of the cross" who come to rejoice over the lies perpetuated on the public. Part 2 will be about our experience at this site. So as you read this article, please also pray for our efforts in Jerusalem.

LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD AND THE TRUTH BE SAID

MARCH 22, 2007

The latest attempt by the sensationalist liberal media and Hollywood to strike a blow to Christianity crosses a sacred boundary with me. Not because it in any way achieves what they are hoping for. It doesn't cause me or any other Bible-believing Christian to question the inerrancy of the Bible or doubt the profound truth of a risen savior. It pulls a cheap shot by targeting those who are weak in faith and those who are searching for truth, those souls who are at the door ready to knock. Why should this matter to us, we know the truth?! Because, brothers and sisters, we need to know what these claims are based on so that if we encounter someone who is buying into this anti-Christ propaganda we can be ready to give an educated answer for the truth that we know and for the hope that is within us. So here are some interesting points about the alleged "major discovery that threatens the foundation of Christianity".

The Science Daily website enthusiastically reports that this may be the greatest archeological find in history. But this tomb was discovered over 27 years ago and has largely been ignored by historians and archeologists. Leading archeologists in Israel who are not Christians are referring to the documentary as archeoporn and do not recognize its evidence as credible. Here is something to consider. All the "experts" on this project seem to agree that this is a family tomb. According to Jewish tradition, these family burial tombs are reserved for spouses and immediate family members only. In fact, this is part of the reason that Jacobovici gives for claims that Jesus and Mary being found here together are probably spouses. So then why is Matthew found here? Also the Biblical account of Jesus states plainly that his family was from Nazareth so why is the family tomb found in Jerusalem?

Another controversy has risen regarding a missing ossuary. According to the film, the 10th missing ossuary is believed to be that of James, the brother of Jesus, which is owned by a man named Oded Golan. Golan has recently stood trial for possible forgery of the inscription on the ossuary. But it gets even better. Former FBI agent Gerald Richard testified at the trial that a photo

of the James ossuary was taken in 1970 in Golan's home. This was confirmed by tests done by the FBI photo lab. So if the James ossuary was removed when the tomb was discovered in 1980 as Jacobovici claims in the film, then how could it have been photographed in the home of Golan in 1970? Then there is the "Mary Magdelene" ossuary which was described by Simcha Jacobovici himself at a screening of the movie as "the most crucial support for his claims". The foundation of his claim is that the inscription on one of the ossuaries "Mariamne e Mara" translates to Mary Magdelene. DNA testing done on this ossuary and that of the one inscribed "Jesus son of Joseph" does not match and therefore the producers assume that out of 9 ossuaries found, these two could be assumed to have been married. According to scholars, there is not enough evidence to support that this is the case or that the Mariamne ossuary contains the remains of the Biblical Mary of Magdelene. Stephan Pfann, a textual scholar and paleographer at the University of the Holy Land in Jerusalem has released a paper claiming the makers of "The Lost Tomb of Jesus" were mistaken in identifying this ancient ossuary as belonging to the biblical Mary. Pfann says that two names are inscribed by 2 different hands indicating that one woman's remains were placed in the box and inscribed in a formal Greek text the name "Mariamne" which means Mary or Mariam. Then later another woman's remains were placed in the box and a scribe using a different cursive script added the words "Kai Mara" meaning "and Martha". After scrutiny by Pfann and other experts, the director made the statement that "every inscription should be re-examined".

Many other questions have been asked about the validity of this film, even by the secular news media. Ted Koppel did a good job of scrutinizing the allegations after the documentary aired with a follow-up report. Koppel interviewed Jacobovici and author Charles Pellegrino who are co-writing a book about the subject, and made the statement that the evidence was over dramatized. I hope that Christians continue to ask questions and prepare themselves with facts because the awesome thing that happens when this type of hype makes big news is that it provides golden opportunities for the Gospel to go forth, AMEN?

An excellent source for further facts and information about this tomb is Dr. John Ankerberg's website www.ankerberg.com or you can get his new book coming out in August "What's the Big Deal About Jesus?" ☆ † ☆

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 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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The Importance of Israel to the Church

In this day, it is essential for Christians to be educated about our Jewish roots and God's plan for Israel as it directly impacts the future of all Believers. To have Todd speak to your church, organization, or Sunday School class about this and other important topics affecting Christians today, please contact Teresa Brown at (940) 367-7939 or email BHMengagements@gmail.com.

The following are just a few of the topics that Todd teaches on:

Eye on Israel - volatile current events in the Holy Land and its relevance to prophecy;

Israel and Prophecy - the importance of knowing and understanding the relationship of Israel to the Church;

Israel's Right to the Land - where and what is Palestine, and do Arabs have claims to the land?;

Seven Reasons the Gospel must go to the Jews - is Jewish evangelism Biblical, and why is it so largely ignored?;

Messengers of Messiah to Israel - based on Dr. Baker's recently released book that testifies to what God is doing in the hearts of the Israelis, both Jew and Arab;

The Dead Sea Scrolls - exploring the authenticity and reliability of Scripture.



Invite Todd to Speak to Your Group



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HAPPY PESACH (PASSOVER), FIRST FRUITS, AND RESURRECTION DAY!

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.



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.

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