

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 6, Number 1

January/February 2008

"You Search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;"

John 5:39

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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.

Dear readers and supporters,

B'rit Hadashah is currently facing increased costs for our mission trips to the Jewish people in Israel. Therefore, at this time, we ask for your fervent prayers, and also for your continued financial support, as you are able, now more than ever. As well as personally taking the Gospel across the Atlantic to God's Chosen people in His Holy Land, we have also always believed in studiously preparing and mailing our monthly newsletters to you, our readers, free of charge. We model this upon the greatest truth of all. Namely, that Christ freely gave all of us His Salvation from the power of sin and death. As we continue our policy of providing free newsletters, we do ask those of you who request and receive them to also help us with the increasing costs which our ministry now faces, if you feel you have benefited from the teachings. As Jesus told his audience in Matthew 10:8, "Freely you have received, now freely give."

Our small ministry, founded in 2001, is still growing slowly, in His time, and it is thanks to you that we have come this far! I would truly love to see our ministry become able to expand its current outreach to the Jews of Israel to more frequent and longer mission trips. Friends, I really don't enjoy having to ask for funds. But, as the apostle Paul discovered, I find that it becomes necessary to make our needs known to you, our sole supporters, especially in this time of increased trip

costs, and also, indeed, toward a future of growth in our outreach efforts. We pray and trust that your continued, regular support will enable B'rit Hadashah to grow into a full-time missionary operation, spreading the Gospel to more and more as the Lord leads us through His Holy Land. Sadly, there is, for some reason, a dearth of missionary activity toward Israeli Jews. They seem to be largely ignored by most Christian churches and ministries, both in America and abroad. But we feel that such is our special calling by God — that He has set our hands and feet to this very task.

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, Jesus told the servant who had invested his two talents and gained two more, "You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things." Likewise, we have endeavored to be faithful and industrious in providing you with high-quality Bible lessons, and indeed taking some personal risks in traveling to certain parts of Israel where our Lord directs us. We therefore ask you to weigh in your hearts whether we have been faithful in the few things we have started with. With that said, please pray about giving financial support to this vital end-time Gospel outreach to Israel.

Your messenger,
Todd Baker

Search the Scriptures

This publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, free of charge, from B'rit Hadashah Ministries. **F**or more information about our ministry, or to be added to, or removed from, our subscription list, you may contact Elisa by E-mail at: bhm@brit-hadashah.org or by mail at:

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cover photo of Scala Sancta in Jerusalem

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Reaching Israel for the Redeemer

Part 7

This series of articles is a detailed account of our thirteenth Gospel outreach to Israel that occurred from March to April 2007, and dedicated to the memory and ministry of Zola Levitt.

Isaiah 62:11

As we were leaving the hotel in the Galilee for Jerusalem, Robert and I spoke with the security guard, Gregory, who helped load our baggage into the car. He was not obliged to do so but kindly offered to help us. This prompted us to offer him reading material about God's love for Him revealed through the Messiah He sent to Israel. He eagerly accepted it and was intently reading it as we were pulling out of the parking lot. May God water this Gospel seed in that man's heart resulting in the fruit of faith and salvation in Yeshua the Messiah.

After we arrived in Jerusalem, Robert and I immediately went out to walk the streets of Jerusalem eager to share the Messiah's love for His people. Robert wanted to go and revisit an Arab gas attendant that he and Byron Zahm witnessed to over a year ago. The man's name was Asheraf. He was a person who was calm and affable. He remembered the conversation he had with Robert and Byron about Jesus being the Messiah. He said that he was not that interested in "changing religions." Our response was that Jesus' mission was not to create another "religion" but to establish the way back to God for the sinner. This is not about a religion but having a relationship with God the heavenly Father through faith in His Son. Asheraf remarked that he lived on the Mount of Olives. I then showed him one of the prophecies found in Zechariah 14:10 that predicts that when the Messiah returns to earth it will be on the Mount of Olives splitting it into two. It was from this same location Yeshua ascended into heaven and the same place He will return (Acts 1:9-10). Our Arab friend said these were "nice stories". I countered by saying these were not stories but were actual events of history, and if past messianic prophecies were literally fulfilled by Yeshua then it stands to reason that future prophecies will also be literally fulfilled when He returns. To further enlighten him on this we left him with a detailed booklet documenting how the multiple prophecies of the Messiah made in the Tenach were exclusively fulfilled in the life of Jesus the Nazarene.

Later in the day, when we were returning from the Western Wall, Robert and I casually ran into two Jewish men. One was an elderly man from New York and the other gentleman, who appeared to be in his early twenties, was from California. His name was David and he was dressed in the customary black attire of a Chasidic Jew. The elderly man asked Robert where he was from. Immediately after Robert told him, this elderly man began assailing him with a battery of questions. When he discovered that we were believers in Jesus the



Todd Baker



Robert felt led to revisit Asheraf, an Arab gas attendant he and Byron witnessed to on a previous mission trip

Messiah, he vociferously attempted to denigrate and attack the Christian faith and the Jewish nature of it. His flawed arguments against Yeshua were nothing new to those specious and shortsighted arguments secularists, liberal theologians, and anti-missionary organizations habitually use in their disparaging attacks on the character of Jesus, Paul, and the disciples. This man was a raving lunatic and would not allow Robert, and to a lesser extent myself, give reasoned answers and intelligent refutations to his vituperative criticisms. Sadly, this arrogant, impatient, and bitter man was so argumentative about everything that he even went so far as to argue with me over my own family genealogy! It did not take long for me to realize that this is exactly the same type of Person the apostle Paul warned Timothy and Titus to avoid who have no interest in knowing the truth (see 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:9-10) but are obsessed with strife and contention, arrogantly presuming to dogmatically speak on matters they know nothing about.

But there was a miracle in the midst of this rage and blasphemy of a spiritually blind man. The other man, David, was standing there quietly looking on with his arms folded firmly in front of him with a stern look on his face as if to reinforce what his elderly friend was saying. Ah, but the exact opposite was true. When I made a correction to the other man's many slanderous misrepresentations of the New Testament, the younger man nodded in agreement with me. I was shocked at his obvious assent especially since he was dressed in the customary clothes of an Orthodox Chasidic Jew. David then motioned me over to the side and quietly but firmly told me that he was a believer in Yeshua HaMashiach. David originally was a Sephardic Jew whose Jewish ancestors came from Spain. David told me that he came to Israel to study in a Yeshiva but did so covertly so as not to be kicked out for his belief in Yeshua. He entered the Yeshiva to better understand how the Jewish rabbis and their students study the Torah. He further told me that he and his friend are polar opposites over who Jesus of Nazareth is. As a young believer, he still had a few doubts over alleged discrepancies in the New Testament. I explained with several examples from Scripture that these were not discrepancies but reflect the rich variety of the different textual readings and the different eyewitness accounts from the multiple perspectives of those who lived with the Lord Jesus whose collective testimony share the same story in different ways without contradicting each other but still agree on the main events. I recommended several scholarly works to him for study that bore this fact out (for example the four volume, soon to be five, work, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus* by Messianic Jewish Scholar, Dr. Michael Brown). I spent about thirty minutes or more encouraging, edifying, and praying with this brave young man to make an impact for Yeshua the Messiah in the Chasidic community. As we parted, David repeatedly thanked me for strengthening him in the faith. He told me that this providential encounter was one of the best "highlights" of his trip to Israel. ☆†☆

Only in Israel

from Stuart Arden

In this issue we begin something new, a "photo-essay" series by our resident Israeli correspondent, Stuart Arden. These photos and captions will explain some of the behavioral, cultural, and religious practices of Israel and Israelis; some are unusual, most are unique, and all are informative.



Charity boxes are welded to the frame of many bus stops because giving charity is one of the tenets of the Jewish faith. The "Rambam," Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (Moses Maimonides) says that giving charity where neither the giver nor the recipient know one another is second only to the giving of charity that makes a man self-sufficient. The Hebrew writing says that in memory of Ezra and Shulamit, the money will be used to buy food for the needy, orphans, and widows, in the name of Rabbi Maer Bal-HaNess. The word charity, *tzedaka*, comes from the same etymological root as "righteousness."

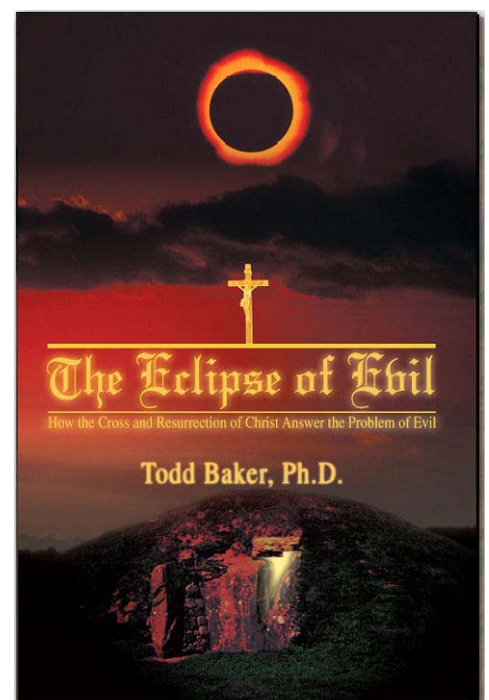
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THE ECLIPSE OF EVIL

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ANSWER THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

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Suffering and pain affect every human being. They are the results of evil in our world. The problem of evil is something both Christian and non-Christian must face and answer. How do we deal with such unpleasant realities? If there is an all-powerful, all loving, perfectly good God, why is there so much evil? This book honestly grapples with these and other fundamental questions that are related to the problem of evil and the existence of God. The existence of evil is the chief argument traditionally used against the God of the Bible. The author argues the opposite: that the existence of evil actually justifies the argument for the existence of the God of Christianity. The answer proposed in this book is not one of theory and hypothesis alone, but comes from the historical life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through a combined theodicy (defending the justice of God for allowing evil) of the cross and resurrection, the case for the Christian faith is reasonably presented and defended.



Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of
the Merchantman
and the Pearl
Part 3
(Matthew 13:45-46)
by Todd Baker

Jesus came to man in total service for their salvation. He forced no dictatorial Lordship over us. He vicariously gave His life for our eternal redemption that we might live forever with Him and never die. **"For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"** (Mark 10:45). The Lord Jesus voluntarily laid aside some of His divine prerogatives (without ceasing to be God) and took upon Himself the limitations of our humanity during His time on earth. The Lord donned the role of a human servant, and offered up His life a sacrificial ransom for many, thus securing the pearl of great price, the Church, for His possession. In this astounding purchase, our Messianic merchantman "went and sold all that He had," and bought us, the lustrous pearl of His eye. **"For you are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's"** (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Notice also that the merchantman sought the pearl. **"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchantman, seeking..."** Christ must first seek us out to save us from our lost condition. This is so, because left to ourselves we have no innate desire for Him. When Christ came into the world, He was not considered a great figure of noble respect, but was esteemed a dangerous threat among sinful, envious men and treated with great scorn and disrespect as the prophet Isaiah accurately described, **"He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him. He was despised, and we esteemed Him not"** (Isaiah 53:3).

"Again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchantman seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

- Matthew 13:45-46



It was while we were yet in our rebellion and repudiation of God that Christ came seeking us. He looked, and searched for pearls located in the muck and mire of this dirty infested world in all its degenerate filth. Once found, He cleansed and gave the pearl her light of life and everlasting value. The Church has been purchased by the precious blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28). The Church is now His eternal possession, and they shall reign with Him in the glorious age to come (Revelation 5:10; 20:4). But during the present age, the Lord Jesus acts as the industrious merchantman faithfully seeking and lovingly searching for the lost sinner to save and rectify him into full restoration with the Heavenly Father, delivering the soul from the darkened pit of death, hell, and the grave to the wonderful light of everlasting life. **"He looks upon men (like a merchantman looking at priceless pearls to purchase) and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not, He will deliver his soul from going into the pit,**

and his life shall see the light. Lo, all these things God works often times with man, to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living" (Job 33:27-30).

Our gracious Lord is continuously seeking after lost sinners in order to save and redeem them to add as a sparkling pearl of prismatic beauty for His heavenly attire. Christ specializes in looking for lost souls. This was the heavenly merchantman's sole and perfect objective when He came to this earth in search of lost, valuable pearls waiting to be found. **"For the Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost"** (Luke 19:10). The fact the merchantman came seeking for costly pearls subtly points out a dispensational contrast from the previous parable, the parable of the treasure. In the fifth parable the treasure was found, while in the sixth parable the pearl was sought for. In the fifth parable we noticed the field was bought to obtain the treasure. But in this parable the pearl is bought without purchasing the world. This indicates that the calling of the Church is heavenly.

The parable of the treasure illustrates Israel's earthly role in their abeyance during the mystery phase of the kingdom of heaven in the present age. Israel, in the fifth parable, is pictured with an earthly calling, and is hid in the world until their divine calling is renewed at the end of the age. Therefore, there are two distinct elect peoples of God. In the fifth parable we see God's salvation of His earthly elect—the Jewish people (Isaiah 65:9). In the sixth parable we see God's salvation

Continued on page 10

Fornication: The Most Overlooked Sin



by Aaron Levitt

If we take God's Word to mean what it says, fornication is on a par with the worst and most grievous sins in both the Old and New Testaments (Isaiah 23:17; Ezekiel 16:26; Matthew 15:19; Acts 15:20,29; Romans 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:1 & 6:18, to name a few). Sometimes listed alongside murder and blasphemy, fornication is not once in Scripture mentioned as being moderate, let alone mild. Even being "born of" fornication (John 8:41; 9:34) was considered a great curse in Bible times. Yet, strangely, fornication seems to be one of the most trivialized sins in the Church today! It seems to be a taboo subject for sermons in most churches, doesn't it? And not just in Christendom at large, but also within congregations of conservative, mainline denominations.

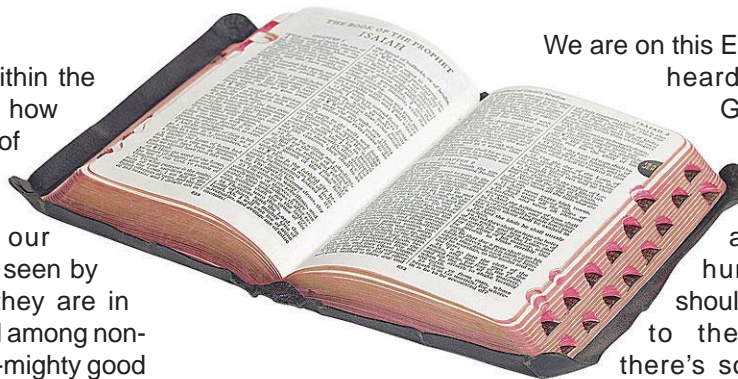
Indeed, not only is fornication rife within the church, but so is covert adultery. For, how often do we read or hear in the news of secret sex scandals involving leaders of Christian institutions. Far, far too often, my friends. It is a moral blight on our reputations as Christians, when we are seen by the world as being no different than they are in behavior. Indeed, it is commonly believed among non-Christians that Christians *talk* a high-and-mighty good game, but when the temptation really hits, that they're just as susceptible, and as much slaves to sin, as is anyone else. Hence, a common use of the word "hypocrisy" which I hear all too often applied to those



of Christ. Faith and verbal witnessing are good things – they are most certainly *great* things – but if our faith and words are not backed up by the way we live our lives, they become our own mockery, which the world uses to say: "See? Another person who thinks he is above us, but is not." Naturally, many who are both in and of the world would

consider our religion a farce, since Christians, seemingly to the world, cannot resist the most common human temptations any more than anyone else can.

So, to show Christ, we must live for Him, daily, before our fellow men and women. We are His representatives to the world – indeed, we are *all* that the world has in terms of present-day pictures of Christ. The only current evidence of Christ's spirit that the people of the world see is what the Bible terms our "fruits" (Matthew 7:20) – our deeds. So, we must solemnly ask ourselves: Do we evidence to those who casually observe us that we are part of a "holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5) chosen and called by God? We, as Christians, cannot afford to use the in-vogue line, "I don't care what other people think about me," and other forms of the same idea. If we believe that quote, friends, we are not truly living for Christ.



We are on this Earth to be seen and heard of men, that the Gospel may not only be read in a book, but also *demonstrated*, in action, in day-to-day human life. People should see us, and think to themselves: "Hmm, there's something different

about that person. They have some kind of high moral sense that I don't fully understand, but I'd certainly like to. And, I notice they are especially kind to people, even when they seemingly have nothing to gain from being so. What are they all about, anyway??" When a non-Christian asks that question of us, brothers and sisters, that is one sign that we are doing our jobs as Christians. Of course, we also must verbally and clearly convey the Gospel to them, but the witness of actions is where that usually starts.

Christianity is not a philosophy, it is the truth. That means that it permeates all of reality, from the philosophical, to the emotional, to the physical, all the way to the supernatural and spiritual realms. It is fact (John 14:6), and the only way to show that we believe it is fact is by living it *every single day of our lives*. For, Christianity isn't true just part of the time; it's true all of the time! If we internally take Christianity casually, the world will pick up on that. "Oh, he's not really serious about his faith, it's just an intellectual position he finds comfortable. He doesn't *really* believe there is a God. It's merely a *concept* that helps get him through the night," they might well think.

Biblically, both fornication and adultery are damnable sins (1 Corinthians 6:9). Yet, from a humanistic or worldly standpoint, fornication seems harmless enough, especially under the seemingly ideal circumstances of people who are consenting adults, who love each other, and who take the best contraceptive precautions. It's fun, and, "No one gets hurt," right? Not according to Scripture, and not according to any honest and objective analysis of the spiritual and psychological fallout that occurs in the lives of those who fornicate. Even



thoroughly unrepentant fornicators feel at least *some* sense of shame from the act. They often try hard to mask it, or distract themselves from it, with alcohol, or drugs, or simply romantic verbal expressions which declare sex to be love itself, i.e. songs with lines such as "I'll love you all night", and endless various other uses of the word "love", with the rest of the lyrics often clearly indicating that the people sung about are not married. 1 Corinthians 6:18 illustrates some of that fallout that fornication produces within a person. **"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body."** The phrase "sins against" in context of the human body refers to doing damage to it. Sexually transmitted diseases are proof of that, for various and sundry are they, differing both in severity and in ease of transmission. And also, we have the proven fact that no birth control method is 100% effective in all cases. Given that fact, it is much better, for the child, for it to be born to married parents –



parents who have already fully solidified their unconditional commitments to one another – rather than to parents who have chosen to remain unmarried while continuing to risk pregnancy by having sex.

As we know, the chief driving force behind fornication is the sin of lust. Lust is that which unreasonably covets pleasure, and which seeks after that which is actually a false sense of fulfillment. Lust manifests itself in many ways. Scripture speaks of lust to kill (Exodus 15:9), lust to eat (Psalm 78:18), and, of course, the lust of the eyes (Proverbs 6:25). It was from out of the lust of the eyes that Herod sought to kill John the Baptist. John objected to Herod's lusting after, and indeed *taking*, Herod's brother's wife, Herodias, as his own in Matthew 14. Herod

imprisoned John for this outspoken objection of his, and even wished to kill John for it, but refrained from the latter because the people loved John and considered him a prophet. So, to cover the sin of his own uncontrolled lust, Herod committed a *second* sin, imprisoning a prophet of God – in fact, according to Jesus, John was the greatest prophet up to that time (Luke 7:28).

Not only did Herod both imprison God's prophet John the Baptist and seek to *kill* him in order to hide Herod's own uncontrolled lust, but Herod also eventually *did* have John killed, as an indirect result of that same lust. Here, we see that Herod's lust, having caused him to "unlawfully", as John decried, take his own brother Philip's wife as his own, was still not satisfied. (That is perhaps the chief trademark of lust – by its very nature; it can never be truly satisfied.) No, still hungry for more, Herod also lusted after Herodias' daughter. Herodias picked up on his perverse attraction, and used it to set up a trap for Herod during his birthday celebration. She, too, had wanted John killed, because of his ceaseless protestations – even from prison – that Herod was sinning in giving into his lust and marrying her.



So, she told her daughter to dance before Herod, and, when Herod was pleased with her dancing, he promised to give her daughter whatever she asked, which her mother had instructed her would be John's head on a platter. Grieved, Herod nonetheless granted her request, because of all the witnesses present. Herod was torn, internally, between his respect for John and his hatred of John's outspoken condemnations of Herod's sin.

So, in conclusion, we see that lust, while it can *seem* relatively harmless and quite natural, is just as deadly a sin as murder. And sometimes, as in the story above, as well as in countless other accounts from the annals of history, lust and its children, fornication and adultery, even results in murder. Love, on the other hand, never seeks after its own gain. Rather, it seeks to give, and to help, and to encourage in goodness and righteousness. So, when we sense lust rearing its ugly head within our hearts and minds, let us choose in that moment to represent Christ, by focusing on the love that Christ gave us and expects us to give to all our fellow men and women. †



THE “WORD”



BY STUART ARDEN
ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT

In the beginning was the “Word,” and the “Word” was on the lips of many, and the “Word” was PEACE. And the “Word” became “flesh,” and dwelt among us and we beheld its glory.

And the Word (PEACE) begat the Count Folke Bernadotte Plan (1947-1948), which begat UN Security Council Resolution 242 (22 Nov. 1967), which begat the Gunnar Jarring Mission (1967-1971), which begat the Rogers Plan (1969), which begat UN Security Council Resolution 338 (22 Oct. 1973), which begat the Camp David Accords (Sept. 1978), which begat the Reagan Plan (1 Sept. 1982), which begat the Oslo Accords (13 Sept. 1993), which begat the Wye River Memorandum (23 Oct. 1998), which begat the Camp David Summit (Camp David II, July, 2000), which begat the Taba “Summit” (Jan. 2001), which begat . . .

The Bernadotte Plan gave the lion’s share of western Palestine to the Arabs, (after the British had previously given all of eastern Palestine to the Hashemites of Arabia, with the proviso that no Jews could live there!) and proposed a two-state solution; nevertheless, his plan called for the return of Arab refugees to their homes in what would be the Jewish state. Is that a two-state solution?! “242” calls for Israel to withdraw from territories (not from “the” or from “all” the territories) taken in the Six Day War; so Israel’s return of the Sinai to Egypt has already fulfilled that obligation; but to the Arabs it’s always all or nothing, so “242” didn’t achieve peace and that was the impetus for the Jarring Mission. The Rogers Plan was rejected by all sides, and Egyptian President Gamal Abd el-Nasser violated the agreed-upon status quo by moving 100 SAM missile sites eastward, thereby setting the stage for the

Yom Kippur (October) war of 1973. “338” merely called for a ceasefire, implementation of “242,” and negotiations for a “just and durable peace.” The Camp David Accords resulted in a sham peace agreement with Egypt in which Israel withdrew from every last centimeter of the Sinai, while



Khrushchev awards Nasser “Hero of the Soviet Union,” and “Order of Lenin,” May 1964

Egypt later recalled its Ambassador from Israel, continues its defamation and incitement against Israel in its media, ostracizes professionals communicating with colleagues in Israel, and has been madly buying sophisticated American military equipment (to be used against whom? since Egypt is being threatened by no one!). The Reagan Plan (under influence from George [Herbert] Bush, Caspar Weinberger, and James Baker, all of whose antipathy to Israel is well-known), which impinged on Israel’s security, had been broached to, and rejected by Saudi Arabia and Jordan before it was even revealed to Israel. Myopic leftists deluded the Israeli government into signing the Oslo Accords, yet less than a month after the signing, Yasser Arafat made it

known to various audiences that he had invoked the Islamic concept of *takiya* (which originally meant lying for Islam) whereby treaties can be made when one is in a position of weakness, but can later be broken when one is stronger. Is this a peace treaty?! The provisions of the Wye River Memorandum were “killed” by the Al-Aqsa Intifada, September 2000, (now called the First Intifada). Camp David II had U.S. President Bill Clinton, attempting to resurrect



Barak, Clinton, and Arafat at Camp David II

his image after his impeachment over the “Monica Lewinsky affair;” Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, the most highly-decorated soldier in the IDF, as well as having been its former Chief of Staff; and also, the Nobel Peace Prize co-winner of 1994, that unrepentant terrorist, Yasser Arafat. In hindsight, Arafat’s recalcitrance actually benefited Israel because among other things, the Israeli Prime Minister had been willing to give-up the Temple Mount, site of the two holy temples (and the most sacred



The Second Temple (source: www.therivercrc.com)

site in Judaism), in an attempt to salvage his political career with another of those sham peace agreements (all public opinion polls indicated no chance for his reelection). Dennis Ross, President Clinton’s senior Middle East advisor, was present at Camp David II, and in his summary following that failed negotiation, says the following: “Arafat scuttled the Camp David offer. Arafat scuttled the Taba offer. Arafat scuttled the Mitchell plan. Arafat scuttled the Tenet plan. Arafat scuttled the Zinni plan.”

Would it really shed any additional insight on these unsuccessful “peace” efforts by continuing with the “begats;” that is, by discussing the Arab Peace Initiative (28 March 2002), the Road Map for Peace (30 April 2003), the Geneva Accord (20 Oct. 2003), the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit (8 Feb. 2005) etc.? I think not. The reason for all these failures can be traced back to

29 November 1947, UN General Assembly Resolution 181, commonly called the “UN Partition Plan” (for western Palestine!). Jerusalem was to be made an “international city” and the remaining land was partitioned into an additional Arab state (remember Jordan!), and a Jewish state. After 2,000 years of foreign occupation of their land, mindful of the fact that some of their brethren had remained in that land continuously since Biblical times, the Jews reluctantly accepted the chance for a truncated and miniscule independent state in their ancient homeland. The Arabs, who already had 79% of Palestine (!), rejected the Partition Plan with their usual all (or nothing) philosophy (i.e., We get it all or we don’t agree.) Furthermore, after the Israeli Declaration of Statehood (14 May 1948), the Arabs began the 1948 war in an attempt to destroy the fledgling Jewish state. Sadly, that kind of thinking has been their objective ever since. Yes, the Arabs want PEACE, but as I’ve stated elsewhere, they want PEACE, PIECE BY PIECE (until there is no more Israel)!



U.N. Partition Plan of 1947

The latest of these illusory PEACE conferences/gatherings/meetings/summits (“photo-op carnivals” is actually all they are), took place in Annapolis, Maryland (27 Nov. 2007). Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was completely unsuccessful in arranging meetings with any of the delegates from Arab countries (other than Salaheddin al-Bashir, the Jordanian Foreign Minister) even though the point behind “Annapolis” was meant to show international support for Israeli-“Palestinian” negotiations. Additionally, prior to this gathering, Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, said that he would not shake the hands of any of the Israeli delegates, calling it theatrical gestures. Thank you Minister al-Faisal, for “telling it like it is,” nothing but another meaningless carnival! (Grammatical correction on a Howard Cosellism: It’s “telling it as it is.”)

Ill-informed intermediaries continually tell Israel to “take a chance for peace.” That chance has already been taken! On 12 September 2005 Israel withdrew its army (the IDF) from the Gaza Strip, bulldozed 21 settlements, displaced 8,692 settlers; and what did it get in return? DAILY mortar and rocket firings on Israeli communities, cities, and kibbutzim across the border from Gaza, with nary a word of condemnation from world leaders. Anyone proposing that Israel take another chance such as this is either suffering from short term memory loss or selective memory loss. Israel (and only Israel!) is repeatedly asked to make gestures of good

faith. After the Annapolis “carnival,” Israel released 429 “Palestinian” prisoners in another attempt at boosting the image of Mahmoud Abbas among his people; with studies showing that many released prisoners return to a life of terrorism. However, what is even more galling, is that Pfc. Gilad Shalit, kidnapped by Hamas on 25 June 2006, wasn’t released and remains in captivity, another example of that one-way street on “gestures of good faith.” True, Gilad Shalit was captured by Hamas, and Ismail Haniyeh controls Hamas, which controls Gaza, which Mahmoud Abbas does not control – if so, what is the sense of this charade of negotiating with Abbas?! Oh, I’m sorry, I guess I misunderstood, the “carnival-creators” are evidently proposing a four state solution to the “Palestine problem:” Israel, and three Arab states: Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, and Hamasistan.



Protester at Annapolis, Nov. 2007 (source: MichelleMalkin.com)

Consider the following as representative of the Arabs recalcitrant, rejectionist, and regressive behavior: One of the latest “buzz-words” among misguided peaceniks is the “two-state solution.” If there is a “two-state solution,” one of them would be Arab (in addition to the “Palestinian” state already in-existence, i.e. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), and the other one would be Jewish (i.e., Israel). Nevertheless, prior to the Annapolis gathering, Saeb Erekat, one of the “Palestinian” negotiators, refused to accept such an idea, as did Abbas and others, afterwards. Arabs want to get recognition for the state to be carved out of the ancient Jewish homeland, but refuse to grant the Jews (i.e., the Israelis) reciprocal recognition. On 10 November 2007, shortly before “Annapolis,” Riad Malki, Palestinian Authority Information Minister, denied Israeli reports that the P.A. had agreed to disband terrorist groups. Since when does one talk peace while perpetuating terrorism at the same time?! At the Annapolis “carnival,” President Bush said, “In furtherance of the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security”

Nevertheless, one day after Annapolis, Saeb Erekat said that President Bush does not speak for the Palestinians, and if he wants an exchange of territory he should go talk to Mexico; also, as reported by Palestine Media Watch, Palestine TV broadcast a previously-prepared video clip in which all of Israel was painted with the colors of the Palestinian flag, further proof of the wasted carnival at Annapolis, and demonstrating the true Arab intentions regarding Israel. Additionally, for the 43rd anniversary of *Fatah* (following Annapolis), a poster designed by Abdel Mun’em Ibrahim shows a map with the entire State of Israel covered in a *kefiya*, with an automatic rifle on the right side. Does the rifle have any significance? It most surely does! It is a symbol indicating that “the armed struggle isn’t over” (i.e. that force must be used to completely “erase” Israel). On 27 December

Dry Bones



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Continued on page 10

MARCH 23-APRIL 8, 2008 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 2008 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.

The "Word" Continued from page 9

2007 two Israeli soldiers on-leave were killed by Palestinian terrorists, and PA Foreign Minister Riad Malki said that the terrorists were out to "sabotage peace negotiations," yet some



Maps prepared by "Palestinians" attest to their real aim, the elimination of Israel!

of the gunmen were members of *Fatah*, Mahmoud Abbas's own political party! What peace negotiations?! Incitement, children encouraged to become homicide bombers, terrorist attacks, maps omitting Israel, and there are peace negotiations?! There is NO peace process, there is only an on-going Arab attempt at enlisting European and American pressure on Israel for the "piece by piece process!"

Yea, verily I say unto thee, their lips have spoken PEACE, but *They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves committing iniquity.* (Jeremiah 9:5) ✧

Matthew 13... Continued from page 5

of His heavenly elect, the Church, made up of mostly Gentiles universally composed of a great called-out company of believers from every nation (Colossians 3:11-12).

Let us now focus our undivided attention on the pearl. The kingdom of heaven is like a pearl. The Church is not the kingdom, per se, as some wrongly assume, but is "like" the kingdom. Therefore, the Church is a similitude of the kingdom of heaven. The parable states that after the merchantman sought for goodly pearls, he found only one to his specific liking. To speculate on what the other pearls represent is really inconsequential, next to the one pearl of beauty and glorious display. This one acquired pearl appropriately pictures the collective Church of the present dispensation. The Church is the "one" Body of Jesus Christ composed of many members. ***"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every member one of another"*** (Romans 12:5). The pearl in this parable is admirable for its singular unity. Christ chose to use the rich symbol of the pearl as an accurate picture of His unified, universal Church. The fact the pearl stands for the Church is the dominant theme around which the whole parable is oriented. The Church is one inseparable pearl of matchless beauty. The one true Church of the King of glory is figurative of one pearl of great price and signifies the unity of all the saints under the headship of Jesus Christ in "mystery" form. †

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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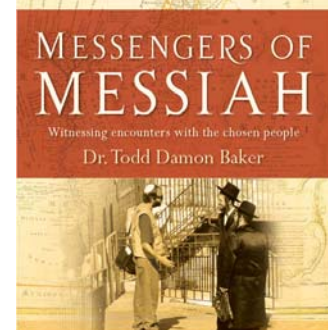
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About the Author

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. †

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Brit Hadashah Ministries

John

5:39



Jan/Feb 2008 issue

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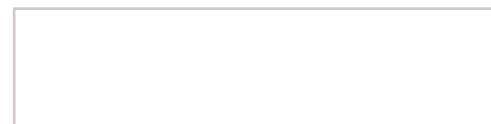
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Join Dr. Todd Baker in an enriching evening of teaching the Bible and the Jewish roots of Christianity. The Shalom, Shalom Congregation meets each Friday evening at 7:00 at Fellowship Bible Church now located at 9330 N. Central Expy, Room 202, Dallas, Texas.

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שלום

UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for January and February's lessons are:

- The Eternal Security of the Believer series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series