

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John  
5:39



Volume 6, Number 4

July/August 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*

## A PERFECT PORTRAIT

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**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
ON AUGUST 8!**

**SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS!**

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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.



## Search the Scriptures

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

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*Picture on cover: One of the winding streets in the Jewish quarter of the Old City (Jerusalem)*

## ISRAELI GUEST SPEAKER, TANYA TOPLIER, TO SPEAK AT SHALOM, SHALOM

**P**lease come out and show your support of this wonderful organization, Holy Land Ministries, based in Tel Aviv.

They are registered as an Israeli non-profit organization to assist homeless and needy



HOLY LAND MINISTRIES  
HOLY LAND MINISTRIES

Israelis. Holy Land Ministries is a Messianic (Christian) organization which ministers the Gospel through such assistance and shares the word of God with fellow Israelis. You can visit their web site at [www.holylandministry.org](http://www.holylandministry.org).

Tanya Toplier, director of Holy Land Ministries, will be in Dallas on **August 8, 2008**, at **7:00pm** speaking to our congregation and all those who wish to attend.



We would love to have a large crowd to welcome Ms. Toplier. Please **check our web site** ([www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org)) to be aware of any changes to the date or time. We look forward to having you join us!

Thank you all for your constant support in prayer for Israel and our ministry to the lost sheep there.



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.

For more information, please visit [www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org), click Fellowship & Tours tab or call (214) 356-2583

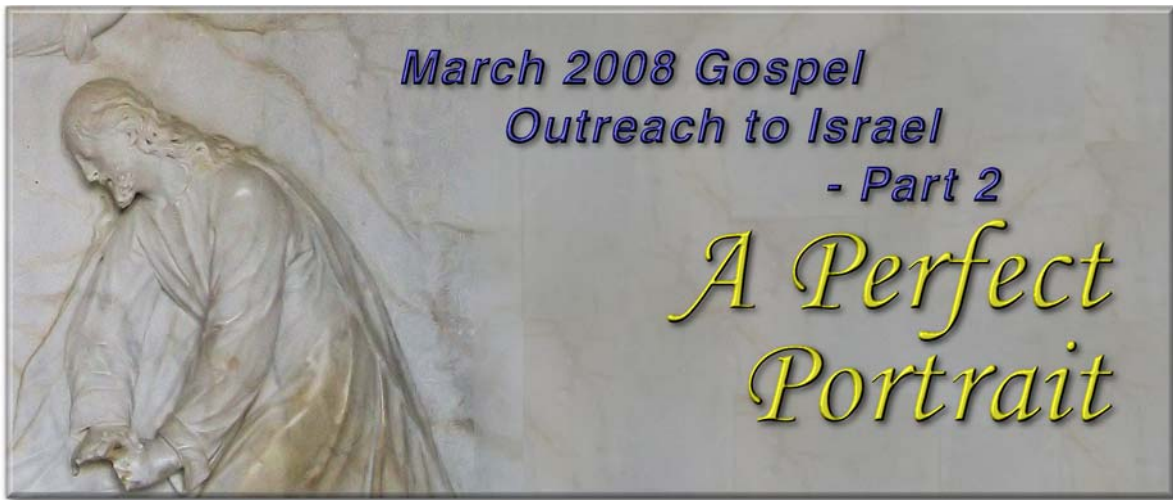
שלום

## UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for July and August's lessons are:

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

August 8: Special Guest Speaker from Israel - please join us!



## March 2008 Gospel Outreach to Israel - Part 2

# A Perfect Portrait

When Paul and I arrived in Tiberias of Galilee, he made the Spirit-led suggestion that we revisit a Jewish woman whose name was Katerina that worked in the tourist information center. We had made repeated visits to her on past Gospel outreach trips to Israel and had an effective witness for Yeshua with her. Our Gospel witnessing to Katerina has been documented in past issues of *Search the Scriptures*. When we arrived at the tourist center, Katerina was there and she vividly remembered who we were. She pointed to me and exclaimed, “You are the Messianic person who believes in Yeshua.” I gladly affirmed so.



by Todd Baker

are paid in full by Him—meaning the death of Jesus the Messiah paid our moral debt to God. To prove God accepted this perfect payment, the veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom to indicate this was the hand of God and not the hand of man (*Matthew 27:51*). Such a supernatural act means that we now have direct access to God and can acceptably approach Him anytime through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus the Messiah (see *Hebrews 9*).

Katerina was astonished to learn this from the B’rit Hadashah (New Testament). Paul and I then shared with her that God loved her so much that He became a human being in the person of Jesus of Nazareth to reach out and redeem and touch her life with His transforming love. Katerina listened intently and then asked for another copy of a complete Jewish bible. She had given the other copy away that we had previously given to her. This time she said she would keep this one as her very own. Paul and I wrote inside the front of her copy a personal note to Katerina expressing our hope and prayer that Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) will reveal to her from God’s Word the marvelous and perfect portrait of the Jewish Messiah in the face of Yeshua of Nazareth.

*Continued on page 9*



*Katerina remembered our mission team from several previous years of witnessing*

Paul and I were able to extensively discuss the problem of sin and how God pardons and forgives sinners through the sacrifice of Messiah Who paid the sin debt by His atoning death for Israel and the world. Paul then took Katerina to Isaiah 53—the great prophecy that foretold the Messiah would die as the expiatory sacrifice for mankind’s sins to procure their redemption. Paul explained how this prophecy was obviously fulfilled in the sufferings and death of Yeshua of Nazareth.

I then explained to Katerina that when Jesus uttered His final words from the cross, “It is finished,” He was really saying the debt for the sins of humanity



*Katerina listens again as Paul explains the Gospel to her.  
Will this be the time that God opens her heart?*



# Only in Israel

from Stuart Arden

In this issue, we continue with our "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.

## It's Called a Geniza

Located in a religious neighborhood of Jerusalem, this is a *Geniza*. A *Geniza*, usually in the basement or attic of a synagogue, is a depository for old documents and books; whose fate was to either disintegrate over time, or be taken to a cemetery for burial. These items were stored because of an extrapolation of Exodus 20:7, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God in vain." Books, manuscripts, business and personal correspondence, diaries, and any other written items bearing holy names were brought to a *Geniza* rather than being thrown out or burned. The Hebrew root of the word *Geniza*, gnz, originally meant something close to "hidden storing."



It resembles a trash receptacle (and even has graffiti), but it's something completely different. The upper name plate on the top says *Geniza*, and the lower one admonishes people to wrap their "deposits," and says it's forbidden to keep the lids open.



the Fustat Geniza

The rediscovery of the *Geniza* in the Ben Ezra Synagogue (built in 882 c.e.) in Fustat (old Cairo) during a restoration in the 1890s, with more than 210,000 items (preserved by the dry climate), shed great light on Jewish life during the Middle Ages, an era that had previously been sorely lacking in scholarship.

## Don't Forget about Todd's First Book Available for Purchase on our Website

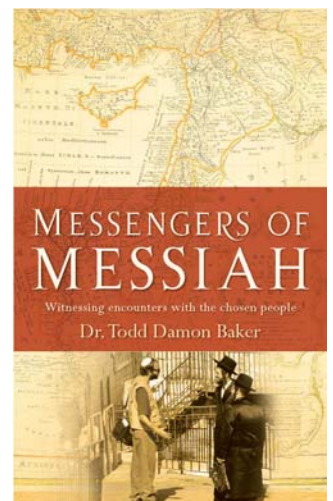
There is something subtle going on in the Middle East that is foretold in Scripture. It is a bookmark of the end of the age. Those who know the Word of God can see prophecy being played out and fulfilled in our newspapers and on TV. But underneath the media's deluge of coverage of the Holy Land crisis, God is raising up watchmen to the house of Israel...

**Isaiah 62:6-7**

*I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem:  
They shall never hold their peace day or night.*

*You who make mention of the Lord,  
do not keep silent,*

*And give Him no rest till He establishes  
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the Earth.*



In an age of mega-Church and high-profile ministry, this book chronicles the heart and soul of a humble ministry that is reaching out one-on-one, on the streets of Israel, to prepare the Jews for the return of the Messiah, Yeshua. Much like John the Baptist who personally prepared them for the Messiah's first coming to Israel, Todd Baker and his team are one group of Watchmen called "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17).



# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of  
the Merchantman  
and the Pearl  
Part 6  
(Matthew 13:45-46)  
by Todd Baker

**T**he great price God paid to salvage the pearl was His one and only beloved Son. He gave the world Jesus in eternal love so that the human race could be redeemed from the fatal curse of sin and the tyranny of the devil. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life"** (John 3:16). The diver of pearls often endangers himself when he plunges into the ocean. At great risk, he swims through the shark infested waters to obtain the pearl from the rocky and muddy surrounding it is found in. Driven by the compulsion of divine love, Jesus made His holy descent into the world and sacrificed His life in our place to bring us out of the drudgery and pollutions of our deep-seated sins. He called and delivered us from the depths of darkness into His marvelous light of eternal life (1 Peter 2:9).

Another significant fact about the pearl is that it is the only gem found in the sea. This is surely indicative of the multinational nature of the Church in the present dispensation consisting mostly of Gentiles drawn out from **"many waters"** (Psalm 18:16; 144:7; Isaiah 43:2; Jonah 2:5-6).

The formation of the pearl is clandestine. It is hidden and kept secret from the eyes of the world below the inner depths of the sea. Only the omniscient eye of God is able to behold the pearl's magnificent creation while it is securely encased inside the shell of the oyster beyond human sight. The Church has been in the process of being gradually formed just like the

*"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



pearl. The visible church is, of course, seen in its obvious forms of religious ostentation—the churches of brick, stone, glass, and wooden buildings both ordinary and flamboyant. Presently, though, God's true Church is invisible, and her formation is like the pearl oyster, hidden and veiled from the eyes of man.

The pearl is currently the one true Church now under construction. It shall be formed through God's Holy Spirit by His mortar of unbreakable love—**"In Whom all the building fitly framed together grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Whom you also are built together for a holy habitation of God through the Spirit, from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joints supplies according to the effectual working in the measure of every part making increase of the body to the edifying of itself in love"** (Ephesians 2:21-22; 4:16). Christ, like the shell of an oyster, is our shield of protection. He hides

and protects us from imminent danger just as the pearl encased inside the mollusk shell is totally secure and safe from any outside, destructive influence. **"You shall hide them in the secret of Your presence from the pride of man. You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings shall you trust. His truth shall be your shield and buckler"** (Psalm 31:20; 91:4). Our life is hid with Christ, and we are His pearl presently being fashioned in the midst of the unseeing, unbelieving eyes of this world. But when our messianic Merchantman shall appear from heaven, He will deliver us from the torrential waters of this violent and ungodly world, and so shall we ever be present with the Lord. **"For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then you shall also appear with Him in glory"** (Colossians 3:3-4). Through the symbolic intimation the Lord Jesus chose in using the pearl for His redeemed Church, we have the triumphant prediction of the august and exalted place the Church is to occupy in her future state in the kingdom of God. The Church of Jesus Christ shall be God's heavenly object of great and valued beauty. She will be the object of profound admiration in the eyes of Jesus and in the eyes of all who believe in the day when the Lord Jesus Christ is gloriously revealed at His return—**"When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe"** (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

*Continued on page 10*



# WHOSE GOLAN?



BY STUART ARDEN  
ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT

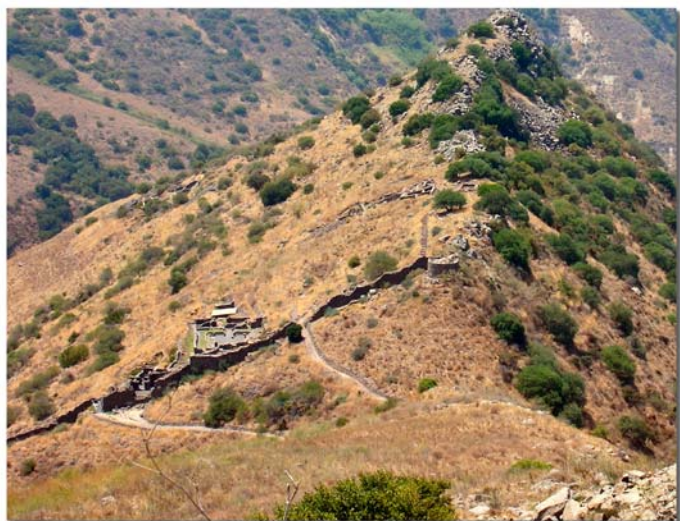
**H**istorically, politically, and militarily, Israel's retention of the Golan is far more compelling than giving it away:

- 1) The Golan Heights had been a possession of the Israelites;
- 2) The Golan Heights were a part of the British Mandate for Palestine (not the French Mandate for Syria); and
- 3) Israel captured the Golan Heights in a defensive action, in response to an aggressor's attempt to destroy the Jewish state.

A non-comprehensive history of Jewish habitation on the Golan is as follows: The Israelites, descendants of the patriarch Jacob (name changed to Israel, Genesis 32:28), "possessed" (the Golan, a part of) Biblical "Bashan", shortly after their entry into the "Promised Land." For the record of the battles for Bashan, see: Numbers 21:33-35, and Deuteronomy 3:1-7. The Book of Joshua 13:30 says that all of Bashan was given to half of the tribe of Menasha, and in Joshua 21:27, we learn that Golan, in Bashan, was made into a city of refuge (for individuals accused of involuntary murder). Other books of the O.T. (Original Testament) discuss the beauties of Bashan: the lambs, goats, and bulls of Bashan (Ezekiel 39:18); the oak trees (Ezekiel 27:6, Isaiah 2:13, Zechariah 11:2); and the pastureland (Jeremiah 50:19).

The Hebrew/Jewish Apocrypha (books included in the Septuagint and Vulgate, but not in the Hebrew O.T. nor the latest King James O.T.) also refer to battles at Bashan and Gilead (south of Bashan): I Maccabees 5:3-13, 24-54 and II Maccabees 10:24-37, 12:10-31, where Judas Maccabaeus and his brother Jonathan fought against pagan oppressors harassing the Jewish villages. Indeed, during the period of the Hasmoneans (140-37 b.c.e.), the Jewish population on the Golan greatly increased. During the next Jewish dynasty, Herod the Great and his descendants (37 bce-92 c.e.), there was also an increase of the Golan's Jewish population. The Israelite/Hebrew/Jewish presence on the Golan is also mentioned in the Talmud, and in two works of Flavius Josephus (Yosef ben Matityahu): Antiquities of the Jews and The Jewish Wars, in which Josephus recounts the fall of Gamla in 67 c.e., to Vespasian (subsequently Roman Emperor 69-79 c.e.) and three Roman legions. During this "Great Revolt" against Rome (66-73 c.e.) more than 9000 people died at Gamla, many of them jumping to their death rather than be sold into slavery in the Roman Empire, a tragedy easily rivaling the later story of Masada's defenders (70-73 c.e.).

With the Moslem conquest of the Holy Land in the 7<sup>th</sup> century c.e., all the Jewish villages on the Golan were destroyed. However, in the early 1880s, Laurence Oliphant, a Christian Englishman of Scottish origin, found remains of ancient Jewish synagogues on the Golan. In 1884-1885 he, as well as Gottlieb Schumacher, viewed the remains of an ancient Jewish village (Um al Kanatir/Em Hakshatot) and its synagogue, spurring archaeological interest in the Holy Land. In 1879, Oliphant had approached the Turkish authorities with a plan for purchasing Gilead (in present-day Jordan; home of the other half-tribe of Menasha, as well as the tribe of Gad, during the Biblical period) and resettling Jews there. His plan, contrary to what many have written, was



Gamla, on the hillside (Survivors of the Roman assault jumped from the far side)



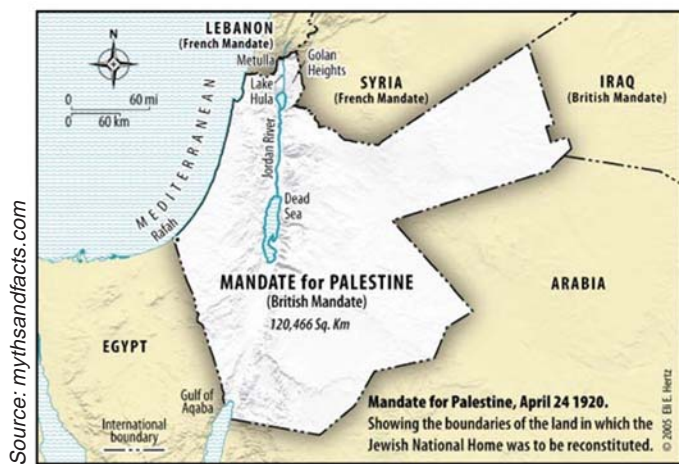
Um al-Kanatir/Em Hakshatot (with modern device for lifting heavy stones)  
Source: photo by David Bivin

not strictly Zionist. Oliphant had come under the influence of mystical messianic sources and felt that returning a portion of the ancient Jewish homeland to Jewish sovereignty would hasten the coming of "End Times." Oliphant's plan was approved by the Turkish Cabinet but since his plan included financing of the purchase by like-minded Britishers, Sultan Abdul Hamid II feared some sort of a British plot and the plan was nixed. Nevertheless, Oliphant's plan was promulgated seventeen years before Theodor Herzl's *Der Judenstaat* (*The Jewish State*, 1896) and the formal start of Zionism. In 1889, Gottlieb Schumacher discovered the synagogue at *ed-Dikke*, one of a number of synagogues that he discovered, and in 1905 Heinrich Kohl and Carl Watzinger excavated *Um al Kanatir* and continued the discovery of ancient Jewish synagogues and villages. Most of these remains on the Golan have been dated as belonging to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries c.e. As recently as 1886 and 1887, Jews

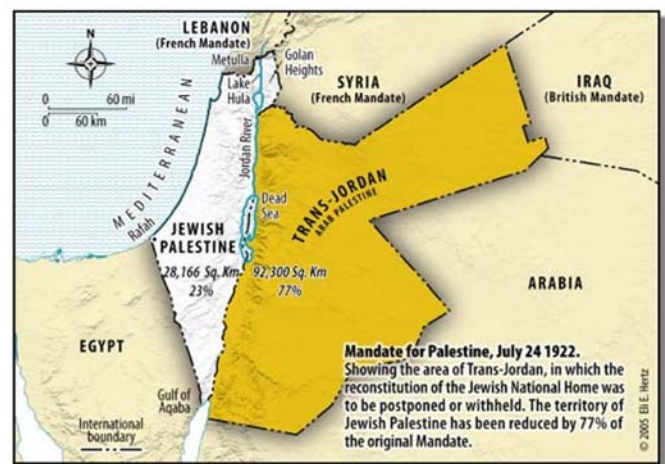
Jordan River into an autonomous unit called Transjordan which was given to Emir Abdallah (of the Hashemite tribe from Arabia), and forbade any Jews to live there; thus prohibiting Jews from living in an area specified in the Mandate as the Jewish national home! On 15 May 1923, Transjordan, which represented 77% of the Palestine Mandate, became a separate entity (and was later granted independence on 25 May 1946 as The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan). However, the map of the greatly-reduced (western) Palestine in 1923 (which established the final borders of Palestine, Jordan, and Syria) still shows the Golan Heights (east of Lake Hula) as a part of Palestine. The Golan had been part of Palestine (the designated Jewish homeland), NOT a part of Syria!

In their supreme arrogance prior to the official end of World War I, Britain and France had begun their plans for the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire with the secret

## 1920 - Original territory assigned to the Jewish National Home



## 1922 - Final territory assigned to the Jewish National Home



purchased land on the Golan, but these farmers were killed in the Arab riots of 1920.

World War I formally ended with an armistice on 11 November 1919, and the land holdings of the defeated Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey) became "spoils of war." As a result, and with Article 22, paragraph four, of the Covenant of the League of Nations (28 June 1919) as a basis, the San Remo Conference of 24 April 1920 assigned the Mandate for Palestine to Great Britain. Anyone looking at the map of Mandatory Palestine as it was presented to Britain in 1920 can see that east of Lake Hula, at the top of the map, is the Golan Heights, clearly delineated as a part of Palestine. Furthermore, Article 2 of said Mandate begins as follows: "The Mandatory shall be responsible for placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home" (author's emphasis). Nevertheless, Britain, in complete contradiction to the wording of its Mandate, organized the land east of the

Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916, "giving" themselves (i.e. Britain and France) "spheres of influence." France would have Greater Syria (Syria, Lebanon, and northern Mesopotamia [northern Iraq]), and the British would have Palestine and the land stretching eastward to the Persian Gulf (today's Israel, Jordan, and southern Iraq). However, ever since 1912 and the possibility of finding oil near Mosul (Mesopotamia's second largest city), the British had lusted after that source of oil for their navy. "Somehow," through British and French machinations, Britain gained control of all of Mesopotamia, and consequently, Mosul and its oil fields, and Britain ceded the Golan Heights to the French (to be added to their Mandate for Syria). Britain's action was a complete violation of Article 5 of the Mandate for Palestine: "The Mandatory [Great Britain] shall be responsible for seeing that no Palestine territory shall be ceded or leased to, or in any way placed under the control of the Government of any foreign Power." This was one of

*Continued on page 8*



the two instances in which Britain violated the terms of its Mandate, both cases being detrimental to the future Jewish state! It is obvious that Britain's action wasn't altruism (to allow France to have unimpeded access westward to southern Lebanon from Syria). Britain's tradeoff for Mosul was to add the Golan to the French Mandate, and hence, to Syria. So, modern-day Israel was deprived of another piece of its heritage because of British subterfuge.

The unsuccessful Arab attempt at destroying Israel in 1948 had Syria sitting on the Golan Heights with Israel's Hula Valley below them. Afterwards, as a result of Syrian gunfire and artillery directed at the villages and kibbutzim below them, an entire generation of these Israelis grew-up sleeping in bomb shelters. Then in 1967, in another Arab attempt at Israel's destruction, Israel was able to capture the Golan Heights. Ever since the Golan's return to "Israelite" hands, there has been peace and quiet in the Hula Valley. In 1973, in yet another Arab attempt at Israel's destruction, Israeli tanks were able to hold off the Syrian charge even though they were outnumbered almost 10 to 1. There have been three Syrian attempts at Israel's destruction; what would have been the outcome in 1973 if Israel hadn't been on the Golan?! Interestingly, there are



*From Tiberias on the western shore, we can see the Golan Heights on the eastern shore, towering above the Sea of Galilee.  
(One-third of Israel's fresh water enters the Sea of Galilee from the Golan whereas Syria can draw water from the Euphrates River, et.al.)*

to the Syrian negotiating position regarding "peace" with Israel: they want the return of the entire Golan Heights as well as Israel's return to the line of 4 June 1967 (prior to the Six Day War). What this means is that they want returned what they originally gained through their aggression (the eastern shoreline), and they also want returned what they lost through their aggression (the Golan), a convoluted sort of logic that only the Arab mind

could come up with! "Land for Peace?" Interestingly, ever since Israel got the land (the Golan) there has been peace (with Syria). No embassies, no open borders, but peace nevertheless. Would giving up the Golan really curb the Arab desire of destroying Israel; or merely provide the springboard for the next attempt?!

According to *jus post bellum* (justice after a war): "Once hostilities have ceased, those most grievously harmed have a natural right to . . . exact punishment from the perpetrators." Between 1948 and 1967, Syrian gunners on the Golan targeted Israeli civilians below them. Syria fought Israel three times (1948, 1967, and 1973); surely the "three strikes policy" is applicable here! Syria harbors Khalid Mashaal, the political head of *Hamas*, supports and supplies arms to *Hizballah*, and has Iran as its patron; all of whom call for



*Mashaal (Hamas)*



*Nasrallah (Hizballah)*



*Ahmadinejad (Iran)*

absolutely no Syrian remains in Israel, but on the Golan there are close to 60 remains of ancient synagogues (discovered so far) attesting to the villages that once stood there, also the reconstructed village of Katzrin, and the excavated site of Gamla.

The international border separating (the reduced) Palestine and Syria in 1923 (after the British giveaway of the Golan) had Syria uphill from the eastern shoreline of the *Kinneret* (the Sea of Galilee). However, during the Arabs' attempt to destroy the nascent State of Israel in 1948, Syria was able to reach that eastern shoreline. Now pay attention

Israel's destruction. All these factors mitigate against giving-up the Golan to Syria. Consider also: Israelite history on the Golan, and Britain's unauthorized and "illegal" ceding of the Golan.

Aggressors in World Wars I and II were punished with loss of their own land, demonstrating that nations cannot attack others with impunity. However, there appear to be two "laws" in this world: those applied to all the other nations, and a separate one for Israel. Israel is the only country in the world where the aggrieved party is being asked to make restitution to the aggressor! ☆



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# Beautiful Israel



(Panorama of the Golan Heights, with the Hermon mountains (left)  
Photo by [beivushtang](http://www.pbase.com/beivushtang) <http://www.pbase.com/beivushtang>)

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## A Perfect Portrait *Continued from page 3*

Early in the morning of the next day, Paul and I decided to make the sinuous drive up to Mount Hermon and then make an additional stop in the northern city of Qiryat Shimona. Every year this ministry visits the IDF soldiers stationed at Mount Hermon to thank and encourage them for defending the nation of Israel and the world from terrorism. We also share with them the good news about the Jewish Messiah Who came to Israel long ago and is coming soon again.

Paul and I arrived near one of the peaks of Mount Hermon where there is an IDF checkpoint. There we met four IDF soldiers, Brian (who was originally from Denver, Colorado), Ido, Rami, and Eliran. All four young men were in their early twenties. Paul and I approached them and said to them that we represent Bible believers in Yeshua from America who send us every year to let the Chosen People know that we pray for them and support their God-given right to settle and live in the land the Lord gave them. At this point Brian and Ido had to catch a bus. We then carried on a lengthy conversation with the two remaining soldiers, Rami and Eliran. The Lord allowed us to give our testimony of how Jesus the Messiah changed our lives and filled it with His satisfying presence bringing forgiveness of sin, God's abiding love, and the joy of the Holy Spirit. We further elaborated on how the Messianic prophecies of the Tenach unequivocally point to Jesus of Nazareth proving that He is the one and only true Messiah of Israel.

Eliran told us that he carries a copy of the Tehillim (the book of Psalms) with him all the time. He pulled a copy out of his gun vest. Paul and I used this fact to share with this brave and bright young man that some of the major Messianic prophecies of the Bible that were literally fulfilled in the life of Yeshua are indeed found in the book of Psalms. We mentioned the most famous prophecy found in *Psalms 22* and how it foretold the manner of suffering and death Messiah would endure. Particular focus was given on verse 16 where the Psalmist predicts the Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced. We then related how that verse was exactly fulfilled with the crucifixion of Yeshua when His hands



Four IDF Soldiers greeted Todd and Paul (not shown) on Mt. Hermon

and feet were pierced by the nails the Roman soldiers drove into Him. We went on to tell both Eliran and Rami that there were many more prophecies that Yeshua fulfilled as the prophesied Messiah of Israel.

Paul pointed out that the God of Israel wanted to personally come and live with His people and be with the rest of humanity. This was achieved when the eternal God became a man in the person of Jesus just as it was foretold in *Micah 5:1-2*. There it was predicted some five hundred years before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem that a Jewish king born in Bethlehem, who was to be the supreme ruler over all Israel, would also be the God of eternity. That miracle was fulfilled in the Incarnation when God became a man in the Person of Yeshua. Paul and I further exhorted them to read and study the Holy Scriptures for themselves and to carefully peruse the Scriptures and reading materials we gave them about Yeshua fulfilling Messianic prophecy and the clear cut evidence that proves to the open-minded that He is in fact the Messiah of Israel Who is worthy of one's faith and trust.

The soldiers eagerly said they would read them over. They repeatedly thanked us for giving them what their people first gave to the Church and the world—the Hebrew Scriptures and the Jewish Messiah foretold in its inspired pages. ✠✠✠



The New Testament Church, as the pearl of great price, will ultimately have a royal destiny in heaven and on the millennial earth as the crowning achievement of God's eternal grace in its inexhaustible riches in mercy. **"But God, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus"** (Ephesians 2:4-7). We as the believers of Messiah, and the Lord's pearl of great price, along with His many other goodly pearls (who are none other than the Old Testament and Great Tribulation Saints), will



be an eternal display of the grace of God, to eternally show forth the exceeding riches of His grace. From observing the signs of the times, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His pearl of great price could happen at any moment. The Church is in the final stages of development. How wise are we then to heed our Heavenly Merchantman's warning and promise of return for us. **"Be therefore ready also: For the Son of Man comes at an hour when you think not. Surely I am coming quickly"** (Luke 12:40; Revelation 22:20).

The question still remains: Are we ready and prepared for Him to return right away? If not, let us prepare our hearts and set our lives in order. Then we can joyfully say without fear, **"Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus"** (Revelation 22:20). †



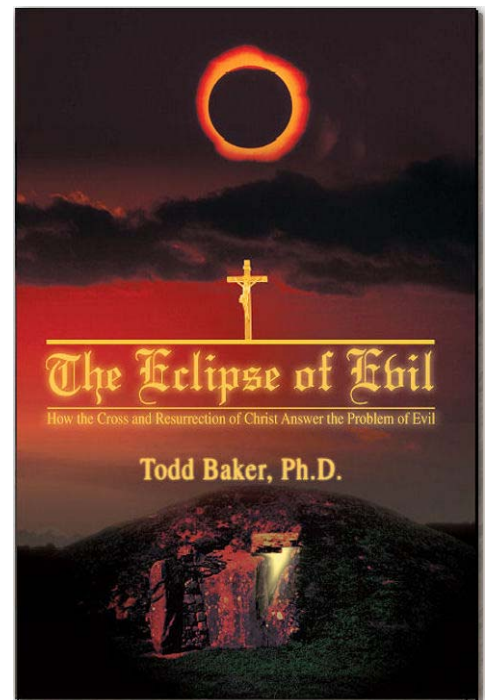
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Suffering and pain affect every human being. They are the results of evil in our world. The problem of evil is something both Christian and non-Christian must face and answer. How do we deal with such unpleasant realities? If there is an all-powerful, 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.





# 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.*

Make checks and money orders payable to:

**B'rit Hadashah Ministries**

**PO Box 796127**

**Dallas, TX 75379-6127**

We also accept:



You can also make your donation online at:

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*\* Donations are tax deductible in the U.S. as you give to this 501(c)(3) Non-profit ministry. \**

## thank you for your support

## AUSTRALIA SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT!

Great news for our readers living in "the land down under"! Todd will be speaking at the Feast of Tabernacles Conference in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia October 3-5, 2008. The Conference is being hosted by Heart of David Ministries.

If you would like more information, you may contact Todd at [Todd@brit-hadashah.org](mailto:Todd@brit-hadashah.org), or by mail at the address above.



### Personal Letter Update

We are going to have to forego the Personal Letters (which normally come out the month between the newsletters) due to a drop in donations. We realize everyone is having to tighten their belts at this time. But please remember us when you are comfortable with continuing your financial support of God's works.

If you would like to have Todd as a guest speaker at your church or function, visit our website:

**[www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org)**

or contact us at:

**[BHMengagements@gmail.com](mailto:BHMengagements@gmail.com)**

or call 214-356-2583.

### 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



July/August 2008 issue

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## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



**ON AUGUST 8**

## Audio Lessons Now Available via Website!

Have you wanted to meet with us on Friday nights but haven't been able to make it? Would you like to be able to get the great teaching in a form that you can listen to whenever you want?

***We've got good news for you!***



Todd has been recording his teachings on the "Illuminations from Isaiah" series, the "Daniel's Seventy Weeks of Years" series, and the latest series, "The Eternal Security of the Believer," in order to make them available to you. They will be put on the website as we get them cleaned up and ready to go. These lessons are available in two formats:

- As an MP3 file which you can download, and
- as an audio CD delivered by mail, available for a donation of \$10.

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