

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Volume 7, Number 1

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"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.

Search the Scriptures

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Front cover: the ceiling of the Church of the Agony in Israel;

Page 3 artwork by Linda Mason

“STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES” RADIO SHOW - ANOTHER CITY!

Todd's radio show, "Studying the Scriptures," is now playing on **WNVY (AM 1070)** in **Pensacola, FL**. If your radio will pick up this station, you will be able to catch him on Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 9:00am, then again Saturday nights from 8:30 - 9:00pm.

The show is still available in the Albuquerque, NM, area on **KXKS (AM 1190)** airing Saturdays from 12:30-1:00pm, then repeating Sundays from 6:00-6:30pm. If you have friends or family in either of these locations, tell them about his show so they can learn about the Jewish roots of our Christian faith.

As always, if you don't happen to live in Albuquerque or Pensacola, we are making copies of his shows available to you on our website!



READER RESPONSE

We love hearing from our readers! Here is one response that Dr. Baker received about his Personal Letter sent out in November:

Good morning, Bro. Todd.

I receive your monthly newsletter and today, I MUST say this to you.

I have had a few conversations with you, via, e-mail, but I did NOT want another day to go by without letting you know what I thought about your 'personal letter' that was just sent in my e-mail today.

Todd, I am an African-American woman who LOVES Yeshua and believe He is the ONLY WAY - not ONE of the paths or ways to God, BUT THE ONLY WAY- PERIOD. I have followed Zola Levitt Ministries and your ministry for quite sometime now, and I am blessed because of it.

Todd, I WHOLE-HEARTLY AGREE with your personal letter that was just sent. Bro. Todd, I have been crying now for days - literally, CRYING- IN TEARS over what America has done.

Do you know MANY 'Black-American' Christians would have been OFFENDED by what you wrote in that article? But NOT this African-American woman. I have come across SEVERAL articles written by African-American people- men and women who said the same things you have said.

I will say, yes, I am African-American, BUT before I am an African-American, and before I am a woman, I AM A FOLLOWER AND BELIEVER OF YESHUA; I am God's Child. Todd, it hurts me TREMENDOUSLY to see so many 'so-called' African-American 'CHRISTIANS' vote for this man based upon the fact that he's 'black'. I've been REJECTED; made fun of; taken lightly when I've attempted to talk to other 'black Christians' about the TRUTH about Obama.

Your article outlined a LOT of things I knew about Obama; and some, were shocking to say the least.

I have NEVER felt soooooo hurt and soooooo grieved and cried soooooo much for our Nation like I have recently- and I can't stop crying, Todd. The ONE GOOD thing that I believe has come out of this is- I believe the election results brought us JUST THAT MUCH CLOSER to Christ's return! I strongly, STRONGLY believe this.

On the day of the election, I had a bad feeling and sent text messages to a LOT of my African-American friends and advised them, like a watchman on the wall, to (I begged them, Todd) to PLEASE, PLEASE GET RIGHT WITH GOD through Jesus Christ- now is the time. Most never responded; and one even was sarcastic.

I said all of this to say I am PROUD OF YOU! I am blessed because of your ministry and NEVER stop writing/advising/telling the truth - no matter the backlash. Unfortunately, the 'church' has been taught we must LOVE, LOVE, LOVE- but my gosh, they must not have read the rest when the Word says to TEST all things; and JUDGE 'RIGHTEOUSLY'. I, too, told people- America is like Israel - crying out for a 'king', and it hurt God; and now, America has got the 'king' they wanted. America just doesn't know what they have done and what their 'so-called' king will do.

But rest assure, OUR KING- IS YESHUA/JESUS!

STAY STRONG and ENCOURAGED, my brother in Christ, and may God have MERCY on America. America is headed in the WRONG direction.

Sis. Audrea S



A Man of Sorrows, Acquainted With Our Grief (Isaiah 53:3)

March 2008

Gospel Outreach to Israel

Part 5

Continuing our outreach in Tiberias, Paul and I decided to stop by a Gelato (Italian ice cream) shop. This incident allowed us to carry on an extensive dialogue with the owner, Tomer. We talked about a variety of topics concerning Israel, The Bible, the Messiah and His identity. At this point we offered Tomer a free copy of a Hebrew New Testament. We further stated the reason we are doing this was because Tomer's people gave the Gentile world the riches of Scripture and salvation in Messiah. We are returning to the land of Messiah's birth and the land of His return to offer the sacred account of His life to His people. We strongly urged Tomer to read about the historical record of the greatest Jew who ever lived and is alive today. We informed him that if he honestly read this inspired account with an open mind it would forever change his life.



by Todd
Baker

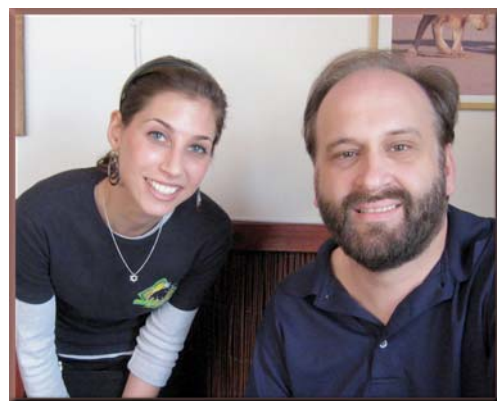


Tomer stands in the doorway of his Gelato shop in Tiberias

Next, the Lord guided us to a restaurant called The Black Steer. It was there we met our waitress, Danielle. We learned from her that her mother was an American-born Jew. Danielle was going to the U.S. in a month for a long vacation. She frankly told us that she was tired of the stress of living in Israel and needed a break. Paul

and I contrasted this by saying to her that we consider it a great joy and experience to visit the Promised Land every year to a place that is the most important piece of land on earth where God performed His mightiest acts. This was the very land Messiah once came to long ago and is shortly to return to once again.

We continued this Gospel witness by further explaining that Adonai gave Israel, and anyone else for that matter, a fail-proof method for ascertaining the true Messiah when He comes and at the same time recognize false messiahs looming on the horizon. The way to do this is by acquainting oneself with the Messianic prophecies of



Danielle accepted a copy of the B'rit Hadashah

the Tenach and watch for the man who would fulfill them in their proper time sequence. That Man, whose life accomplished this narrow and exclusive requirement, was Yeshua of Nazareth. Danielle said she was somewhat acquainted with the Tenach but said she was not "religious" and viewed such ideas negatively ever since a car she was driving crashed into a synagogue severely injuring her at the time. It seemed from this experience she was turning from God and blamed Him for this incident. I said to her that I too made a similar mistake in judgment when I was sent to Catholic boarding school at a young age and witnessed the shocking moral depravity and debauchery of the priests and monks there who claimed to be God's representatives. I became disillusioned over this and, coupled with feelings of abandonment, harbored an intense hatred for God since He allowed these horrible circumstances to occur. This led me down the destructive road of atheism until Jesus the Messiah appeared in my life and completely changed my perspective. Such a redemptive transformation let me see that the repeated abuse of free will by man used for evil is not the result of God's inability or lack of power but is a result of man's moral weakness and fallen nature. Paul chimed in and told her that perhaps the Lord permitted this in her life to draw her to Him in a time of great need. To identify with her in this kind of pain, the God of Israel became a man to fully identify with our pain, suffering, hardship, and

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difficulties in life (Isaiah 53:3-8). The Person who did this was Yeshua the Messiah who died for our sins on the tree of Calvary and rose again from the dead to give us ultimate victory over evil and death to fellowship with God forever.

This is why God created her with this in mind. To better acquaint herself with this supernatural reality of salvation in the Messiah that we ourselves experienced and bore witness to, we offered Danielle the sacred volume of the Jewish B'rit Hadashah (New Testament) written by the close associates and talmidim (disciples) of Yeshua. She thought on it and finally accepted our offer. Beloved readers, please fervently pray that this young Israeli woman will encounter the saving power of the divine Messiah.

The next day we left Tiberias for Jerusalem. On our way there, I felt the Lord wanted us to stop at the ancient ruins of Beit Shean because there was someone there that needed to know about the Messiah's great love for them. Beit Shean was the place where King Saul and his three sons were nailed to the wall of the Philistines (1 Samuel 27). It is now one of several national parks in Israel. After we paid the entrance fee, Paul and I were on our way to see the ruins of the ancient biblical city that dates back to the Canaanite period some 4,000 years ago! As we were passing by a restaurant called the Cardo Café, I spotted an Israeli girl working behind the counter. I had a passing thought at the time, which I was to know later was that "still, small" voice of the Lord saying, "I want you to minister My grace and love to her." I kept on walking with Paul to visit the Roman amphitheater and the Tel of Beit Shean. As we were climbing the stairs to reach the top of

the archaeological Tel, one of the tour leaders of Zola's tour group approached us and told me, with obvious compassion and concern, that there was a young lady working at the Cardo restaurant who lost her father a month ago to cancer. This was an obvious confirmation by the Lord that what I heard earlier was from Him. This tour leader suggested we should minister Messiah's comfort to her.

I immediately had a strong witness that this was the young Israeli woman I glanced at earlier and felt the compelling need to share Yeshua's love with her. When we arrived at the café, it was indeed the same woman I saw earlier! Paul and I approached her and told her that one of our tour guides told us about the recent death of her father. I further said that I knew what kind of grief she was going through, having lost my father unexpectedly, too. We expressed to her that we would be earnestly praying for her and that God would now be her heavenly father during this time of acute grief. The bereaved girl's name was Ahavah. We also told her that Abba God sent His Son, Yeshua of Nazareth, to be the comforter of those in sorrow and grief. We gave her the powerful Gospel tract entitled "Love the Jewish People" in Hebrew to help convey such divine comfort through the Gospel message to her. Ahavah's eyes quickly filled with tears at this powerful encounter of the Messiah's love and comfort through our ministry of kindness to her. Paul and I purchased ice cream bars and said we would come back in a few minutes to

give her the gift of God's Word. Once we finished the ice cream, we wrote a few words of encouragement in the front inside of the complete Jewish Bible we gave her. What Paul Colley wrote was succinct, yet very powerful. He wrote the words of John 14:1 where Jesus says, ***"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."*** Paul prefaced this quotation with the following statement: "The words of Yeshua to you:" I then wrote



Paul with Ahavah who grieves after her father's death

John 14:1 in Hebrew at the end of the verse so that Ahavah could reference it in the Hebrew New Testament (which included the Tenach) we gave her. Such a demonstration of Yeshua's love for His ancient people moved me to virtual tears, like it did Ahavah. Let us pray that she will now, by reading the Word of God we gave her, find everlasting consolation in the arms of ha'Avi Elohim (Hebrew for God, the Father) reinforced and perfectly expressed through the flawless humanity of His Son—Yeshua HaMashiach. ✠✠✠

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. ✠

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of
the Dragnet
Part 3
(Matthew 13:47-50)

by Todd Baker

The sixth parable, the parable of the merchantman and pearl, concerns the redeemed, called-out body of believers in Christ during the dispensation of grace. The parable of the pearl speaks of the redemption and gradual formation of the Church the Lord bought with His own life. For the last nineteen centuries, the Church continues to be built by the providential hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. The sixth parable corresponds with the Church of Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-10) and pictures the true Church of the last days. The church of Philadelphia was a church of brotherly love, and though they were a weak church in some respects, they were greatly commended by Christ for their unfailing loyalty to Him. The Philadelphia era began around 1700 A.D., and will continue until the return of Christ. The fifth and sixth parables provide an optimistic view of the kingdom of heaven. The parables of the treasure and the pearl both display the work of God a triumphant success despite the satanic opposition and evil of this world against the two elect peoples of God—Israel and the Church. Finally, we come to the present Church age—the church of Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-19). Much of today's professing Church is, indeed, morally and spiritually lukewarm. They have regressed into a Church that excludes their founder by virtue of their worldliness, leaving Christ to do nothing else but vomit them out and remove them from His holy sin-hating presence. **"So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing,**

"Again the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered of every kind, which when it was full, they drew to shore; and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the age. The angels shall come forth, and separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

- Matthew 13:47-50



and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:16-17).

The Church in America, today, has much going for it, materially speaking. But there remains an inner poverty of the heart and spirit, of which many are totally blind to the fact that such a pathetic condition resides in them as they ceremonially sit in their pews every Sunday. It is precisely in this pitiful, unspiritual, and apostate condition that the Lord shall suddenly come and separate from the Gospel net the good fish from the bad. The Laodicean period will continue until the good fish (true Christians) are sifted from the bad (the unbelievers). For further insight on this parallelism, see *Things To Come* by Dwight J. Pentecost, pages 149-153.

This brings us to the seventh mystery parable of the kingdom of heaven. There are a few similarities pairing both the parable of the dragnet with the parable of the wheat and the tares. In the parable of the wheat and the tares, the tares were gathered "first" and were not burned until after the wheat had been gathered in the heavenly barn. Likewise, in this parable, the "good fish" are separated from the "bad", and the good fish are gathered into

"vessels" before the "bad" are cast away. Both parables describe the awful fate of the wicked, and the eternal glory of the righteous. In the parable of the wheat and the tares, the separation between the two does not occur until the harvest time, which signifies **"the end of the age."** The angel reapers of God will conduct the actual separation. The seventh parable also concludes with the separation between the "good" and the "bad" fish. This will not happen until the end of this age by the angels who will do the separating as the Lord instructs them. Both parables describe the final consummation and judgment to come at the end of the age.

There are four symbols used in the parable of the dragnet. They are: (1) the net; (2) the sea; (3) the fishermen; and (4) the fish. We will first examine the meaning of the net. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is comparable to the fishing net, **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net."** By comparing the kingdom of heaven to a dragnet, Jesus is symbolically implying the effective administration of the Gospel through the means of preaching during the entire dispensation of grace in the realm of Christian evangelism. The net or

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BY STUART ARDEN
ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT

The 1957 romantic comedy, Love in the Afternoon (starring Gary Cooper, Audrey Hepburn, and Maurice Chevalier), features the song Fascination (music by F.D. Marchetti and lyrics by Maurice de Féraudy; English lyrics by Dick Manning). In a linkage between popular culture and politics, this song epitomizes the on-going and thoroughly illogical fascination and favoritism with the phantom False-tinians, the so-called "Palestinians," a "people" of whom there is no historical record.

Consider these lyrics (which are actually never heard in the movie):

***It was fascination, I know
And it might have ended right there at the start
Just a passing glance, just a brief romance
And I might have gone on my way empty-hearted***

***It was fascination, I know
Seeing you alone with the moonlight above
Then I touched your hand and next moment I
kissed you
Fascination turned to love***

"It was fascination, I know, and it might have ended right there at the start," if the world had taken note of statements made by significant Arab figures such as Auni Bey Abdul Hadi in 1937, Philip K. Hitti in 1946, Ahmed Shukeiry in 1956, and Zahir Muhsein in 1977, as to there being no such thing as a "Palestinian people." (See this author's article, "False-tinians," in the July 2006 issue of *Search the Scriptures* for an extended discussion on this point.) Instead, the world has accepted this phantom of "a people," of which there is absolutely no archaeological, historical, or genealogical record – can you name me one "Palestinian" king or queen?! It might have been "*just a passing glance, just a brief romance*," but instead "it" has embedded itself in the world's consciousness when "it" is essentially the greatest propaganda ploy of all time. "*And I might have gone on my way empty-hearted*," "empty-hearted," but saving love for more worthy and deserving candidates, i.e., actual "peoples" whose language, culture, and customs really do define them as separate entities, instead of the so-called Palestinians, whose language, culture, and customs don't really distinguish them from other Arabs, and whose "creation," as stated by Zahir Muhsein in 1977, is merely part of the on-going Arab assault (periodic wars of attempted annihilation, political pressure, and

propaganda) against the State of Israel.

"*Seeing you alone with the moonlight above*." Aha, so that's where the problem is, luna's lunacy lurks behind the scene. This concept (of luna's lunacy) might also have symbolic and metaphoric significance in the context of this article, seeing as the crescent moon is the symbol of Islam; and one wouldn't exactly call their actions against Israel completely sane.

"*Then I touched your hand and next moment I kissed you*." At this point our exegesis or extrapolation has to switch to a variation of the verb "to kiss," i.e., "kissing up to," described by the On-Line Dictionary as: behaving obsequiously, or fawning; which certainly seems to define the world's acceptance and support of this phantom "people." Take note of how this "*Fascination turned to love*" manifests itself: On 13 November 1974, Yasser Arafat, a terrorist who had openly boasted of the death and destruction he had caused, spoke before the General Assembly of the United Nations (the first terrorist leader to do so, wearing his usual military garb and holster, but according to UN regulations, required to leave his pistol outside), and on 10 November 1975, General Assembly

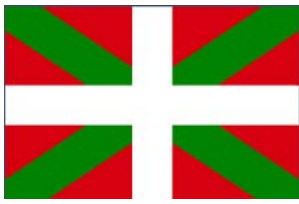


Arafat speaking before the UN in 1974

Resolution 3237 granted the PLO "observer status" (later followed by an office in midtown Manhattan, known as the "PLO Observer Mission"). The "Palestine Liberation Organization" was begun in 1964. The "mantra" among most members of the PLO is that they want a state in Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank," sic), whereas the

more "up-fronters" readily state that what they really want is the complete destruction of the State of Israel. However, take note of the fact that in 1964 Judea and Samaria were in Arab hands, so what was it that the Arabs wanted "to liberate?!" (Muslims always want to "liberate" other people's land!) As of 1993, the International Olympic Committee has accepted participation of "Palestine," a country which does not even exist, a recognition that has not been granted to any other "stateless" group! In 1932, the quadrennial Maccabiah Games (for Jewish athletes), was established in then-Palestine, because Israel did not exist as a state, and no one ever proposed the addition of Jewish athletes from "Judea" (or whatever) in the Olympic Games. Using the same logic, the proper place for so-called Palestinian (sic) athletes should be in a (presently non-existent) Arahbia Games, or Muslimia Games, not in the Olympic Games! Cue-up the sound track: *It was fascination I know*.

Now let's take a look at some of the more-than-worthwhile candidates for "love," or, at the very least, for some understanding and respect, things which are denied to actual "peoples," while the fascination with a phantom (the False-tinians) runs rampant.



The BASQUES can be found in both France and Spain. Since France has a more centralized government than Spain, their Basques are less vocal than those in Spain, and the Basque language is "disappearing" at a fast rate in France. Basques in Spain are mostly centered around the Bay of Biscay, with the most prominent city of Basque-residence being Bilbao. There is a Basque Autonomous Community in Spain, but there are also more-radical Basques that want complete independence and a nation of their own, and news stories frequently make reference to terrorist acts committed by ETA, the Basque initialism for Euskadi Ta Askatasuna ("Basque Homeland and Freedom"). Do Basques have a language and culture of their own? Yes. Do they have "observer status" at the UN? No. Do they have representation at the Olympic Games? No. In their struggle for independence and nationhood, do they threaten to destroy Spain? No. Is anyone pressing Spain to give up land to the Basques? No.



TIBETANS once had an independent existence, but were "swallowed up" by the PRC (People's Republic of China) in the 1950s. Due to the altitude of Tibet it has been called "the roof of the world," and a portion of the Himalayan Mountains lies within Tibet. Interestingly,

the rosy cheeks of many Tibetans are attributed to the fact that bodily changes have dilated their blood vessels to allow for a greater flow of oxygen in their rarefied atmosphere. Do they have a separate language (with different dialects) and culture? Yes. Do they have "observer status" at the UN? No. Do they get invited to the Olympic Games? No. In their desire for independence do they seek the destruction of the Chinese People's Republic? No. Is anyone pressing China to give up Tibet? No.



Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th and current Dalai Lama of Tibet



The greatest Arab hero of all-time (because of driving the Christians out of the Holy Land), is Salah e-Din al-Ayyub usually written "Saladin" in English. In the most bizarre case of a monumental injustice, Salah e-Din's people, the KURDS, are stateless, even though they are Arabs (perhaps socially, but not exactly "racially"), and Muslims as well. "Kurdistan," or the area where the Kurds live, is a mountainous plateau which, if ever incorporated, would cover small parts of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran (although there are also Kurds in Syria and Armenia). Their language is "Kurdish," not Arabic (although those living in Arabic countries are fluent in Arabic); rather, it is an Iranian language still exhibiting Hurrian influences from an earlier era in their history. Quite naturally, with a different language than their host countries, the Kurds have a unique culture

of their own. Do they have "observer status" at the UN? No. Are they allowed to send "national" teams to the Olympic Games (carrying their flag such as do the so-called Palestinians)? No. If given the chance for a nation of their own, have they threatened to destroy Turkey, Iran, or Iraq? No. In a side note, there are Kurdish Jews (dating from the 8th century b.c.e.), all of whom immigrated to Israel in the early 1950s, and the tombs of Nahum, Jonah, and Daniel, are all located in "Kurdistan."



Take a look at the map above showing the sizes of Turkey, Iran, and Iraq, and try to envision the pittance of land that they would have to give up in order to accommodate their fellow Muslims, the Kurds, yet no one is pushing them to do so. Next, take a look at a map of the Middle East below showing Israel in relation to its neighbors, and take note of the fact that Israel is constantly being pressured to give up land to the phantom "people" who are already the dominant group in eastern Palestine across the Jordan River (the Hashemite



Kingdom of Jordan). Thus, a "Palestinian" state already exists! Taking additional land from Israel to give to this phantom people would only whet the appetite of the Arabs; as well as reducing Israel to indefensible borders in order to facilitate the next attempt at Israel's destruction. Roll sound: *It was fascination I know.*

There are actual "peoples" (such as the sample mentioned above) who long for statehood and

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independence, and are completely unsuccessful in their quest. Additionally, they, and their claims, are ignored, and unsupported in any way by the international community. In contrast to this, the world continues to be fixated on one small group of Arabs whose underlying motivation is championed by all of the Arab countries, as well as their "sympathizers," and whose "up-fronters" make no secret as to what that real aim is (the destruction of Israel!). Yet the world continues with its *fascination turned to love*, puts on blinders, inserts ear plugs, and feigns ignorance. In 1995, Israel demolished 21 settlements in the Gaza Strip, removed and traumatized more than 8,000 Israelis, and what does it get in-return? Near-daily firing of rockets into Israel and no organized opposition or serious condemnation against the perpetrators, the so-called Palestinians. Of those countries that have a penchant for criticizing Israel, what would be their response if they had to undergo near-daily rocket fire? It doesn't take



Children indoctrinated to hate Israel (both headbands identify the wearers as shahids [homicide bombers], belonging to the Shahid Brigade of Hamas).

much imagination to know that their response would be swift and severe. Any attacks on their sovereignty would be met with decisive action, yet Israel's actions in its self defense, or reprisals, are criticized and condemned; while condemnation of the False-tinians is practically non-existent. Instead of sitting at a table and negotiating, the so-called Palestinians dispatch homicide bombers, stage drive-by shootings, sponsor summer camps which indoctrinate children to hate Israel and to become terrorists, call terrorists heroes and name parks in their honor. Contrast this with Israel's child assistance payments to Jews and Arabs; Arab members of the Knesset; Arab journalists, judges, and diplomats; universities open to Arab students; and who gets the world's sympathy? The death-dealing False-tinians. Is it the moon beams? Is it the oil? Or, has anti-Semitism, supposedly out of fashion, been metastasized into an anti-Israelism?!

It was fascination I know. ☆



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, click Fellowship & Tours tab or call (866) 910-0444.

שלום

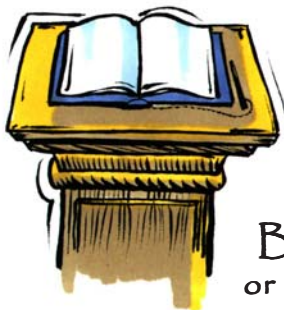
UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for January and February's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series (New)
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

Planning on moving?

Please let us know what your new address will be so that you don't miss an issue!! You can write us at BHM@brit-hadashah.org, or send a change-of-address postcard to the mailing address on the back.



If you would like to have Todd as a guest speaker at your church or function, visit our website: www.brit-hadashah.org or contact us at: BHMengagements@gmail.com or call 866-910-0444.

dragnet is a fishing device used to catch fish from the river and the sea. The dragnet is a large circular shaped net weighed down on its edges with small pieces of lead for the purpose of sweeping the ocean floor to catch great numbers of fish within its mesh borders. Once the draw or dragnet is cast into the sea, it is dragged on the ocean floor and draws in various kinds of fish; hence, the reason for it being called a "dragnet". The work of the net is, therefore, indiscriminate in nature, drawing in all types of fish into its inner confines.

The New Testament representation of the net is not difficult at all to understand. The net is figurative of the fervent evangelistic success of the Gospel catching and converting all classes of men during the great interval time period between the first and second advent of Christ by all the soul-winning disciples of the Lord. Fish may be appropriated individually from the sea by the use of the fishing rod. Men one by one, like fish, also may be won over to Christ through the clear and simple preaching of the Gospel. But the net speaks of something greater and far more sweeping in its catching ability. The parable of the net is specifically descriptive of the widespread methods employed through revivals and great spiritual outpourings reaching and gathering in multitudes upon multitudes of converted people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The net, or more precisely, evangelical Christianity, is God's powerful ability to collect diverse peoples from every strata of society, irrespective of class, race, or culture. **"God shows no partiality"** (Acts 10:34; Deuteronomy 10:17).

The wide sweeping action of the net embracing all souls with its expansive reach indicates the universal and effectual operation of the Gospel wherein men and women from

all over the world enter into the realm of Christian fellowship and profession. They, then, become confessed members of the visible church. Thus, Christianity is universal in scope, in that it gathers "of every kind" from the world. The net of Christianity has a congregating and collecting influence. The obvious proof of this is clearly seen in the existence of many Churches and congregations from the days of the Apostles to the present time. The central core and composition of the net itself is none other than the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel net is concisely summed up by the apostle Paul in the opening verses of 1 Corinthians 15:1-3. **"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received"** (i.e., the Gospel), (1) **"How that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures"**, (2) **"And that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve"**, (3) **"After that, He was seen of over five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain to the present time, but some are fallen asleep. After that, He was seen of James, then all of the Apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as one born out of due time."** Jesus Christ is the full composition of the Gospel net. The mesh network of this redemptive net is interwoven with three elemental truths eternally beneficial for all gathered into it. The first element is Christ "died for our sins" and is our atoning substitute. Through His hallowed death we are freed from sin's fatal penalty (Romans 6:6-7). The second great element of the glorious Gospel net of Jesus Christ is that He was buried in death, yet triumphantly rose again physically from the dead on the third day, that we might be justified from sin and walk in the newness of life in the strength and might of His resurrected power (Romans 6:4). The third element is, perhaps, the greatest truth undergirding the Christian faith—the physical manifestation of Christ after His resurrection seen by credible eyewitnesses. Jesus Christ is no longer dead, but has risen and holds the keys of death, hell, and the grave being the first born from the dead, that in all things He might have the preeminence. It is in these three essential truths of the Gospel that the exaltation of the Lord's Messiah is accomplished. The Gospel net's drawing effect is activated by the wooing voice of God the Father through the power of God the Holy Spirit, who, in turn, brings the repentant sinner to the blessed uplifted cross of Calvary. For herein is the sovereignty of God glorified and revealed. Jesus said it is God who draws (like a net) the lost to Him. For, **"No man can come to Me, except the Father which has sent Me draw Him"** (John 6:44). †

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We've got good news for you!

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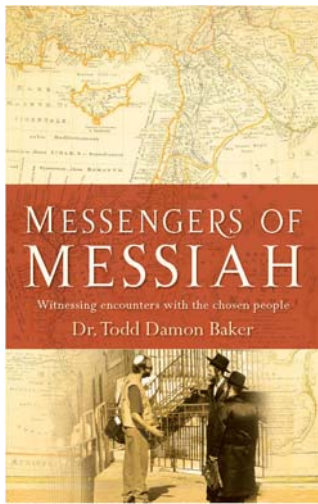
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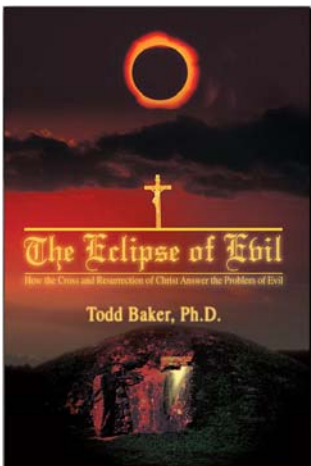
WITNESSING ENCOUNTERS WITH THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

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).



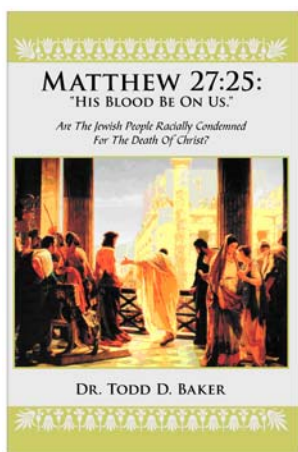
THE ECLIPSE OF EVIL

HOW THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST ANSWER THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

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 27:25:

'HIS BLOOD BE ON US'

ARE THE JEWISH PEOPLE RACIALLY CONDEMNED FOR THE DEATH OF CHRIST?

(See back page for a complete description of this book!)

To order any of these books, you can go to our website (www.brit-hadashah.org) then click on the *Books & Media* tab at the bottom, then follow the instructions. Or write to us at the address at the right.

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This is a humble but effective ministry whose goal is to bring the gospel of Yeshua to Israel and to raise awareness in America about God's preeminent call to take the Gospel to the Jews - Romans 1:16.

Because of the support of our faithful partners, there is a young Jewish woman attending a university in Jerusalem who now has a B'rit Hadashah (New Testament in Hebrew), and IDF soldiers in Haifa who can read that the Messiah Yeshua has come to bring hope and peace to their souls. Your donations have changed the life of an Arab shop keeper in

Tiberias who has accepted Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior.

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

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MARCH 15-APRIL 2, 2009 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 2009 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.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John

5:39



Jan/Feb 2009 issue

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MATTHEW 27:25: 'HIS BLOOD BE ON US'

ARE THE JEWISH PEOPLE RACIALLY CONDEMNED FOR THE DEATH OF CHRIST?

This book is an exegetical study of Matthew 27:25 conducted within the context of the Gospel of Matthew and the broader contexts of the Old and New Testaments. The purpose for this study is to dispel and disprove the traditional anti-Semitic meaning of Matthew 27:25 that has tragically led to the unwarranted condemnation of the Jewish people for the death of Jesus Christ. Hence, the particular focus of this book will directly address and answer the perennial, theological question that asks, "Does Matthew 27:25 mean and teach the Jews are altogether condemned by God for the crucifixion of Christ?" While it is true the Jewish nation, by and large, tragically rejected Jesus at His first coming, this in no way gives Christians theological license for the wholesale hatred, persecution, and destruction of the Jews, or for holding an anti-Semitic bias against them. Nowhere in the New Testament Scriptures is it taught that the Jewish race—past, present, and future are condemned and morally indicted as "Christ killers" for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This study is necessary to expose and correct the flawed interpretation of Matthew 27:25 that has historically persisted in Christendom and leads a person to build and develop an anti-Jewish theology. Factoring all this together, in a careful exegesis of Matthew 27, will manifestly demonstrate that the Jewish people are not guilty of deicide and therefore arbitrarily condemned by God as a race of "Christ killers." Quite the contrary.

See Page 10 for more information about how to order.



MATTHEW 27:25:

"HIS BLOOD BE ON US."

*Are The Jewish People Racially Condemned
For The Death Of Christ?*



DR. TODD D. BAKER



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