

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 7, Number 5

Sept/Oct 2009



Every year this Gospel outreach to Israel makes an annual visit to Mount Heron to visit the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). This year was no different. Once our outreach team arrived there, the Lord quickly led us to an IDF soldier. Lev was his name. Pastor Ralph Conn and I shared with him that we were Bible-believing followers of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah and that we come to the land of Israel to let his people know Messiah loves them and is soon coming again to reclaim them for His reign on earth. We



by Todd
Baker



Todd and Pastor Ralph Conn sharing with Lev

thanked Lev and the IDF for being on the front lines fighting for freedom and stamping out Islamic terrorism in the Middle East. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude for what his people gave to us—the Holy Scriptures and the Messiah of Israel—Yeshua of Nazareth. As a gesture of

this profound gratitude, we offered Lev a brand new Hebrew copy of the Tenach (the Old Testament) and the B'rit Hadashah (the New Testament) in one bound volume. Lev gratefully accepted this. I then asked if we could pray for him and Lev said “yes.” Ralph and I prayed that Elohim would specifically guide and protect Him while protecting and fighting for the nation of Israel surrounded by hostile nations that seek nothing less than their destruction. We also prayed the Lord would reveal the truth to him about Yeshua being the Messiah when Lev read the inspired account about Yeshua’s life and ministry

Yeshua, the Light and Life of Israel

(John 10:10; 12:46)

*Stories from our Spring 2009
Gospel Outreach to Israel - Part 3*

in the B'rit Hadashah and that Ruach Ha Kodesh (the Holy Spirit) would shower him with the transforming power of Yeshua’s love. Ralph and I concluded our witness with Lev by saying it is through the love of Yeshua for His people that we humbly come to pray and encourage the Jewish people in Israel.

Immediately after that witnessing encounter, God brought another IDF soldier across our path. He was a young Jewish man originally from Cleveland, Ohio, who made aliyah (immigrated back to Israel). The young man’s name was Raphael. He listened with veiled resistance towards us when our conversation turned on Yeshua being the Messiah of Israel. We asked him why he felt compelled to come to Israel. He said that Israel is home



This young IDF soldier, Raphael, is from Cleveland

for the Jewish people and therefore was his home as well. We readily agreed and pointed out that the return of the Jewish people from the Diaspora to their ancient homeland is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy that signals the Messiah’s soon return (see Deuteronomy 30:1-3 [Authorized Version]; Jeremiah 12:14-15). We were able to give Raphael a Messianic Gospel tract.

This ministry has been fortunate enough that the IDF has been open to our gospel witness every time to receive a complete Jewish Bible and Messianic literature about the case for Yeshua being the Messiah.

Coming down from Mount Hermon, we decided to have lunch at an Italian Restaurant. When we arrived, the owner immediately greeted

Continued on page 6

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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or by mail at:

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Visit our website at: **www.brit-hadashah.org**

In This Issue

Israel Mission Stories - Spring 2009 1

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables about the Present Age 3

Awestruck in Israel 4

16th Gospel Outreach Planned 6

2008 ISRAEL VIDEO

PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

We now have video presentations available for the 2008 Israel Outreach which you can view right on our website. It's broken into two sections (with a third in the works), each a little over half an hour long. Just go to the *Books & Media* page to find the link. What you'll see are videos comprised of photographs from the trip choreographed to Todd's recounting of the events. We do hope you'll enjoy them.



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Facebook

Join our group on Facebook and start or join a discussion!

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"STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES" RADIO SHOW

Todd's radio show, "Studying the Scriptures," is playing on **WNVY (AM 1070)** in **Pensacola, FL**, on Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 9:00am, then again Saturday nights from 8:30 - 9:00pm.

The show is also 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 his shows available to you on our website. Just go to

www.brit-hadashah.org and click on the *Books & Media* tab at the bottom.



שלום

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**.

UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for September and October's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

We will have guest speakers while Todd is out Oct. 2, Oct. 23 and Oct. 30

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of
the Dragnet
Part 7
(Matthew 13:47-50)

by Todd Baker

The fourth symbol of the parable of the dragnet is the "fish" caught in the net. The dragnet caught a mixed haul of good and bad fish. The former represent genuine believers, and the latter is symbolic of false believers in the sphere of Christian profession comprised of false teachers, false apostles, false brethren, and false prophets. This particular aspect of the parable is retrospective of the tares intermingled with the wheat. Both show the imperfect state of the visible Church, which houses both the saved and the unsaved together within the professing

sphere of Christendom. Those who naively assume or support the foolish notion that the visible Church is the true and perfect "Church" are greatly deluded. Many who entertain such fleeting dreams are in store for a rude awakening with grave disappointment and disaster in the end. Many so-called "Christians" flock by the scores to their various churches to justify their shallow profession of faith by church attendance, yet they are without a born-again experience and lack the total transformation of the human heart and mind by the spiritual circumcision of the Lord. The main line denominational churches, by and large, seem to have more nominal (name only) Christians than true ones. Though they may profess an outward show of religious piety and moral reformation, there remains no tangible evidence of the spiritual regeneration of the inner man by the Holy Spirit of God.

The many forms of Churchianity and religious tradition have crippled the Church down through the centuries from boldly proclaiming the true Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit followed with signs and wonders

few for a brief period of time. The promises are still in effect until the end of the age when that which is perfect comes, or when the believer dies and goes to heaven to be with the Lord "face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:8-12).

"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



confirming the Word. Some non-Charismatics say, "Speaking in tongues and miraculous signs are of the Devil." They say this at the ignorant expense of discarding Mark 16:15-18, which tells of the Great Commission Christ gave to the Church. Jesus told the disciples the authenticity of the Gospel would be confirmed with certain miraculous signs and wonders. These promises were given under the context of the Great Commission. The Great Commission is yet to be fulfilled. Therefore, the promise of signs and wonders listed in Mark 16:15-18 must of necessity still be in effect, and will not be done away with until the Great Commission is accomplished. The Great Commission is presently still in the process of fulfillment and did not pass away when the Apostles died. The promise of speaking in tongues and other supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit were given to the whole Church and were not given to only a select

The Roman Catholic Church claims that their ecclesiastical institution is the one and only true Church from which the fullness of salvation is offered—outside of which there is no salvation. This error is entirely refuted by Scripture. No Church, whatever name or position it holds in this passing world, has the power of giving redemption. The

Church has been given the ability to declare the power of salvation to whoever will believe. But the Church does not have the power to delegate it to whomever it desires to bestow it upon. Jesus Christ is the only source and way of eternal salvation, not the "Church." ***"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"*** (Acts 4:12). The "Church" cannot save anyone, only Jesus Christ can! The Church of Christ denomination claims that unless a person undergoes baptismal immersion under water in their church, he or she is not saved. But God declares one is saved through faith in Christ without any type of good works or religious rites such as water baptism. ***"For by grace are you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast"*** (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Continued on page 8

Awestruck in Israel



by David Newton

In all my Christian years since 1981, ever since I started reading my Bible, I always hoped that one day I would be able to go to the land where Christ lived, worked, did many miracles and died. It is hard to truly express my feelings as I walked through the places that my Lord walked and lived.

There is an awesome sense of a presence, like a mellow peace, surrounding The Old Jewish city, walking up the long winding paths to The Garden of Gethsemane where our Lord prayed before He was betrayed and arrested. The rock and the trees are still there; the Garden is beautiful but probably



The Garden of Gethsemane

not as beautiful as it was when Christ and His disciples visited many times. I stood there resting my hands on the iron fence imagining what it was like on that terrible night, Christ on His knees at that rock, His Disciples sleeping as Christ prays three times, "Father let this cup pass me, but not My will but Your will be done." The greatness of this anguish caused his sweat to be mixed with His blood. My heart was overwhelmed and I started to cry just thinking I am at the place my Lord prayed. The Bible is alive, His words are alive.

We took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, the same Sea where Christ walked on the water to meet His disciples as they were going to the other side. Christ did a lot of His ministry and miracles in Galilee. The view and the ride with all the tour group together was

breathtaking as our tour guide pointed out all the places that our Lord walked and where He and His disciples fished. We sang songs and worshiped our Savior. You could sense the Presence of the Holy Spirit. This whole boat ride made the Bible come alive.



David and Debbie smile for the camera while sailing on the Sea of Galilee

I wept at the hill, Golgotha. The skull-shaped hill is still there. Scripture comes alive as I was pounding in my mind

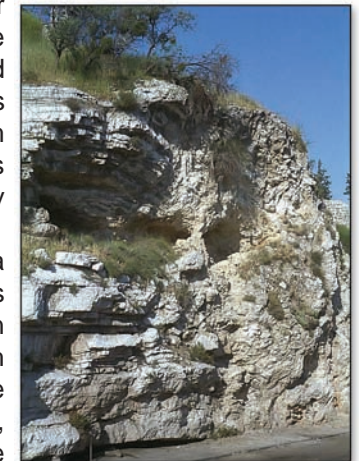
all the events of that day and time. The pain as the soldiers nailed His hands and feet, a crown of thorns. Soldiers were mocking Him. His Mother and a very few of those who loved Him watched as He suffered for us, on our behalf. If I were the only one on earth, Jesus would have done this for me. The sins of the world were laid upon Him at this point that even His Heavenly Father turned away from Him.

The day of Passover, a spotless, innocent Lamb's blood was being sprinkled on the Mercy seat by the High Priest and behind the veil in the Holy of Holies, Christ shouts, "It is finished." The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, no more animals to be sacrificed. Jesus is the Lamb of God.

The empty tomb is overwhelming, as I stood inside the tomb gazing at the rock bed where His body was laid. I was



Christ's empty tomb



Golgotha

overwhelmed with the thought that when the two women went to the tomb, He was not there. An angel said, "Why are you looking for Him? Go tell His disciples that Christ has Risen, as He said." I felt that the Holy Spirit's presence was there.

Each day before we, the ambassador team for Messiah Jesus, went out we would pray that God would guide our feet and pray to find those who we could share God's love for them and thank them for giving us our Messiah. On several occasions we were able to talk to Israeli soldiers. It was an honor to be able to share our gratitude and love for them, reminding them that we and many more Christians are praying for the peace of Israel and for their safety. It was rewarding to us just how warmly they received our love and, as Todd and Ralph shared about Jesus and handed out Hebrew Bibles, the soldiers were touched by our love for them.

The Mount of the Beatitudes is a beautiful place. The hillsides are filled with flowers and you could hear birds singing as our tour guides explained how the thousands that walked

Continued on page 5

there just to see Jesus could hear Christ's voice. I was imagining just how the people carefully listened to our Lord as He told them how to treat each other and the law, doing better than what the law said.

On a few occasions we had to laugh and call the devil a liar. When we had our strongest times of ministering to folks, it seemed that the devil would try to steal our joy and peace, like when Todd's cell phone was stolen and when the car door was left opened for hours. Nothing was taken, which was good. God came through and we still had our joy and peace. When things go bad, especially when you're doing good, just laugh at the devil and call him a liar.

One place that I was really awe-stricken by was the beautiful long ride through the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea valley. It is almost impossible to describe the splendor of the majestic mountains. In my younger days I might have walked up the long, steep, narrow path that the Jewish zealots and those Jews who wanted to escape from the deadly harshness of the Romans climbed. As I walked around on



A view of Mount of Beatitudes



Overlooking the Judean Desert and Dead Sea

the very top of Masada, I was awed over the hugeness of this fortress. The massive storerooms and family rooms that king Herod had built when he took refuge there. In my mind, I would

ponder at the stories of how the people lived and served and then at the end killed each other by suicide. This truly is a place where everyone should visit when in Israel.

It is a long walk through the narrow streets to reach the magnificent Western wall. It was greater than what they show on TV or in pictures. It is understandable why the Jews revere this place as holy ground. I could sense in myself a oneness with them. At the wall, with my own prayer list for friends and family, I placed my hands on the wall, and



The Western Wall

began to weep with my hands and my head resting on the wall. I tried to imagine what it must have been like when the temple was used, young children going up to the temple with their fathers on Passover with their unblemished lambs to be sacrificed, watching the High priest with his knife at the lamb's throat being cut without a sound. The Lamb's blood was taken into the Holy of Holies where the High Priest would sprinkle the innocent Lamb's Blood on the Ark of the Covenant for the forgiveness of the family's sins for that year. I was also reminded that Christ is our High Priest, God Himself, in the flesh, Who was found to have no blemishes and as an innocent, quiet lamb was led as our sacrificial lamb into the Heavenly Holy of Holies throne room for the forgiveness of our Sins—for everyone, once and for all. All sin was laid upon Him.

I was very moved at the place where Christ took His disciples to a solitary cave on a hill to comfort them when they heard that John the Baptist was beheaded.

The Mount of Transfiguration was very beautiful. As I gazed up at the very top, I imagined just what it must have been like for Peter, James and John to watch Christ transform into a glowing shape along with Moses and



David sits in the small cave used by Jesus and the disciples.



Mural of the Transfiguration

Elijah. The power of God was so strong that it knocked the three disciples to the ground.

This whole trip has transformed me with a deeper love for Christ and the Jewish people.

It is an experience I'll never forget. I am so grateful to Dr. Todd Baker and Zola Levitt Ministries for allowing me to be part of their team. I love the Word of God and now, as I read it, I know the places and times do mean much more to me than before. I find myself getting emotional when I read the words of Christ and how He used the beauty around Him to illustrate His stories and teachings. To actually see the places, it is hard to express my feelings of the wonder about this small but so very important country of Israel. My prayers for the peace of Israel are more intense now and my love for that country is stronger.✧

16TH GOSPEL OUTREACH PLANNED FOR OCTOBER!

I am excited to repeat the announcement that this gospel outreach ministry is going back to Israel from October 18th to November 3rd. This will be our second one this year! Joining me on this pivotal outreach again will be Pastor Ralph and Debbie Conn who have been in the ministry for nearly thirty years and they have such a tender and deep love for Israel. Also accompanying us will be Kenny Gee who Zola Levitt Ministries and this ministry sent on a Gospel outreach in 2007. Kenny has been faithfully attending Shalom, Shalom Messianic congregation, where I pastor.

Now that I have embarked by faith on a full-time journey, our support for these outreaches to Israel is critically more important than ever. Increased pressure placed on Israel by the coercive U.S. and the international community to give away half of Jerusalem and other vital



tracts of the Promised Land make it imperative that we go to Israel more often to warn the Chosen People of the prophetic events to come and encourage them to find refuge and salvation in Yeshua the Messiah. Iran's nuclear acquisition, her alliance with Russia and now Turkey (Togarmah) make it apparent that the Gog/Magog battle prophesied by Ezekiel to occur in the last days could happen at any moment (Ezekiel 38-39). All the more why we must have your financial support to carry out these End-Time Gospel outreaches in the land of Israel before it becomes too late and the Rapture occurs!

The Lord has commissioned us to continue this mission of mercy to His people on His behalf as laid out by Him in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:47). You and I are therefore responsible for taking this Gospel message back to the land and the people from whence it came (Romans 1:16). Very few ministries have the courage or conviction to do what we are doing. We are on the cutting edge and the battle frontline of ministry. I am therefore humbly asking you to partner with us and financially support our Gospel outreaches to Israel. Our goal is to go three times a year for about two to four weeks each time. Travel costs, expenses for Gospel tracts, Bibles, and teaching materials are always on the increase and we need your regular support now more than ever. Don't forget that God has promised a special blessing on those who take the effort to bless the Jewish people (Genesis 12:1-3). And the best way you can bless and show your love for the people who gave us the Messiah, the Holy Scriptures, and the Christian faith is by sending us to return and give these priceless riches back to them. ✨



Israel Outreach Spring 2009... Continued from page 1

us. Her name was Morgan. We learned from our pleasant conversation with her that she had studied culinary arts in France. She was very happy to learn of our love for the Jewish people and the land of Israel. We expressed to her that such profuse love does not originate from within ourselves but comes directly from the heart of Yeshua. God sent this Messiah through the Jewish people to bring God's love and salvation to the world. Morgan was quite taken aback by this, and emotionally exclaimed that she wished there were more people like us. We cheerfully told her that we bless her and the Jewish people in the name of Yeshua who came from Israel as a Torah observant Jew to richly bless our lives with God's love.

I offered Morgan the inspired account about the greatest Jew alive today as supernaturally recorded in the B'rit Hadashah. We took her hand and prayed that God would bless her new business venture and powerfully reveal the love of Messiah Jesus in her life and come to saving faith in what He did to save her with the salvation He first promised and offered the Jewish people. Morgan was overwhelmed by this Spirit-led prayer and profusely

thanked us for the encouragement, prayer, and the Jewish Scriptures we gave her. As we spoke God's Word to her and showed Yeshua's love, you could physically see her countenance lighten up with life and light—the very things Yeshua said He came to bring for the salvation of His people (see John 10:10; 12:46). ✨✨✨



Todd, Morgan (with her new copy of the Scriptures), Debbie, Ralph, and David

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:

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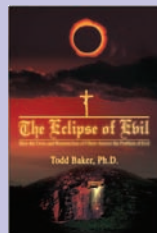
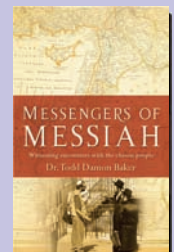
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MESSENGERS OF MESSIAH

*Witnessing Encounters with the
Chosen People*



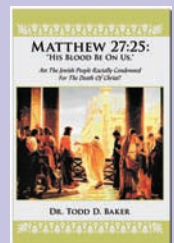
THE ECLIPSE OF EVIL

*How the Cross and Resurrection of
Christ Answer the Problem of Evil*

MATTHEW 27:25:

'HIS BLOOD BE ON US'

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



If you would like to have Todd as a guest speaker at your church or function, visit our website: **www.brit-hadashah.org**

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Sept/Oct 2009 issue

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***Todd will be Speaking at the
Feast of Tabernacles 2009
Conference at Christian Retreat
Family Church and
Conference Center in
Bradenton, Florida, October 2-3***

www.christianretreat.org

Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

Water baptism is merely a symbolic act for the believer's death and separation from the former life of sin, and his entry into the resurrection life of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The believer's sins are washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ, not the waters of baptism (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 John 1:7).

Some Pentecostals assert that without speaking in tongues, one does not have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Actually, speaking in tongues is an initial, external evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is not the cause of it (Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; 19:1-7).

These real life examples show both the writer and reader that "bad" doctrines, along with the bad fish, have permeated every part of the visible Church today. Not one place seems to be exempt. All throughout the Bible, there are several instances of the good mixed with the bad. Cain was the opposite of his brother, Abel. Noah's ark housed both clean and unclean animals. Esau was

contrary to Jacob, even from their mother's womb. Korah led some of the children of Israel in open rebellion against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Samson unwittingly conceded to the evil desires of Delilah and was betrayed by her. Judas, the betrayer, walked with Jesus and the disciples for three years. In Matthew thirteen, Jesus pointed out the consolidation of the good and bad converts in Christendom. There will always be enemies of Christ in the Church during the present age. One is either a good fish or bad fish. The visible Church consists of two distinct companies: the good fish, who are the children of God, and the bad fish, who are the children of the Devil. From the clear implication of the good and bad fish caught together, the historical condition of the Church, and the world at large, is one of general intermixture that includes believers and unbelievers both dwelling together until Christ returns to forever separate the two at the conclusion of the present age. †

About the Author

Dr. Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas, Texas. He was a chaplain at Medical City Hospital for fifteen years. 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. †