

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 7, Number 6

Nov/Dec 2009

## "This is the Way, Walk in It"

(Isaiah 30:21)

Stories from our Spring 2009  
Gospel Outreach to Israel - Part 4



**A**fter our return from Mount Hermon and its surrounding environs, I suggested to my outreach team that we go to a restaurant called "Little Tiberius Restaurant" so that we could follow up on Asher who is the co-owner of the restaurant. If our readers remember, it was several years ago Kevin Parker and I led Asher to accept Yeshua as his personal Lord and Messiah. When we met Asher this time, both he and I were joyful over our reunion. Our group was able to strengthen Asher in his faith. He said to us that Yeshua guides him daily and that his belief in this Messiah deeply changed him and made Asher a better person. His manner and tone of voice were quite sincere and serious. We further taught Asher from



by  
Todd Baker

Scripture concerning God's promise to keep and preserve Israel forever (Jeremiah 30:11; 31:35-37). We showed him the great promise God gave about this. We assured and comforted Asher of this despite his worry over the safety and survival of his people. We further taught Asher from the Word that the inveterate hatred for Israel by the world will reach its zenith at the future battle of Armageddon in northern Israel as foretold by the Jewish prophets in Scripture (Zechariah 10-14; Joel 2-3). When it appears that Israel is on the verge of being destroyed, Yeshua the Messiah will triumphantly return in glory from heaven and rescue the Jewish people from annihilation and destroy this evil global alliance of anti-Semitic nations led by the Anti-Christ. During this time we also ministered to Asher's brother and gave him some Messianic Gospel tracts and a Hebrew New Testament.

We left them promising to continue our discipleship that was formed by our mutual faith in Jesus the Messiah.

The next day, our Gospel outreach team left for Jerusalem and upon our arrival in "the city of the Great King" we checked in our hotel and decided to meet each other at the Rosemary café which had proved a good spiritual fishing spot for Jewish evangelism over the years. To our chagrin, the café had closed early for the Sabbath. I then was quickened by the Holy Spirit that we should go to the King David Hotel and have coffee there and attempt to talk to Israelis at that location. Debbie and Ralph Conn were to join David Newton and me in the hotel lobby. Right as Ralph walked in the lobby, he suddenly felt impressed by



Ralph, Asher's brother, Asher and Todd

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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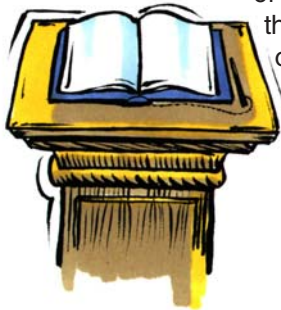
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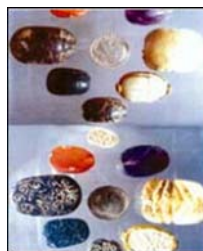


*Once again archaeology has confirmed the historicity and accuracy of Scripture. No surprise here for the informed Bible believer. -Dr. Todd Baker*

## FURTHER ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDINGS SUPPORT JOSEPH'S ROLE IN EGYPT UNDER PHAROAH

*Reprint of article from Jerusalem Post dated Sept. 25, 2009 and titled "Archeologists find 'Joseph-era' coins in Egypt"*  
By JPOST.COM STAFF

Archeologists have discovered ancient Egyptian coins bearing the name and image of the biblical Joseph, Cairo's Al Ahram newspaper recently reported. Excerpts provided by MEMRI show that the coins were discovered among a multitude of unsorted artifacts stored at the Museum of Egypt.



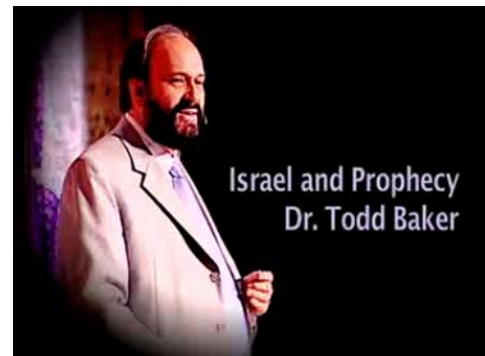
According to the report, the significance of the find is that archeologists have found scientific evidence countering the claim held by some historians that coins were not used for trade in ancient Egypt, and that this was done through barter instead.

The period in which Joseph was regarded to have lived in Egypt matches the minting of the coins in the cache, researchers said.

A thorough examination revealed that the coins bore the year in which they were minted and their value, or effigies of the pharaohs [who ruled] at the time of their minting. Some of the coins are from the time when Joseph lived in Egypt, and bear his name and portrait," said the report.

The discovery of the cache prompted research team head Dr. Sa'id Muhammad Thabet to seek Koranic verses that speak of coins used in ancient Egypt.

"Studies by Dr. Thabet's team have revealed that what most archeologists took for a kind of charm, and others took for an ornament or adornment, is actually a coin. Several [facts led them to this conclusion]: first, [the fact that] many such coins have been found at various [archeological sites], and also [the fact that] they are round or oval in shape, and have two faces: one with an inscription, called the inscribed face, and one with an image, called the engraved face - just like the coins we use today," the report added. ♦



## Dr. Todd Baker Speaks at the Feast of Tabernacles Conference at Christian Retreat in Florida

For those who did not make it to the Feast of Tabernacles Conference held at Christian Retreat in Florida at the beginning of October, video is now available online so you can enjoy the worship and teaching. Several videos, including one of Todd teaching on Israel and Prophecy, may be found at [www.ChristianRetreat.org/television](http://www.ChristianRetreat.org/television) under the Feast icon. Check it out!

# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of the Dragnet  
Part 8  
(Matthew 13:47-50)

by Todd Baker

The good fish pertain to the genuine followers of Jesus Christ who humbly walk in the profession of the holy faith. The good fish are the **"elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit"** (1 Peter 1:2). The good fish are those who personally belong to the Lord, having obtained the salvation which is in Christ Jesus by faith. Henceforth, the good fish are known and loved of God just as they love him with all their heart. **"But if any man love God, the same is known of Him"** (1 Corinthians 8:3).

In the vast assembly of the Church the good fish are vessels of honor, such as gold and silver, whereas the bad fish are the vessels of dishonor, such as wood or earthenware. The apostle Paul described the inevitable mixture of both the true and false convert placed together as vessels of honor and dishonor in the great Church of God. **"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and of earth, and some to honor, and some to dishonor"** (2 Timothy 2:20).

In the verse following, Paul goes on to mention how one is made into a vessel of honor qualified for the ministry of the Lord (2 Timothy 2:21). The good fish are spiritually cleansed by the Word of God produced by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. They are the redeemed children of God, and thus made eligible for the holy service of the Gospel and Christian ministry. The good fish are the men and women of God that are sanctified and kept holy and pure by

the power of God through faith unto salvation. We, as good vessels, are to remove and cleanse ourselves from the sins of the wicked, and are not to have intimate communion with them. **"Let him that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity"** (2 Timothy 2:19). In verse forty-eight of Matthew thirteen it is mentioned the good fish "were gathered into vessels", but the bad fish were "cast away." The good fish are "the vessels of mercy" chosen beforehand to make known the riches of God's grace (Romans 9:23). They are good only because of what Christ has done for them, and what He continues to do through them.

The bad fish in the parable are tragically viewed as vessels "wherein is no honor," vessels of wrath fitted

within the perimeters of world Christendom. The very truth of this can be readily witnessed in post-Christian Europe, and more recently in a growing post-Christian America where the Bible is commonly spurned and rejected in secular society and the pursuit of God is treated with skeptical disdain. Just because someone verbally professes lip service to Christ does not mean he or she is really a Christian. **"Many are called but few are chosen. But they have not all obeyed the Gospel, for they are not all Israel which are Israel"** (Matthew 22:14; Romans 9:6). The bad fish are those which have deceived themselves by only hearing the Word of God and not doing it (James 1:22). In the words of Matthew 7:21, they

are those who never once had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They know about Jesus, but they do not personally know Jesus. They profess Christ but do not possess Christ. The doomed result of their false profession will bring eternal disownment and banishment from the Lord of glory, who will

*"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



to destruction thoroughly rejected and cast away by God as good for nothing. The visible church has, indeed, bad people in it as well as good. The bad fish have an outward appearance of being 'Christian' but are in reality far from the godly influence of it. They faithfully attend church, yet are perpetually disobedient to the moral precepts of the Gospel. Statistically speaking, it would not be unreasonable to assume that there are more bad people than good people

say to them, **"Depart from Me you cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels"** (Matthew 25:41). Many bad fish fail to hear the Lord penetratingly ask them, **"Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say"** (Luke 6:46). There is no need to fully elaborate on the spurious 'Christians' in the Church; for they are many in number that honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far

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# Resting in Shabbat



by Mark Carney

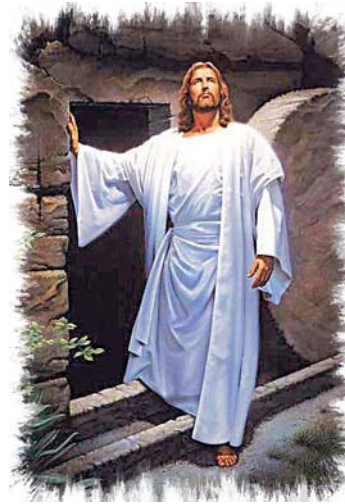
**A**s a Gentile member of a Messianic Jewish Congregation, I'm often asked to discuss the question of our responsibility to keep Shabbat. The commandment "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," has caused much controversy among Believers...perhaps more than any of the 613 Mitzvah of the Law. Considering the stigma that seems to be associated with meeting as a congregation on Shabbat rather than on Sunday, I think it's time to lay this controversy to rest. In this article I will attempt to do that by discussing some of my personal studies and meditations on Shabbat, and drawing some conclusions I hope will be helpful to our readers.

It seemed to me that in exploring the command to "remember the Sabbath" I needed to look at this Mitzvot - this commandment - in the context of the "covenant" between God and Man as expressed in the Tanach (Old Testament), and in the B'rit Hadashah (New Testament). These two writings are essentially one. The B'rit Hadashah is not in competition with the Tanach; rather, the B'rit Hadashah is the fulfillment of the Tanach. This being the case, I knew that my search for the true meaning of Shabbat had to begin with the Tanach, but it could not remain there. Indeed, I see the division of the Bible into two covenants as being the main problem. The Christian is a product of the sum of these two covenants: therefore we must interpret the Law through the filter of both covenants.

In the Aseret ha-Dvarim - the Ten Commandments - God gave Mankind a guide, a set of rules by which we are to conduct ourselves toward Him, and toward one another. The fourth of these Commandments states, "zachor et-yom hashabat lekadsho" - "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8). Space doesn't permit me to give a detailed chronological description of my thought processes as I considered this commandment, but they can be summarized in the statement that because the Sabbath day gave to all a needful respite from daily toil it served Man's spiritual welfare, and did honor to God. It seemed, then, that I could do myself no harm by observing the Sabbath as both a day of physical rest, and a day of worship.

I also determined that the early Christians kept the seventh day as a Sabbath, much after the fashion of the Jews. This,

to me, was significant, but had to be tempered by the fact that for Christians the most joyous day of all the week had to



be the day that resurrection of our Lord occurred, and the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament agree that this event occurred on the first day of the week. In fact, history records that the first day of the week gradually came to be recognized as the day on which the followers of Jesus would meet for worship. Equally significant was the record of the New Testament concerning how the Gentile Believers should view the Law of Moses. The Council at

Jerusalem made no mention of Sabbath observance in the requirements laid upon Gentile Christians (Acts 15:28). The Apostle Paul boldly contended that Believers in Yeshua, whether Jew or Gentile, were set free from the burdens of the Mosaic Law. Even circumcision counted for nothing, for men are saved by the Grace of God through faith in Yeshua's sacrifice on the cross at Calvary.

Christian liberty, as proclaimed by Paul, included all days and seasons. A man could observe special days or not, just as his own judgment and conscience might dictate (Romans 14:5); but in all such matters one ought to be careful not to put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Romans 14:13). That Paul contended for personal freedom in respect of the Sabbath is made quite clear in Colossians 2:16, where he groups together dietary laws, feast days, new moons and Sabbaths. The early Christians brought over into their mode of observing the Lord's Day the best elements of the Jewish Sabbath, without its onerous restrictions.

The twelve Apostles, like other Jews, observed the feast of Pentecost, and even after the descent of the Spirit they frequented the temple and observed the hours of prayer. Even so, the Apostle Paul spoke of the Law in its relationship to those who are Followers of Jesus, saying, "So let it be clearly known and understood by you, brethren, that through this Man forgiveness and removal of sins is now proclaimed to you; and that through Him everyone who believes [who acknowledges Jesus as his Savior and devotes himself to Him] is absolved (cleared and freed) from every charge from which he could not be justified and freed by the Law of Moses and given right standing with God." (Acts 13:38-39, Amplified

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Bible) God has made it clear to us that His Revealed Law as outlined in the Tanach is our Standard. God judges us by our success or failure to keep His Law. If we fail even one time to adhere to His Law then we are guilty of breaking all His Laws. So, you see, it doesn't matter how hard we tried to keep the Law. We are condemned by that one single failure. This being the case, we cannot be saved by keeping Shabbat. Any single failure to keep Shabbat blots out all of our successes, and condemns us to suffer the penalty of breaking this command. One failure to properly observe Shabbat is as good as never having kept Shabbat at all.

Since none of us has ever been perfect at keeping Shabbat - or any of God's Laws - we are under the penalty of sin. Jews and Gentiles, Torah Observant or not Torah Observant, are all under the penalty of death for sins committed. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that [the murmurs and excuses of] every mouth may be hushed and all the world may be held accountable to God. For no person will be justified (made righteous, acquitted, and judged acceptable) in His sight by observing the works prescribed by the Law. For [the real function of] the Law is to make men recognize and be conscious of sin [not mere perception, but an acquaintance with sin which works toward repentance, faith, and holy character]." Romans 3:19-20 (Amplified Bible) Now, dear reader, you can see how far we are from meeting God's requirements. Now you can see that the Law is a mirror, and you must admit your failure to keep it perfectly. You must admit your defilement. The mirror cannot cleanse you; it can only show that you are in need of cleansing. We find that cleansing in Yeshua, for He is our Shabbat.

To understand this one must understand the word "Shabbat" which means "to rest." Its origin lies in the days of Creation. After creating the heavens and the earth in six days, God "rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made" (Genesis 2:2). To put it simply, God stopped what He was doing. God ceased from His labors. God used the example of His resting on the seventh day of Creation to establish the principle of Shabbat - a day of rest for His people. Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15 record God's giving of the fourth Commandment. On the seventh day God ceased from His labor, so we are to cease from our labors.

The various elements of the Shabbat symbolize the coming of the Messiah, who provides a permanent rest for His people. Once again the example of resting from our labors comes into play. This time the "labor" involves our constant "laboring" to make us acceptable to God. For the Torah Observant this involves a myriad of "do's" and "don'ts" of the ceremonial law, the Temple law, the civil law, etc. Of course we can't possibly keep all these laws; therefore God provides a sin offering. This sacrifice enables us to come to God for forgiveness and for a restoration of the fellowship He had with Man in the beginning. Hebrews 10:1 tells us that the law "can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship." These sacrifices were offered in anticipation of the ultimate sacrifice of Yeshua on the cross who, "after He had offered

one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right of God" (Hebrews 10:12). Just as He rested after performing the ultimate sacrifice, He sat down and rested—ceased from His labor of atonement because there was nothing more to be done, ever. Because of what He did, we no longer have to "labor" in law keeping in order to be justified in the sight of God. Yeshua was sent so that we might rest in God and in what He has provided.

There is no other Shabbat rest outside of Yeshua. He alone satisfies the requirements of the Law, and He alone provides the sacrifice that atones for sin. He is God's plan for you to cease from the labor of your own works. If you reject this one-and-only Way of salvation (John 14:6), God's reaction will be that which we read in Numbers 15. There we read the record of a man who was found gathering sticks on Shabbat, in spite of God's plain commandment to cease from all labor on the Shabbat. This transgression was a known and willful sin, done with unblushing boldness in broad daylight, in open defiance of the divine authority. As God commanded that this man be put to death so it will be to all who reject God's provision for our Shabbat rest in Christ. All who are born again are resting in Yeshua; therefore they understand the true meaning of Shabbat, and they alone are keeping Shabbat as God meant it to be kept. If you are not born again you are not keeping Shabbat, and your penalty will be the same as the man in Numbers 15.

To do this you must speak to God. You must admit the truth to Him - that you are a sinner. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). You must admit to Him that because you are a sinner, you are worthy of death. "For the wages [payment] of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This includes eternal separation from God in Hell. "... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). You must know that, although we cannot understand how, God said our sins were laid upon Yeshua - He died in our place. He became our substitute. It is true. God cannot lie.

No synagogue or church can save you from this penalty. No efforts to keep the Law of Moses can save you. You must repent of all your failures to keep the Law. In Luke 18:13, the sinner prayed: "God be merciful to me a sinner." Pray that way, acknowledging to God that you are a sinner, and that you deserve death. Admit to Him that you deserve whatever punishment He sees fit to impose upon you. Then ask Him for mercy. Tell Him that you want what He offers: forgiveness of your sins, the gift of salvation, and everlasting life. Because of His merciful grace He will do this for you. It sounds simple, but it isn't. You will not achieve this by uttering a few carefully chosen words. You will only be born again when you admit to God that He is right about you - that you are a sinner deserving of death and Hell. But if you are willing to humble yourself before Him, He will save you.

The prayer that will bring you to God is simple, it's scriptural, and it's God's plan. My friend, believe on Yeshua and receive Him as Savior today.

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3). †

the Holy Spirit to wait outside the hotel for several minutes to talk with people walking past the sidewalk. Several minutes later Ralph noticed a taxi driver parked by the curb who got out of his car to talk with him. His name was Doron Mordecai. He told Ralph that he was a Jewish believer and wanted Ralph to come and visit a gift shop owned by other Jewish believers in Yeshua. Ralph came into the hotel and informed us about this opportunity and we went to support the Jewish saints of Jerusalem.

When we arrived at the gift shop, the believers there greeted us with a warm welcome that exhibited a genuine brotherly love. We joined this small group of Jewish Christians in prayer, praise, and worship to the Lord. Doron had told us that a young Israeli man in



*Our team joined this small group of Jewish Christians in prayer, praise, and worship to the Lord in their gift shop in Israel.*

the gift shop was not yet a believer in Yeshua. His name was Gogoly. I asked Doran if I could give him a complete Hebrew Bible and Messianic Gospel tracts. He enthusiastically answered, "yes." After we concluded our prayer and worship time with these precious Jewish brothers in Yeshua, I went over and offered Gogoly the Scriptures and the Gospel tracts. He not only accepted them from me but came over and hugged me with tears streaming down his eyes as he received the Scriptures. Debbie Conn immediately noticed this and went up to the young man. She softly spoke to him and said, while pointing to his newly received Bible, "Study and receive this within your whole mind and heart and let the Holy Spirit reveal Yeshua to you."

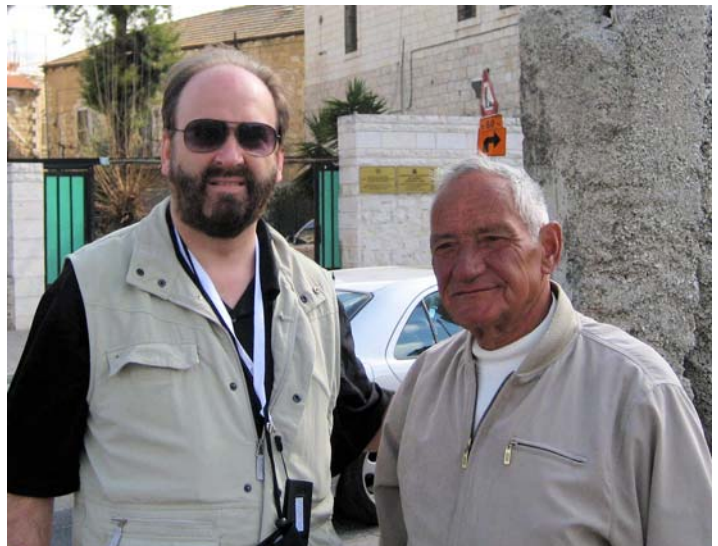
What an amazing time of ministry that all began because God gave Ralph and I the grace, faith, and supernatural ability to discern the Lord's voice specifically guiding and leading us away from a closed restaurant to a specific hotel and finally to the street right outside its doors so that we could eventually minister to Doran and Jewish believers in Jerusalem. For, **"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left"** (Isaiah 30:21). God led us the whole way so that this



*This young man, Gogoly, gratefully accepted the Scriptures and Gospel tracts.*

impressionable and open young man could encounter through God's Word the love and power of the Messiah who died to save Him.

The next day, we went to the Garden Tomb, Golgotha, and the Garden of Gethsemane. After having our prayer time in these pivotal places of Yeshua's ministry, we headed to the parking lot located in the Arab section of East Jerusalem. The proprietor of the parking lot was a very old and genial man. To show my appreciation for allowing us to park there for a very reasonable price, I gave him and his employee Arab Gospel tracts detailing the Gospel story. I shared with both men that God loves the Arab people and sent the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, to die for them and bring them forgiveness and eternal life so that they could have the rest of a wonderful eternity with Him. The elderly man placed his hands on his heart, smiled broadly, and extended his arms to us to show us that he would receive this message into his heart for reading and consideration. ✠✠✠



*This Arab parking lot proprietor accepted Arab Gospel tracts and indicated that he would read and consider the information.*

# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

## † Partner With Us ☆

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

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

*Tiberias who has accepted Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior.*

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

*We thank you deeply for your support, whether you are able to give monthly or a onetime donation. It all goes a long way in helping us achieve God's purpose and plan for this outreach ministry.*

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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

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## UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for November and December's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

The first two Fridays of November, we will have a slide show of the October mission trip to Israel with narrative from Todd about the opportunities that God opened up for witnessing.

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Nov/Dec 2009 issue

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Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

from him. Bad fish are usually thought of as dried up dead fish carcasses that exude an overpowering stench.

The bad fish are the unregenerate masses that verbally claim a nominal profession of Christianity who are **"ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (2 Timothy 3:7). The bad fish are an offensive stench to the reputation of true Christianity. This is one of the primary reasons why the unsaved are turned off toward the Church and foolishly excuse themselves from accepting Jesus Christ because of the many counterfeit Christians who profess that they believe in Jesus Christ, but in their daily life conveniently ignore and deny Him by their immoral conduct and hypocritical living. **"They profess that they know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate"** (Titus 1:16). In reference to the

bad fish, Jesus uses a common expression in Scripture: "cast away" or 'cast out" to describe their worthless condition and total depravity before God. The bad fish have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). They desperately needed the regeneration of the human spirit by the Holy Spirit, not the dead, lifeless corpse of an unsaving religion which left them corrupt, unfit, and good for nothing but to finally be "cast" into everlasting fire.

The seventh mystery parable of Matthew thirteen reveals that the kingdom of Heaven, like a net under the expanding reach of the Gospel, is offered to the entire world as a life-saving net thrown into the sea gathering people of every kind, both good and bad. They will be separated by the angels of the Lord at the end 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. †