

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 8, Number 1

Jan/Feb 2010



Fall 2009 Outreach to Israel

Will The Real Messiah Please Stand Up?

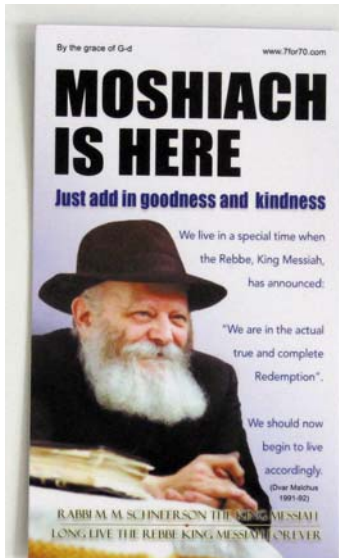
Stories from our Fall 2009 Gospel Outreach to Israel - Part 1

Our fall Gospel witness of 2009 for Yeshua the Messiah to His people, Israel, immediately began on our flight from New York to Tel Aviv. With me on this Fall 2009 outreach were Kenny Gee and Pastor Ralph and Debbie Conn. A few hours into the flight, I noticed a certain group from Chasidic Judaism called the Lubavitch were praying and doing the Amidah (a rite in Judaism where the supplicant prays three times a day standing and moving back and forth). This errant group



by
Todd Baker

mistakenly believes that the late Rabbi Menachem Schneerson is the Messiah. One of their zealous representatives approached me where I was sitting on the plane. The eager young man's name was Tomer. He handed me a card with a color portrait of Rabbi Schneerson on it stating that the "Moshiach (Messiah) is here" obviously meaning the person of Schneerson. The Holy Spirit no doubt brought Tomer to my seat, one out of some 500 seats on the plane, to hear the biblical proof about how Jesus of Nazareth is the only **one** and **true** Messiah. This witness began after I read Tomer's card that he handed me. Ralph, Debbie, and Kenny started praying for me to give an effective witness to this young man. I boldly and emphatically stated that the Messiah came and is coming again and lives in my life. This Messiah is



The card handed out by the young man on the plane



The mission team: Kenny, Ralph, Debbie, and Todd

none other than Yeshua, not Rabbi Schneerson. I patiently and calmly explained to Tomer that the simple, unimpeachable biblical evidence proving my assertion beyond any and all doubt was that Jesus was the only person in Jewish history to fulfill all the Messianic prophecies given in the Tenach (the Old Testament) concerning the first coming, to suffer and die for the sins of mankind and rise again from death.

I went down a basic list of these biblical prophecies about the Messiah to demonstrate that Rabbi Schneerson could not be Israel's Messiah, now or ever, because he failed to fulfill these prophecies. For instance, the prophet Micah predicted that the King Messiah would come out of Bethlehem (Micah 5:1-2). Schneerson was born in the Ukraine and died in Brooklyn! Jesus, however, was born in Bethlehem and thus fulfilled Micah's prophecy (Matthew 2:1-5). That one glaring discrepancy alone, among so many, I went on to say, eliminates and disqualifies Schneerson

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As always, special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions to B'rit Hadashah Ministries, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible.

Search the Scriptures

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

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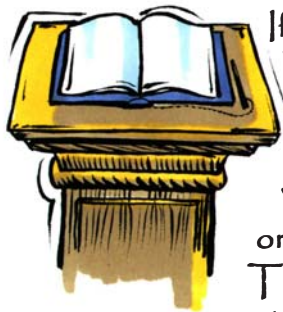
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If you would like to have Todd as a guest speaker at your church or function, visit our

website: www.brit-hadashah.org

or contact us at:

Todd@brit-hadashah.org or call 866-910-0444.

NEW VIDEOS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

If you enjoy reading our stories about our witnessing experiences with the people of Israel, you'll really enjoy watching our videos we've put together for you. We've taken Todd's narrative from the slide show presentation after returning from Israel and combined it with pictures from the trip. The 2008 videos have been out there for a little while, but now they're joined by videos from the Fall 2009 outreach.

And as a special bonus, Kenny Gee put together his own video with his photographs along with a great song from Paul Wilbur. So set aside some time to see what great work God is doing through this ministry in the Holy Land!



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



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 January and February's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

Remember these lessons are available in audio form on our website!

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of
the Dragnet
Part 9
(Matthew 13:47-50)

by Todd Baker

"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



in the waters, all that have fins and scales you shall eat" (Deuteronomy 14:9). The fins of a fish are vital web-like appendages that enable

power to the faint and to them that have no might He increases strength" (Isaiah 40:29). The good fish Christian is clothed with the spiritual armor of God, even as the body of the fish is protected by scales (see Romans 13:12; 2 Corinthians 6:7; Ephesians 6:11-18 on the importance of the spiritual armor). God endues every Christian soldier with "the armor of light" to give him the ability to fight and withstand all the attacks from the powers of darkness and to quench the fiery darts of the devil. The armored Christian is able to swim against the broad, easy downward trend of this world. The manifest attribute of the good fish Christian is seen by the fact that he has "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." By doing this, he no longer walks according to the destructive course of this world, but in the holy path of the crucified, Spirit-filled life. Anyone who has common sense in the act of swimming obviously knows it is much easier to swim downstream than upstream.

The Bible gives certain characteristics differentiating the good fish from the bad in Deuteronomy 14:9-10. ***"These you shall eat of all that are in the waters, all that have fins and scales you shall eat. And whatever does not have fins and scales you may not eat. It is unclean to you."*** After reading these two verses, the essential description of what fish is clean and unclean, and what separates the good fish from the bad is clearly set forth. Dear reader, do not think for a moment that these two verses in Deuteronomy fourteen pertain only to the ceremonial laws of Israel in their ancient past. Even in the ceremonial laws there is, behind it, great spiritual and moral truths illustrated and defined that was written beforehand for our learning (Romans 15:4). God did not list these particular characteristics of fish in His eternal Word for the mere instruction of the Jewish diet alone. These verses also lend a descriptive aid that allows the discerning Christian to distinguish the good fish from the bad in the parable of the dragnet. The "good" fish that could be eaten were to have fins and scales. ***"These you shall eat of all that are***

the swimming creature to freely move about and direct itself in the water. The fins of a fish are a primary and indispensable organ for aquatic locomotion. They are especially helpful to the fish for swimming upstream against the current. Without fins, the fish could not properly balance itself and swim in the water. A scale is one of the small plates that cover the body of a fish. Collectively, the scales are the outer covering of the fish, and act as a protective armor for its safety.

The Saints of God are likewise supernaturally equipped with the inner guide of the Holy Spirit and the armor of light. The Christian, like the good fish with fins, is promised the strength and divine guidance of the Lord, giving him the spiritual propulsion to move through the troubled waters of this perilous world with victory. The good fish Christian shuns any sort of self confidence in the flesh and puts his entire trust in the Lord. As the fins of a fish empower it to freely swim through the waters, God also acts for His people as a fin or rudder of control that gives power and direction to them so they can move and confidently walk in the Spirit of Christ day by day without wavering. ***"He gives***

the fins and scales of the fish enable it to swim upstream against the tide. The Christian's faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the indwelling Spirit act as his fins and scales whereby he is able to overcome the world by swimming upstream, so to speak, in the straight and narrow way that "leads to life" (Matthew 7:14). Thus, the two godly attributes of the good fish Christian according to this exposition are:

(1) Faith in God - They have absolute trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(2) The presence of the Holy Spirit resides in them - They put on the

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IN THE LOVING STEPS OF THE MASTER YESHUA THE MESSIAH



by Rev. Ralph A.
Conn BA, MA

We are home from the latest ministry trip for Yeshua and what a wondrous trip. We shared throughout Israel from Mt. Hermon far north to the very southern tip, Eilat.

Sharing the love of Yeshua to the soldier on Mt. Hermon where the seed of our Messiah was evident



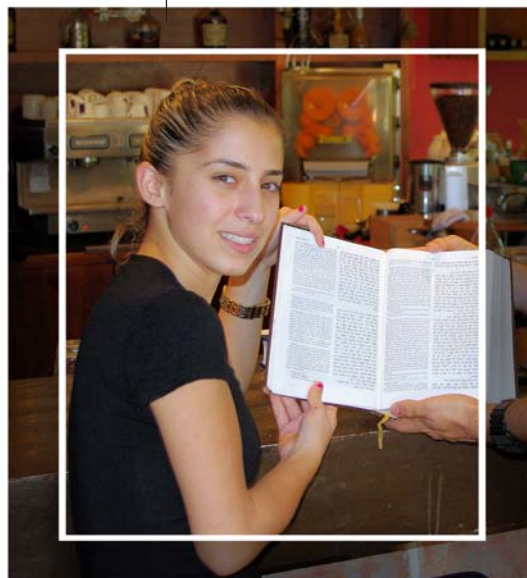
Ralph greets a soldier on Mt. Hermon

was the beginning of the most fruitful outreach yet, 16 and counting. We were so blessed as we continued south in Tiberias as the Lord sent us on one divine appointment after another. The restaurant owner in Tiberias and the many others we met caused us to stand and walk in absolute awe as we saw the veil lifted from one after another. We were blessed as the waitress at a little restaurant outside of Tiberias bowed her head to her Messiah Yeshua. Her boss was so moved by the ministry of love that he gave us a gift upon leaving. The seeds of understanding planted everywhere we went – wow, what a blessing. We ministered sharing the Gospel and giving out B'rit Hadashahs and anointed tracts to all the Lord gave us opportunity. As we moved about the land His presents

of love poured out. Look for many experiences in coming editions of this newsletter. One encounter was with a group of women soldiers in Jerusalem, about 25 or so, as they gathered around me and asked questions of me being willing to share God's love to them and of our support and prayers for them. What a blessing!

Kenny Gee and I were in a mall in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit told me to go outside as we were going to be approached by a soldier. As I shared this with Kenny, he pointed his finger and said "there he is" as we saw a young man, far off, getting off a bus. He walked straight to us and was very interested in hearing about God's love for him. We spoke at length with him and gave him a B'rit Hadashah as two young women came and greeted him. They claimed to be atheists but realized that they did believe in god though unsure of who that god was. They are now wondering about Yeshua and God's love for them and the land they live in. We thought our ministry there was over when we were able to talk to a scooter rider who drove up. He is a business owner in the mall and is a believer in Yeshua. As Kenny and I shared the encouraging word of the Lord, he just shook his head. What an opportunity to share the Lord and then encourage a Brother to stay the course. Words can never express the love of God we experienced from one town to another. The ministry was so very obvious and I want you to know that your support helped make it possible for us to be used of the Lord. You will be blessed as you were there with us.

Brother Dr. Todd Baker and Rev. Deborah Conn ministered so well together as did Kenny Gee and I that we felt the calling of being sent out two by two. You can't imagine how well received this ministry was as everywhere we went we were able to minister the love of Yeshua.



This waitress in Tiberias accepted Yeshua as her Savior after hearing the Gospel

Thank you fellow Saints for your sacrifices and prayers for us, your ambassadors for Yeshua in God's land Israel. I will pick a particular experience and describe it to you in detail to encourage you in the fact that we are indeed living in the last days before that great sound that calls us heavenward to prepare for His return to the Valley of Armageddon right here in Israel.

May the love of Yeshua be yours in abundance and remember "As we give Yeshua the priority, He grants us the opportunity to serve Him more completely".

Rev. Ralph A. Conn B.A. M.A.

2nd 11/09 Ministry Report

As we went about Israel seeking the divine appointments the Lord has for us, we always keep the love of God uppermost on our minds. Our purpose isn't to cause division but an understanding that God loves the land, loves the people, and sent us here to share that love with all we can.

I came upon a group of Israelite female soldiers in Jerusalem at a park where they were involved in a time of rest before continuing on their mission. I took this as an



Ralph answers questions from this group of Israeli female soldiers about where he's from and why he came to Israel

opportunity to approach them. At first they weren't much interested in me until I told them I was from Florida and if any of them knew where that was. With their interest came questions about why I was there and what I wanted with them. I simply told them that I wanted them to know that I, along with many other Americans, want them to know that we love them and are standing with them in their struggles. I told them of my military background, my two sons' service and how I had a desire to share God's love with them. I told them that He loved them and I thanked them for Israel being the birth place of Jesus Christ (Yeshua), and of His soon return to this land as their Messiah. They asked me if I was a Jew and I responded by proclaiming that even though I was born a gentile that by knowing Yeshua as my Savior I was now an adopted Jew with all the promises of God for all eternity. I told them it began here, remains here, and will continue here, to not be discouraged but understand that we are with them. I continued to minister until I felt the leading of the Holy Spirit of God to tell them shalom and that we would continue to pray for them and return soon to this wonderful land Israel. They moved giving me a space to exit; it was like the parting of the sea and I was greatly blessed.

We have seen a softening of attitudes as the veil is being lifted from once closed eyes and minds to the Lord's direction for this land called Israel. We can't possibly convey to you the extent of this wonderful opening of understanding except to say it is obvious and glorious. We couldn't do this without the prayers, support and help of you and those who understand that we are called to "go up to Jerusalem" in the name above all names Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah.

We continued south to Eliat on the tip of the country where the population of Israel and surrounding lands come to relax, play and try to cope with the struggles of daily life here in the middle east. We know that the daily grind of this part of the world is one of great stress as the people deal with the hatred surrounding them. Can this playground bring the desired release needed? Of course not, but we see people trying to find the desired feeling. What a great place to share the love of God, His peace and the Messiah, Yeshua. We found a local merchant named Yon that blessed us in this effort not too far from our hotel. He was at first a little hesitant about



Deborah talked with Yon in Eilat about God's plan for Israel and how he is included

any discussion about God but after he saw our calmness and desire to sincerely share with him our love for Israel, the people, and our continued prayers for them, he started asking questions. My wife Deborah sat beside him on a concrete bench and proceeded to tell him that God has a plan for Israel and that he was included in that plan. We had a wonderful time with

this young man and upon leaving him we were blessed to give him a complete Hebrew Bible with tracts that will help him in the days ahead. As we walked over the draw bridge, we looked back to see him reading the material we had given him. Another completed Saint in the Kingdom? We believe so and praise God for using us.



Ralph shows Yon verses from the Hebrew Bible about God's prophecies

Can you see the part you have in this? We hope so because you are there with us as you pray and support our efforts through B'rit Hadashah Ministries. Thank you so much and may the God of Israel, the Messiah, Yeshua by the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God bless you. Look for our next report coming soon.

Rev. Ralph A. ComBA, MA

from being the Messiah of Israel. Tomer alluded to what the great medieval Talmudic scholar and Rabbi, Maimonides, said as a point of reference for the way Messiah would come as a great political figure and would not perform any miracles! I retorted that Maimonides was dead wrong and contradicted Scripture on this point—specifically the prophecies made in Isaiah that one of the marks of Messiah's ministry would in fact include the performance of healing miracles which Jesus frequently did during His three year Messianic ministry in Israel (see Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1-2 with Matthew 9:1-7 and John 9). With this, I further added, it is the Hebrew Scriptures alone that give us an infallible guide about knowing the true marks of the Messiah when He comes. The Talmud and teachings of the rabbis cannot possibly provide the same reliable data especially when they contradict the biblical portrayal of the Messiah. Sadly, but predictably, Tomer stubbornly maintained that Schneerson was the Messiah. I then informed my fellow debater that this is simply not the case because Daniel the prophet in Daniel 9:26-27 accurately predicted the exact timeframe that the true Messiah would come and be "cut off" (a Hebraic phrase denoting a violent death) before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. This very thing occurred in 70 A.D. by Titus and the Roman armies and thus the Messiah of Daniel 9:26-27 had to have come to Israel sometime *before* A.D. 70!

The only person to come in this time period and suffer a violent death was Jesus of Nazareth. It could not be Schneerson since he

came some 2,000 years *after* Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed! Furthermore, Schneerson died peacefully in bed on June 12, 1994, without suffering a violent a death of any kind! Tomer could not dispute such undeniable, historical facts that clearly demonstrate that Jesus is the only person in Israel's history who fulfilled these Messianic prophecies which simultaneously precludes at the same time all other Messianic claimants including the late Menachem Schneerson. Tomer's basis of authority for his claims was the Oral law of the rabbis which is the lens through which Scripture must be understood. The danger of this construct is that man-made religious tradition is placed above the primary authority of God's Word and it becomes supplanted. The basis of authority I argued from was the primacy of Holy Scripture above all else followed by the illumination of the Holy Spirit of what that Word means. My heart was grieved over Tomer's deceived condition that has ridiculously led him to stoutly believe and defend that a frail, partially paralyzed, and now deceased rabbi from Brooklyn is the Messiah instead of the God-man Jesus Christ who conquered death, sin, hell, and the grave by His mighty resurrection from the dead. His case proves that when a Jewish person rejects the true Messiah that he or she will accept a false one instead just as Yeshua foretold in John 5:43: **"I have come in My Father's name, and you did not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive."** But the seed of God's Word revealed through the Gospel was planted in Tomer's heart and mind. Dear readers, let us pray that in due time this seed will be watered further and germinate faith in Yeshua alone as Lord and Messiah. God's Word will not return void but it will accomplish what He has determined it to do (Isaiah 55:11). ✠✠✠



Matthew 13 Continued from page 3

whole armor of God and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit which gives them strength, guidance, and direction as they walk with Christ.

Deuteronomy 14:10 also gives the characteristics that identify the "bad" or unclean fish. **"And whatever does not have fins and scales you may not eat. It is unclean to you."** The bad fish have no fins or scales upon their bodies. Since the bad fish lack fins, it is therefore unable to adequately swim in the water. Without fins it is totally immobilized. The bad fish, or false Christian, has no active faith, but is paralyzed in the spirit of unbelief. No saved Christian can successfully walk with God without faith. Indeed, it is quite impossible as the Scriptures are so wise in pointing out: **"Without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that comes to God must believe that He is"** (Hebrews 11:6).

The bad fish are more inclined to swim in the downstream of this world, lest they have to endure hardship and intense struggle if they decide to swim upstream against the current tide of the present age. The bad fish 'Christian' is a lover of the world



system in its rebellion against the authority of God. But he is ever so careful to maintain, at the same time, a whitewashed appearance of being a Christian. This thin veneer of

religiosity quickly fades and his tarnished colors show through when buffeted of the devil and enticed with temptation. The swimming proclivity of the bad fish, like false Christians, is inclined to travel downstream according to the broad way of this ungodly world that leads many who travel it to everlasting destruction (Matthew 7:13). The bad fish 'Christian' does not have the regenerating presence of the Holy Spirit abiding in his heart; thus he is not really saved and born again with the new nature of Christ. He is "dead in trespasses and sins." The bad fish 'Christian' puts total confidence in himself and in the abilities of the flesh instead of putting his total trust in the all-sufficient Christ and the power of God's divine guidance. He wears not the armor of God and does not have the Spirit of Christ living in Him.†

B'rit Hadashah Ministries

† Partner With Us ☆

Now that we have begun full-time to reach Israel with the Gospel, we need your support more than ever. Having been to the Holy Land more than 15 times, I can assure you that Israelis deeply hunger and thirst for the Word of God and appreciate the believers in America who support ministries devoted to bringing the Word of God to the Jews.

In light of the Last Days' realities, we appeal to you. We ask for and appreciate any support you can give us during

this critical time of need. We need your thoughts, your prayers, your words and your financial support as the Lord leads your heart.

Please consider becoming a monthly partner. As you can read for yourself in the newsletter articles, these worthwhile donations are directly impacting individual lives in Israel.

Thank you for supporting this Gospel ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ to His Chosen People in the land of Israel. May He come quickly! Until then, we continue to labor for Him.

Make checks and money orders payable to:

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PO Box 796127
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thank you for your support

**Rapture
Ready
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Have you visited RaptureReady.com lately? When you go there, you'll find some of Todd's articles listed. Also, Terry James (of RaptureReady) has approached Todd about writing a chapter in an upcoming book on current events in Bible prophecy alongside other reputed authors of Bible prophecy. Todd's chapter will be about the Temple Mount.

RaptureReady has been featured by the news media, both in the United States and in Europe, in print, such as in *Rolling Stone*, *Newsweek*, *New York Times*, on television news channels including CNN, and in Robert Lanham's book *The Sinner's Guide to the Evangelical Right*. So please be praying for our ministry as we start getting more exposure through Terry James and his high-profiled work.

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. †

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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.

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Our next Mission Trip to Israel is scheduled for March 14 - 31, 2010! Please add this to your prayer list, and start praying about supporting this outreach financially or that those who can support us financially will do so. Thank you for any help you can give!

