

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 8, Number 6

Nov/Dec 2010

HOMECOMING FOR YESHUA

The June 2010 summer outreach officially began bright and early in the dining hall of our hotel in Tel Aviv when eating breakfast. As we were eating, one of the waitresses, her name was Nikila, caught my attention. The Holy Spirit quickened my heart to seriously speak to her about the great spiritual blessing her people brought to the world when Yeshua the



by
Todd Baker



Todd with Nikila

Messiah was born and came from the Jewish nation. Not fully understanding this point, Nikila gently asked what that was. Paul and I had a complete copy of the Hebrew Scriptures with us. I picked up the Bible and pointed to it and answered, God's Word was this gift from the Jewish people by which my friend and I came to know the one true God revealed in Yeshua the Messiah—of whom the Hebrew prophets spoke about all throughout the Tenach (the Old Testament). We then shared with Nikila that we would be honored to give this complete copy of the Jewish Bible to her as a heartfelt expression of our love and gratitude for what her people gave to the world. Touched by our sincere gesture, Nikila accepted the Hebrew

Scriptures with wide-eyed appreciation. We ended our brief witness by telling her that Yeshua loves her and she now can learn about His life and ministry to the Jewish people in the B'rit Hadashah (the New Testament) we gave her.

Paul and I left Tel Aviv and headed for the city of Nazareth. For several years this ministry has stopped in the hometown of our Lord to share the Gospel with modern day Jews living there. This day proved to be one of the most fruitful in the

history of this ministry! The Lord led us to an outdoor bookstand where two young, bright Israeli women (Dalit and Sharon) were working. While perusing through the different books, Paul found a book about the biblical sites in the land of Israel. When he tried to purchase the book with his credit card it was declined because the store's computer system was down. The Lord providentially used this minor inconvenience to open up a quality opportunity for an extensive Gospel witness to both Israelis which covered redemption revealed through the covenants, the prophets, and the Messianic prophecies of the Tenach; we declared all of these point to the coming of the Messiah in the B'rit Hadashah who was Jesus of Nazareth—the very city both of these Israelis was living in! We also touched on the current crisis Israel is facing from the whole world—unjustified harassment and hatred, and an ongoing call for their destruction. Paul and I encouraged them from God's Word that such a scenario was foretold and anticipated for the "last days" of this present age. The Hebrew prophets of the Bible further revealed how national



Todd with Dalit and Sharon

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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.

BRIT MELACH

COVENANT OF SALT



by Robin Hopper
(Aviel b'Meir)

Covenant:

Alliance, Pledge

(a) Between Men

An Agreement, A Pledge (Man to Man)

An Alliance (A Marriage)

(a) Between Man and G-d

(b) Between a Man and a Woman

Salt was (is) a valuable commodity – salt is a preserving element. Covenanting parties were accustomed to partake of salt, thus making a “Covenant of Salt”.

<Numbers 18:19 NASB> *“All the Offerings of the HOLY GIFTS (Blood Offering), which the sons of Israel offer the L-rd, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the L-rd for you and your descendants with you.”*

This was a Covenant that was inviolably sure. The meaning appears to have been that salt, with its power to strengthen the flavor of food and keep it from decay, symbolized the unbending truthfulness of that self-surrender to G-d, (to Yeshua) embodied in the sacrifice, by which all impurity and hypocrisy is repelled.

Salt is a symbol of purity and incorruptibility. “A covenant of salt” means a covenant that cannot be broken.

Yeshua says to His followers in Matthew 5:13 “You are the SALT of the earth.” Rav Shaul (Paul) states in Colossians 4:6 “Let your *speech* always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.” That is, let it be wholesome and savory, preserved from corrupting conversation.

With salt anyone can eat unsavory things. That is to say with faith in Him (Yeshua) we can endure all things, as in “through Messiah who strengthens me (us)” (Philippians 4:13).

We still have a covenant with G-d

Lest someone should think or say, “This is all interesting, but there is no animal sacrifice, so this has

no meaning to us,” I would like to point out the words of Yeshua Ha Meshiach. He refers to the Mosaic Salt Covenant when He tells us in Mark 9:49 “For everyone shall be salted with fire and every sacrifice will be salted with salt”.

We no longer bring the blood of animal sacrifice to the L-rd. (*There is no Temple to offer sacrifice*). The blood of Messiah is the final blood sacrifice, providing for the complete removal of the stain of sin for all mankind, providing the act of reconciliation between G-d and humanity. Yet, we still need to bring sacrifices to G-d. Our sacrifice is a living sacrifice, a contrite heart, a seeking spirit, and a desire to serve Him with all our **HEARTS**.

How do we SALT our sacrifices today?

What is our sacrifice today?

Do we really live a life wholly committed to Him? Or do we do something on the surface that we think makes us look good in the eyes of others?

When G-d makes a covenant, He holds nothing back... He invests everything to that covenant. He salts what He has stated; it is an everlasting covenant of salt. Salt is a symbol of purity and incorruptibility. In Numbers 18:19, “a covenant of salt” means a covenant that cannot be broken. Adonai Salted this New Covenant with the blood of His only begotten Son in order to give us Eternal Life. What in turn do we salt this covenant with?

We salt our hearts by coming to the L-rd with confidence that He LOVES us, cares for us, and knowing that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We should be laying our lives on the altar as living stones; when He calls we should be saying “Here I am L-rd...take me.” The Salt is in our Sacrifice to Him. ✧

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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Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of the Scribe and the Householder
Part 3
(Matthew 13:51-52)

by Todd Baker

The minister of Christ, as the scribe of old, will faithfully inscribe the Word of God upon his impressionable heart so that he may express by proven obedience **"what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God"** (Romans 12:2). The scribes of Christ's day were arrogant, ambitious religionists. They exalted their own man-made traditions above the Word of God (Mark 7:5-13). The Holy Scriptures were supposed to aid in the moral and spiritual development of the people allowing them to know the will and character of God. The scribes' doctrinal perversion of the truth, mixed with the dogmatic forms of religious traditions, only served as a deadly obstruction that prevented the people from entering into true fellowship with God (Matthew 23:13). The scribes' proud repudiation of the Gospel for the religious traditions of men earned them Jesus' stern disapproval and harsh condemnation (Matthew 23:1-39; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47). The exemplary scribe of the Bible is found in the upright character of Ezra—the outstanding scribe of the Old Testament. Ezra boldly addressed the congregation of Israel all that the Law of God contained. He expertly taught the people its statutes and ordinances with clear, simple articulation. He taught and expounded what God said through the Law. In this way the people understood without any difficulty what was being said from God's Law.

Ezra, "the scribe of God," was a man of prayer and obedience, two godly traits that should befit all the scribes of the Lord; **"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments"** (Ezra 7:10). Notice from the verse quoted above that a scribe of God is qualified to teach the Law of God so long as he does it. **"For not the hearers of the law are just**

by letting Scripture interpret Scripture. The Lord Jesus always appealed to the direct and literal interpretation of Scripture. He fully sanctioned this without the unwarranted interpretations of men. The Lord approved the grammatical-historical method of interpretation as the correct method for all His disciples to follow by and use when reading the Scriptures instead of seeking a human intermediary to interpret for them. The divine Author of the Bible counsels all to **"Search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me"** (John 5:39). The eager Bible student will always put to the test every teacher and teaching in the Church

"Jesus said to them, 'Have you understood all these things?' They said to Him, 'Yes Lord.' Then He said to them, 'Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.'"

- Matthew 13:51-52



before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (Romans 2:13). The same certainly holds true for the ministers of Christ today—**"Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"** (James 1:22).

Ezra, **"the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven,"** personally compiled five books of the Bible—the two books of Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. The scribes of Christ's day interpreted the Scriptures through their traditional understanding. They interpreted God's Word through the narrow traditions of the forefathers and elders fully expecting the people to receive the Scriptures through their fabricated meaning, instead of approaching the Scriptures directly

that comes his way by confirming it with the established truths of the Scriptures. Like the Bereans of old, he will search the Scriptures whether those things that are taught are so (Acts 17:11). God commands the Church, as faithful scribes of His Word, to study the Scriptures daily. **"Seek out the book of the Lord, and read"** (Isaiah 34:16). If the Christian will sincerely make a diligent habit of doing this, his understanding of God's Word shall be greatly enhanced beyond his limited estimation as he allows the Holy Spirit to open the wonderful contents of the Word to him.

The illustrious and erudite teachers of Christ's day failed in the sound administration of God's Word

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The Marvelous Mess

Part 2



by Paul Colley

(...Continued from last issue)

In the midst of daily walking, talking, meeting new faces and seeing familiar ones, God showed Himself to be faithful. He backed up His commission "to go" with His presence, favor, and uniquely powerful encounters. Tiberias was proving as usual to be hard ground to sow, but even there God gave us one of our deepest footholds into a life, Tal.

Todd made a new friend in Tal on the previous outreach. This allowed for an exponentially more engaging time. He took us to his parents' home where we feasted on homemade Israeli foods. Tal, knowing full well why we were in Israel and who we followed, while being a very conservative Torah observant Jew, seemed amazing to me seeing him so drawn to us. That evening Todd spoke direct truths about God into his parents' listening ears. For nearly an hour, I could hardly cease a non-stop flow of words to Tal, declaring who God is, His plans, that Jesus is the Messiah, that death is not



Tal

though we were swiftly brought back to earth, the engaging conversation boldly proclaiming truth about Jesus (in the home of an extremely conservative Jewish family) came to a halt as we joyfully concluded our fellowship and Tal energetically suggested showing us Tiberias at night. It still amazes me to be aware of our bold revelations regarding Christ, while he remained drawn to us as friends. God is pursuing this "lost sheep". His love and mercy chases after His people with tender compassion. ~ *This God of love is using vessels of clay to reveal His heart to those in darkness.*

For the past five years, Todd and I had become acquaintances with Katerina who worked at a tour business. At first Todd suggested we not bother going to visit, because she no longer worked there and a very unfriendly woman angrily rejected their presence on a previous outreach. I was compelled to go anyway. My heart was being drawn toward Katerina, as though God was giving me some of His compassion for her, enough to lead me to pursue finding her again. To our utter amazement, she was there! She had taken a year off and decided to return. As soon as she saw us, a huge grin appeared on her face. God had been working on her, she's been reading *The Gospel of John*. Abundant favor and the sweet



Paul and Todd with Tal and his parents in their home in Tiberias

the end, that God has clearly shown in the Scriptures the truth of life after death, judgment and the need for redemption by atonement. I was struck by the power of God holding him speechless while giving me direct eye contact listening intently, but I was also aware of the enemy's stronghold in him and could visibly see in his eyes a kind of blindness and cloudiness at times while I was speaking bold truth. It was as though he was being drugged for moments and then released back to himself. And then as



Katerina

presence of God's goodness saturated our time together. We were able to continue our witness about Jesus without hindrance. God is pursuing her and we got to be His face, His eyes, His voice as we told her how much He loves her.

Security guards, street people, Russian immigrants, Apple computer sales reps, professional photographers, business owners, waiters, waitresses, bookstore clerks (that say it's extremely difficult to obtain a New Testament in Hebrew - little do they know!), IDF soldiers... The faces and stories that are filling pages in heaven truly reveal God's great love for His people. We now know more than ever that the greatest and most powerful gift we can pass along is God's Scriptures, the complete Hebrew Bible.

We have heard time and again from Messianic Jews, including Dr. Soref, president of the Israel College of the Bible, that getting the New Testament into a person's hands is the number one avenue that the Holy Spirit uses to draw a person to the saving knowledge of the Messiah. He encouraged us to keep doing what we're doing! All but about two accepted Bibles. Zola Levitt once said that this would have been impossible even 15 years ago. God is moving. He has not forgotten His covenant.

Prayer is key; God makes it very clear that apart from Him we can't really do much. We give thanks to God for all the divine appointments that were met during our short but eventful outreach. The call to share the good news of forgiveness in Christ is for all believers. The call to preach to the Jews first is seen both in the words of Jesus and the apostle Paul. It's a responsibility that the church has neglected often to our defamation. Todd often says that witnessing in Israel is the "Super Bowl" of ministries. Having traveled to many different countries doing mission work, I can say that sharing about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the promised Messiah in the very land to the very people of whom it is writing about stands out clearly as completely unique. There is a weight and authority within the very land we stand on while proclaiming that the "Kingdom of God is at hand" where these words were first spoken.

The first thing that comes to mind when I think about the land of Israel, besides - God, is "what a mess"! The center piece of world gossip, the nuclear power house of world drama, the literal stage for the end of this present age, the exporter of flowers to Holland, the source of the cell phone's beginnings... Israel is the anomaly, the odd duck continually slighted by media bias and unprecedented irrational political pressure by the world at large. These are simply the earmarks of her true identity as the

source for the most influential Book ever created, the most influential Man to ever walk the planet, the location of God's permanent people who have an everlasting covenant with this God of the universe. Since mankind at large is at odds with God, it's only logical that His land and people are as well. It's spiritual warfare on the grandest scale. And it's precisely the reason we are not at odds with this land and this people.

Our hearts are for "the lost sheep of the house of Israel". God has placed within us His heart for His people. We can only follow it to its logical conclusion:

pray, go, preach, share the love of God, share the very Scriptures with the very people that brought it to us. As the church, it's our responsibility. God is doing this wondrous work in these last days. We can join Him. We can go, we can give to enable others to go. Together we can all play a role

as God directs us to fulfill His heart's desire that

none should perish, that beginning with the Jew first, the name of Yeshua will be lifted up as the Name above all names to the glory of God the Father. We are His workers. And what a joy it is to work for the King of the universe. Not simply as servants, but as friends, even better, spiritual children born into the Kingdom of God by the Holy Spirit because of the atoning work of the Messiah. We are the result of what the Spirit did through the first Jewish followers of Jesus. Let's not forget our heritage, our roots, our responsibility to return the gift from where it came! ~ *This*

God of the universe has made us more than able to do His will. ✠✠✠



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prophecies about the restoration and regathering of the Jewish people back to their ancient homeland serves as a chief sign of Messiah's return (KJV translation of Deuteronomy 30:1-3 with Jeremiah 12:14-15). Dalit and Sharon were fascinated to learn this and expressed their gratitude and relief there were people like us who support, love, and pray for the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Both ladies received a complete Bible and Messianic Gospel tracts.

Chosen People who gave us the Scriptures and salvation in the Messiah. The soldiers were so moved by our words of support, encouragement, and spiritual edification that they gladly received Hebrew Bibles (containing both the Old and New Testaments) and Messianic Gospel tracts providing the clear evidence for Jesus of Nazareth being the Messiah of Israel. Praise



IDF soldiers: Adi, Sevan, Alex and Omir



Todd, Dalit, Sharon, and Paul

The Lord then led us to another shopping mall located in Nazareth Illit (the upper area of Nazareth where most of the Jewish population is located). Paul and I stopped a group of young IDF soldiers. There were four of them, three women (Adi, Sevan, and Alex), and one man (Omir). We were able to thank and encourage them for being the pioneers in leading the war on Islamic terrorism. We shared our love and support for them as God's

God for their openness and reception of the ministry of Jesus we brought to them!

Paul and I then stopped at an ice cream shop. After purchasing some ice cream we began praying for the people living in Nazareth. The owner came over while we were praying and gave us free lemonade drinks. The owner's name was

Nadal. Apparently, he heard us pray out loud and was interested. We spent well over thirty minutes or more speaking with Nadal about Israel in Bible prophecy, the biblical evidence for Jesus being the Messiah, repentance and faith in Him for salvation, and the coming kingdom of God emphasizing Israel's central role in end-time prophecy. Paul and I were able to leave the receptive Nadal a copy of the New Testament in

Hebrew and a Gospel tract detailing the plan of salvation revealed and freely offered by Yeshua to the Jewish people.



Todd speaks with Nadal in the ice cream shop

We continually thank God for a fruitful Gospel outreach in Nazareth—the very place where the Lord Jesus grew up from childhood to manhood. The Savior still loves His own town's people and countrymen as He ministered grace and comfort to them through this Gospel outreach ministry.

✠✠✠

Don't forget that you can purchase all of Todd's books on our website on the Books & Media page!



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

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 him at:

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or call 866-910-0444.



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. †

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.

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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 www.brit-hadashah.org, click Fellowship & Tours tab or call (866) 910-0444.

שלום

UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for November and December's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

You can expect a slide show and narration of this last trip to Israel November 5th and 12th.

Dr. Todd Baker is scheduled to be a speaker at the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA) Heartland Conference 2010 in Frisco, Texas, on Sunday Nov. 7, from 2:45-3:45pm. His topic will be "Israel in Prophecy: A Biblical Overview." For more information on the conference and its location, visit their website at www.mjaa.org.



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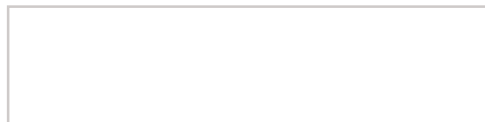
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to the people. For this very reason the Lord chose in their place His own twelve disciples to take over and bear the sacred responsibility of writing and teaching the Word of God for the entire world to hear, comprehend, and be saved by. ***"Go therefore, and teach all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you"*** (Matthew 28:19-20). Christ appointed the disciples as the scribes of His heavenly kingdom and sent them forth as apostolic emissaries to interpret and explain the mysteries of God's kingdom everywhere they went. This immediately began when the Lord transferred the teaching responsibility of the divine Word from apostate Israel to the new born Church at Pentecost for the present age. The disciples were to fulfill the office of a scribe instructed in the precepts of the kingdom of God saying, ***"To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God"*** (Mark 4:11). The disciples of Jesus were not "college graduates" with degrees in their possession. They were ignorant, unlearned, and unlettered in the school of the Rabbis. However, they did have the supreme privilege of spending three exclusive, unforgettable years walking side by side with Jesus Christ being intimately taught and anointed of Him (Acts 4:13). They were students in the college of Christ. One



of the miraculous consequences of their living with Jesus for three phenomenal years is the New Testament they wrote by the divine inspiration and guidance of God the Holy Spirit.

The disciples of Jesus were greatly used of God as chosen scribes to help pen and complete His written Word revealed to humanity in

exact fulfillment of Isaiah's Messianic prophecy of old: ***"Bind up the testimony, seal the Law among My disciples"*** (Isaiah 8:16). The infallible Bible we have today is the mammoth benefit of this prophetic fulfillment. After Christ's disciples finished writing the twenty-seven books of the New Testament the Canon of Scripture was forever complete. Any that now dare presume to add or take away from the sixty-six books that make up the Old and New Testaments with extra-biblical writings or church traditions surely invite the anathema of God upon them (Revelation 22:18-19). †