

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 9, Number 1

Jan/Feb 2011

Fall 2010 Outreach to Israel

Part I

A SIGN GIVEN

I just recently completed the 2010 Fall Gospel outreach, this ministry's 19th outreach to Israel. Accompanying me on this memorable trip was Jewish believer, Harvey Zion. Once we reached the hotel in Tel Aviv on our first night our Gospel witness immediately began. One of the bellmen offered to help take my luggage to the room. The young man's name was Dor. A box was waiting for me at the reception desk. It contained a box full of Hebrew Bibles provided by Holy Land Ministries in Israel. The Lord led me to reveal to Dor what the box contained. I told him they were originally from Israel and is the leading export from the land—the Bible! When I pulled one out I told Dor it was a gift our ministry seeks to give back to the Jewish people. I also pointed out that



by
Todd Baker



Dor, our bellman in Tel Aviv, was interested in hearing about Yeshua

in these Scriptures God revealed the history of the Jewish people—past, present, and future from the very Bible He inspired them to write. The Hebrew Scriptures also provide numerous prophecies about the Messiah which provides a fool-proof method for knowing who the Messiah really is! Dor listened very intently with obvious interest as I made the case for Yeshua being the only Person in Jewish history to have fulfilled these Messianic prophecies. But to prove this for oneself, I suggested to Dor he take a free copy of the Hebrew Scriptures for himself along with a list of these prophecies to study; happily Dor accepted them. He asked several questions about the nature of our ministry. I explained to Dor we seek to educate Gentile believers about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and emphasize the Jewishness of Yeshua and the New Testament to the Jewish people of Israel.

The next day Harvey and I departed from Tel Aviv and drove to Nazareth where we began our gospel witness ministry. The Lord led Harvey and me to a perfume and soap shop called “The Alchemist”. Harvey noticed the saleslady’s shirt had two English words on it, “sunrise to sunset”, which reminded me of the famous song by the same name in the movie, *Fiddler on the Roof*. The name of the pleasant saleslady was Sharon. She asked us where



Harvey Zion, Sharon the saleslady, and Todd

we were from and why we came to Israel. Like so many times before, this common question often asked us by the Israelis, allowed us to share God's love, plan and purpose for the Jewish people from the Hebrew Scriptures. This plan revealed through prophecy and fulfilled in history

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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.

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centers around the coming of the Messiah—of which the historical evidence and proof point to Jesus of Nazareth. Harvey and I pulled out a list of the major messianic prophecies Jesus fulfilled proving indeed He is the Messiah of the Jewish people. Sharon eagerly listened as we explained these prophecies in detail from the *Brit Yeshanah* (Old Testament) to the *Brit Hadashah* (New Testament). Harvey and I further shared with Sharon that it was Yeshua's love for her and the Jewish people that compelled us to come and bring the good news to them—a message of salvation God initially sent from Israel to bless and encompass the whole world. I then looked at Harvey and Sharon together and said from a heart of love and gratitude: "when I look into the face of a Jewish person I know for certain three things are true: (1) God exists; (2) The Bible is true and (3) The Lord keeps His promises." Sharon was visibly touched and moved when we offered her a free copy of the complete Jewish Bible as an expression of our gratitude and indebtedness to them for the spiritual riches we have received from Israel. And it is the love Yeshua has put in our hearts for His ethnic people that we continually come to Israel to bring the saving Word of Yeshua the Messiah to them.

When Harvey and I asked what Sharon would like for us to pray and ask God what she would like Him to do for her, as confirmation to her we were sent by Him, she requested that her husband and she could have children. They have been married for six years. We boldly prayed for her there in the shop in the name of Yeshua. Not more than ten seconds after we finished praying a young expectant Israeli woman walked into the store. Harvey pointed to her and told Sharon this was a sign from the Lord confirming He would hear our prayers. Sharon then told us in return she had been reading the Tehillim (the Psalms) earlier in the morning and our later visit to her that day convinced Sharon we were sent by the Lord! Upon hearing this, we were amazed God confirmed yet again another divine appointment with one of His chosen in Israel. Harvey turned

to me and said he had chills over this. Praise the Lord for this wonderful confirmation of His guidance in our lives.

While driving to Tiberias, the Lord quickened and directed us to drive on to Zefat—a quaint town some 18 miles north of Tiberias. Harvey had suggested we go there during our stay in Tiberias. When we were driving toward Nazareth I felt we needed to go on that very day. Going to Zefat for Gospel ministry was a first for me. Harvey had already been there several times before when working with other ministry teams from Zola Levitt Ministries. When we arrived, Harvey wanted



A narrow road in the old city section of Zefat

to show me an ancient synagogue. We walked a broad, circuitous route through the narrow confines of the old city section of Zefat. We seemed lost. Ah, but as circumstances were to shortly prove, we were being guided by the sure hand of God so that another Jewish soul may be told the wonderful news of Yeshua the Messiah.

Some thirty minutes later, after asking directions from several people where this synagogue was located, Harvey and I passed a middle-aged looking man with a pony tail wearing sunglasses and cutting an unusual looking piece of

fruit. As Harvey wisely pointed out later, this small and common sight proved to be God's divine appointment for us to bring the complete Jewish Bible to this man. We stopped to ask him what he was cutting. The fruit looked like a large and oblong version of a grape fruit. He told us it was a Polema. He offered us the whole thing after

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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Some Polema fruit like what Eglon was cutting.

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Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of the Scribe and the Householder
Part 4
(Matthew 13:51-52)

by Todd Baker

The apostle John eloquently testified that the written Word of God became the living incarnate Word of God in the man Jesus of Nazareth. **"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"** (John 1:14). John taught and wrote from the living example Christ gave to him as the manifested Word of God. **"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life. For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show to you that eternal life, which was in the Father, and was manifested unto us; that have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ"** (1 John 1:1-3). The first followers of Jesus, who walked, talked, and heard him, were living eyewitnesses of Him. As His first hand witnesses, the disciples of Jesus were able to correctly interpret the kingdom and represent the Lord Jesus by living the example. Nothing has changed today, nor has this responsibility been shifted on another's shoulders. The best example of instructing others in the kingdom of God is to be a living example of it as an obedient subject to it as if the King were in our physical midst ruling today.

On the day of Pentecost the disciples were supernaturally qualified with the infilling of the Holy Spirit to preach, interpret, and teach Christ's message of salvation throughout the world. The eminent religious leaders of the Jews were greatly surprised at the powerful effects the teaching of Peter and John had on the populace. The leaders had **"perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men"**

world is foolishness with God...He takes the wise in their own craftiness. And again, the Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain" (1 Corinthians 3:19-20). The more a believer spends time in the lovely presence of the Savior in prayer and private study of the Scriptures, he or she is enabled to teach with simple lucidity the Word of God. The truths of God we receive in prayer and study of the

"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

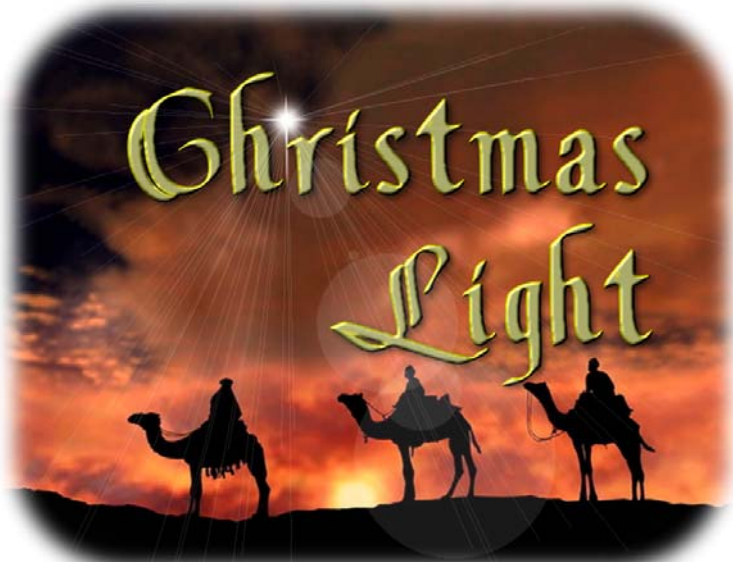


(Acts 4:13). They knew full well these untaught men of Galilee were not formally trained as professional scholars and ordained teachers of the Law, but they knew these men had been with Jesus. The one single qualification that gave the apostles the authority and accreditation to preach the Gospel was the personal fellowship they had with the Lord Jesus Christ. Likewise today, neither a Doctorate degree, a Master's degree, a Bachelor's degree, nor church board ordination can initially equip the disciple of Christ to preach in the Lord's name, but having first a close personal relationship with Jesus in prayer does. Man-made theological wisdom accomplishes nothing to this effect. As it is written, **"For the wisdom of this**

Scriptures taught to others will in turn be perpetuated and passed on from them to others so that the whole church is edified. The apostle Paul, the excellent instructor of the Word, shared liberally with the church what God had taught him. For this particular reason he instructed the young Timothy to do likewise in 2 Timothy 2:2 so that other members of the church may be taught and teach others in return. **"And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."**

The Christian scribe teaches others what has been illumined to him by the Holy Spirit for many to build upon and instruct from. The church is indeed in desperate need of productive discipleship today. The sheep of the Good Shepherd will reproduce other sheep enlarging the Shepherd's flock with sound biblical teaching. The avid learner and teacher of God's Word should adopt the wise prayer of Solomon in 1 Kings

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To begin with, I love Christmas. There is no doubt whatever about that. This fact is attested to by the activities in my home on the day after Thanksgiving Day; my Christmas lights are out and being tested, my wife is busy with her Christmas Village display, and there is the wonderful smell of Christmas Cookies baking in the oven. Even my cats get into the Holiday Spirit; they scurry about, busying themselves by playing with all the fascinating little bows and ornaments, or jumping out at one another from piles of wreaths, and assorted decorations. And over all are the sounds of Christmas Carols. Yes, there is no doubt that I celebrate Christmas.

I can think of no other time in the year when the coming of Messiah Yeshua is so promoted (and discussed) as it is at Christmas. In fact, from about mid-November to the end of December I can walk into any department store, mall, or fast food restaurant in America and hear music that has as its theme the message that Messiah has come. Even the most cynical unbeliever cannot help but be involved with Christmas; and it was to them that author Charles Dickens spoke through the comments made by Scrooge's nephew in "A Christmas Carol":

"I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round - apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that - as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely,

and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"



by Mark Carney

To that I add a hearty "Amen!"

Without a doubt my greatest Christmas was that first Christmas after my life-changing encounter with Messiah Yeshua. For the first time Christmas meant something more than decorating and gift giving, or an excuse to have a party. I understood that Christmas is really about knowing God and being reconciled to Him by being Born Again. Thirty years have come and gone since that Christmas, and much has changed in my life since then; but the passage of time hasn't taken away from my love for the day that we set aside to celebrate Messiah Yeshua's birth.

The recent efforts to remove Christ from Christmas by saying "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" have failed. The active promoting of the thought that Christmas is nothing more than a time for doing good has

failed. For what use is there in Christmas

if it is not to proclaim the coming of

Christ? Without Him we are left with

something like the so-called

holiday greeting I received

from my youngest brother, a

practicing Buddhist, who

wrote me an email in which he

wished me a "Happy Winter

Solstice".

No, I will continue to

promote all the little reminders

of what Christmas is really

about. For example, every

year - without fail - I will make

sure that during the Holiday

Season some television in my

home displays "A Charlie

Brown Christmas." The

Peanuts gang will once again

go skating on that familiar

frozen pond. Charlie Brown

will once again confide in

Linus that, even though

Christmas is approaching, he

feels depressed because he

doesn't know what Christmas is all



about. At least one time during the Holiday Season I will turn up the volume on my television speaker, and listen as Linus delivers this reading of Scripture;



"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

"...That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

Every year - without fail - I will promote the reading of the prophet Isaiah who said,

"BUT [in the midst of judgment there is the promise and the certainty of the Lord's deliverance and] there shall be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He will make it glorious, by the way of the Sea [of Galilee, the land] beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in the land of intense darkness and the shadow of death, upon them has the Light shined." Isaiah 9:1-2 (Amplified Bible)

"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His

shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [of Eternity], Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from the [latter] time forth, even forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6-7 (Amplified Bible)

Seven centuries later what Isaiah wrote became fact. The Messiah came and brought Light.



Yeshua is Isaiah's "great Light."

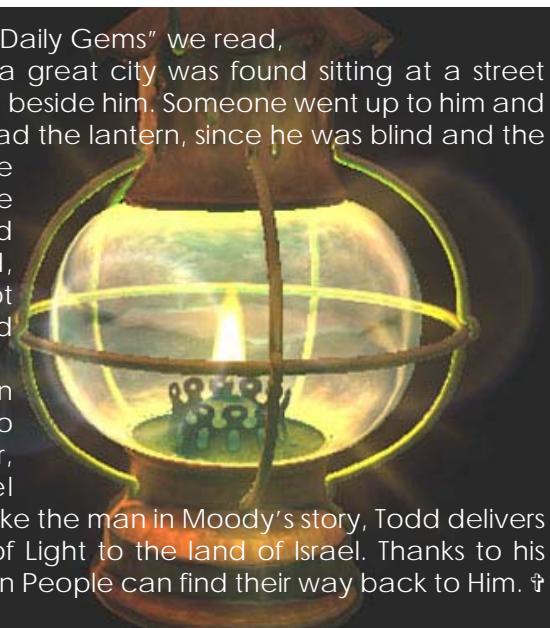
Now, what is the purpose of light? The purpose of light is to shine in darkness, to overcome and dispel darkness. This is true for Messiah Yeshua as The Light too. Yeshua has come to dispel the darkness in our lives. The Light of His Truth overcomes the darkness.

Is Messiah Yeshua your Light?

Yeshua is your light only if you trust in, cling to, and rely upon Him. That's what it means to believe in Yeshua. If you have done this then how you live your life will demonstrate this belief. The new life we receive through Yeshua involves the heart, and the tongue; this is why we must both believe that Yeshua is the Son of God, and confess Him before men.

In D. L. Moody's "Daily Gems" we read,
"A blind man in a great city was found sitting at a street corner with a lantern beside him. Someone went up to him and asked him why he had the lantern, since he was blind and the light of it was the same to him as the darkness. The blind man simply replied, 'So that others will not stumble and can find their way.'"

One way you can light the way is to support Todd Baker, and his Gospel Outreach to Israel. Like the man in Moody's story, Todd delivers Yeshua's message of Light to the land of Israel. Thanks to his efforts, God's Chosen People can find their way back to Him. †



cutting the skin off. Though we did not take the whole of it, when asked the man told us his name was Eglon. The course of our conversation turned to Israel in Bible prophecy, the real identity of Messiah, our love and gratitude for what great spiritual things with which the Jewish people have blessed the world. Eglon rightly perceived we were followers of Jesus. And rather than be indifferent or turned off by this he accepted our humble witness about Jesus being the one and only true Messiah of Israel. I replied that since Eglon was kind enough to offer us some fruit, we in turn must offer him the greatest gift the Jewish people gave to mankind, namely, Jesus the Messiah as revealed in the Old and New Testaments. Eglon accepted our witness for Yeshua along with a complete Hebrew Bible including Messianic Gospel tracts explaining and providing proof Jesus is the Messiah. Now may he discover this and be transformed by the One who died for our sins and rose again from death that we might have eternal life with Him forever. ✠✠✠



Todd with Eglon and the fruit offered

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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שלום

UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for January
and February's
lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

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B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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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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Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

Chapter three. God appeared to Solomon and inquired of him, "**Ask what you wish Me to give you.**" Solomon wisely asked for an understanding and discerning heart. God answered his prayer and said, "**I have done according to your words, and give you a wise and discerning heart**" (1 Kings 3:5-13). The scribe of the kingdom of heaven must also have spiritual discernment and an understanding heart, especially when it comes to interpreting and teaching from Holy Scripture. Without spiritual understanding of the truth and discerning it from error, the people of God are extremely vulnerable to deception and destruction. "**My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**" (Hosea 4:6). In verse 52 Christ said the scribe is instructed, or disciplined in the kingdom of heaven. One cannot be a scribe in the kingdom of God if he is not instructed in it. A disciple of Jesus must be a scribe instructed in the kingdom of God. In other words, one must first be taught and made a disciple of Christ before he is to teach Christ.

The word "instructed" used in verse 52 comes from the Greek word *matheteuo*, which means to become a pupil, to disciple and enroll as a scholar, to be a disciple that will instruct and teach others. The Lord told the disciples that if they desire to be a scribe in the kingdom of heaven, they must first be taught under His divine instruction "**holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict**" (Titus 1:9). The student of Jesus Christ will teach others as he has been taught by Him. The Lord used three picturesque figures in this parable to describe the activity of the Christian minister. The threefold representation of the Christian minister is seen in the persons of the scribe, the disciple, and the householder. After examining the function of the scribe in the previous pages, let us now focus our attention on the disciple. Simply defined, a disciple means a pupil or follower that propagates his master's teachings. He is a convinced follower of his

master instructor. The same definition is equally true of all regenerated followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian believer is a scribe instructed, disciplined, trained, and suitably learned in the basic doctrines pertaining to Jesus Christ and His glorious kingdom. The believer is also eager to promulgate the good news of the kingdom wherever he goes. The Lord draws a synonymous parallel between a scribe and a disciple when saying, "**Therefore every scribe is instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven.**" In stating this Jesus was saying the scribe is a disciple, and the disciple is a scribe. Both are one and the same, and represent the follower of Jesus Christ. The one imperative necessity the Christian disciple must have is godly instruction schooled in the precepts of Jesus Christ as a redeemed member of His heavenly kingdom. Without exception, the Holy scriptures should always form the spiritual basis of Christian training from which the man of God should live and preach.

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Our 20th Gospel Outreach to ISRAEL! March 13 - 29, 2011

We will be returning to Israel this Spring for our 20th mission trip to the Holy Land. Kenny Gee will accompany Todd on this outreach, and we ask that you please be praying for them before and during the trip. Here is our Prayer List for Mission trips to use as a guide:



- ✧ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).
- ✧ Pray that we have the Father's wisdom and guidance in everything we do (Psalm 32:8; 48:14; Colossians 4:5).
- ✧ Pray for witnessing opportunities (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8).
- ✧ Pray that God will open the hearts of those who will hear (Psalm 110:3; Acts 16:14).
- ✧ Pray that God will give us the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to the Jew first and also the Gentile (Acts 4:31; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19).
- ✧ Pray for spiritual unity and agreement among us (Psalm 133:1).
- ✧ Pray for our health, protection, safety, and God's protection from the hand of the enemy, both seen and unseen (Psalm 91; Matthew 6:13).
- ✧ Pray for spiritual fruit that will last (John 15:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23).
- ✧ Pray for favor among the Chosen People as we share the Gospel with them (Proverbs 12:2).
- ✧ Pray that the Chosen People will come to faith in Messiah (Christ) Jesus (Romans 10:1; Matthew 15-16; Mark 8:27-29, 14:61-62; Luke 9:18-20; John 4:25-26).