

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John  
5:39



Volume 9, Number 3

May/June 2011

## REPORTS FROM OUR 20TH GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ISRAEL

### *“WITH THE MOUTH CONFSSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION”*

**P**raise God, I have just completed this ministry's 20<sup>th</sup> Gospel outreach to Israel. Joining me on this mission was Kenny Gee, elder and member of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation where I pastor in Dallas, Texas. In the next few issues I will be relating to you dear reader the wonderful witnessing encounters God ordained for this Gospel outreach. Below are two powerful examples and highpoints of bringing the Gospel of Yeshua back to the Jewish people of Israel.



by  
Todd Baker



March 2011 Mission Team  
Kenny Gee and Todd Baker

Coming back from the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem, Kenny and I stopped in to visit the Armenian Christian family who owns and runs the Yerevan Gift shop. We were sitting outside the entrance drinking water we had just purchased when a young Israeli woman with her two daughters came up to me seemingly out of nowhere. The woman's name was Alona. She pointed to my Cross and star of David pendant and asked, "Please what does this mean?" Once again the Lord sovereignly used my necklace to bring a Jewish soul to the true knowledge concerning the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah. Her lead in question allowed Kenny and me to spend good quality time explaining and showing her from the Hebrew Scriptures how the fact Jesus fulfilled many of the Messianic prophecies of the Tenach (Old Testament) in the B'rit Hadashah (New Testament) which exclusively identifies Him to be the Messiah of Israel!

Alona had informed us she had previously attended a Messianic congregation before, but now was struggling to raise

her children after her husband left her, having a drug problem, without giving them any support, going on eight years now. She inquired how I came to believe in Yeshua—at which point I was able to share my testimony of how Yeshua revealed His visible, supernatural Shekinah glory to me as God and Messiah—transforming and forgiving a hate-filled drug addict/atheist into a redeemed child of God called and commissioned to take His gospel back to His people of Israel to which I told Alona Kenny and I were doing with her. Alona remarked she did believe some of the things she learned from the Messianic congregation she previously attended but was struggling at the present time. We point blank asked her if she did believe and trust in her heart Yeshua was the messiah. She said, "Yes." So we shared with Alona from God's Word His promises that He would not ever forsake her or abandon her and Alona's two daughters (Hebrews 13:5-6). He would provide all her needs through the abundance of Messiah Jesus



Todd with Alona and her two daughters

*Continued on page 2*

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.

(Philippians 4:19). We gave Alona a Hebrew Bible exhorting her to stand on the promises of God contained in His Word. Kenny and I then prayed for her and the two daughters laying hands on them knowing the effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous avails much (James 5:16). We also gave them fifty shekels to help them out in keeping with the admonition of James 2:15-16 to reinforce our witness with acts of charity.

In Tel Aviv, the Lord led us to Yoel—a thirty-eight year old man. He told us about his love for the Palestinian people. When he was in the IDF in Gaza he would regularly take food to the poor Palestinian families knowing full well they could kill him at any time out of treachery. Here was a moving act of compassion the international media with their anti-Israel bias would never report! Kenny and I told Yoel his actions followed the regal teaching of Yeshua the Messiah who said, **“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you”** (Matthew 5:44). Yoel then learned from our compliment we were Bible believers in Jesus the Messiah. It was here Yoel went into a long dialogue about his abiding interest, affection, and study of Jesus. Yoel had attended Yeshiva school as a fifteen year old Orthodox Jew studying to be a rabbi. While there he was caught by the head rabbi reading the New Testament in Hebrew! The rabbi became enraged at this and cursed and scolded Yoel screaming, “You are Jewish and Jesus is a Christian!” Yoel disagreed with such a ridiculous statement and continued reading about Jesus. Yoel agreed when we said Yeshua was always Jewish and came to fulfill prophecies made about the Messiah as foretold by Moses and the prophets given in the Tenach.



*Todd with our new brother Yoel!*

called *Jesus of Nazareth*. Yoel said he was deeply moved by its message and it convinced him Jesus could be the Messiah.

It was obvious to Kenny and me the Lord sent us to Yoel to aid, complete, and give him a fuller understanding of Yeshua being more than just a great Rabbi. We then showed him the prophecies of Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:1-2 foretelling Messiah would be divine, and hence God! After hearing and seeing this, Yoel suddenly exclaimed without solicitation from us, **“I believe Yeshua is the Messiah!”** This immediately reminded me when Simon Peter boldly confessed to Jesus, **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God”** in Matthew 16:16-17. And like Peter, Yoel right then and there received this revelation by the Holy Spirit through God’s Word we showed him about Yeshua’s deity. With this confession, Yoel was saved; and we witnessed this miracle of salvation right before our

very eyes! Startled, Kenny and I looked at each other and asked Yoel if he really meant what he had just said. He answered, “Yes, I believe He is.” Yoel also agreed with us that all the End-time signs starting with the rebirth of the nation of Israel are a clear indication Yeshua’s return is near.

We then asked Yoel if he wanted to express his faith in Yeshua as Lord and Messiah through prayer. He said, “Yes.” And so we led him in a prayer expressing his faith and trust God sent his Son, Yeshua the Messiah, to die on the cross as

the final sacrifice for his sins and rose again from the dead to give him eternal life. We also asked Yeshua to fill Yoel with the Holy Spirit. We hugged Yoel and welcomed him as a Jewish brother in the faith the Chosen People first gave to the world. Yoel gave us his contact information so we can keep in touch with him. I wrote down the name and address of a local Messianic congregation in Tel Aviv Yoel can attend to fellowship with other believers, get grounded in the word, and be disciplined in the faith. Elated and humbled we felt honored to be used of the Lord to confirm Yoel’s faith in Jesus as Messiah and make a verbal confession unto salvation in accordance with Romans 10:9-10:

**“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God has raised from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

Finally, after ten long years of sowing the Gospel seed among the Jewish people, we are beginning to reap the harvest of saved souls from the field of Israel where that seed was first planted by the Son of Man—Jesus Christ two thousand years ago (Matthew 13:37). Praise God, it continues to bear fruit there today. ✠✠✠

The term Christian was first used for the followers of Jesus the Messiah (Acts 11:26). Kenny and I pulled out a list of the Messianic prophecies Yeshua has fulfilled and showed them to Yoel explaining how this evidence proves Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel. He said he had watched the six hour masterpiece movie about the life of Jesus

## Search the Scriptures

This publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, free of charge, from Brit 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](mailto:bhm@brit-hadashah.org)

or by mail at:

Brit Hadashah Ministries

P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

Visit our website at:

[www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org)



# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of the Scribe and the Householder  
Part 6  
(Matthew 13:51-52)

by Todd Baker

The proficient pastor can also be likened to a householder in the respect he is given a great divine trust in keeping care of God's spiritual family. The pastor as Christ's deputy-householder is given a bountiful provision from the inexhaustible treasury of Scripture for the spiritual improvement of the Church. God has entrusted his pastoral servants of the Church to supply, feed, and replenish the hearts of the congregation with pure and hardy food from the blessed Word of God. Christ promised to give pastors to the Church who shall feed and provide them with knowledge and understanding from the Word of God. **"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding"** (Jeremiah 3:15). The

pastors of the church are assigned as overseers and householders of God's people. They are responsible for aiding in the spiritual growth and development of Christ's Church. Every pastor is commanded by God to **"feed the flock of which is among you, taking the oversight thereof"** (1 Peter 5:2). The steward of Christ must be a person of immovable faith. **"Moreover it is required in a steward that a man be faithful"** (1 Corinthians 4:2). The faithful householder of Christ will carefully dispense the Word of God with godly circumspection without adding his own contrary doctrines of a heretical content that would corrupt the truth of Scripture. He is quick to follow

and proclaim to the Church the exhortation of Scripture against the danger of doctrinal error: **"Do not err, my beloved brethren."** The godly householder, pastor is a versatile minister who maintains a healthy balance of feeding his assorted flock with **"the sincere milk of the Word"** to immature babes in Christ, and the strong meat of the Word **"to them that are of full age."** A caring householder of the Church unselfishly provides his congregation with a plentiful supply of spiritual

*"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



provender from the rich storehouse of Scripture. An effective pastorate is only successful when the preaching of the Word takes firm root and fruitfully blooms in the hearts and minds of the congregation.

The treasure or storehouse where the Word of God richly dwells is located in the regenerated heart where the inner most self of a human being lies. **"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"** (Matthew 6:21). When the servant of Christ holds the Word of God securely in his heart, he will be renewed in spirit, soul, and body. The power of God's Word is the only lasting enrichment to the human heart reviving the spiritually dead

sinner with eternal life through the indwelling presence of God within— **"Christ in you the hope of glory"** (Colossians 1:27). The mature believer in Christ possesses a manifold understanding of God's Word for the various situations in which it applies. As a pastor-householder he will retain a wide comprehension of what God's Word instructs so that he can freely impart this knowledge for the spiritual affluence of the poor in spirit. God's will for each of his chosen pastors is to be abundantly

rich in the knowledge of the Word **"for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"** (Ephesians 4:12) to the intent that the spiritual enrichment of the Church might be accomplished. A Christian is not truly

rich until he knows what the Word of God says and then makes a practical application of that knowledge in daily living. The ministers of Christ should not only be sufficiently trained as ministers of the Word, but also in understanding the mysteries of Matthew 13. **"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God"** (1 Corinthians 4:1).

The Lord Jesus expects every one of His chosen ministers to look to His word for the answer to every problem encountered in the Church. The Bible is a treasury of manifold wisdom and knowledge from which

*Continued on page 6*

---

The recent unearthing of 20 ancient Christian lead plates, purportedly written by Jewish Christians in Pella, Jordan, who fled Jerusalem during the Roman invasion of 70 A.D. could be an archaeological discovery of great significance -- to say the least. If genuine, these small metal plates, which are no bigger than a credit card, could very well be the most important archaeological find since the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Once this determination is made it will undoubtedly help historians, New Testament scholars, and archaeologists have a better understanding of Jewish Christianity from its very inception and formative years. Debate continues as to whether such a find is really authentic or not. We will keep you posted as to the outcome. ~ Todd

## Could lead codices prove ‘the major discovery of Christian history’?

By [Chris Lehmann](#)

Reprinted from The Lookout - a Yahoo! news blog



British archaeologists are seeking to authenticate what could be a landmark discovery in the documentation of early Christianity: a trove of 70 lead codices that appear to date from the 1st century CE, which may include key clues to the last days of Jesus' life. As [UK Daily Mail reporter Fiona Macrae writes](#), some researchers are suggesting this could be the most significant find in Christian archeology since the Dead Sea scrolls in 1947.

The codices turned up five years ago in a remote cave in eastern Jordan—a region where early Christian believers may have fled after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE. The codices are made up of wirebound individual pages, each roughly the size of a credit card. They contain a number of images and textual allusions to the Messiah, as well as some possible references to the crucifixion and resurrection. Some of the codices were sealed, prompting yet more breathless speculation that they could include the sealed book, shown

only to the Messiah, mentioned in the Book of Revelation. One of the few sentences translated thus far from the texts, [according to the BBC](#), reads, “I shall walk uprightly”—a phrase that also appears in Revelation. “While it could be simply a sentiment common in Judaism,” BBC writer Robert Pigott notes, “it could here be designed to refer to the resurrection.”

But the field of biblical archaeology is also prey to plenty of hoaxes and enterprising fraudsters, so investigators are proceeding with due empirical caution. Initial metallurgical research indicates that the codices are about 2,000 years old—based on the manner of corrosion they have undergone, which, as Macrae writes,



“experts believe would be impossible to achieve artificially.”



Beyond the initial dating tests, however, little is confirmed about the codices or what they contain. And the saga of their discovery has already touched off a battle over ownership rights between Israel and Jordan. As [the BBC's Pigott recounts](#), the cache surfaced when a Jordanian Bedouin saw a menorah—the Jewish religious candleabra—exposed in the wake of a flash flood. But the codices somehow passed into the ownership of [an Israeli Bedouin named Hassam Saeda](#), who claims that they have been in his family's possession for the past 100 years. The Jordanian government has pledged to “exert all efforts at every level” to get the potentially priceless relics returned, Pigott reports.

Meanwhile, biblical scholars who have examined the codices point to significant textual evidence suggesting their early Christian origin. Philip Davies, emeritus professor of Old Testament Studies at Sheffield University, told Pigott he was “dumbstruck” at the sight of plates representing a picture map of ancient Jerusalem. “There is a cross in the foreground, and behind it is what has to be the tomb [of Jesus], a small building with an

opening, and behind that the walls of the city,” Davies explained. “There are walls depicted on other pages of these books, too, and they almost certainly refer to Jerusalem.”



David Elkington, an ancient religion scholar who heads the British research team investigating the find, has likewise pronounced this nothing less than “the major discovery of Christian history.” Elkington told the Daily Mail that “it is a breathtaking thought that we have held these objects that might have been held by the early saints of the Church.”



Still, other students of early Christian history are urging caution, citing precedents such as [the debunked discovery](#) of an ossuary said to contain the bones of Jesus. New Testament scholar [Larry Hurtado](#) [observes that](#) since these codices are miniature, they were likely intended for private, rather than liturgical, use. This would likely place their date of origin closer to the 3rd century CE. But only further research and full translation of the codices can fully confirm the nature of the find. The larger lesson here is likely that of Ecclesiastes 3:1—be patient, since “to everything there is a season.”

(David Elkington/Rex Features/Rex USA)

Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

the minister is able to draw from and give the family of God "meat in due season." As an experienced leader, trained and exercised in the Word of God, the minister-householder is able to frequently provide from it permanent answers and solutions in meeting the crucial problems and needs of God's family. Then he is able to say with grateful confidence: **"The Lord has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary"** (Isaiah 50:4). When it comes to preaching the Word, the minister of Christ maintains a constant readiness to give an answer to every one that asks of him of the reason of the hope that is within him (1Peter 3:15). Nor is he caught off guard when preaching or witnessing for Jesus Christ, but with enthusiasm and boldness joyfully follows the holy commandment given to every minister of the Gospel to

**"preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine"** (2 Timothy 4:2). The true and faithful Christian householder completely dedicates himself to the care and provision of Christ's flock. He conducts himself according to the concerns of Christ and His Church.

If any minister is in dire want of being amply supplied for feeding the souls of men, God has promised to supply all one's needs according to the riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). The servants of Christ are to take heed of the Master's command, **"Occupy till I come"**—to do it well in faithful service to His people. In serving the church we serve Christ, and serving Him invariably involves serving the Church. The householder brings forth things out of his treasure new and old. Undoubtedly, this detail of the parable points to the minister of

Christ as a Bible expositor who preaches, teaches, interprets, and explains the Bible from both the "Old" and "New" Testaments together; and like the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, he is ever mindful in his scholarly office not to be accounted as **"many which corrupt the Word."** He is intolerant of the perfidious wresting of Scripture by deceivers, false prophets, false teachers, and heretics and renounces the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness or handling the Word of God deceitfully, but boldly expounds the Word truthfully before men in the sight of God. The Christian householder is deemed the good man of the house because the Word of God is engrafted in his heart and he dispenses it to the great advantage of those who choose to hear and believe. **"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good"** (Luke 6:45). †

### About the Author

**Dr. Todd Baker** is president of Brit 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. †

Come learn about the Jewish roots of Christianity,  
enjoy great teaching from the Bible by Dr. Todd Baker,  
and join in loving fellowship with the Shalom, Shalom  
Congregation each Friday evening at 7:00pm  
at Fellowship Bible Church in Dallas, Texas.  
9330 N. Central Expy., Room 202

For more information, please visit  
[www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org)  
and click the *Fellowship & Tours* tab,  
or call **(866)910-0444**.

שלום

### UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for May and  
June's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

## † Partner With Us ☆

**H**aving been to the Holy Land almost 20 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. We need your support to help us continue to take the Gospel to the land from whence it came.

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:

**B'rit Hadashah Ministries**  
PO Box 796127  
Dallas, TX 75379-6127

We also accept:



You can also make your donation online at:  
[www.Brit-Hadashah.org](http://www.Brit-Hadashah.org)

\* Donations are tax deductible in the U.S. as you give to this 501(c)(3) Non-profit ministry. \*

### thank you for your support

## BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON OUR WEBSITE

To order any of these books, you can go to our website ([www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org)) then click on the *Books & Media* tab at the bottom, and follow the instructions. Or write to us at:

**B'rit Hadashah Ministries**  
PO Box 796127  
Dallas, TX 75379-6127

*Messengers of Messiah* - \$15.00

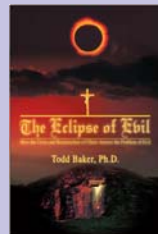
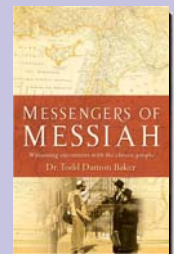
*The Eclipse of Evil* - \$14.95

*Matthew 27:25: 'His Blood Be On Us'* - \$10.95

Shipping and handling charges will be added when you place your order.

### MESSENGERS OF MESSIAH

*Witnessing Encounters with the Chosen People*



### THE ECLIPSE OF EVIL

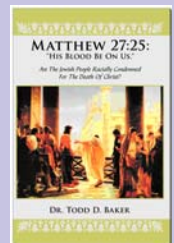
*How the Cross and Resurrection of Christ Answer the Problem of Evil*

### MATTHEW 27:25:

### 'HIS BLOOD BE ON US'

*ARE THE JEWISH PEOPLE RACIALLY*

*CONDEMNED FOR THE DEATH OF CHRIST?*



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

[www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org)

or contact him at:

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



**Planning on moving or  
changing your e-mail address?**

Please keep us updated so you  
don't miss an issue!



# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



May/June 2011 Issue

Visit our website:  
[www.Brit-Hadashah.org](http://www.Brit-Hadashah.org)

NONPROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
DENTON TX  
PERMIT NO. 11

## B'rit Hadashah Ministries

P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

e-mail: [todd@brit-hadashah.org](mailto:todd@brit-hadashah.org)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

### In This Issue

*Reports from Our 20th Gospel Outreach ..... 1*

*Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables about  
the Present Age..... 3*

*Could lead codices prove 'the major discovery  
of Christian history'? ..... 4*



# Our 21st Gospel Outreach to ISRAEL! June 12 - 28, 2011

We will be returning to Israel this Spring for our 21st mission trip to the Holy Land. Pastor Ralph Conn 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).