

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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REPORT FROM ZION

by Harvey Zion

Todd and I had an amazing L-rd-led march through the Holy Land this past October. This was my sixth as a TTJF (To The Jew First) ambassador. We mapped out a plan as to where to go each day. We also prayed for The L-rd to guide our steps. Therefore by His leadership, every day was an exciting adventure and a blessing.

On Friday morning we left Tiberias after 3 1/2 days of ministry in the Galilee area to journey to Jerusalem. Not far out of that city, we were passing a bus stop where 4 girls were hitchhiking. Well, our rent-a- car was loaded - luggage in the trunk and the box of Hebrew Bibles and other supplies on the one back seat. I got out and told them we had room for one of them. They conferred briefly and one emerged from their huddle and came over, thanked us and got in the vehicle.

stop and she exclaimed "No way! I can walk from there." Not very big odds, 1 out of 4, but we could see He was putting us where we could be most useful.

We explained why and what we were doing. Tamar related to us that she was taking an elective class on The B'rit Hadashah (The New Covenant). We were happily surprised that the course was being taught. Obviously something rare in Israel. We then presented her with one of the Bibles she was sitting next to. She was very grateful. She didn't have one. Imagine that! They teach the subject but don't have The Textbook.

A sidelight, or should I say another highlight, of this ride with Tamar was on our climb up to Jerusalem. Our custom is to recite the Psalms of Ascents (numbers 120-134) as we ascend into The Holy City. Tamar, when asked, gladly read them in Hebrew from her new Scriptures and I followed each one in English. Todd was driving. What a bonus! As she left us she was waving her Bible and smiling.

The next night, Saturday, we ventured to Ben Yehuda Street. It's a shopping district in the city that is extremely crowded. All the establishments are closed all that day in observance of The Shabbat. When the sun set shortly after 6PM, the stores open and the residents and tourists flock to the area to eat and shop. Ben Yehuda is 6-8 blocks with a sloping walkway and no vehicular traffic. There are hundreds of small restaurants and emporiums. Now, off the main path every block there are short side roads 20 to 30 yards in each direction with more

little shops. We strayed into one of them by chance. Oh no, it wasn't that at all, but by His direction. We then wandered into a store about halfway into this roadway. A young man was tending this place for his cousin that evening. His name is Sal. He's an Israeli with dual citizenship with the USA. When in the States he resides in Charlotte, NC. That's where I live and



he's about 20 minutes away. It gets even better, as all Divine Appointments do; his apartment when in Charlotte is in walking distance of the Congregation where I worship. Sal also showed great interest in our Messianic materials. He was very thankful and told me he would see me in March when he returns to Charlotte.

These are just two of the young Israelis we encountered on this journey. They are prime examples of this generation who are showing a hunger for G-d's Word. Speaking with them and others we see they're beginning to realize that The Tenach (The Hebrew Scriptures) foretells the coming of Yeshua the Messiah. What it predicts throughout its contents is highly important. Now they visualize that WHEN it was said is indisputable evidence of its validity - hundreds of years before the fulfillments. There are countless Prophecies that cannot be denied where the Word is infallible, one after another and there is more to come.

Israel can be anagrammed to "Serial" which is defined as a continuous story in chapters. Stay tuned !! ✨



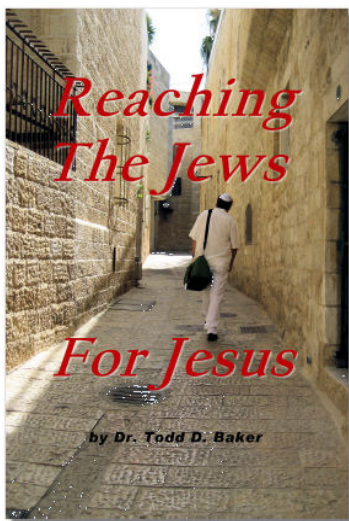
Tamar's a college student and was going home for Shabbat dinner with her family. Todd told her we were going to Yerushalium. She said that was her destination too. He declared our first

Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible. Also, special thanks to Andy Ball of The Bible Society of Israel for supplying us with Hebrew Bibles.

Prayer List for Todd Baker and Eric Oler for the 26th Gospel Outreach to Israel March 3-19, 2013



- ☆ Pray for us that whenever we teach or witness, words will be given to us to boldly proclaim the Gospel to the Jew first and also the Gentile (Acts 4:31; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19).
- ☆ Pray for spiritual agreement and unity among us (Psalm 133:1).
- ☆ Pray that God will open the hearts of those who will hear (Psalm 110:3; Acts 16:14).
- ☆ Pray for witnessing opportunities and for the anointing of the Holy Spirit's conviction and power to teach and witness (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8; John 16:7-11).
- ☆ Pray for health and strength (Isaiah 40:31).
- ☆ Pray for spiritual fruit that will last (John 15:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23).
- ☆ Pray that God will open doors for us among the Jewish people for the Gospel to speak about the Messiah that we may make Him known, as we ought to speak (Colossians 4:3-4).
- ☆ Pray for favor among the Chosen People to hear the Gospel (Proverbs 12:2).
- ☆ Pray for protection from dangers and the hand of the enemy both seen and unseen (Psalm 91; Matthew 6:31).
- ☆ Pray that we have the Father's wisdom and guidance in every thing we do (Psalm 32:8; 48:14; Colossians 4:5).
- ☆ Pray that the Chosen People will come to faith in Messiah Jesus (Romans 10:1; Matthew 15-16; Mark 8:27-29, 14:61-62; Luke 9:18-20; John 4:25-26).



New Book Available:

REACHING THE JEWS FOR JESUS

Reaching the Jews for Jesus is just that! In this book, you will read of the continuing Gospel outreaches of B'rit Hadashah Ministries to the Jewish people in the land of Israel. The first volume, *Messengers of Messiah*, chronicled our earlier outreaches to Israel from 2001 to 2005. This is volume two of an ongoing series chronicling this ministry's Gospel witnessing in the Promised Land from 2006 to 2011.

My hope is that as you read of the phenomenal ministry experiences we had in bringing Jesus back to His open and receptive people, you will be inspired to get involved in Jewish evangelism yourself. The Church has a responsibility and a command from the Word of God to do this very thing as they carry out the Great Commission (Romans 1:16). This book shows how

that can be done by any born again Bible-believing Christian who wants to obey the Lord in taking the Gospel "to the Jew first."

Let's partner together in bringing Jesus back to His homeland and His people who are thirsting for a knowledge of Him in these last days, as Israel and the Jewish people play a central role in End-times Bible prophecy. They cannot remain in the dark about the things to come as outlined in the prophetic Word of Scripture. And this book shows how the Christian can inform the Chosen People by sharing the Gospel of their Messiah with them as foretold in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament (Luke 24:44-46).

Order your copy today from our website on the Books & Media page. Cost is only \$20 plus shipping and handling. Orders will be placed through PayPal and shipped via USPS Media Mail (a PayPal account is not necessary and you can pay via credit card). Or contact Todd directly (Todd@brit-hadashah.org) to arrange other payment or delivery options.

Search the Scriptures

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The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:23-35)

Part 8



²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' ²⁷Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' ³⁰And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³²Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'you wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' ³⁴And his master was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Finally, from an overall observation of verses 23-26, there is contained the three steps wrought by God in the sinner leading him to salvation. The first step is of course conviction of sin. The lord took account of his servant and reckoned him a debtor owing 10,000 talents! The same applies to each of us. We are accountable to God for our sinful conduct before Him (verse 23). The servant was brought to the gnawing realization that he was in profound debt to his lord. The second step following conviction of sin is contrition and humility. The servant displayed such. He "fell down" and "worshipped" his lord (verse 26). The Word of God rightly demands of us to be "**clothed with humility**" humbling ourselves under "**the mighty hand of God**" (see 1 Peter 5:5-6). The third and surely the most decisive step bringing the soul eternal salvation is repentance. After the abased servant prostrated himself, he entreats his lord for mercy saying, "**Lord have patience with me**" (verse 26, KJV). The repentant heart will unreservedly supplicate God for preserving mercy, lest his sins overtake and consume him. "**Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live**" (Psalm 119:77). Unfortunately, the servant's humble and repentant attitude is short-lived. This is immediately seen by the fact that he promises personal restitution on the condition that his lord bestow on him great patience, granting him enough time to secure total payment, "**Lord have patience with me and I will pay you all.**" From this statement it is

only logical to conclude the servant was passionately motivated by the spirit of works. Instead of self-abandoning reliance on his lord's mercy, this servant trusted in his vain resolution of "**I will pay you all.**"

It is ever the pride of man, though convicted of sin, to erringly suppose that by engaging himself in the energetic practice doing "good deeds" he will abolish his terrible debt of infinite scope before God his judge. This is often the case of the sinner gone "religious," but, alas, not truly converted to Christ. Here in the latter part of verse 26, we find the true character of the unmerciful servant revealed. If he were genuinely repentant and converted, he would not have foolishly presumed to promise full payment. The servant's vain promise of repayment is certainly not characteristic of the truly repentant sinner. It is always the religious vein of men, as a whole or in part, to be his own savior. Promising payment that could never be paid is the same as the unconvinced still convinced he could appropriate by his own efforts the correct and right amount of payment in order to secure his salvation and thereby earn the full approval of God. This attitude of man thinking he can save himself is the spawning ground for countless heresies and false doctrines way too numerous to mention here. No true repentant sinner would ever dare ask God to bear with his continuing sin, nor would he ask for more time to make even the slightest repayment. Since a debtor by nature, he would only enlarge the enormity of the

debt! Not only that, dear reader, the sincere sinner that does indeed repent is all too aware of his absolute insolvency and utter insufficiency to ever render full restitution of the debt, let alone to pay ten thousand talents!

During Christ's day on earth, the common laborer earned on the average 15 to 17 cents a day; in light of this illuminating fact, we see the absurd impossibility of the servant ever making adequate recompense in this life or many for that matter to come. This is eternally unachievable for the servant as well with all of man in the state of sin. For how could the servant, typical of every sinner, indemnify for his debt and purchase eternal life? By perfect obedience to the Law, no quite the contrary! Not one of us is justified by keeping the perfect Law being imperfect ourselves. Romans 3:20 candidly affirms: "**Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified, for by the knowledge of the law is sin.**" The very purpose of the Law and trying to obey it is to clearly expose and inform the defiant heart of our great moral debt produced by sin. What about moral refinement, culturing the innate good within us? Absolutely not! "**For I know that in my flesh dwells no good thing**" (Romans 7:18). How about living up to the best of our ability doing the best we know how? Never, "**For we are without strength and every man is brutish in his knowledge**" (Romans 5:6; Jeremiah 10:14). Is the cancellation of the debt and procurement of eternal life to

Continued on page 5

Sharing Yeshua with Israel

Our 25th Gospel Outreach

Part 1

“WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I, THE SON OF MAN, AM?” (MATTHEW 16:13)



by
Todd Baker

The most important question of “Who do men say that I am” Jesus originally asked of His disciples long ago is the most important question in life every person eventually must face and hopefully correctly answer and believe. How you answer this question will determine your ultimate fate in eternity. The answer is found in the Holy Scriptures, which declare Jesus to be Lord (God Almighty in the flesh) and Messiah of whom the prophets foretold long before His coming. I bring this up here because the Lord on this 25th Gospel outreach to Israel opened a door on my flight to Israel when this question was brought up, explored and examined with Yuval—a man of forty-four years of age sitting next to me on the airplane. He professed to be an Orthodox Jew. After sharing our respective backgrounds with each other, Yuval was fascinated to learn that I believe the Bible unequivocally points to Yeshua as Messiah and divine Lord. Wanting to sincerely know the historical evidence for this belief, I pointed Yuval to a list of Messianic prophecies foretold in the Tenach (Old Testament) and their fulfillment in the B’rit Hadashah (New Testament).

Under my teaching guidance, Yuval read how the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 with Matthew 2:6); come from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10 with Hebrews 7:14); would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10 with Acts 2:22-23); and would be the Son of God (Psalm 2:7 with Luke 22:70). I then proceeded to show Yuval other messianic prophecies Jesus fulfilled in His unique life. When Yuval balked at the idea Jesus is God, I calmly told him Israel’s own prophets revealed this startling truth themselves in places like Psalm 110:1, Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:2. Yuval was taking all this in for the very first time. To think the Hebrew writers of his own Bible were



saying Messiah would be God in the flesh—one of the central truths about Jesus many in rabbinic Judaism will not believe, even though it was prophesied in the Bible of Judaism! Yuval said several times that he would read more about this startling truth in the complete Jewish Bible I gave him. Ironically, Yuval also said several times this would not change or convince him to believe Yeshua is God and Messiah. But his actions of acceptance and willingness to listen to me make the case for Jesus belied his words. He even admitted he was open to listen and study for himself what I showed him in the Word concerning Jesus of Nazareth. Praise God—a seed has been planted in a fertile heart and mind where the Holy Spirit can come and convict, convince and change Yuval to confidently say as doubting Thomas did when he beheld and confessed to the risen Jesus: “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

Before Harvey Zion and I set out to share the Gospel in Herzliya, ministry wonderfully began in the hotel even before we left! As Harvey and I were checking out, Yoav, who is one of the land agents in Israel for Zola Levitt Ministries, came up and asked me if I would give a copy of the Scriptures to one of the ladies at the front desk. I had an extensive Gospel witness with Yoav on the June 2012 outreach. He ended up accepting a copy of the Old and New Testament Scriptures and was very interested about learning and



Continued on page 6

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Matthew 18... Continued from page 3

be offered by a set price or monetary measure? No, for salvation is **"without money and without price"** (Isaiah 55:1). Salvation is God's free gift to man—it is eternal life freely given by faith through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23). Salvation is strictly conducted in terms of divine grace, and not on the amount of money one has to earn or possess. **"For thus says the Lord...you shall be redeemed without money"** (Isaiah 52:3). We beautifully witness this in verse 27 of the parable of the unmerciful servant: **"Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him and forgave him the debt"** (verse 27, KJV). †

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 16 years. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England, and is a Fellow of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism & Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. 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 many Gospel outreaches to Israel. †

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In This Issue

Report from Zion 1

Prayer List for 26th Mission Trip 2

**The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant
(Matthew 18:23-35) 3**

25th Gospel Outreach to Israel's People 4

24th Outreach Continued from page 4

familiarizing himself with the evidence proving Jesus is the Messiah. Now, four months later, Yoav was being a witness for Yeshua and this ministry to another Israeli! He took me to a young lady by the name of Dana. She was excited to receive the Word of God about the Messiah. Here was someone we never met before being introduced by another we had touched with the Gospel who now wanted a fellow Jew to hear about Jesus the Jewish Messiah. It was similar to when Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus the Messiah with the inviting words, **"Come and see"** (John 1: 45-46). This is exactly what Yoav did with Dana. When Harvey and I told Dana in advance the Hebrew Bible we offered did include the New Testament, she already knew this and still wanted a copy to read for herself —especially after learning this from Yoav! Amazing, simply amazing. We left Dana with this important observation: the crux of the message of all Scripture is John 3:16—that God so loved Dana, that He gave His one and only unique Son Yeshua that if you believe in Him you will not perish but have eternal life. Dana was riveted and emotionally moved as she teared up over this simple and infinitely profound truth that encompasses time and eternity.

Leaving there, the Spirit of God led Harvey and me to the Arena Mall in Herzliya, Israel, where we met Samuel. He was affable and easy going. At first we discussed with Samuel the danger of a nuclear Iran. Samuel was not at all worried because he said Israel would always exist. We affirmed his views by placing his statement within the context of Scripture where God promised Israel they would exist as a nation before Him forever! All who would oppose and seek to destroy the Jewish people will be destroyed by God (Genesis 12:1-3; Jeremiah 31:35-37). Samuel then brought up the

topic of the Messiah and how when He comes, the Anti-Christ will oppose him. Harvey and I looked at each other amazed and surprised at Samuel's knowledge of the Bible and in particular the



New Testament, which the average Jew in Israel, sadly today, does not possess—only universal ignorance prevails here. Obviously Samuel had read the New Testament and was therefore familiar with the ideas of Jesus as Messiah. This is where Harvey and I filled in the blanks for Samuel, explaining and showing him both how the Messiah was prophesied in great detail in the Tenach with the corroborative, historical fulfillment found in the life of Jesus the Nazarene. Samuel was so impressed with our Gospel presentation that he eagerly accepted a complete Hebrew Bible with Messianic study materials to help him better understand the details of this great truth from the Jewish Bible. ✡