

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

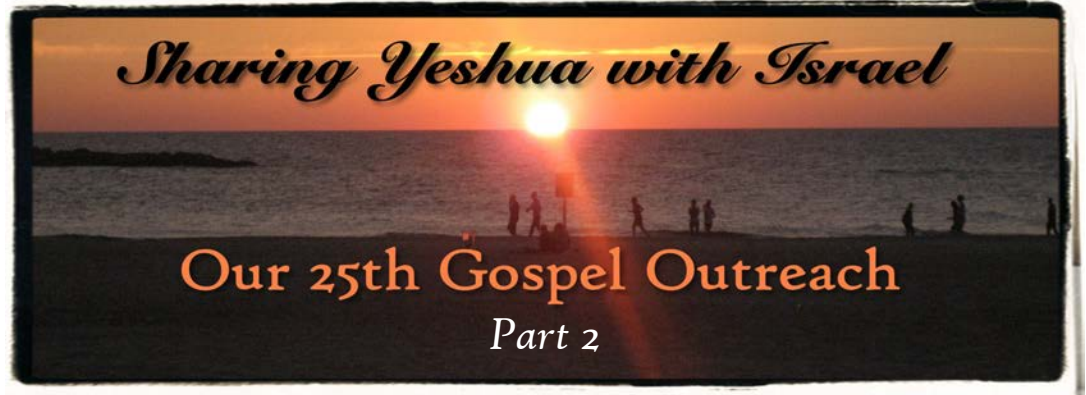


A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Volume 11, Number 2

Mar/Apr 2013

“SEE, I HAVE SET
BEFORE YOU AN
OPEN DOOR”
(REVELATION 3:8)



After completing Gospel ministry in Jerusalem, I then made the drive to begin this ministry's inaugural ministry in Beersheva to bear testimony for Yeshua there and distribute copies of God's Word in the Tenach and B'rit Hadashah. Once I arrived at the hotel and checked in, my card key would not open the door to the room. Ironically, at the same time, I was praying the Lord would let His love open the doors of the hearts of the Jewish people in Beersheva to Yeshua (see Revelation 3:8). Lo and behold, God used this minor inconvenience so Yosi of hotel security could come to my floor and open the door to my room, while at the same time Ruach Ha Kodesh (the Holy Spirit) would open Yosi's ears to hear about why this ministry came to Beersheva



by
Todd Baker



to bring the Word of God in Yeshua to His people there. When I got to the point of giving Yosi a complete Hebrew Bible, Yosi told me his mother was a Christian and his father was Jewish. He decided to be Jewish. In reply, I quickly said to Yosi that Bible-based Judaism and Christianity are not separate entities but are joined together in belief in the same God, the coming of the Messiah the same moral laws and the completion of God's plan in the Messiah's coming foretold in the Old Covenant and fulfilled in the New Covenant. I concluded my witness to Yosi by telling him my purpose for coming to Israel is to give Jewish people

the opportunity to read both biblical Testaments, which draw a portrait of Yeshua the Messiah. Yosi accepted the challenge of seeing this for himself by accepting the Hebrew Scriptures I gave him. May Yosi see clearly, once he reads God's Word, that the Messiah has come and is regathering His people to Israel for His return. To this end, God has sent us to immediately convince Israel they can be saved and know Yeshua the Messiah now!

After settling into the hotel, I then walked to a nearby shopping mall. I had planned on finding a computer store to look at a new model of computers that I would later purchase back in America—using this opportunity of course for ministry to an Israeli person. Walking around there for twenty minutes, nothing opened up for a Gospel witness. Then, suddenly, one opportunity led to another. I went into a yogurt shop and struck up a conversation with Anna—a soft-spoken, young Israeli who opened her heart and mind to hear about Yeshua the Messiah from me. I boldly said to her “Ha Shem communicated to me that I must go to Beersheva to share Yeshua the Messiah's Word of love for His people there. So now, and here, God has led me to give you His Word about who the Messiah is through the pages of the Jewish Scriptures.” Anna graciously accepted the Bible I gave her. Once again the hand of the Lord was guiding this whole affair. For when I asked her where a computer store was, she pointed to a store across the street called “The Big Box” and said I could probably find what I was looking for there. She was right; not about a computer, but another ripe Jewish soul open to the Gospel of Yeshua.



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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).



Spiritual Diagnosis For Sandy Hook

Aaron Levitt's spiritual diagnosis for why the Sandy Hook shootings took place is spot on. This nation does well to heed the need for repentance or worse things are ahead!

Todd

It is truly AMAZING that, as with the cause behind the Sandy Hook shooter, people wondering about the end of the world look EVERYWHERE for answers, EXCEPT TO GOD!

About the shooter, all I hear is "psychological problems," "problems with gun laws," and "he was mentally ill".... But NONE OF THAT is the issue! The issue is we've ejected God from America as much as we possibly can, and so departs His divine protection and provision as well! This is NOT difficult! They make it difficult with their endless denials of the one true God.

On their list of priorities in dealing with a crisis, praying to God in repentance is at the very bottom. They are wholly convinced that every problem has a humanistic solution – when there is no humanistic solution to the evil in the world! No psych drugs, mental institution commitments, or godless secular "counseling" is going to help angry, evil people who wish to take out their rage and frustration on their fellow man. "Mental illness" does not explain how a man can have the full presence of mind to create a detailed plot and carry out a shooting like this.

Obviously, he was angry and frustrated, and anger and frustration are NOT mental illnesses! He lacked GOD IN HIS



by Aaron Levitt

LIFE! And he lacked God in his life because of the secular populace he was raised in, in this neo-pagan nation. People were saying, "He may have had Asperger's," as if Asperger's prompts you to pick up a gun and shoot people. Ridiculous on its face, but you see, religious explanations are strictly banned in this nation, because they are "offensive," and they are the products of an "outdated" and "backward" worldview. So, they have nothing to fall back upon but that there must be some "chemical imbalance" in the shooter's brain. It couldn't be the fact that he lived in a godless nation that taught him no clear understanding of right and wrong, and left him no doubt grappling for answers to life's most basic existential questions!

Oh, but I forgot I'm being insensitive to, and intolerant of, atheists and Wiccans and other neo-pagans, so I better stop saying the truth. After all, the nation MUST bend to THEIR ways, and not the ways of Bible believers. ✧

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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The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:23-35)

Part 9



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."

In verse 27 of this parable, the lord, stimulated by his redeeming compassion, acts upon the boundless magnanimity of his rich and bounteous mercy to absolve the entire debt the servant owed. The meaning is quite clear here and needs little comment. Nevertheless, it will reward the diligent student of the Word to make a rigorous and exhaustive study of it. We will mention, as space permits, the prominent implications of this marvelous verse as it vitally pertains to the parable as a whole. The verse in all simplicity beautifully portrays a well-defined illustration of God's work of unmerited grace to forgive the condemned sinner. It signifies the mercy of God liberally showered on the sinner's life. The recipient of grace is one who has received the divine provision that his sins are forgiven. The servant was the recipient of his lord's compassion when he received the total abolishment of his debt. Ah, but you may ask: On what grounds, and by whose payment was the debt utterly vanquished and entirely canceled? The answer, beloved, indubitably points us to the magnificent cross of Calvary—the centrality of all God's eternal workings rests there, and this is where verse 27 finds its ultimate meaning. The Greek word for "loose" is *απολυω*, which means, "to set free fully, to liberate and forgive."

The servant was released resulting in the forgiveness of the debt. Paralleling this, the sinner is forgiven of his sins since his debt was paid in full through Jesus Christ, the only surety for our sins. Christ gave Himself a sacrificial ransom, making full satisfaction for us, allowing us by Him to pay our debt to God by the perfect righteousness of His beloved Son. It is through the saving cross of Jesus Christ we are set free and released from our spiritual bankruptcy, our moral indebtedness and thereby absolved from our fatal debt. The atonement of Calvary is simply God's undeserved grace shown to the law breaking, hell deserving sinner. The servant

was loosed and released from his enormous debt solely by the lord's compassion to forgive. The lord's compassion was the lone motive for the servant's liberation from debt. Man's liberation from his indebtedness under the cruel tyranny of sin and its fatal penalty of death can only be found in God's consummate instrument of divine compassion—Jesus Christ. **"For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death"** (Romans 8:2). The expiation of Calvary is the sinner's only means of total exoneration from all sin. The cross is the life-giving manifestation of God's eternal forgiveness freely offered to all sinners.

The compassion of the Lord was fully demonstrated at the cross where Jesus Christ is the remover of our debts, where **"mercy and truth have met each other; righteousness and peace have kissed each other"** (Psalm 85:10), where the blood-washed redeemed adoringly sing in grateful worship: "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Where sin had left a crimson stain, He washed me white as snow." Christ bore the penalty of our debt and was the perfect substitutionary payment for it—the undebted paying for the indebted (1 Peter 3:18). An informative examination of the manifold

benefits of divine grace fulfilled in the atonement of Calvary will most blessedly enhance and beautify the full import of verse 27. For here we witness the servant's debt nullified on the immediate action of his lord's awe inspiring display of marvelous compassion expressed in the act of acquitting grace dispensed on the wicked servant. Now the servant is no longer guilty of debt in his lord's forgiving eyes from which the servant or sinner no longer stands guilty of

perpetual disobedience against God, **"where sin had reigned unto death,"** but now stands before the throne of grace, **"where grace reigns to eternal life through the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ"** (Romans 5:21). The lord's super abundant kindness actually provided the "ransom" paying the price of debt and thus loosing the servant from his punitive debt. The ransom paid for the slave's release. Quite impossible was it for us to ransom ourselves from the enslaving debt of sin. We, being imperfect by the indwelling presence of sin, could not provide perfect payment. Our gracious, compassionate Lord "perfect in all His ways" was the only hope from whence sinners could be emancipated from the titanic debt our sins incurred. And thus the Lord did according to His veracious Word: **"I will ransom them"** (Hosea 13:14).

The price paid was the Lord Jesus Christ **"who gave Himself a ransom for all"** (2 Timothy 1:9) to God the Father who effected full propitiation for the debt by the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ. When the lord of the servant loosed him from debt remission of the payment was complete, whereupon the lord forgave his servant of the debt. The servant was exempted from the dreadful

consequences of his debt. He was loosed and redeemed from its condemnatory penalty solely because his lord deigned to be compassionately merciful. How true it is with us "saved by grace". We are pardoned from the curse of disobeying the Law. **"For Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law"** (Galatians 3:13). The Lord exacts absolute payment from us through the death of His Son freeing us from paying the dismal

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Encouragement In A Time Of Grave Fear

January 29, 2013 (copied from cnsnews.com)



By Charlie Daniels

If you read this column very often you know the frustration and disgust I feel for our government, their profligate spending, their all consuming passion for self-preservation, and the inevitable fall at the end of the ruinous path they seem so determined to force this nation down.

You know I'm deeply concerned about the rapid erosion of personal liberty and our president's cavalier attitude toward the Constitution and consolidation of power into a monolithic central, federal government, a bureaucratic nightmare that makes and enforces the rules, controlling even the administration of health care and the curriculum our children will study in school.

I fear the rampant apathy and lackadaisical work ethic of the entitlement society will become so deeply ingrained in the coming generations that the nanny state policies of this president and others like him who are likely to be elected will gradually drain the wealth and the will of the population until the well is bone dry and the confusion and anger of those who are suddenly left to fend for themselves will overrun the streets of this nation resulting in chaos and bloodshed.

I fear that this nation and this planet are in the midst of a great apostasy, or falling away from belief and faith in God as cults, false prophets and faddish feel-good religions pop up and capture the attention of many.

Even some of the old-line Christian denominations have tried to modernize their doctrine, bending the curve to accept things that are forbidden in the Bible, conveniently ignoring or subverting scriptures that fly in the face of the new age dogma they now embrace.

Anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world and while Islamic fanatics scream about the destruction of the State of Israel, the dominos in the Middle East fall one by one, with only the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan preventing the fulfillment of the ancient biblical prophecy that Jerusalem would be surrounded by armies.

Yes, I am very concerned about Israel. It is not the land of my birth, but when I became a Christian I was grafted into the root of Israel like a wild olive branch grafted on to a full-grown tree. The Bible says that salvation comes to the world through the Jews, the race of people by which the Creator of all mankind chose to reveal Himself to the world, the race into which my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born, the land where He would live and die on a cross for our sins.

How could any true Christian not be concerned?

Street gangs, flash mobs, drug cartels, incurable diseases, wholesale abortion the tearing down of traditional marriage and nuclear families, child molestation, the belittling of American exceptionalism, the export of manufacturing and jobs, murder, rape, home invasions, it's enough to give a person a nervous breakdown, but then I have to stop and think.

This world is just a short stop, only a testing ground on my eternal journey.

Any earthly leader or government, no matter how pervasive and powerful are only temporary place holders who will eventually pass into oblivion and be reduced to dust.

Israel will be battered and bloody but will never be completely destroyed and 85% of the vast armies allied against her in the final battle will be annihilated in the Jezreel Valley near Megiddo, known as Armageddon.

This earth with all its awesome military might, pompous politicians, mega-rich magnates and all the evil the powers of darkness can bring to bear are no more than a grain of sand compared to the indescribable power of the One who created the planets and flung them out across endless space, He who can part the sea and make the sun stand still.

Only One is Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent, He is everywhere, He knows everything and He can do anything. And yet in all His Majestic might, he cares for you to the point that He knows the number of hairs on your head.

His name is God, Jehovah, Yahweh, Dios to Spanish speakers, Gott to the Germans and so on, but He does have, always has had and always will have the last word and be the final judge in the affairs of mankind.

He will write the final pages of history.

We will all stand before Him and give account for our lives, every king, every president, every dictator, every super star, every human being.

Lord, please help me to keep my confidence in You and my mind on eternal things to come. Amen. What do you think?

Pray for our troops and the peace of Jerusalem. God Bless America.

Charlie Daniels

B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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Having been to the Holy Land over 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.

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Thank you for your support.

Matthew 18... Continued from page 3

consequences of our sins. The grace of God is the dominant theme of verse 27 and is the *modus operandi* for the forgiveness of the chiseling servant. Forgiveness of sin is one of the prized fruits of God's affluent grace. Forgiveness is the official and judicial act of God wherein the charges against the guilty sinner are cleared and removed on the just grounds of righteous payment. The fact the lord was compassionate resulted in the forgiveness of the servant.

The act of God's grace bestowed on the individual sinner is the evidence of divine forgiveness wherewithal just payment has been made. The grace of God is enveloped around forgiveness from which it springs forth bringing life and redeeming value to the object of it. There is a sharp contrast between verses 23-26 and verse 27. A dispensational distinction can be observed here. Verses 23-26 dealt with what the servant was under the Law—in debt, a bankrupt wretch without any means of repayment. The analogy is simple: the Law was given to manifest what was in the heart of man—his sin and disobedience, and therefore seeing this exists within him, he is a debtor to do the whole Law. However, verse 27 demonstrates what the servant is under the manifestation of grace. He is free from the bondage of debt, and as such can say from this new found liberty in Christ: *"Therefore brethren we are debtors not to the flesh to live after the flesh"* (Romans 8:12). In verses 23-26 the servant was in debt according to the law and therefore in bondage to it. But in verse 27 he is granted freedom according to grace after his lord called for and released him. The Christian calling is one of supreme grace in spiritual liberty enacted by Jesus Christ—our Great Liberator from penal sin. *"For he that is called in the Lord being a servant is the Lord's free man"* (1 Corinthians 7:22).

Grace is revealed to display what is in the heart and mind of God—His love and

forgiving mercy. The Law is of works—it required perfect righteousness from men. The servant was in debt and demanded he make obligatory payment at the command of his lord. Since he could not—he was reckoned a condemned debtor to be sold under the unfulfilled obligation of his debt. However, grace is not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). Grace can neither be earned nor worked for. The law deemed man unable to fulfill his moral obligations to God. Grace allowed man to fulfill his responsibility to God. His justification for this was made possible only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and not by his failed attempts at obeying the Law. *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified"* (Galatians 2:16). ☆†



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 and click the *Fellowship & Tours* tab, or call (866)910-0444.

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John
5:39



Mar/Apr 2013 Issue

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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25th Outreach *Continued from page 1*

Walking into the store, I approached Ido, a salesman. He told me that the store did not have the computer model I was looking for. Ido then pointed to my Cross and Star of David necklace and exclaimed, "I like this". Like so many times before in this ministry such a statement allowed me to explain how this symbol points to the fact the God of Israel sent Yeshua His Son to be the Savior of the world to bring redemption to both Jew and Gentile. Ido smiled wide and told me he loved hearing this! With deep conviction I then said that when I look at a Jewish person, I know the God of Israel exists, the Bible is true, and the Lord keeps His promises—as evidenced by His regathering of the Jewish people back into the land He gave them for an everlasting possession. Ido stepped outside the store with me so we could talk further about how Messianic prophecy identifies Jesus as the true Messiah. Our detailed discussion also covered what course of action



Israel should take against Iran from acquiring a nuclear bomb. Finally, I informed Ido that one of the reasons this ministry regularly comes to the Jewish people in Israel is to give back the Word of God in both the Tenach and B'rit Hadashah so the Jewish people can learn why Yeshua is truly the Messiah in its inspired pages. Ido jumped at my offer when I handed him a complete Hebrew Bible. Ido said he had just moved into a new place and had wanted a copy of the Scriptures to place there; but more than that he assured me he was going to read them. This was in line with what God commanded the Israelites to do—to meditate on His Word when they go in out and of their homes (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21). May the Gospel that Ido has brought into his physical house now find entrance into his internal heart and spirit for the salvation of the soul! ✠✡

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 15 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. ✠