

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Volume 11, Number 4

July/Aug 2013

## Exposing the Truth and Sharing the Love of Yeshua to Israel - Outreach 26

Part 2

My heart's desire for this trip to Israel was to serve my Lord Jesus (Yeshua Mashiach) by sharing His love and Gospel back to the Jewish people from which it came. I took this as a serious opportunity to serve and prepared well for a long time. Still to this day I realize that it was not going to be by man's strength that we would be successful in any effort, not mine nor Todd's, but clearly by the will of Our Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit hands down. This was proven time and again in this outreach and I have gained a whole new respect for the Ministry and what Todd has been doing to serve for 25 outreaches before.

Well let's say that for the sixteen days that Todd and I were on the ground you could say that it was a labor of love as it was clearer to me now more than ever before how much God truly loves his chosen people and how blessed and humbled I was to go and be a part of it! I cannot wait to go again.

From the moment we arrived in Netanya ministry began and I think before we shut our eyes that night we placed three complete Hebrew Bibles and tracts



in Jewish hands. Then brightly the next morning after breakfast we set out for Tiberias where along the way we went into Nazareth into a local mall. It was quite ironic as we drove into Nazareth to see a banner stretched across the road that said "Merry Xmas". Why would they not just say, Merry Christmas right? In any case, Todd and I visited several shops and the Spirit of God clearly had prepared many hearts here and other places we would encounter as we so earnestly had prayed well before our departure. A great example of this is a young lady named "Tali" that we met. Tali was immediately very open to knowing Jesus (Yeshua Mashiach!) and knowing God's plan for her life and for the Jewish people. She

## MY HEART'S DESIRE FOR ISRAEL

by Eric Oler



said it made perfect sense to her that since this came from the Jewish people that naturally it should return to them. Then she said something to me I will never forget, "**what you are doing is a very good and important thing**". That stuck with me for several days ahead.

Next we met another young Russian immigrant named Valeria. She too was incredibly open to the Gospel and this was only minutes after meeting Tali. I could tell quickly that this was going to be an exciting trip – could the Jewish people really be open to knowing who the true Messiah is? Yes and the overwhelming majority were!



God clearly set our path on this journey as He clearly demonstrated that alone on the first of our days in Tiberias. One morning while heading to breakfast we met Ofri. Ofri noticed Todd's necklace of



the Star of David and the Cross that she immediately asked Todd what it meant. She was ecstatic and left and literally ran to get her manager to tell him of the good news. Meanwhile Todd bolted up to our hotel room to get Hebrew Bibles and tracts. We had amazing ministry with

her that morning and several times again during our stay in Tiberias.

Now here is something that was so awesome. Remember what I told you in Nazareth? I was quite amazed to hear these words again. These two men in the picture said it with Todd who are Isaac (Itzak) and Matthew (Mati). We had a phenomenal time of sharing God's word and love for his people with them and they were both open. What took me



Continued on page 4

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.

An excellent article below on why Marriage, as God ordained it from the beginning (Genesis 2), is only between a man and a woman and why redefining marriage to include the sin of homosexuality is simply wrong, egregiously sinful, harmful and dangerous to normative marriage! If the Supreme Court is arrogant enough to redefine marriage from what it has always been, then the judgment of Romans 1:18-32 will assuredly go into full effect on America and will be the point of no return for this apostate nation! God will not be mocked by the abominable and unbiblical invention of "Gay Marriage." Judgment will fall from Him just as Jesus foretold in Luke 17:28-30 would happen to the Sodomite revolution of the last days which will immediately occur before His 2nd coming to earth in great power and glory to punish all wicked unbelievers and establish His holy and righteous kingdom where no abominable and lawless practice or sin will be allowed (Matthew 13:37-43; 2Thessalonians 1:7-10)! Beloved, we are on the threshold of these very things. Bo Adonai Yeshua! -Todd

## Defining Marriage—What Harm Would It Do to Redefine Marriage? Part 2 (continued from our previous issue)

by **Peter Sprigg**

March 25, 2013

On March 26 and 27, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in two cases challenging the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. In *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, they will consider the constitutionality of the definition as enshrined in the California state constitution by voters in that state when they adopted "Proposition 8" in 2008 (effectively reversing the decision of the California Supreme Court to impose same-sex "marriage" earlier that year). In *Windsor v. United States*, they will consider the constitutionality of the same definition of marriage being adopted for all purposes under federal law through the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

In anticipation of those oral arguments, I am running a series of blog posts with questions and answers related to the issue. Today I look at what is perhaps at the crux of the debate—the question of what harm marriage redefinition would do.

### Q—What harm would it do to the institution of marriage if we redefine it to include same-sex couples?

#### More children would grow up fatherless.

This harm is closely related to the previous one, but worth noting separately. As more children grow up without a married mother and father, they will be deprived of the tangible and intangible benefits and security that come from that family structure. However, most of those who live with only one biological parent will live with their mothers. In the general population, 79% of single-parent households are headed by the mother, compared to only 10% which are headed by the father.[xiv] Among homosexual couples, as identified in the 2000 census, 34% of lesbian couples have children living at home, while only 22% of male couples were raising children.[xv] The encouragement of homosexual relationships that is intrinsic in legalization of same-sex "marriage" would thus result in an increase in the number of children who suffer a specific set of negative consequences that are clearly associated with fatherlessness.

Homosexual activists say that having both a mother and a father simply doesn't matter—it's having two loving parents that counts. But social science research simply does not support this claim. Dr. Kyle Pruett of Yale Medical School, for example, has demonstrated in his book *Fatherhood* that fathers contribute to parenting in ways that mothers do not. Pruett declares, "From deep within their biological and psychological being, children need to connect to fathers ... to live life whole." [xvi]

Children—both sons and daughters—suffer without a father in their lives. The body of evidence supporting this conclusion is large and growing.[xvii] For example, research has shown that "youth incarceration risks in a national male cohort were elevated for adolescents in father-absent households," even after controlling for other factors.[xviii] Among daughters, "father absence was strongly associated with elevated risk for early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy." [xix] Even researchers supportive of homosexual parenting have had to admit that "children raised in fatherless families from infancy," while closer to their mothers, "perceived themselves to be less cognitively and physically competent than their peers from father-present families." [xx]

President Obama has also acknowledged the importance of fathers. In a speech during his 2008 campaign for President, he said this:

**"We know the statistics - that children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools and twenty times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioral problems, or run away from home, or become teenage parents themselves. And the foundations of our community are weaker because of it."** [xxi]

Some lesbian couples are deliberately *creating* new children in order to raise them fatherless from birth. It is quite striking to read, for example, the model "Donor Agreement" for sperm donors offered on the Human Rights Campaign website, and to see the lengths to which they will go to legally insure that the actual biological father of plays no role in the life of a lesbian mother's child. [xxii] Yet a recent study of children conceived through sperm donation found "Donor offspring are significantly more likely than those raised by their biological parents to struggle with serious, negative outcomes such as delinquency, substance abuse, and depression, even when controlling for socio-economic and other factors." [xxiii] Remarkably, 38% of donor offspring born to lesbian couples in the study agreed that "it is wrong deliberately to conceive a fatherless child." [xxiv]

#### Birth rates would fall.

One of the most fundamental tasks of any society is to reproduce itself. That is why virtually every human society up until the present day has given a privileged social status to male-female sexual relationships—the only type capable of resulting in natural procreation. This privileged social status is what we call "marriage."

Extending the benefits and status of "marriage" to couples who are intrinsically incapable of natural procreation (i.e., two men or two women) would dramatically change the

social meaning of the institution. It would become impossible to argue that "marriage" is about encouraging the formation of life-long, potentially procreative (i.e., opposite-sex) relationships. The likely long-term result would be that fewer such relationships would be formed, fewer such couples would choose to procreate, and fewer babies would be born.

There is already evidence of at least a *correlation* between low birth rates and the legalization of same-sex "marriage." At this writing [from March 2011 publication—update pending], five U.S. states granted marriage licenses to same-sex couples. As of 2007, four of those five states ranked within the bottom eight out of all fifty states in both birth rate (measured in relation to the total population) and fertility rate (measured in relation to the population of women of childbearing age). [xxv]

Even granting marriage-related benefits to same-sex couples is associated with low birth and fertility rates. As of March 2011 there were sixteen states which offered at least some recognition or benefits to same-sex relationships. [xxvi] Twelve of these sixteen states ranked in the bottom twenty states in birth rate, while eleven of them ranked in the bottom seventeen in fertility rate. Vermont, the first state in the U. S. to offer 100% of the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples through passage of its "civil unions" law in 2000 [xxvii], ranked dead last in both birth rate and fertility rate. [xxviii]

Similar data are available on the international level. In March 2011 there were ten countries which permitted same-sex "marriage." [xxix] Six of these ten fell well within the bottom quarter in both birth rates and fertility rates among 223 countries and territories. All ten fell below the total world fertility rate, while only South Africa had a birth rate that was higher (barely) than the world rate. [xxx]

It could be argued that the widespread availability and use of artificial birth control, together with other social trends, has already weakened the perceived link between marriage and procreation and led to a decline in birth rates. These changes may have helped clear a path for same-sex "marriage," rather than the reverse. [xxxi] Nevertheless, legalization of same-sex "marriage" would *reinforce* a declining emphasis on procreation as a key purpose of marriage—resulting in lower birth rates than if it had not been legalized.

Of course, there are some who are still locked in the alarmism of the 1960's over warnings of over-population. [xxxii] However, in recent years it has become clear, particularly in the developed world, that declining birth rates now pose a much greater threat. Declining birth rates lead to an aging population, and demographers have warned of the consequences,

**... from the potentially devastating effects on an unprepared welfare state to shortages of blood for transfusions. Pension provisions will be stretched to the limit. The traditional model of the working young paying for the retired old will not work if the latter group is twice the size of the former... In addition, ... healthcare costs will rise.** [xxxiii]

The contribution of same-sex

*Continued on page 4*

### 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:

**bhm@brit-hadashah.org**

or by mail at:

**B'rit Hadashah Ministries**

**P.O. Box 796127**

**Dallas, Texas 75379-6127**

Visit our website at:

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



# The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

## (Matthew 18:23-35)

### Part 11



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

We will see in the verses following, the Christian’s outright duty, and his inherent responsibility to forgive a trespassing brother, just as he was forgiven by the Lord. The first part of the parable, verses 23-27, deal with the servant related to his lordly creditor. The second part, verses 28-35, deals with the servant in relationship to his fellow servant. We now turn to the second scene of our parable commencing with verse 28 and ending with verse 35. The verses about to be examined, and we trust, correctly explained, give us a detailed picture of the terrible inhumaneness of the forgiven, yet wicked servant displayed toward his fellow servant. Verse 28 begins with the cruelty of unforgiveness glaringly exposed. In verse 35, the parable ends with the damning penalty of it made known. “Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). The sowing-reaping principle of Galatians 6:7 is well demonstrated here. The forgiven servant in verse 28 sows to his fellow servant harsh unforgiveness, and in verse 35 reaps the evil consequences of an unforgiving spirit to be eternally felt.

**“But 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’ (Verse 28).**

The opening of this verse begins with the acquitted servant departing from his lord. The text reads: **“But that servant went out”**. Unspeakably solemn is this! The apostate act of departure proved utterly disastrous to the servant as the following actions

of verse 28 reveal. The servant left the presence of the lord under the headstrong preoccupation of finding his fellow servant that owed him a small sum of one hundred denarii. The servant was driven by fierce anger in his frantic search for the one in debt to him. Once found, he vented the full fury of his brutal anger and bitter unforgiveness on him. But what generated such a hostile attitude of unforgiveness in the first place? The servant left the presence of his lord and was no longer guided by his goodly influence. Following this, the servant failed to retain a fear inspiring recollection of his lord’s magnatuginous mercy and the life saving benefits thereof. His admiring love for his lord’s forgiveness was transient and sacrilegiously insincere. He really had little or no regard for his lord’s great compassion—seeing that he made a sudden departure afterwards! He foolishly chose not to abide in the glorious presence of the lord, giving well-deserved thanksgiving, but instead parted with an ungrateful and embittered heart toward his fellow servant.

One true characteristic of the redeemed of the Lord is they will exhibit a never-ending spirit of thanksgiving to the Lord for sins forgiven. **“So we Your people and sheep of Your pasture will give You thanks forever”** (Psalm 79:13). The saved will ever develop a close and indivisible fellowship with the Lord because of the greatness of His love, saving them who were formerly hell-bound enemies of his, now made His reconciled friends by forgiving love. Conversely, then does Psalm 140:3 also expose the unappreciative attitude and

apostate inclination of the wicked servant. **“Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your Name. The upright shall dwell in Your presence”** The servant of our parable was truly wicked in that he did not give due gratitude or remain in the Lord’s safekeeping presence. From Psalm 140:3, an implication of the opposite can be rightly concluded. Since it is the righteous that “give thanks to the Lord” and abide in His “presence”, the opposite is certainly true of the wicked that refuse to express continual thanks, nor remain in the Lord’s presence. The servant regressed from his reconciled state into abject wickedness when he “went out from the lord” and found one of his fellow servants whom he refused to forgive. Once this happened, fellowship was broken. Sin always separates from God; it disrupts intimate fellowship with Him (see Isaiah 59:2). If fellowship is not restored and sin confessed and dealt with, it will ultimately destroy the person separated from the presence of the Lord. **“For, lo, they that are far from You shall perish”** (Psalm 73:27).

The sure sign of apostasy is irreparable separation of the worst kind leading to eternal damnation itself (see 2 Peter 2:20-21). We shall see this of the backslidden servant later on, at the end of the parable’s tragic conclusion of him. It is striking to notice the unbounded kindness of the lord did not so much as leave a permanent impression in the slightest on the servant’s heart. The sinner’s viewpoint is the same as well. He cares very little about whether or not he can be forgiven of God. This attitude is reflective of the lack of

*Continued on page 6*

## Defining Marriage... Continued from page 2

"marriage" to declining birth rates would clearly lead to significant harm for society.

[xiv] Rose M. Kreider, "Living Arrangements of Children: 2004," Current Population Reports P70-114 (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau), February 2008, Figure 1, p. 5.

[xv] Simmons and O'Connell, op. cit., Table 4, p. 9.

[xvi] Kyle D. Pruett, *Fatherhood: Why Father Care is as Essential as Mother Care for Your Child* (New York: The Free Press, 2000), p. 16.

[xvii] A good recent summary is Paul C. Vitz, *The Importance of Fathers: Evidence and Theory from Social Science* (Arlington, VA: Institute for the Psychological Sciences, June 2010); online at: <http://www.profam.org/docs/thc.vitz.1006.htm>

[xviii] Cynthia C. Harper and Sara S. McLanahan, "Father Absence and Youth Incarceration," *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 14(3), 2004, p. 388.

[xix] Bruce J. Ellis, John E. Bates, Kenneth A. Dodge, David M. Fergusson, L. John Horwood, Gregory S. Pettit, Lianne Woodward, "Does Father Absence Place Daughters at Special Risk for Early Sexual Activity and Teenage Pregnancy?" *Child Development* Vol. 74, Issue 3, May 2003; abstract online at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-8624.00569/abstract>.

[xx] Susan Golombok, Fiona Tasker, Clare Murray, "Children Raised in Fatherless Families from Infancy: Family Relationships and the Socioemotional Development of Children of Lesbian and Single Heterosexual Mothers," *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* Vol. 38, Issue 7 (October 1997);

abstract online at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1469-7610.1997.tb01596.x/abstract>.

[xxi] "Obama's Speech on Fatherhood," June 15, 2008; online at:

[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/06/obamas\\_speech\\_on\\_fatherhood.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/06/obamas_speech_on_fatherhood.html)

[xxii] Human Rights Campaign, Donor Agreement; online at:

[http://www.hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=Search\\_the\\_Law\\_Database&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18669](http://www.hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=Search_the_Law_Database&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=18669)

[xxiii] Elizabeth Marquardt, Norval D. Glenn, and Karen Clark, *My Daddy's Name is Donor: A New Study of Young Adults Conceived Through Sperm Donation* (New York: Institute for American Values, 2010) p. 9.

[xxiv] *Ibid.*, Table 2, p. 110.

[xxv] Joyce A. Martin, Brady E. Hamilton, Paul D. Sutton, Stephanie J. Ventura, T. J. Mathews, Sharon Kirmeyer, and Michelle J. K. Osterman, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, "Births: Final Data for 2007," *National Vital Statistics Reports* Vol. 58, No. 24, August, 2010, Table 11. Rankings calculated by the author.

[xxvi] Human Rights Campaign, "Marriage Equality and Other Relationship Recognition Laws," April 2, 2010; online at: [http://www.hrc.org/documents/Relationship\\_Recognition\\_Laws\\_Map.pdf](http://www.hrc.org/documents/Relationship_Recognition_Laws_Map.pdf)

[xxvii] "An Act Relating to Civil Unions," H. 847, adopted April 26, 2000. Online at:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2000/bills/passed/h-847.htm>

[xxviii] Martin et al., op. cit.

[xxix] The Netherlands, Spain, Canada, Belgium, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, and Argentina. See Dan Fastenberg, "A Brief History of International Gay Marriage," *Time*, July 22, 2010; <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2005678,00.html>

[xxx] "Country Comparison: Birth Rate," *The World Factbook* (Central Intelligence Agency); online at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2054rank.html>; and "Country Comparison: Total Fertility Rate," *The World Factbook* (Central Intelligence Agency); online at:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2127rank.html?countryName=Burma&countryCode=bm&regionCode=eas#bm>

[xxxi] Note, for example, that in 2007, the last year for which final birth rate and fertility rate data are available, only one state (Massachusetts) had legalized same-sex "marriage."

[xxxii] The most well-known representative being Paul R. Ehrlich, *The Population Bomb* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1968).

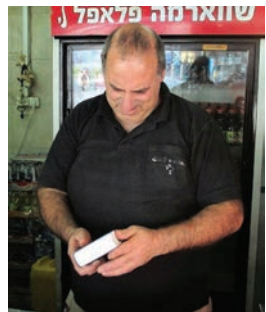
[xxxiii] Jonathan Grant and Stijn Hoorens, "Consequences of a Graying World," *The Christian Science Monitor*, June 29, 2007; online at: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0629/p09s02-coop.html>; see also Jonathan Grant, Stijn Hoorens, Juja Sivadason, Mirjam van het Loo, Julie DeVanzo, Lauren Hale, Shawna Gibson, William Butz, *Low Fertility and Population Ageing: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Options* (Santa Monica, Calif.: The RAND Corporation, 2004). †



## 26th Outreach Continued from page 1

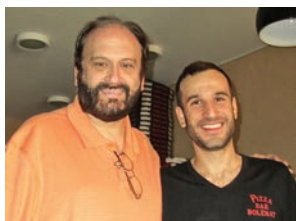
by surprise is when they said and I quote, "what you are doing is a very good and important thing". This is exactly what Tali had said to us the day before at the mall in Nazareth. Is that God or what? Great confirmation from the Lord!

Moments later we are walking down the sidewalk and as you will see we met another man. Well actually Todd had been there before and witnessed to this man who was waving us down so that we could give his



friend a complete Hebrew Bible and tracts too. Needless to say we were very grateful to do this and just happened to have this with us! See what good things God is doing with your support? His chosen people are coming to know Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah! This is amazing to see when you come across a Jewish person whose heart has been prepared by the Spirit of God to fervently receive the Gift of His Word and His One and Only Son! And even if you could not go there with us –

you who so graciously and generously donated to this ministry enabled us to go and deliver this good news to God's chosen people and help fulfill a major end-time event--- mind you it is and never was by our human strength nor effort, but clearly by Todd and I praying and remaining humble to the calling that The Lord has put upon us to deliver THIS GREAT NEWS about His One and Only Son! Again, we were there because you too were obedient in His calling upon you to support this ministry. I say this to you because many people would like to go and don't realize just how important your support and prayers are to the ministry.



Next here is another example of your prayers. See this young man in the left picture? This is another believer that Todd has witnessed to in the past. His brother and he have a pizza restaurant and Todd has been by to witness and water this seed as often as he can in Tiberias. In fact, Todd and I were saddened to hear

of another lady who passed away a few months before and the last time Todd had talked with her she was reading the Gospel of John. Todd was very grieved to hear of her passing as he had witnessed to her for about 8 years as I recall.

Do you see the vision here of what is taking place in Israel? One of the Bible's oldest prophecies is being fulfilled right before our very eyes and when the Gospel is presented to one really seeking Yeshua it is revealed. The amazing part is you and I have a part of this as shelichim (Hebrew for "sent ones") sent to Israel both going and the sending thereof.

Next, Todd introduced me to Moshe and what a tough cookie he is! Moshe is someone whom the Lord has laid upon Todd's heart to witness to for over 8 years. Moshe is a retired professor from the Hebrew University and loves to talk about all things religion with Todd and more. Plus, Todd being a well-educated man with all of his credentials, Moshe greatly respects him. Moshe is a tough cookie



when it comes to Yeshua so please pray for him. He is a very kind man and when I had the opportunity to ask him a rather novice but challenging question, he did not reply so that tells me he is perhaps still pondering. I asked Moshe, "The Restoration of Israel – is it from God or is it from Man?" It is a favorite question to

ask because either way you are able to open the bible and begin to discuss by showing in scripture.

**Ezekiel 36:24-30:**

<sup>24</sup>For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup>Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your

*Continued on page 5*



# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

## † PARTNER WITH US ☆

*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.*

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.*

### 26th Outreach Continued from page 4

idols. <sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. <sup>28</sup>Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup>I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. <sup>30</sup>And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.

Next a very memorable encounter was with Danielle at a restaurant in Eilat at the southernmost tip of Israel at the Red Sea. Danielle was very open to the Gospel and even though she had to leave her shift early, we still gave her a complete Hebrew Bible and tracts and then the young lady who replaced her we also witnessed to so it was a 2'fer of sorts. One day alone in Eilat we had such an incredible time of witnessing we could not believe it. Prayers were being answered as we were frequently praying for fervent hearts for which to plant seeds for our Lord and Savior. What an honor and a privilege it was to go and share the Gospel as I told myself and many of the people we met. I believe that added to the witness we gave them. ☆†☆



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](mailto:Todd@brit-hadashah.org) or call 866-910-0444.

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

*Keep us updated so you don't miss an issue!*  
*(It also saves us money on postage returns!)*

**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**



**שלום**

**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.**

## B'rit Hadashah Ministries

P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### In This Issue

**26th Gospel Outreach to Israel (Part 2).....1**

**Defining Marriage (Part 2).....2**

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

#### Matthew 18... Continued from page 3

commitment and absence of true love in the unthankful selfishness of the human heart. How true: ***"To whom little is forgiven, the same loves little"*** (Luke 7:47). If the servant truly held a high value of his lord's forgiveness, he would have freely forgiven his fellow servant's small transgression immediately and without hesitation, bearing in mind that he too was freely forgiven of a greater debt. Keeping this in mind, we come to see the inexorable unkindness of the "wicked" servant was entirely unwarranted against his fellow man. His incriminatory unforgiveness earns him stern reprehension in the end. Interestingly enough, there is a noticeable similarity between the character of this loathsome servant and the fratricidal hatred of Cain! Both the servant and the infamous Cain, who slew his brother Abel, are accurate archetypes of the unforgiving person who holds murderous intentions in the bitterness of his festering heart. It was after Cain murdered his brother Abel, that he "went out" from the presence of the Lord (Genesis 4:16). The servant also unleashed his hateful unforgiveness immediately after he too "went out" from the brightness of the Lord's presence and executed the dark dictates of his infuriated heart, accosting his fellow servant with unrestrained brutality. Observe, that in both instances Cain and the unmerciful servant perished in their apostasy. God warns of permanent destruction to those who sin by forsaking his presence. ***"Woe to them, for they have fled from Me: destruction to them because they have transgressed against Me"*** (Hosea 7:13).

The servant possessed within his capability the compassionate ability to absolve the debt owed him by his lesser fortunate comrade. This wicked, covetous servant unrighteously demanded plenary restitution of a trifling sum of one hundred denarii amounting to no more than seventeen dollars. Jesus especially names the small amount of one hundred denarii here to no doubt show the observant Christian how insignificant and small a man can offend his brother,

especially when compared with the stupendous and greater atrocity every man commits in sinning against his thrice Holy Creator. This fact further enhances the servant's wicked unwillingness to forgive to an even greater height of worthy condemnation. It also re-emphasizes to us our inexcusable duty as Christians to forgive without condition, limit or reservation. The servant, however, refused to follow such a godly pattern. He had no virtuous remembrance of his king's great act of clemency freeing him from monstrous debt. This is further testified by the fact that he refused to forgive his fellow servant of a trivial debt, just as he was forgiven of an insurmountable debt far greater in comparison. ✠

### 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. ✠

