

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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THE JEWS REQUIRE A SIGN (1 CORINTHIANS 1:22)

Accompanying me on the Fall 2013 Gospel Outreach to Israel (this ministry's 28th) were Robin and Sue Hopper, and Harvey Zion. This



by
Todd Baker



Mission Team: Todd, Harvey, Robin and Sue

Let alone a few, incidences of how the Spirit of God moved among the Chosen People through this ministry. One awe-inspiring encounter occurred in Tel Aviv. We were at an outside fruit juice stand where I made the mundane comment that America does not have fruit juice stands like they do in Israel. A young Israeli lady standing next

to me said she was surprised at this. Her name was Leli. She was originally from Romania and made aliyah to Israel with her parents when she was five. She is now a Pilates instructor. We explained to her



we come to Israel to distribute God's Word to the people He used to write the Scriptures and declare from them to all Israel Yeshua is the Messiah. I then offered Leli the complete Jewish Bible for her own study. Leli was visibly taken aback by this gesture, exclaiming with pleasant surprise, "Of course I will take it." She went on to tell me, "I have had several religious signs from God lately drawing me more to Him, and now I meet you and now you offer me the Bible. I know now this is the ultimate sign God is there!" How true

are the apostle Paul's words that the Jews require a sign to believe the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah (1 Corinthians 1:22).

Stunned, I simply marveled at how the Lord sovereignly arranged this meeting so He could complete His communication to Leli by leading her to the Messiah of the Hebrew Scriptures! No doubt Leli was being drawn by the Spirit of God to learn, know, and find salvation in the Messiah from the Scriptures we gave her. She too acknowledged our meeting was more than just mere chance, but was a divine appointment and sign from God to conclude the earlier signs the Lord gave to this final one leading her to read the Scriptures; and in them believe the Gospel of Yeshua for salvation!



Next we met Christina—a Russian Jew who immigrated to Israel when a child. She knew about the prophecy in Jeremiah chapters 16 and 23 predicting the Lord would bring back the Jewish people in great numbers from the "far north" country of Russia. We then said God is doing this so Russian Jews, like her, can now know Yeshua is the Messiah by reading the documented proof

in the Jewish New Testament this ministry offers to the returned outcasts of Israel. Christina wanted to know more about Messiah. She was quite surprised that we would give her a complete Jewish Bible of her own. Naturally, we explained to her this ministry was simply giving the Word of God and the Gospel back to the Jewish people who gave it first to the nations of the world. She was humbled by our giving her this gift and is open, willing, and humble to accept and look at the evidence Yeshua is Messiah from the Scriptures that speak about Him.

We met Terry the atheist at a newsstand in Tel Aviv. After a friendly debate on the incoherency of atheism, Terry was honest enough to admit there does have to be an ultimate source that created the universe. I shared with Terry about my former life in atheism. It was in this hopeless and

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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.

Sharing the Gospel Across Israel



By Sue Hopper

Dr. Todd Baker's 28th Gospel Outreach to the Jew First began with team members Harvey Zion, Robin Hopper and I joining Todd at Netanya Israel on the beautiful Mediterranean coast, north central Israel. Rosie, the first person I met upon awaking at this beautiful site, was also the first individual that accepted a Complete Jewish Bible including the (NT) B'rit Hadashah from me. She had lived in Israel all of her life traveling once to New York, and had a daughter who would be visiting Miami soon with friends.

After breakfast, a devotional scripture was read to us by Dr. Todd Baker and we prayed together before venturing out to a shopping strip nearby on our way to Nazareth.

One gentleman at a Castro clothing store, Omri, received a Bible and had many questions. And a young orthodox



Omri and Sue

lady named Michal at the drugstore accepted both a Complete Bible from me and ISAIAH 53 EXPLAINED book in Hebrew from Robin. She said that



Michal

she was open to reading it although her husband would not be.

That first day, we handed out seven Bibles between the four of us and one or more ISAIAH 53 EXPLAINED books by Mitch Glaser.

Tiberius is in the Galilee area on the shores of the Sea of Galilee or Kinneret. October 2nd we began witnessing in Tiberius. There is a large orthodox community and many there are generally more closed to the Gospel. But we did give away a number of Bible tracts to a security guard and one to a woman at a shoe store. People Robin and I met there were more open to reading pamphlets about prophecy than receiving complete Bibles. Todd and Harvey were able to give away several complete Bibles in Tiberius though as G-d gave them favor, one to a cook at a pizza restaurant.

The next day before driving to Mount Hermon, Todd read to us Luke 4:16 and Romans 11 and we prayed for divine appointments with IDF officers that we would meet stationed there.



IDF Officer, Nir, at Mount Hermon

We enjoyed viewing Capernaum, Village of Comfort ("Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea..." -Matthew 4:12-13), the Jordan river, Megiddo and the Bashan area as we drove up to Mt. Hermon. There, two IDF officers gladly received complete Bibles and we took pictures of them. Next, on our way to Qirat Shemona, we drove by Nimrod which was built by Crusaders. We stopped at a shuk (farmer's market)

there and met a man from France to visit with and share the truth of Yeshua. He was glad to have fellowship with Americans.

On the way to Jerusalem an Arab man, Samuel, pumped gas for us and accepted a complete Bible in Hebrew from me. He said he would read it.

We drove by a rural Bedouin village on our way to Jerusalem. These communities are not officially recognized by the Israeli government.

When reaching Jerusalem, we visited a Messianic shop called the Lion of Judah. The owner has a ministry and we dropped off five Bibles for new believers that are being mentored through his leadership. We spent about 45 minutes fellowshiping here.

Next we visited a young woman named Bar in a Dead Sea Cosmetic shop who was



Bar with Todd

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Search the Scriptures

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The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:23-35)

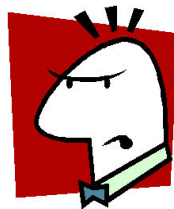
Part 13



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."

The servant of this parable followed the destructive path of the resentful unforgiver bringing irrevocable harm and hurt to himself. Bitterness and unforgiveness will surely destroy the whole person. There are several poisonous influences deadly to the embittered soul that can be attested of the unmerciful servant of Matthew 18 who was unwilling to forgive. Bitterness and unforgiveness originate from a previous hurt suffered in the past. For instance, take our parable as a timely example, especially of verses 28 through 30. Unforgiveness defiles one's speaking habits. The embittered soul will vocalize his hurt through the words he speaks. The servant did this when angrily saying, **"Pay me what you owe,"** which expressed his obstinate inclination not to forgive. Thus one's unforgiveness is manifested in one's verbal communication. The ungodly multitudes are notoriously known for remaining bitter and unforgiving in their manner of speech. Holy Scripture declares so: **"Their throat is an open sepulcher (they impart words of decadent influence) with their tongues they have used deceit. The poison of asps is under their lips, whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness"** (Romans 3:13-14). The unmerciful servant's speech is similar, filled with bitterness and hate. This provides further proof that the servant here is far from continuing in grace.

The act of unforgiveness is evident in a person's actions. Observe the malevolent actions of the servant. He quickly departed from the presence of the lord, found his fellow servant and violently treated him, grabbing him by the throat to the point of choking him. The bitter person will quickly be provoked to position himself in murderous premeditation while ignoring God's call to forgive. He walks a calculated



course of unforgiveness—ultimately ending with actual murder. The activity of the bitter and unforgiving lot of humanity, of which the unmerciful servant well fits, is summarily listed in various passages of Scripture. Romans 3:15-18 is a prime example: **"Their feet are quick to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their ways, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes."** Unforgiveness is further revealed in one's attitudes. Anger is the first and predominate reactionary attitude that formulates out of an unforgiving spirit. An angry and embittered attitude, if not done away with, will quickly gestate a broken relationship with God and others of the faith resulting in spiritual sickness and loss of divine grace. **"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up**

causes trouble, and by it many be defiled" (Hebrews 2:15).

The wicked servant in the climax of his anger has his insolvent associate imprisoned. What an accurate picture of what unforgiveness ultimately does in the spiritual realm. Unforgiveness is an enslaving reaction toward the wrongdoer as witnessed in verse 30. Unforgiveness sets an unbreakable bond on the one who commits the offense. The unforgiving person places a mental imprisonment on himself and on the one unforgiven. Spiritual incarceration is then experienced on both offender and the offended. The servant should have forgiven his acquaintance, especially since his suppliant asked for mercy and patience. But even if he didn't ask for mercy, this petty prince was still obligated, in the light of the king's compassion towards him, to forgive his compatriot and release him from the minute debt. He refused, and chose instead to retain the debt, regardless. The Lord Jesus states an unforgiving person can retain another man's sins in a harmful way to both, as seen by the unmerciful servant. The Scriptural remedy from spiritual ruin that unforgiveness finally brings is brought about by immediate settlement whereby the two parties may firmly forgive one another, be reconciled and at peace.

When I or a Christian brother or sister in Christ commit

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an offense, it should be confessed and forgiveness sought for at once so that a contemptuous attitude of unforgiveness will not enter in begetting spiritual bondage causing utter demolition in the end. The Scriptures reveal that if one persists in unforgiveness until the end of this life, he will spend an eternity paying for it confined in terrible horror in the asylum of the damned till the uttermost farthing is paid. So the Word of God advises and sternly warns us of this. **"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First, be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest at any time the adversary deliver you to the judge, and you are cast into prison. Truly I say to you, you shall by no means come out of there until you have paid the uttermost farthing"** (Matthew 5:23-26).

"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" (verse 31).

However secret a crime, or isolated an unjust situation may be, each underhanded act of man's injustice to man never goes unnoticed. If the human eye is not privy to the various inequities

of mankind, the steady, unblinking, eyes of divine providence behold all, whether done in private or public. **"For His eyes are upon the ways of man, and He sees all his going"** (Job 34:21). The fellow servants were mute witnesses of the villainous behavior the recalcitrant servant showed toward his borrower. Their agitated response is one of deep lament and extreme sorrow. True sorrow is vicarious in nature. It feels what the other person is undergoing. The fellow servants demonstrated effective empathy on their ill-treated brother and at once went to their lord relaying all that happened in hopes the lord would establish a fair resolution to the problem. The lord of the servants graciously hears their accurate report and sees to the grievous matter himself. Verse 31 is a pictorial depiction of the saints' corporate prayers ascending up to God, whose hearing ears are opened to their cry. Our Lord, as with the fellow servants, is near at hand attending to the intercessory cry of our heart, proving, of course, that His ear is not heavy that it cannot hear and answer the imprecatory appeals of the Christian community (Isaiah 59:10). God will not acquit the wicked (Nahum 1:3). The verses following verse 31 teach the prayers of the righteous are in fact vindicated by the Lord—**"God the Judge of all"** (Hebrews 12:23). ☆†



Fall 2013 Outreach Continued from page 1

bankrupt state God in Yeshua revealed His risen glory to me—removing all doubt about the existence of God! I went on to say to Terry if he were open in heart and mind, even just a little bit, God would prove His existence to Him. God has already revealed Himself through His written Word in the Jewish Scriptures, fully and finally revealed in Yeshua the living Word of God. Terry was open enough to surprisingly accept a copy of the complete Jewish Bible from us. It was evident to Robin, Sue, and me that Terry was not a true atheist but an agnostic nearing



Scriptures answer to those who believe in the evidence these contain. Lord, reveal Yourself to Terry now that he has received Your Word that You gave through the people of Israel. ☆†☆

some quasi belief in deism. He, like so many in Israel, is searching for truth, real hope, and answers to the ultimate questions in life—which the Gospel and the Jewish



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שלום

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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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.

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very open to receiving a Complete Hebrew Bible from Todd and very friendly to us all. She had grown up in a strict Orthodox Family who had disowned her at the tender age of 15 because of her rebellion. We will keep in touch with Bar in future trips to Jerusalem if possible. Next we walked a few blocks over to a Cigar shop where the owner, Bernard, who was from France was friendly and happily received a Complete Bible in Hebrew from Todd.

There were numerous divine appointments in Jerusalem in the old city and outside the old city. Robin and I revisited Natan, the hotel manager at the Kaplan Hotel, to say hello. We stayed at his economy hotel last year on the corner of Ben Yehuda Street and Jaffa Street. He invited us into the kitchen and offered us coffee and cake. He was happy to see us again although we were not staying at his hotel this time. Last year Natan received a complete Bible in Hebrew from us and this year he received an ISAIAH 53 EXPLAINED book. Natan is secular and not religious, but graciously receives us as friends and listens to our witness of Messiah.

On Shabbat, we attended a Messianic synagogue in Jerusalem called Bat Zion. It is a small synagogue above a Messianic shop. After Shabbat, when the shops reopened that evening, we met a Persian

woman, Romit, who was tending a gift shop. Her teenage son was doing his homework in the store and I struck up a conversation with her. Before I left she gladly accepted a Complete Hebrew Bible from me.



Romit at Gift Shop in Jerusalem

The next day in the Old City, we put many prayers in the wall from our friends at Shalom Shalom and from Eitz Chaim Congregations of Dallas. And we met with a man in a T-shirt shop where I bought an Israeli Fire Fighter T-shirt for my Son, Darryl, who is a fire fighter in Addison, Texas. Before leaving, the shopkeeper, Yamiv, offered to give me a tube of hand lotion that I was examining. As he wanted to give me this as a gift, I was also able to give him a gift -the book, ISAIAH 53 EXPLAINED, by Mitch Glaser. These

are only a few of the people we met and with whom we were able to share our faith in Yeshua the Messiah.

After leaving Jerusalem, we traveled by the Dead Sea, Masada, the area of Sodom and Gomorra, and Qumran on our way to Eilat. Just before reaching Eilat, we stopped to visit a model of the wilderness Tabernacle or Mishkan at Timna Park. This



is one of the areas Moses led the people through and camped at one time. The tabernacle model was built to scale and the guide, Allison, was very knowledgeable. Allison was a biologist from New Zealand who has permanent residence in Israel and has very accurate Biblical presentation at this site. She made coffee for us after the tour of the Mishkan and took time to visit with Todd and Robin and me.

In Eilat, when we checked into our hotel, the man who helped with our

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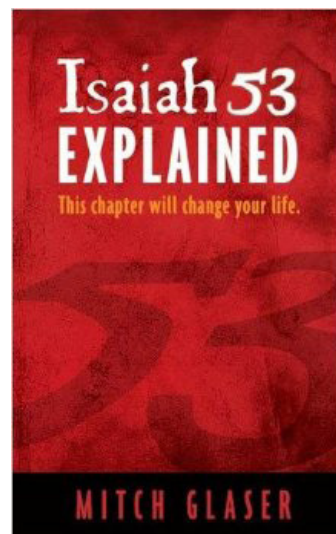
bags accepted a complete Hebrew Bible from me and, a few minutes later while helping Todd, accepted an ISAIAH 53 EXPLAINED book from Todd. Our devotion from Todd the next morning was 2 Corinthians 15. We prayed and then went out with the L-rd ordering our steps. Each morning Todd would read scripture to us and we would pray together. Each day in Eilat was met with many divine appointments as in Jerusalem. Many received us in shops and outside of shops. When we stopped to eat or have refreshment, we often had the opportunity to discuss our love of Israel with the waitstaff and to return the word of G-d to His people who first gave the Word to us and to all of the world. Now many eyes and hearts are being opened in Yeshua's homeland to receive His saving message.

Tel Aviv was our last stop before returning to the states. And many doors opened for us there just as they had in Jerusalem and Eilat. Not everyone we met was ready to listen and receive Yeshua and His word, but more and more are coming to faith in Israel each day and many are searching for the Truth.

We had numerous divine encounters in Netanya, Tiberius, Mt. Hermon, Jerusalem, Eilat and Tel Aviv during this productive outreach and distributed a grand total of 63 Complete Bibles in Hebrew that people were glad and gracious to receive. G-d gave us not only travel mercies but mercies in meeting people who were open to receiving the Good News of Yeshua everywhere we went, such as book shops and on the beach wall in Tel Aviv. We also shared by giving the book ISAIAH 53 EXPLAINED, mostly in Hebrew but some also in Russian, and many tracts and prophecy pamphlets stating prophecy verses from the Tanach and the fulfillment in the B'rit Hadashah.

My husband Robin and I worked well and in unity with Harvey and Todd during this amazing outreach to the Jew First in Israel, Yeshua's exceptional homeland.

Thank You, the many of You, who kept us in Your prayers and many also who gave financially making this divine outreach possible. G-d bless each of You! ☆✠☆



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