

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Volume 12, Number 3

May/June 2014

Spring 2014 - 29th Gospel Outreach to Israel

Part 1



Our recently completed March 2014 Gospel outreach to Israel was phenomenal. One witnessing encounter comes to mind. One of the six IDF soldiers to whom we ministered on Mount Hermon was Sagi. We discussed with him the latter day restoration prophecy of Ezekiel 36:22-26 that is awesomely being fulfilled in our day with the regathering of the Jews back into their ancient homeland, followed by the rebirth of the nation of Israel! Sagi was so interested to continue this conversation that he asked if we could take him to the bus station in Qiryat Shimona to catch his bus to return home for the Sabbath. We joyfully said we would drive him there. Making our way to the car, Sagi accepted a free Hebrew Bible from us, which included the New Testament in it. On our drive, Sagi learned from us how indeed the B'rit Hadashah is mentioned and promised to Israel in the Tenach by Jeremiah the prophet (see Jeremiah 31:31-34).



by
Todd Baker



When Sagi requested to read this passage in Jeremiah, Eric Oler expeditiously translated with his Hebrew app on his I-Phone so Sagi could read it in the original

Hebrew as he politely requested. After reading it, Sagi was visibly blown away and said "Now I can read the B'rit Hadashah with the Tenach." Our discussion focused on the fact Yeshua the Messiah ratified this B'rit Hadashah (the New Covenant) by the shedding of His atoning blood on the tree for the forgiveness of our sins giving redemption to Jew and Gentile. The first coming of the Messiah was for this very purpose (see Matthew 26:28). Messiah's Second Coming will involve the full regathering of the Chosen People back to the land of Israel He gave them forever (Genesis 17:7-8). He will return to defend, rescue and redeem them for Himself. The first part of this prophetic process has happened (the regathering of the Jewish people back to Israel). The next phase will occur with the return of Jesus, which the regathering of Israel today is a sign and guarantee from Scripture for Messiah's return.

WHAT AN AMAZING RIDE IT WAS

Next we asked Sagi, "How does God authenticate the real Messiah? The answer: by the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy given in the Tenach that would apply to Yeshua's first coming. Sagi was interested to learn some of these pertinent prophecies. In fact he was so eager and hungry for the truth that he was studiously taking notes and writing down all the Scripture verses we were giving to him. Sagi was utterly thrilled to learn from us about Yeshua the Messiah whom the Jewish Bible foretold and reveals. When we reached Sagi's destination, he thanked us for the enlightening conversation on what he termed "an amazing ride." Truly it was quite amazing to see God give this young Israeli a real keen hunger and interest in learning about Jesus the Messiah for the first time ever from this Spirit-led and anointed ministry.

Thinking we were done with ministry for the day, we went to have a meal at Café, Café in Qiryat Shimona. Once we ordered our meals, the manager, Tal, came over to our table and offered me a free desert "on the house." Surprised by this generous gesture, I asked Tal why he was doing this. He looked at me and said, "I sense you are a good person here." Well, we know there is no one absolutely good, but God alone (Matthew 10:18). But, nevertheless, I knew right away the Lord was giving me favor with Tal for an opportunity to give a Gospel witness to him about Yeshua the Messiah. Tal was now to taste and see that the Lord is good and to be refreshed by the waters of Yeshua's Holy Word in both Testaments of the Jewish Bible. (Psalm 34:8). Tal came back to our table with a delicious cheesecake. In return, I said I



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.

AND HE SAID "WHO WILL GO FOR ME?", AND WE SAID "HERE WE ARE..."



By Robin
(Aviel) Hopper

My wife Shoshel (Sue) and I had just gotten back from Israel from the October 2013 outreach and we heard the voice of G-d once again say "Who Will Go For Me." We had just been asked to join Dr. Todd Baker and Eric Oler on the March 2014 outreach. My wife and I had been planning on another outreach in October 2014.



We have been planning on going to the land at least once a year and carrying the message of Yeshua (Jesus) to my people in the land. When we were asked we could not say no, even though we did not have our finances in order for a 15 day trip. But as my sister-in-law always says - His Will...His Bill. That is the short version... she has been in the mission field for 30 years. At any rate, with a lot of help and a lot of prayer, the finances came together for a 10 day outreach, and we embarked on the 29th outreach (our third) which turned out to be another life-changing experience in more ways than I can recount here.

I can tell you that from the time we landed in Tel Aviv until the time the plane left the ground headed for New York, it was nonstop Ministry. That is not to say we did not see the land and walk where Yeshua walked, because we did. We saw things and took in things most people will have the opportunity to see.

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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We were not there as tourists though, we were there as emissary's of Adonai Yeshua. What I can tell you is on this outreach, a total of 71 complete Hebrew Bibles and 39 "Isaiah 53 Explained" books in Hebrew were given out and enthusiastically received. The "Isaiah 53 Explained" book is published by "Chosen People Ministries" and it has turned into a

very effective outreach tool for those who are reluctant in accepting the complete scriptures.

There are a couple of encounters that stood out that I would like to share with you.

We had arrived in Israel on the 17th of March in the afternoon, fetched our rental car and headed to Netanya and our Ramada Hotel. We were all pretty worn out from the layover in New York and the 10 ½ hour flight to Israel, so we decided to rest before dinner with the tour. We then headed to our rooms to rest and prepare for a BIG start in ministry in the land. We thanked the L-rd for entrusting us on this endeavor.

On Tuesday the 18th of March, the team had breakfast and a time with the L-rd in Prayer and Devotional time. We packed the car and headed out to go where the L-rd wanted us to go. We were headed into downtown Netanya for ministry. We were passing a large mall that Todd had not been to before and the four of us felt we should go and see what the L-rd had in store for us.

We all entered the mall. Todd, Eric and Sue went to work and I was not drawn to anyone... so I just started walking and asking the L-rd to open a door that could not be closed... I was drawn to a men's toy store - "Gentleman's Gift Shop." I stepped in and met a young man whose name is Aviv Tal. Aviv had just purchased the store two weeks earlier and was working hard to get the store up and running. As Aviv and I were talking, I commented on how well he spoke English and asked him where he learned. He told me he learned in high school. Aviv did his tour of duty in the IDF. When he got out, he went on extended holiday to India, Thailand, a few other Asian countries and South America. When he returned to Israel he went to university and then started a design company that he still has along with the store he just bought.

I asked Aviv if he had ever read the Brit Chadashah. He said he had not and would probably read it later on down the road but at the present time he could not even think about it with all he had on his plate with getting a new business off the ground and keeping an old business going. I told Aviv that I had a gift for him; I reached into my backpack and presented him with a complete Hebrew Bible and study material (17 Prophecies in the TANAKH (Old Testament) fulfilled in the Brit Chadashah (New Testament)).

When Aviv accepted his gift, all he could say was "WOW, wow, wow - are you sure this is for me?" He then stated it is all together. He started thumbing through the



Continued on page 4

Rise Up and Walk - Your Sins Are Forgiven

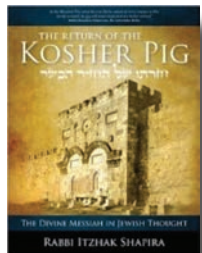
by
Rabbi Tzahi Shapira



*Tzahi (Itzhak) Shapira was born and raised in a traditional Sephardic Jewish home in Israel. After years of studying Rabbinic Jewish texts, he found the Messiah within the Hebrew writings. Far from a study of kosher dietary laws, *The Return of the Kosher Pig* is an unprecedented journey toward the true identity of the Divine Messiah - the one previously considered "unkosher" and "unacceptable" by Jewish people. This encyclopedic volume will surprise and challenge you with the compelling words of Jewish sages and rabbis over the last 2,000 years, many in English for the first time. Rabbi Shapira serves as the founding rabbi of Ahavat Ammi, an international Jewish organization that is focused on reconciliation between Jews and Yeshua.*

*"Rabbi Tzahi Shapira, in his enlightening book **The Return of the Kosher Pig**, has been able to take the vast and complex rabbinic literature on Messianic thought in Judaism and crystallize and condense it to show a consistent stream of thought within it that allows for a divine Messiah, which the inscripturated Word does foretell and reveal to be in Yeshua. I, therefore, have asked Rabbi Shapira to write a two-part overview of this book in our next two newsletter issues. I found his book to be an excellent apologetic resource in Jewish evangelism among the Orthodox, Rabbis, and Yeshiva students when sharing the deity of Yeshua with them. You can purchase Tzahi's book at: www.kosherpig.org." - Todd Baker*

In late 2013, after years of work, I had the privilege to release to the world my book *The Return of the Kosher Pig*



(www.kosherpig.org). To be honest, when releasing a book with such a title on such a topic as the Divine Jewish Messiah, it is hard to gauge the reaction of the readers. In this

case there are three distinct groups of individuals that the book addresses: Christians, Messianic Jews, and those within Normative Judaism.

I was shocked to learn that the book quickly advanced in the charts to be consistently in the top 100 Jewish books for the last six months. The reality of statements such as "Jews and Jesus don't mix" is what we (as Jews) were raised to think and believe, but the experiment, as I like to call it, of *The Return of the Kosher Pig* proved me otherwise.

The title of the book caused much controversy among some who were offended that I might portray the Messiah to be as a pig (mostly Christians). There were some who felt that I extended the idea of a "Kosher Pig" too far (small sect within Messianic Judaism) and some who were upset at the conclusions about the nature of the Messiah and his Divine nature (mainly Orthodox Jews). Despite all of that, the book reached a population rarely touched by the Message of the Good News (observant Jews). There have been record salvations along with excessive persecution.

Nobody, including my publisher, could have anticipated the success, interest, and controversy brought up by the book.

My heart's desire in writing the book was to address each one of these distinct groups separately as each has something to do with the return of the Messiah. Let me elaborate further, as I believe that all three groups must take active part in the preparation of the coming of our Messiah:

About the nations it stated¹: "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."

For Messianic Jews it said²: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

On Normative Judaism Yeshua declared³: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "

The body of Messiah is rich in slogans and a recent trendy slogan of the "one new man" appears to be circulating by many. In *The Return of the Kosher Pig* (indirectly speaking) we have also established our own

version of the "one new man" theology. I believe that all three distinct and unique groups above are responsible for the Geulah⁴ and for welcoming the return of King Messiah. Isaiah cried out and declared⁵:

"Heap it up! Heap it up! Prepare the way, Take the stumbling block out of the way of My people."

Each one of these groups has the responsibility of getting ready and preparing now for the king! The preparation mode also has to happen in context as Yeshua himself declared⁶

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

What did Yeshua mean when he refer to a city on the top of a Hill? The Greek word *oros* or in Hebrew the word *הר* actually means mountain which can refer only to one city! Jerusalem! In essence Yeshua's own words to all three groups are to get ready for the final redemption, but he warns us that this city is a Jewish city!

Throughout the last 2000 years we have made an attempt to make Yeshua just about everything that he is not! I believe that all three groups are guilty of misrepresenting him and his identity. It will take all three groups under the banner of "one new man" to bring this final Tikkun⁷ in order to welcome him. (Continued next issue)

¹ Romans 11:25

² Acts 1:8

³ Matthew 23:37-39

⁴ Restoration

⁵ Isaiah 57:14

⁶ Matthew 5:14

⁷ Restoration



"I have read the Book (the Bible) and Israel wins in the end." From that comment, I offered Elior the very Book of the Old Testament and New Testament where Yeshua the Messiah is found and

revealed. From the Jewish people, He came and the redemption He offers to the world was made available through Israel.

Elior perfectly understood. I went on to say in light of this, “I owe my faith in Yeshua and the salvation He gave me to the God of Israel and the Jewish people. And now I want to give you the Book of God that reveals these things through your people. Yeshua is the One who saved me and called me to give His Word back to His people in Israel.” Elior gratefully received a free copy of the Scriptures from me so that he can now gain a complete picture of Messiah Jesus from Genesis to Revelation! ☆‡☆

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. †



As I said, Isaiah 53 Explained is a wonderful tool when the person you are trying to reach is hesitant in receiving

While Sue was bearing witness to Gili, I had walked into, of all places, a Gentleman's Gift shop where I met Ral. I told Ral I had met Aviv in Natanya and he said he had known Aviv for a long time even before Aviv bought the store. As we talked, the conversation appeared as if it was going nowhere. There was just no



As I stated earlier, this trip was a life-changing experience for me and I will never be the same because of it. Not all are called by G-d to do this work... But if G-d says to you "Who Will Go For Me?" do not hesitate and say to Him "Here I Am, Send Me." ☆☆☆

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.

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Thank you for your support.

Prayer List for Todd Baker and Kevin Mead for the 30th Gospel Outreach to Israel June 2014



- ☆ 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).

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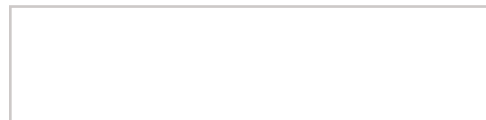
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

In This Issue

What an Amazing Ride it Was.....1

And He Said "Who Will Go For Me?"2

Rise Up and Walk - Your Sins are Forgiven3



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.
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If you would like to have Todd as
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