

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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By Sue Hopper

My husband and I were very pleased to join Dr. Todd Baker and Eric Oler on the 29th To the Jew First Outreach to Israel in March of this year. Also, Tonie Gray joined us in taking Complete Hebrew Bibles, *Isaiah 53 Explained* books by Mitch Glaser, and The Promised Messiah pamphlets by and from Zola Levitt Ministries. Each outreach we participate in energizes us with G-d's Holy Spirit taking His Word back to His people who first shared it with us and the world. What a privilege to meet His Chosen People in His Land given to them so many centuries ago. Miracles are still happening there and prophecies are being fulfilled before our eyes!

We began our outreach in Netanya, a modern city with modern architecture, with children playing ball and games outside after school along the beautiful Mediterranean coast. My first outreach contact was at a shoe shop in a beautiful Netanya mall. Two young women working that morning were very friendly. I pointed out the style of boots that I liked in their shop and a conversation began which turned into a divine appointment. Nofar accepted a complete Hebrew Bible from me which contained the pamphlet of prophecies, *The Promised Messiah*, and several tracts. The other young woman, Natali, accepted the *Isaiah 53 Explained* book. As I expressed my love and appreciation of Israel and her people, they also expressed their love for us. I was overwhelmed and we gave each other a hug before I left.

Next I met Yonathan at a juice kiosk at this mall and ordered a small juice of pomegranate, celery, ginger and carrot from him. He was a young man who had immigrated with his parents at a very young age. Unfortunately his parents had divorced and his Dad who was from Denmark had raised him. He was very friendly and we enjoyed visiting with each other. When I began witnessing to him and talking about Yeshua the Messiah, his interest was pricked. He said he had heard of messiah figures being here and there. I explained that Yeshua is the only Messiah and not to follow any of the false Messiahs. He accepted a Complete Hebrew Bible containing both the TANAKH (OT) and Brit Hadashah (NT) and tracts about Yeshua the One and only true Messiah. He thanked me and was sincere about knowing the truth.



Hebrew Scouts, Daniella accepts complete Bible



Danny and Robin (Is 53 Explained book)



Robin, Daniel and Yetel (children's clothing store, Is 53 Explained to both)



Robin with Moshe and his cats

## Spring 2014 - 29th Gospel Outreach to Israel

Part 2

A woman in a cosmetic shop invited me in to demonstrate her products. Although I didn't buy any of the fine mineral products that she offered, I was able to share my faith with Sholi. She did not accept a complete Hebrew Bible but she did gracefully accept the *Isaiah 53 Explained* book.

There was a hearing impaired woman walking the mall who asked us for a donation. She makes a living from producing hearing aids. My husband Robin and I gave her a donation and an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book.

Todd then drove us to Nazareth where we met with a young woman and college student, Lital, at the phone store. Todd and Robin conversed with her and left giving her a complete Hebrew Bible.

We continued our drive to Tiberius to the hotel where Ido brought up our bags and took a complete Hebrew Bible from us.

Wednesday, the 19th, we visited with Royce, a Jujitsu instructor in Tiberius. Todd and Harvey had given him a Bible last year, last fall. Today we watered the seed that was planted last fall and had good fellowship with Royce.

Robin gave a complete Hebrew Bible to Opher at a Gentleman's shop. At first Opher didn't seem interested in talking about his faith, but then he noticed Robin's cross and star of David necklace and became interested after all. Robin left a complete Bible with him.

I visited two shops here, one a women's clothing store. Gili helped me choose a long sleeve shirt and checked me out at the register. Before leaving I was able to give her an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book. After a bite to eat at the food court I ventured into a gift

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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.

# Rise Up and Walk - Your Sins Are Forgiven (Part 2)

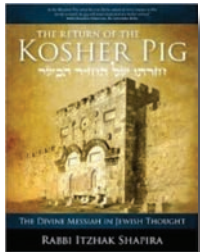
by  
Rabbi Tzahi Shapira



*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](http://www.kosherpig.org)." - Todd Baker*

**Y**ou might wonder why I choose to title my book *The Return of the Kosher Pig*. It is because I believe in



the restoration of all three groups to the cornerstone: Yeshua HaMashiach, the authentic Messiah!

Our first group of offenders is sadly the Rabbis themselves,

who falsely declared of Yeshua<sup>1</sup>:

..The soul of Esau reincarnated in the Christian [Yeshua/Jesus], and that is why he was in the deserts, and a man of quarrel and strife to the Pharisees sages. And his name is like the name of Esau (in its full spelling) עשיו = ישור [ישור]....

## Search the Scriptures

This publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, free of charge, from Brit 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 Jewish Scholar Daniel Boyarin identifies the second group of offenders as such:

... Christianity hijacked not only the Old Testament but the New Testament as well by turning that thoroughly Jewish text away from its cultural origins..... the New Testament is much more deeply embedded within Second Temple Jewish life and thought than many have imagined...

Lastly, Yeshua himself said to authentic first century Messianic Jewish believers<sup>2</sup>:

*Do not imagine that I have come to violate the Torah or the words of the Prophets. I have not come to violate but to fulfill. For amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away not one yod [jot] or one thorn [tittle] will pass away from the Torah until all has been established. Therefore the man who violates one of these small mitzvot and teaches sons of men to do like him will be called small in the kingdom of heaven...*

Yet in the midst of the tragic error by all three groups, the promises of G-D still remain concerning the restoration of "one new man" who will embrace the Messiah for who he is. Not as Esav (Christianity), but as the Jewish Rabbi Lord and King!

How I look forward to the day of the "Kosher Pig's" return, when all of Israel will be saved!

"This particular prince is the Prosecutor of Israel and in the future

God will return him to Israel to be its defender."

-From the Return of the Kosher Pig<sup>3</sup>

In the last 2000 years, every calamity was brought upon our people in the name of "Jesus": Inquisition, Holocaust, and Pogroms. All in the name of Jesus! There will be a shock in Jerusalem that day when he returns as Israel's savior<sup>4</sup>:

*..then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

So why would I write a book that stirs so much controversy and persecution? The words "pig" and "return" are rooted in the same Hebrew word חָזַר (chazar). It is the responsibility of the "one new man" to repent and to restore the name of Yeshua to its rightful owners. He is not Esav, as it is stated,<sup>5</sup> "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

The one who appears as Israel's greatest curse, will bring the greatest blessings!

In my spirit I hear the words: "New Man in Messiah", rise up and walk, your sins are forgiven... ✠

<sup>1</sup> See Rabbi Abarbanel Commentary on Yeshua

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:17-19

<sup>3</sup> Rabbi Yehudah Hayon in the "Treasures of the End-Times"

<sup>4</sup> Zechariah 12:10

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 27:22



# The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:23-35)

## Part 15



<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."

Earlier we stated that murder is synonymous with all hatred and unforgiveness. The servant hated his fellow servant in that he would not forgive him. The servant was therefore guilty of murder in a sense, and suffered loss of all salvation. If any soul claims salvation in Christ and the forgiveness of sins by His blood, yet hates the brethren, he is neither saved nor a Christian. **"Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him"** (1 John 3:15). The person calling himself a Christian must love and forgive or perish. Galatians 5:20 designates hatred, strife, and wrath in the same category as murder. The Word of God goes on to say that anyone who practices these things will not inherit the kingdom of God! In other words, if unforgiveness is not forsaken, it will destroy the soul sending him to eternal hell. This is what ultimately happened to the wicked servant at the conclusion of the parable. The Christian must forgive and love or perish. Another tormenting cost of unforgiveness is physical sickness. Modern medicine has proven that. Many ailments can be directly attributed to a bitter and unforgiving attitude. The person who does not forgive exposes himself to the awful risk of physical breakdown and bodily sickness. Mercy is a curative antidote healing the soul, but unforgiveness is an infectious destroyer of it. **"The merciful man does good to his own soul, but he that is cruel troubles his own flesh"** (Proverbs 11:17).

An unmerciful individual will be tormented by various negative recollections, circumstances and hostile emotions. If the Lord sees that a person remains unrepentant of an acerbic and unforgiving attitude, He will turn this person over to a tormenting influence of a satanic and demonic working for corrective purposes (see 1 Corinthians 11:31-32). The destructive work of bitterness and unforgiveness is the spawning ground for every work of the devil and his demonic agents. Unforgiveness will overthrow the Christian and utterly ruin his testimony of salvation. It is not uncommon, contrary to popular, sentimental thinking in an effete Christendom, for the Lord "to deliver such a one" as the unmerciful servant, over to Satan for "the destruction of the flesh that the spirit might be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." The retributive hand of God purposely appoints the embittered individual to be assaulted by a constant barrage of demonic spirits. In light of Holy Scripture, we believe this to be the correct interpretation identifying the "tormenters" sent by God to afflict the cruel and the bitter-hearted. God took such retributive measures against the wicked king Saul for his continual disobedience. We read in 1 Samuel 16:14: **"But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit (a demon) from the Lord troubled him."**

Since Saul serves as apt example of all apostate Christians, it is only logical to assume that the Lord would, in some quarters of the universal church, where

unforgiveness has ripened into widespread strife and division, execute His wrath and send among such merciless dissenters "evil spirits" to afflict and torment them unceasingly. If still irresolute, these demonic envoys will destroy the lot of the unmerciful. Why would God not then do the same with an unforgiving, backslidden church, who for numerous centuries warred against one another, resorting to sanguinary hostilities and condemnatory accusations all in the name of Christ? The pages of church history are sadly replete with a cruel, unforgiving church—a system of ecclesiastical savagery entirely foreign to the forgiving church of the apostolic era. God promises divine wrath on all unrepented sins. This invariably includes unforgiveness. The servant's shameful display of unforgiveness towards his equal renounced the king's forgiving grace towards him, incurring divine wrath instead. **"The king's favor is toward a wise servant; but his wrath is against him that causes shame"** (Proverbs 14:35). Terrible is the punishment awaiting those whose intractable hearts are unmerciful having received the unbounded mercies of God; yet remain unmoved by it so as not to forgive in the slightest degree their brother of a minuscule offense.

The tormenters are also expressive of jailers who were in charge of the inmates detained in debtor's prison. In the spiritual sense, the demonic jailers of "the prince of the power of the air" have legal access to the unforgiving. The mental torment they

*Continued on page 6*

shop. The owner was friendly and asked where we were staying. I told her and she told me she and her husband own a guest house nearby. Mrs. Gabi took an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book from me.

The next day we stopped to buy gas for the rental and met Walid working at the gas station. Walid took an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book from me and a complete Hebrew Bible from Todd. Although Walid is Arab, he reads both Arabic and Hebrew. He was also given an Arabic tract, *THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD*.

Matthew 28:10 "Go and tell my brother to go to the Galilee, and they will see me there."

We also stopped near Capernaum, Village of Comfort, at a cave on the hill overlooking the Kinneret, Sea of Galilee, to pray and listen to Todd read scripture to us. Mattityahu (Matthew) 28:16, Acts 1 and Tehillim (Psalm) 22.

One of the major highlights of the outreach to the Jew First is the trip to Mount Hermon to witness to Israeli Defense Force soldiers. Mt. Hermon is very possibly the location of the transfiguration miracle where Jesus, Yeshua, meets with Moses and Elijah. The soldiers here welcome us as we encourage them in their important service, protecting Israel. This meeting was very productive as we met with six IDF soldiers. All six, Matan, Thoma, Dor, Sagin, Alex and Uval, received complete Bibles in Hebrew and four of these also received the *Isaiah 53 Explained* book. They seemed very happy to meet us and fellowship with us as we support them and Israel. One rode to a nearby town, Kiryat Shmona, with us to catch a bus taking him home for Shabbat. All the way to the bus station he took notes of prophecies in the Tanakh and fulfillment in the New Testament that we shared with him. When he left us he said this was an amazing ride! G-d bless these brave soldiers as they serve and protect Israel, Yeshua's homeland! I pray that each will come to know Messiah Yeshua as their personal Savior.

Leaving Mount Hermon, we stopped at a Café Café at Kiryat Shmona for lunch. There our waitress took an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book from me. And, her supervisor, Tal, took a complete Hebrew Bible from Todd. The spirit moved here in this little café!

As Eric drove us "up to Jerusalem," we read Psalms 120 through 134, Song of Assents. Our first stop was at the Lion of Jerusalem shop and museum. There fellow believer Jonathan greeted us all with a hug and cups of hot mint tea. Todd gave him eight complete Bibles in Hebrew, for new believers he was mentoring. Before venturing out on Saturday morning, Shabbat, Todd read Romans 10 to us. We drove to Independence Park where Todd has developed a long-lasting friendship with Moshe, a retired University professor. Robin was able to bless him with 200 shekels to help him visit his brother in hospital and/or to feed "his cats" that live in the park. After listening to some of his very interesting

educated stories about Israel, Todd prayed with Moshe. He has accepted in the past a complete Bible in Hebrew and the *Isaiah 53 Explained* book in Hebrew. This time when Todd prayed with him he was very touched and appreciative. The Holy Spirit is working in Moshe's life. I was able to give Moshe's driver/helper an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book.

Next we met a barefoot man on Ben Yehuda Street and Jaffa Street who makes money by playing his guitar on the street. Egor appeared to be homeless and Robin blessed him with 200 shekels.



Egor accepts shekels from Robin (also Bible and Is 53 Explained book)



Jonathan and Todd (Lion of Jerusalem shop and museum)



Joseph (Is 53 Explained book)



Jonah and Robin (Bible)



Alexander (down on his luck, accepts Shekels, Bible and Is 53 Explained, an answer to his prayer)

Todd also gave him a complete Hebrew Bible and I gave him an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book while Eric also gave him a few shekels. He hugged the scriptures given to him and set them near him. We walked down Jaffa Street and there was a shop open even though it was Shabbat. Todd and I went in and I bought some Israeli coffee and cookies. Joseph, the man at the cash register appeared to be a believer and said he owned a complete Hebrew Bible. I encouraged his faith by giving him also an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book.

After dinner Tonie, Todd, Robin and I returned to Ben Yehuda Street to minister as Shabbat ended. Robin and I went one way and Tonie and Todd another way. One of the first shopkeepers we found was Ramit whom we had met and given a complete Bible in Hebrew to last fall. She was very glad to see us. This time she gladly took an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book from us. We met a number of other individuals this evening that accepted Bibles and/or *Isaiah 53 Explained* books. One was a young man whom we met unintentionally. He stopped us to let Robin know that his backpack was open. As he left we caught up with Gidar and blessed him with an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book. Next I bought a Jerusalem flag for myself and a black scarf for my friend Sarah from Danny. Danny let Robin blow a beautiful shofar he had in his shop and we left him an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book. Then we met an Israeli man who was down on his luck and asked us for 10 shekels. Robin gave him much more than what he had asked for by giving him 200 shekels, a complete Bible in Hebrew and an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book in Hebrew. Alexander was amazed as G-d had just answered his prayer. He told us that he had just been at the kotel praying that G-d give him the help that he desperately needed - another miraculous and divine meeting. Praise Yeshua!

We met Daniel and Yetel in a children's clothing store looking for a gift for our precious Granddaughter, Raelyn. Yetel had made Aliyah 16 years ago from France. Both she and Daniel accepted *Isaiah 53 Explained* books from us even though a fellow worker there tried to persuade Yetel not to take it.

Next we stopped to speak to a young man who is wanting to make Aliyah from the United States, New Jersey. Jonah was playing his guitar and singing secular songs

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# 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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**Dallas, TX 75379-6127**

We also accept:



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**\* Donations are tax deductible in the U.S. as you give to this 501(c)(3) Non-profit ministry. \***

*Thank you for your support.*

29th Gospel Outreach to Israel. Continued from page 4

wearing his kippa. He was very excited to meet us and accepted a complete Bible in Hebrew. The last couple we met that night happened to be Hebrew scouts selling cakes for disadvantaged children in Israel. Daniella gladly accepted a complete Bible from us in Hebrew.

These are many of the divine appointments that Yeshua led us to on this very productive outreach. What a divine miracle it is to be able to share our faith with the people of the Book who first made it available to us and the world. What a miracle to see hearts and minds open to receiving His word into their lives. And, of course, a miracle to see the desert and land bloom with an abundance of beautiful aloes, bananas, oranges, pomegranates, olives, almonds trees, date palms and so much more.

Thank You each for your prayers and support! I know Adonai will bless each of You that have given to this miraculous end-time reaping of many souls who want to reach out and learn of Yeshua in His homeland. Please pray for each of these precious souls to receive Yeshua as their personal savior. Thank You and G-d bless You again and again!!

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שלום

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### About Dr. Baker

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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#### Parable of the Unmerciful Servant Continued from page 3

impose on their victims is one of excruciating misery to the mind and chronic enslavement to the wounded memory until he "is caught in the cords of his sins" in the confines of hell when it is too late for repentance and liberation (Proverbs 5:22).

Before moving to the next and last verse of this instructive parable, it should be noted that the last clause of verse 34 is illegitimately used by the Roman Catholic Church to justify and argue for the existence of purgatory. Rome's Bible commentators say the unforgiving victim, by the admission of Jesus Christ, has the ability to eventually absolve his debt gaining freedom from the hands of his tormentors once he has sufficiently suffered enough for his crime in purgatory. The definition of purgatory means, according to Roman Catholic theology, a place where the souls of those dying penitent are purified from punishment due to temporal sins. Purgatory is traditionally said to have existed between heaven and hell. Temporary punishment and purging must be endured there if the soul desires full expiation of sin until the penitent soul should pay all that was owed by him. Such is the faulty understanding of verse 34 by Roman Catholic Bible commentators. The latter part of verse 34 does not teach purgatory in any way! The Lord left the imprisoned servant in the state of depravation; he never mentioned the servant's actual ability to pay his huge debt to gain release.

The only means of relief could have been experienced in this life when and if the servant would have repented and forgiven his fellow servant, crying out the prayer of deliverance: **"Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Your name"** (Psalm 142:7). The servant, like the sinner, does not have the means within himself to ever pay in full the debt he owed—hence the reason for his lord's pardon! We thoroughly discovered this in our verse-by-verse analysis of the parable comparing Scripture with Scripture. In fact, the unsaved that have died in their sins must in some way pay for their penalties committed against God. Since they refused the payment of the cross, and failed to properly receive it, unsaved sinners

must spend eternity in the lake of fire as a never-ending consequence for not paying their unransomed offenses (Revelation 20:15). The unmerciful servant is demonstrative of this biblical truth

The grand occurrence of Calvary is the only place where purgatory was initiated and finished, where all sin was paid for, purged, and vanquished. Profuse and magnificent are the Scriptures that unreservedly teach the redeemed are saved from the totality of sin's penalty by Christ's death on the blessed cross. The erroneous idea of purgatory undercuts, minimizes, and annuls the complete work of Christ on the cross; it denies the total efficacy of Christ's atoning blood to completely and thoroughly forgive the sinner here and now! Only the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross completely purges and ransoms the sinner from all the penalties of sin, not the incendiary flames of some non-existent purgatory! **"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin"** (1 John 1:7). In Hebrews 1:3 we read of Christ having already purged our sins by the shedding of His blood, and is now **"sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High."** Furthermore, Scripture teaches us the redeemed child of God at death is promised to be immediately escorted into the presence of the Lord, and therefore has no reason to fear. In Philippians 1:23, the apostle Paul expressed an ardent desire to depart from this life to be with Christ. No mention of having to go spend time in purgatory first is made here. God's Word reveals the soul leaves the body at physical death (Ecclesiastes 12:7). If saved, the soul ascends to heaven to be with the Lord (John 14:1-6); if unsaved, the soul descends to hell to await the final judgment with the permanent consignment in the lake of fire after the resurrection of the damned occurs (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15). When the Christian dies he does not undergo a temporary purgation of suffering for his sins in some alleged unscriptural purgatory, but immediately goes to be with the Lord in heaven! **"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord"** (2 Corinthians 5:8).†