

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Volume 13, Number 2

Mar/Apr 2015

*More Stories from our 31st Outreach to Israel*

## BARUCH HABA B'SHEM ADONAI

### CHABAD ON BEN YEHUDA STREET

Sue and I were on Ben Yehuda Street after sundown at the close of Shabbat, walking towards King George Street when a Haredi (Ultra Orthodox) gentleman approached me and asked if I could bless a Jewish family in need. I handed him all of the coin I had in my pocket about 20-25 ILS (shekels). He wanted to tie a red cord around my wrist (cord of life) which I politely declined. We spoke briefly and then parted ways.

Sue and I continued on towards King George Street, and she asked me why I did not offer him a Bible... Good Question. I explained to her the last time I had tried to minister to a Haredi I was disrespected and I was sure he would not be interested. Lesson learned: "Do not judge a book by its cover"

Sue and I headed back down Ben Yehuda towards Yaffa Street when this same Haredi gentleman (his name is Israel) approached Sue with the same request to bless a needy Jewish family. She gave him 20 ILS (shekels). Israel wanted Sue to go into a grocery store and buy some food to give him. Sue had just purchased some pomegranate tea and she gave that to Israel; she also told Israel she wanted to give him a gift. Sue pulled out a complete Hebrew Bible and offered it to him. Israel looked very carefully at the Bible and said "This is a very expensive book. Are you sure you want to give it to me?" Sue said "Yes, it is a gift to you because the Jewish People first gave it to the world and I am returning it to its home."

Israel got really excited and called his Rabbi over. Now this is where it gets really strange. Israel's Rabbi comes over and engages me in conversation. His name is Eli (Eleazar). I was telling him how I as a Jewish man had come to Faith in Yeshua. I also was telling him if anyone had told me I had to stop being Jewish to have faith in this Rabbi Yeshua, I would have told them to shove off. Eli then told me he understood what I was saying. Not once did he insult me, or the name of Yeshua; not

once did he use the derogatory term Yeshu (May the name be cursed).

Now because of whom they were and where we were, they could not invoke the name of Yeshua as we parted company. But as we were leaving, Eli shouted out Shalom Salvation! The Hebrew word for salvation is YESHUA. In my mind Eli was speaking in code to us - he was letting us know he totally understood what we had been talking about. Do I believe this is a man of faith? I really do not know the answer to that question, but I do believe he is not rejecting the possibility.

Hopefully in the future I will not judge the book by its cover again. The ministry we had with Israel and Eli was encouraging and uplifting. Hopefully in the Spring we will see them again.



By Robin  
(Aviel) Hopper

### YESHIVA STUDENTS IN THE MAMILLA MALL

The next day we went to the Western Wall to start the day off and to place prayers that had been given us by folks back home in Dallas into the wall. After making some side trips, the four of us decided to head over to the Mamilla Mall just outside the Old City across from the Yaffa Gate.

In the past we have had pretty good opportunities in sharing the scriptures with individuals, and this day would be no different. As we were walking down the colonnade of the mall and seemingly having no luck, two Yeshiva students approached us and told us that they were soliciting money for students that had no money for food. We asked how they could afford going to the Yeshiva and not be able to feed themselves. Their response was the Yeshiva was free - no cost for enrollment or for books. We each gave them a few shekels and asked their names. One was Shimshon (Samson) and the other young man's name was Shmuel (Samuel). Both Shmuel and Shimshon were very upfront about what they were about and what their purpose was. Both of these young men were energetic and engaging.

Shimshon and Shmuel were very open to extended conversation. They told us about their studies. As we listened to what they were saying and paid attention to what was important to them, it opened the door to us saying "We want to tell you about the Greatest Rabbi that ever lived, and walked the streets of Yerushalayim (Jerusalem)." Then both of them said they would be willing to listen. Todd Baker started talking to them and showing them Prophecy in the TANAKH (Hebrew Bible) and the fulfillment found in the Brit Chadashah (New Covenant (NT)). I was also able to tell them how I as a Jewish man came to faith and to let them know you do not have to stop being a Jew when you come to faith. I told them that if I had had to change my identity as a Jew when I came to faith

*Continued on page 4*



Israel and Sue

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.

## I Will Show You Great and Mighty Things (Jeremiah 33:3)

Thanks to you faithful supporters and Mark Levitt of Zola Levitt Ministries, this ministry was able to successfully carry out four Gospel outreaches in 2014! The last one we victoriously completed was this past December. Robert Williams and I carried out this ministry's 32nd Gospel outreach to Israel at that time. Once again, the Lord beautifully guided our footsteps to bring the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah back to His people in the land of Israel.

While doing Gospel ministry in the southern city of Eilat, there was good witness about Yeshua with Noam—a 27-year-old college student studying Psychology. He was very open and friendly, but flat out told me he was not sure that God really exists. I recounted to Noam my former life as a smug, vitriolic atheist who did not believe in the existence of God either-- no matter what a person told me. But God met me where I was at and Yeshua the Messiah, God in the flesh, revealed His visible Shekinah glory to me thirty-one years ago, fully convincing me the God of the Bible does exist, is there, and the Scriptures are His infallible Word. I was encouraged to hear Noam say he needed something like this to occur in his life to believe in God and Yeshua is the Messiah. I was quick to remind Noam of God's promise in Jeremiah 33:3 where God wants the person to call on Him with the whole heart and He will show him "great and mighty things" which he did not know. At this point, Noam asked me to pray for this to happen to him.

I then explained to Noam the Bible is the story of the promised coming of the Messiah and His arrival with the virgin birth of Yeshua in the Brit Hadashah (the New Testament). I bluntly asked Noam if he wanted to read the life of Jesus the Messiah in the New



Testament. Noam said, "Yes" and that he only studied an overview of Jesus in school. To his astonishment, I pulled out a Hebrew Bible with the New Testament and joyfully offered it to Noam for his serious study.

I said our ministry is dedicated to frequently visit Israel to reconnect them with Jesus and God's inspired Word about His Son given in the Tenach and Brit Hadashah. Noam exclaimed, "I am blushing with surprise. I did not expect this!" He was so overwhelmed at seeing his vocalized desire to read and learn more about Yeshua in the New Testament immediately met the moment he said it! My Gospel witness for the Lord Jesus concluded

by encouraging Noam that if he did truly seek the Lord with an open and honest heart, the promise of Jeremiah 33:3 will be realized because God wants to reveal Himself through the Son to him for his salvation. Noam considered the challenge and expressed his willingness to do this and believe. Beloved of Messiah, pray Noam does call upon the Lord and will be saved (Romans 10:13).



Dr. Todd Baker

Later in this most recent outreach, there was Meir, the shop owner at the Dizengoff Mall in Tel Aviv. In his shop, he was selling the Tellihim (the book of Psalms). This fact allowed me to wonderfully share with Meir that the book of Psalms says much about the prophesied Messiah—



particularly about key events in His life and death that point to Yeshua the Messiah—specifically the Messiah's death and betrayal by a close friend being the most prominent of

these Messianic prophecies the Lord Jesus fulfilled at His first coming (Psalm 22; 41:9). With that, I asked Meir if he would like to read and learn of this and many more Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth in the New Testament. Meir was completely open to the idea; and with that, he accepted, without hesitation, Messianic Gospel tracts along with a Hebrew Bible that included a New Testament in it.

Noam and Meir are two great examples of the many Israelis who are sincerely curious in these last days. 2014 was a phenomenal year for this evangelistic ministry to Israel. And God does want to show them Great and Mighty things from the Hebrew Scriptures about His Son Jesus the Messiah of Israel. There yet remain so many Gospel witnessing opportunities with many Jewish people hearing and receiving the Gospel and the New Testament to read for the very first time! There are many more like these two receptive Israelis in the Holy Land who have yet to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah. This year, we will definitely be going back several times to complete this evangelistic task of taking the Gospel to the Jew first (Romans 1:16). This ministry's 33rd Gospel outreach begins, God willing, on March 15th and will last until April 1st. Accompanying me on this trip will be veteran team members Robin and Sue Hopper, and Eric Oler. We still need to raise quite a sum for this current trip. But each time, you, our supporters, have come through as the Lord has moved on your hearts to support us as we together fulfill the Great Commission and the divine order of evangelism for it, which means taking the Good News of Messiah Jesus back to His people of Israel. Any amount, large or small, is vitally needed to embark on another glorious Gospel outreach to the Chosen People. Don't forget God has personally promised in Genesis 12:1-3 to bless those who bless the Jewish people. And by far the greatest blessing we as a grateful Body of believers in Messiah Jesus can give back to the Chosen People of God is the Jewish Gospel that came from them and is revealed in the Jewish Scriptures! ✨✨

### 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 Todd by e-mail at:

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# The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

(Matthew 20:1-16)

## Part 1



*<sup>1</sup>“For the Kingdom of heaven is like to a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>And when he agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into the vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ And they went their way. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here all day idle?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no man has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you shall receive.’ <sup>8</sup>So when evening had come, the lord of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers, and give them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. <sup>10</sup>But when the first came, they had supposed they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. <sup>11</sup>And when they had received it, they murmured against the Goodman of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last have labored but one hour; and you have made them equal to us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup>But he answered one of them, and said, ‘Friend, I do you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a penny? <sup>14</sup>Take what is yours, and go your way. I will give to the last, even as I gave to you. <sup>15</sup>Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with my own? Is your eye evil, because I am good?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last shall be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”*

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard primarily concerns us with the equal distribution of Christian reward in the kingdom of heaven, according to the even-handed determination of divine providence measured by grace and not human work or merit! In order to gain a correct understanding of the parable set before us, it would be helpful to take worthy and considerate notice of the particular reason and occasion for why our Lord spoke it. In the prior chapter of Matthew 19, the sacred text informs us of a “certain rich young ruler” who came to the Lord Jesus Christ yearning for eternal life and the requirement for obtaining it. He arrives before the Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Giver of eternal life, inquiring of him, “Good master, what thing shall I do that I may have eternal life” (Matthew 19:16)? The rich young ruler naively supposed that by doing some good, outstanding exploit, he could win for himself the highly prized reward of eternal life. Jesus answered his request by telling him to keep all the commandments of the Law if one desired to have eternal life.

The rich young ruler felt easily qualified. He presumed he had kept the Law in all points and therefore was deserving of eternal life. His high-minded attitude further supposed there was yet another condition to be fulfilled—in addition to his perfect obedience to the Law. “All these

things have I kept from my youth up. “What do I still lack”, said the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:20. With this misguided answer, the Lord brings him to the testing ground. Christ was now able to evaluate the young ruler’s willingness to do whatever was necessary to obtain eternal salvation. He reveals to the young aristocrat the true way in which he can inherit imperishable wealth. Jesus tells him: “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; come and follow Me” (Matthew 19:21). The rich young ruler tragically failed in meeting this essential requirement thus showing the twelve disciples and all followers of the Master, that personal enrichment in the kingdom of heaven can only be gained through personal surrender of all earthly wealth at the expense of forsaking worldly ambition for devoted discipleship to Christ. The Scripture then tells us in Matthew 19:22, “But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” The young wealthy ruler was preoccupied with selfish ambition more so than absolute devotion to God. His love for wealth and material possessions excelled his love for God! Our great Lord then turned to His disciples to reveal a startling truth to them. He tells them that those who are rich will with much difficulty rarely gain admittance

into the kingdom of God. “And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:23-24).

The disciples were greatly astonished to say the least! Peter voices their collective amazement, and then asks Jesus, “Who then can be saved?” (Matthew 19:25). It was a common assumption in first century Israel for the Jewish people, as it is with the world viewpoint today, to assume the rich have a special standing with God and man. The Lord answers by informing Peter, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). The salvation of poor and rich is an absolute impossibility apart from the miraculous, supernatural saving grace of God. No amount of fervent labor or acquired wealth on our part can earn it! Peter further replies, “Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed you. What shall we have therefore?” (Matthew 19:27). In these acquisitive words of the apostle, we have the reason for the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, answering Peter’s question born out of cupidity. However, the answer to Peter’s question is twofold. First, Christ gives Peter a literal answer to his question in verses 28 and 29 of Matthew 19. The second answer was given by the teaching discourse of the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. The first answer Jesus

*Continued on page 5*

it would never have happened. All four of us shared something that was meaningful to each of us. Harvey Zion also expressed how he as a Jewish man had his life changed by coming to faith in Yeshua. Sue shared her love of the Brit Chadashah. About this time the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) told Harvey and me to produce the complete Hebrew Bibles including the Brit Chadashah in one volume, one from Harvey and one from me. Harvey and I both offered Shimshon and Shmuel the bibles and study material. Both of these young men said as if on cue "These are very expensive books - are you sure?" The four of us assured them that yes we were sure - they were gifts from us to them to study and that we did not want them to change them into something they are not. We just wanted them to see for themselves the true Love of G-d.



Todd, Shimshon, Shmuel, Harvey and Sue

Before we parted company, I asked if I could pray over them and both of them said at the same time "Yes, of course... please do." At that point I prayed they would find points of interest that would lead them to the truth of and about Yeshua; I prayed blessing on them and on their Yeshiva; I prayed all of this in the Name of Yeshua. After I finished praying, Shmuel said "I am a

Levite - may I give the four of you a blessing?" and we said of course he could. Again he said he wanted to give us all a blessing and prayed the Aaronic benediction over us. All of us said as we were parting company that we hoped HaShem (G-d) would allow us all to see one another again.

## ONE WHO WAS SENT BY THE ENEMY

Immediately after our ministry with Shimshon and Shmuel, a young man approached us and said he was getting married soon and asked if we could help him out with a little money. We were all on a high from our ministry with the two Yeshiva students and were more than willing to help out.

Todd started ministering to him. He accepted a Bible from Todd and "Isaiah 53 Explained" from me. All of a sudden, this young man became quite irritating and was asking for everything we had. We explained to him we had already given him everything we had. He tried going into Todd's bag and Sue had to close it and move it away. When he realized he was not going to get anything more from us, he walked away. About 75 to 100 feet from us, he violently threw the scriptures and "Isaiah 53 Explained" into a trash bin. He had come to steal our Joy. He then walked over to four Police officers and was speaking to them in a very animated way, pointing at us and gesturing. As I was walking over to the trash bin to retrieve the Bibles, study material and "Isaiah 53 Explained," he took off. After I retrieved the books from the trash, I looked up and one of the Police Officers looked at me sadly as if he were trying to apologize to me and just shook his head.

Not two minutes later, another young man walked up to us and received the scriptures that had just been thrown into the trash and then this young man humbly said he would consider what we had told him while we ministered to him. Todd told him it did not matter what he told us, But G-d was watching and would know if he did or not. He told us that he understood. Todd and I were still feeling the sting of the one sent by the enemy. ✠✠

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### Correction for our last issue:

We made a mistake. In Harvey Zion's article about the last outreach, the verse referenced should have been Proverbs 16:9, not Proverbs 6:9. We apologize for the oversight and any confusion it may have caused.

### Website Update:

Pardon our dust as we continue to work on bringing you a new, updated website. We are hoping to have the new site available by the time you receive this newsletter. If not by then, then soon afterwards. Stay tuned!

# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

## † PARTNER WITH US ☆

*Having been to the Holy Land over 30 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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*\* Donations are tax deductible in the U.S. as you give to this 501(c)(3) Non-profit ministry. \**

*Thank you for your support.*

### Parable of the Laborers... Continued from page 3

tells the twelve disciples they will be given a unique preeminence in the kingdom that would entail being co-regents with Jesus Christ over the twelve tribes of Israel in the millennial kingdom to come. "Truly I say to you, that you which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of glory, you also shall sit upon the twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28). Jesus further adds that everyone who leaves all to follow Him will inherit a hundredfold investment of lands, houses, brethren, and sisters in this life and ultimately eternal life in the world to come. "And everyone that has forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matthew 19:29).

Mark well, dear Christian believer, the rewards of discipleship in Jesus Christ can only be received by an utter abandonment and loss of everything that would tend to be cumbersome to the human soul in receiving Christ. The second answer to Peter's question was required to check any covetous motive in the disciples' hearts for

following the Lord. He warns Peter and the other eleven by the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, that God is no debtor, and the hiring spirit of the greedy minded will not be tolerated but will be summarily upbraided and put in its proper place in the kingdom of heaven. "Many that are first shall be last." The parable admonishes them and us not to serve God for what we may get from Him, but to serve in whatever capacity—being content with whatever reward is given. The express accumulation of spiritual works does not necessarily establish a first-class ranking in the Messianic kingdom to come, but God's assessment of our attitude and motive of the heart in committing oneself to His work does. "But many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first" (Matthew 19:30). Our Lord's parable is intended strictly for the disciples and others in the kingdom of heaven that may be motivated out of a mercenary spirit to serve God. True service to God is sincere and unselfish. It is self-sacrificial stewardship from a humble, thankful heart, and not how much one can accomplish merely for compensatory reward. ☆†

## About the Author



Todd 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 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. †

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## Prayer List for Todd Baker, Eric Oler, and Robin & Sue Hopper for the **33rd** Gospel Outreach to Israel March 15 - April 1, 2015



- ✧ 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).