

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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## THE PARADIGM SHIFT HAS BEGUN IN ISRAEL

By: Todd Baker



I have just returned from Israel after completing the hugely successful 35th Gospel outreach there. On this trip, veteran evangelists Robin and Sue Hopper and Harvey Zion accompanied me. Michael and Karen Bizzell also joined us for a few days making a six-person Gospel outreach team. On this outreach, this ministry broke a new record, without even trying, shattering all previous records for complete Hebrew Bibles being passed out to the Chosen People. The previous record was 78 Hebrew Bibles passed out over two weeks. This time our ministry team passed out 136 Bibles covering the same time period! Wow! I never expected this! And this time we were awed and privileged to lead another Israeli Jew to believe in the Gospel of Yeshua Ha Mashiach (Jesus the Messiah). This miracle of spiritual rebirth occurred when we were proclaiming the Gospel in Eilat, Israel. Sitting down to eat at the Giraffe Noodle Bar restaurant in Eilat, a young Israeli lady by the name of Elinor waited on us. She was our waitress.

Elinor told us she had remembered us from a previous visit. She remembered us by the fact Robin was wearing a kippa before and was eating in a non-kosher restaurant. I told Elinor that Robin is Jewish and does keep kosher, but has no problem eating good Thai food that is kosher. I then went on to tell Elinor that what is even more spectacular than this is Robin's Star of David and Cross necklace he was openly wearing. Elinor told Robin she really liked it. Her comment then allowed us to give Elinor an in-depth



teaching and Gospel witness to her. After Elinor eagerly took in all that we shared in showing her how fulfilled Messianic prophecy given in the Tenach (the Old Testament) by Yeshua undoubtedly proved He alone is the Jewish Messiah of Israel, she was amazed. After hearing the Gospel for the first time, Elinor told us this was "a wonderful thing to hear." We gently asked her if she wanted to place her trust in Yeshua the Messiah for the forgiveness of sins through His atoning death for all sinners on the tree, and the free gift of eternal life given by the risen Messiah from the dead. Elinor, moved to tears at this, softly, but seriously answered, "Yes, I would."

She prayed the confession of faith and belief in Yeshua with us—right then and there! We asked her if she felt any pressure from us to make sure her decision to receive Yeshua as Adon (Lord) and Savior was not in any way a forced thing. She decidedly said, "No, I really like talking about this." She then accepted a Hebrew Bible from us with Messianic Gospel tracts to further solidify her understanding. Please pray for this new Jewish believer for growth and discipleship in the way of the Master. Robin Hopper was so moved by seeing this, he had to sit down outside the restaurant to take all this in. His eyes teared up. This was the first time Robin saw a person get saved—let alone a Jewish person. It was Sue Hopper's first time ever to see a Jewish person accept Yeshua for salvation!

All of this supports a theory I mentioned to others recently—that there is a spiritual paradigm shift now going on among the Jewish people in the land of Israel with this ministry. This shift is from not just hearing the Gospel and accepting a Bible, but now includes believing Yeshua is the Messiah for salvation!

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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.



# Report On The 35th Gospel Outreach To Israel

By: Sue Hopper



## My husband Robin and I joined Dr. Todd Baker and Harvey Zion on the 35th To the Jew First Gospel outreach in Israel last October.

We began in the central coast town of Netanya on the beautiful Mediterranean Sea. Todd and Robin had to leave the hotel without Harvey and me to exchange the rental minivan for a bigger one that would hold the four of us, our luggage, and three boxes of Bibles. While they were gone, I ministered to a security guard at the hotel and gave him a complete Hebrew Bible containing both the Tenach and the Brit Hadashah (old and new testaments) which he was interested in studying. I like to approach security guards and police officers, being a retired police officer myself. Also at this same hotel working for hotel services was a young man named Shomri. I asked him what his name meant and he replied it meant "my happiness." His parents had immigrated to Israel from Morocco and he was a sabra, native born Israeli, and his mother's happiness. I understand that as my sons were also my happiness! Shomri took an Isaiah 53 Explained book from me in hopes of learning about Yeshua, Jesus, his Messiah.

When Todd and Robin returned from exchanging the rental, we all took off for a mall nearby. I met two women there working in the Fox Clothing store. One helped me find a shirt for my grandson. When checking out, I offered one of the women who had helped us a complete Hebrew Bible. She was hesitant, but Irene the other woman who had helped me wanted to accept it on behalf of the store so that any employee who would like could read it. What a great idea!

Later in the day, we stopped in Nazareth and then traveled onto Tiberias. At the Big Tiberias mall, Robin and I visited Galit at a store called the Toy Box as we had given her a complete Bible on the spring outreach. Galit was very glad to see us again and to continue our discussion on scripture that points to Yeshua as being Messiah. This time we left her with a book by Messianic believer, Sid Roth, filled with numerous testimonies of Jews who have accepted Yeshua, Jesus, as their personal Messiah. For just as John 8:36 states those who are free in the Son are free indeed! We look forward to hearing her reaction when we visit her again in March.

We met Dana, a beautiful young Muslim with blonde hair and blue eyes, working in a shoe store. Her striking appearance causes most people to assume that she is either Christian or Jewish. She is a native Israeli fluent in Hebrew so we offered her a complete Hebrew Bible. At first she was hesitant because she is Muslim. But I assured her that there is no reason for her not to read the Hebrew Bible because it was written first to the Jew but also to everyone else. Messiah Yeshua came first to the Jew, but He died for atonement of us all, and brings salvation to all, if we accept His gift of all gifts. John 1:14 states that the Word became flesh in Him. Dana was grateful to receive a beautiful study Bible from us and

expressed a surprised gratitude for our generosity to her, even though she is Muslim.

Back at the hotel in Tiberias, Jacob, who worked in the gift shop, told me about his wife and five year old granddaughter. Jacob accepted the book THEY THOUGHT FOR THEMSELVES by Sid Roth. He showed a very curious interest in Yeshua and I am sure he will also accept a complete Hebrew Bible from us in the future. The next day we met and witnessed to five IDF soldiers at the military base at Har Harmon and they each gladly received our witness of Yeshua and study Bibles.

At a shuk (farmers market) in Kiryat Shmona, I met Eli who was selling cookies, candies and snacks. Eli was born and raised in Kiryat Shmona and still lives and works there today. I explained to Eli that we travel from Texas to Israel each year to show our love and support of Israel and share our Jewish Messiah that Israel first shared with us and who lived and died for us all here in Israel. Eli received the complete Hebrew Bible I offered him and I pray he will also accept Yeshua as his personal Messiah very soon. His business partner also received a Bible and testimony from Todd.

We traveled on to Jerusalem and at the kotel (western wall) prayed with tears for all of Israel to be saved as well as for friends and family and the needs of our congregations in the states and Messianic believers and congregations in Yeshua's homeland.

Along with the many divine appointments we encountered, we watched the number of Bibles distributed almost double. One congregation in Jerusalem has many Ethiopian believers and new members who needed a personal copy of the Bible in Hebrew of their own. We gave them 33 Bibles and also some children's storybook Bibles.

Next we traveled to Eilat where a young waitress at a restaurant we like accepted not only a Bible but accepted Yeshua as her personal Messiah, the one all



Dafna & Robin

of the scriptures point to as Messiah and the reason the Bible was written and exists! Before leaving Eilat, we met Dafna in a shop there. She was very excited to meet Americans visiting Eilat as she had visited Hawaii after finishing her IDF service. She still serves in the IDF reserves. She and Robin had an intense and interesting discussion about Messiah and she

accepted a Bible from him. Another employee there also wanted a Bible as did the store manager. Todd returned to the minivan to pick up two more Bibles so that they could each have their own copy.

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# The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

(Matthew 20:1-16)

## Part 5



<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 last figure in the parable is the marketplace where the laborers are found standing idle by the employing householder. In the Middle East, to this day, the marketplace is the mecca for general commerce in a town or small village. In the New Testament period it served as the place of public assembly, especially for business transactions between commercial guilds and their purchasers (Mark 7:4). The marketplace was a public area for various activities. Its meaning conveys worldly activity—the uninterrupted rank and file procedure of human civilization without God; such as the hiring of laborers by employers (Matthew 20:3); the frolicking games of children (Luke 7:32); the exchange of felicitous greetings between man-pleasing religious dignitaries (Matthew 23:7; Mark 12:38; Luke 11:43; 20:46); the execution of legal trials (Acts 16:19); the holding of public symposiums (Acts 17:17).

In perusing over the previous sentences concerning the specific functions of the marketplace, we notice the Scriptures list at least six different functions the marketplace was used for by the general populace. Since “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16), and “written before hand for our learning” (Romans 15:4), the six uses of the marketplace mentioned in Scripture holds great import in uncovering the symbolic signification of the marketplace in this parable. In light of the biblical meaning of numbers, the number six is the number of all secular humanity engaged in all sorts of laborious activities. This is most relevant since our parable deals with man working within the confines of Christian ministry in the present world. In the parable of the laborers

in the vineyard, the householder found men in the marketplace. E.W. Bullinger in his ingenious work, *Number In Scripture*, writes the following of the number six:

“Man was created on the sixth day, (Genesis 1:26-31), and thus he has the number six impressed him. Moreover, six days were appointed to him for his labour...Six, therefore, is the number of labour also, of man’s labour as apart and distinct from God’s rest. True, it marks the completion of creation as God’s work, and therefore the number is significant of secular completeness” (E.W. Bullinger, *Number In Scripture*, page 150).

This enlightening observation perfectly correlates with the six attributive uses of the marketplace cited earlier from Holy Writ. We therefore believe the marketplace is a microcosmic representation of the “civilized” world and activities of humanity. By the term “world”, we mean the secular systematic energies of man’s labors minus God. The world of human civilization has six constitutional parts to its multi-faceted existence, generating and holding it together. Civilization is held together by (1) the economy (2) the industry (3) domestic and family affairs (4) religion (5) government (6) the Sciences and the Humanities. The economy of the world correlates with the marketplace’s commercial trafficking in Mark 7:4; the industry of the world correlates with the industry of human labor in the marketplace in Matthew 20:3; the domestic relations of the human world correlates with the association of children in the marketplace in Luke 7:32; the religious relationships of the world correlates with the observance of

ecclesiastics in the marketplace in Matthew 23:7; the world of government correlates with the legal system of government in Acts 16:19; the humanities and sciences of the world correlates with the human knowledge and sciences of the marketplace in Acts 17:17. The marketplace is the whole, entire social system of this world apart from God, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart, who being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Ephesians 4:18-19).

Lastly, we notice the householder selected his laborers out of the marketplace. They were called to leave the marketplace once hired of the householder. When Christ saves the convert, He immediately confers upon him a call to the most holy ministry of the Church. We are saved to serve. But first, the saved candidate must detach himself from any sort of worldly preoccupation that would grossly hinder him from rendering full obedience to the Lord’s call of service. To be called or chosen for the performance of a particular task necessitates leaving from one place to arrive at another where that assignment for work is located. Christ has chosen us out of the world to perform “the good pleasure of His will.” Christ has declared to each of us: “I have chosen you out of the world” for the Lord’s sacred purpose “that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (John 15:19; Colossians 1:9). After employing his laborers, the householder gave them a useful occupation in his...

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...vineyard; no longer were they loitering natives of the marketplace. As Christians, we are called out of the world. Although we still remain in the physical world, we are spiritually not of its dawdled, wasted existence. The Holy Record bears witness of the Church's heavenly exodus from this fallen world. "They are not of the world. For the fashion of this world is passing away" (John 17:16; 1 Corinthians 7:3).

Now that we have thoroughly revealed the meaning of each character in the parable, we are now free to examine the parable of the laborers in the vineyard in its sequential unfolding.

"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. And when he agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into the vineyard" (verses 1-2).

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard opens with the familiar phrase "the kingdom of heaven." This term, denoting sovereign kingship, is a noticeable, recurring expression found only in the Gospel of Matthew; necessarily so, for the Gospel of Matthew displays Jesus Christ as God's chosen King. He is King over the Jews (Matthew 27:37), and King over the Gentiles (Matthew 2:1-2). The theocratic expression, "kingdom of heaven", therefore refers to Messiah's kingdom on earth; its dominion exists under the heavens. The word "heaven" in the Greek is a plural rendering, literally meaning the "kingdom from the heavens." The sovereignty of this kingdom is from the heavens and is utterly alien to the world, neither coming from nor proceeding out of it (John 18:36); its ruler is from the celestial realm, from heaven itself and rules over the administrative affairs of the Church. "And no man has ascended up to heaven (like Christ did) but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man who is in heaven...He that comes from above is above all. He that is of the earth is earthly, and speaks of the earth. He that comes from heaven is above all...that in all things He might have the preeminence" (John 3:13, 34; Colossians 1:18).

The Lord Jesus Christ maintains heavenly rule over the kingdom of heaven, especially of the Church, which our parable specifically deals with. The interim period between the first and second comings of Jesus is known as the church age, and is under the rule of the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven is not to be currently confused with the literal Messianic reign of heaven over the earth yet to come, but rather covers the professing Christian world now (please see our chapters on the parables of Matthew 13). Next, we notice the householder went out early in the morning to hire workers. A detailed examination of each clause contained in the sixteen verses of this parable reveals several manifold truths concerning God's relationship with man. It is our wholehearted endeavor to engage in a verse-by-verse study of the parable in order to arrive at the complete meaning and application of it for those who earnestly desire after the truth of Holy Scripture. The first verse of our parable customarily opens with the introductory phrase, "The kingdom of heaven is like". This prefatory phrase is a common expression of the parabolic description in the Gospel of Matthew.

The phrase occurs 29 times in Matthew alone. The parable depicts the literal happenings of spiritual and Christian labor in the realm of the kingdom of Christ. The kingdom of heaven is paralleled to the householder hiring laborers for service and reward. It characterizes the divine administration of labor and reward in the church age.

The first character is patristic in nature. He is the householder. The similitude of the householder points directly to the father heart of God caring for His children. The heavenly Householder cares for each of us spiritually. He keeps us from the tempter's destructive grasp and the world's deadly allurements that we not stumble or fall. Truly we can walk confidently in His steps, knowing above all else, that "He will keep the feet of His saints" (2 Samuel 2:9). Even when we find ourselves fallen and overcome by some besetting sin, He is there to lift us up and revitalize us from our weak state. "The Lord upholds all that fall, and raises up all those that are bowed down" (Psalm 145:14). God not only sustains His own physically, but extends His fatherly hand over all dependent creatures. His provision is plenteous for both man and beast. All of creation is fully satisfied with His vivifying provision perpetuating all natural and spiritual existence. "You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Psalm 145:15-16). Next, we observe the householder leaves his estate early in the morning to hire workers for the cultivation and tilling of his vineyard. God's dealing with humanity indeed resembles a householder going outside from his estate at daybreak to choose for Himself an elect company of qualified workers. The householder ventures into the marketplace whereupon he finds able bodied men to work in the vineyard.

Before this, the workers were completely oblivious of the householder's searching desire for workers. They were unaware of his need of workers until he directly approached them. The householder took the initiative with the workers. He looked and found those to work for him who possessed no inclination in their hearts whatsoever to first seek the hiring householder. The first verse is an emphatic illustration of the distinct methodology of the divine calling by Jesus Christ toward the "chosen" individual working in the church. The servants were elected by the foreknowledge of the householder—he knew who he wanted for work. The prevenient election of God is identical with the Christian calling in the same respect, the laborers were chosen for work in the vineyard. Christ has chosen us to work for Him by the sovereignty of divine election. He chose us in Him, apart from and before our own desiring for Him. He selected us that we might abound and produce eternal works for the glorification of His name. "You have not chosen Me but I have chosen You, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain. Herein is My father glorified, that you bear much fruit" (John 15:16, 8). Often in Scripture, the term "chosen" construes being called of God. To be a chosen minister of God is to be called of Him, and to be called is to be chosen. †

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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 Todd by e-mail at:

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# 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,*

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*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.*

### The Paradigm Shift... Continued from page 1

We had three people (two Jews and one Arab) on June's 2015 Gospel outreach do this, and now Elinor, making a total of four saved souls on the last two outreaches. The veil is beginning to lift from the nation of Israel's eyes as they see for the first time Yeshua is the Messiah (Romans 11:25-26).

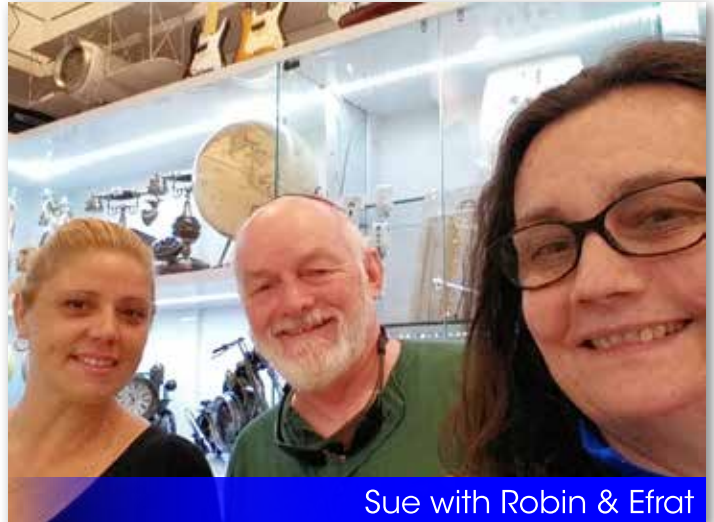
We have to take advantage of this shift occurring now because it will only grow and increase as we hasten to the return of the Lord as He is beginning to lift the veil of partial blindness over the eyes of Israel to really see and believe Yeshua is Lord and Messiah! The harvest is ripe now in Israel for the reaping but the spiritual laborers are few. Please help us to lead more of the lost sheep of the House of Israel to their Good Shepherd for salvation and eternal life. I would earnestly ask you to please consider making a generous donation to help with the initial phase of the harvest that is now here! God will richly bless you in return as He promised in Genesis 12:3 when you give the greatest blessing back to the Jewish people by allowing us to bring back Yeshua the Messiah to them. To donate online, you can go to the following secure web link on our ministry web site: <http://www.brit-hadashah.org/donate/>. You can also donate by mail to:

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*Brit Hadashah Ministries is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit ministry, so your donation is tax deductible in the United States. Now is the accepted time, today is the day and year for the Gospel of salvation to be preached in Israel (2 Corinthians 6:2) Partner with us in this exciting End-Time effort. †*

### 35th Gospel Outreach Report... Continued from page 2

After many witnessing opportunities in Eilat, we traveled to Tel Aviv and also took a side trip to the city of Akko. Here I met a native woman in a gift shop named Efrat. As Robin stayed outside the shop praying, I entered the shop to look at watches and found a pocket watch with Hebrew numbers that I knew Robin would like. I headed outside the shop and



Sue with Robin & Efrat

asked Robin to join me inside to see the watch and to meet Efrat. Robin joined us admiring the watch and struck up a friendly conversation with Efrat. As he shared his testimony with her, she also accepted a complete Bible in Hebrew which will if studied bring her also to the saving knowledge of Messiah Yeshua.

**Thank You readers and supporters and prayer partners! With your help, many prayers were answered in these divine appointments as we spread the truth of salvation in Messiah Yeshua. †**



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Come learn about the Jewish roots of Christianity, enjoy great teachings from the Bible by Dr. Todd Baker, and join in loving fellowship with the Shalom, Shalom Congregation.

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