

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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## WITNESSING AT THE WESTERN WALL

By: Todd Baker



**O**n the Spring Gospel 2016 outreach to Israel Eric Oler, Robert Williams, and I had a spectacular Gospel ministry among the Jewish people at the holiest place in all of Judaism—the Western Wall, where all Jews come and seek the face of the God of Israel. While praying at the Wall, Eric and I noticed a poor man praying there. His shoes were mere rags and one of the soles was missing from the bottom of his shoe, forcing him to carry it around. The Lord impressed Eric and I to try and give the indigent man some money to buy new shoes. Eric attempted to give the man our money, but he strangely avoided him. Eric and I then turned to another Jewish man praying at the Wall to ask if he could help with getting the man's attention. This man's name was Josh and he reminded us that this was short for Joshua, the same Person we would proclaim to him is the Messiah—in Hebrew that is the name of Jesus! Josh told us he was originally from New York and made aliyah to Israel in 2014. He was now serving in the IDF. Josh told us that the man with the tattered shoes keeps to himself when visiting the Wall every day.

The Lord strategically and providentially used this incident to open a big, wide open door for Eric and I to

tell Josh about how the Tenach (Old Testament) and Brit Hadashah (New Testament), written by all Jews, unanimously declare Yeshua to be the Messiah (see Luke 24:27, 44). Josh seemed to understand this vital connection and received the fact God promised to give the Brit Hadashah (the new Covenant) in Jeremiah 31:31-34 to the Jewish people. When we mentioned to Josh the promise God would bless the world through the physical descendants of Abraham (the Jewish people) has been fulfilled through Yeshua the Jewish Messiah, he replied that we were a blessing to him in return for the things we shared with him (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:16)! Josh enthusiastically accepted a Hebrew copy of the Old and New Testaments Scriptures from us. God gave us great freedom at the Wall to explain the Gospel to Josh from the Messianic context of the Scriptures. He amazingly told us this was “a great blessing” to him!

Another great opportunity for a witness about Yeshua the Messiah came when Shlomo approached us and asked if we wanted a tour of the underground structure of the Temple Mount. We thanked him and politely declined, but not before we gave testimony about Yeshua to him. All licensed tour guides in Israel are required to learn the basic history of the New Testament. Using this fact, we commented to Shlomo that the two Jewish Testaments of the Bible are not foreign to one another, but are inseparably connected in that they reveal and identify who Messiah is; and we said to Shlomo, it is Yeshua of Nazareth. To better understand this central biblical truth, as a tour guide to both Jews and Christians, we offered Shlomo a complete Jewish Study Bible. Shlomo, and Orthodox Jew, eagerly jumped at the opportunity to accept the Scriptures in Hebrew with Messianic Gospel tracts! Of course the ultimate reason we gave Shlomo the Scriptures with a Hebrew New Testament in it is so that he will see the biblical case and evidence proving Jesus is the Messiah of Israel and accept and believe in this for salvation. †

## About the Author

**Dr. Todd Baker** is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas, Texas. He was a chaplain at Medical City Hospital for 16 years. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England, is a Fellow of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism & Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, and is currently a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Liberty University. 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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This article of exposure and rebuke is sorely needed in a time when the church in America has been taken over by the false and unbiblical teachings of the Health and Wealth Gospel. False teachers abound propagating this dangerous message that is utterly antithetical to the Cross of Christ. I have in mind deceivers such as Joel Osteen, Benny Hinn, Creflo Dollar, Paula White, Joyce Myers, Kenneth Copeland "Bishop" T.D. Jakes and many others. They are unequivocally guilty of propagating this false Gospel, which in the end, leaves them extremely wealthy from fleecing the sheep in this great scam of a spiritual Ponzi scheme. Look for this ministry to address this problem in the future. This article is just the beginning - *Dr. Todd Baker*.

## **YOU CAN'T CON CHRIST: CHA-CHING! MONEY FOR POP STAR PREACHERS**

***By: Nancy Baker***

Have you ever watched the antics of some mega non-denominational preachers on TV during their evangelist services or interviews with celebrity talk show hosts? Hold on to you hats, Bibles and sense of reason - you are for in for a bumpy ride. First of all, there are those who offer paradise on earth touting the philosophy that God wants you to be filthy rich and have constant happiness while you're in this mortal realm. If your faith is really strong, great material things are headed your way. Of course, you might want to buy some of this faith guru's besting selling "feel good" books and be sure to dig deep into those pockets to support the buying of preacher's STUFF. That Stuff consists of personal jet planes, mansions, fancy boats, Rolex watches, Gucci shoes, prized art, antiques - and the list goes on. You'll find pictures of one daffy disciple posed in front his jet with expensive designer coat slung by one hand over a shoulder ala Frank Sinatra style.

The realist Christian knows that we live in an imperfect world and all of us at one time or another carry the invisible crosses of illness, disappointment, temptation, stress, and all the bumpy patches along the road to heaven. We turn to the fundamental Christian beliefs, the Bible and the guidance of how Jesus served as our example. Show us anywhere in the Bible where Christ lived a celebrity rock star lifestyle. Perhaps, an eighth grader in a Faith Formation class sums it up best. He said, "So what you are telling me is that my life here is an endurance race to heaven?" Bingo! You are exactly right.

Moving on. How about the lady soothsayer (Paula White) who makes up scripture or twists it into something that is downright nutty! Case in point - she offers her take on where Jesus went after death and before His resurrection. He descended into hell where he was beaten to a pulp by the devil and his cohorts. There was a genuine wrestling match going on with Jesus being knocked in head with giant stones! Really? Has she ever read the Bible? Probably not - too busy living the movie star lifestyle and raking in the big bucks from mega audiences.

If the dim-bulb new Bible interpreters aren't enough, how about the wonky theory that another evangelist puts forth that because we were made in God's image, we are mini-gods ourselves (Kenneth Copeland, Creflo Dollar, et al). Sure God has gifted us with intellect, creativity, kind souls, a sense of humor - traits that He possesses, but evolving ourselves into gods - REALLY! We've heard of egotists, but this new age flim-flam takes the cake.

No doubt about it, the religious scammers who are the most despicable are the so-called healers (Benny Hinn). They pack in audiences by the thousands and broadcast to possibly millions, who are desperately searching for relief of pain, suffering and lost health causes. These would-be healers use mass hysteria and phony sick and crippled stooges (often their own staff) to put on a show. Those genuinely sick attending these healing services are carefully weeded out, told there are too many for the stage, and gently guided out. How cruel and what fraud! Of course, some healers can send you miraculous healing water in the mail while asking for money...sure, that's a big help!

Possibly the most laughable con is the evangelist who says God talks to him directly and he is only following the Creator's instructions. There is one nut case who claims he is talking to Jesus on his iPhone during his service (Shawn Bolz). He starts calling out the names of those in audience to whom Jesus is giving a shout-out. Of course, he has obtained sign-in names and is regurgitating info found on social media, Facebook, etc.

Lest anyone thinks that we are passing judgement on the above individuals, let he or she be assured that we are not. Pointing out dishonesty or corruption is not the same as assuming the throne of the Son of God and pronouncing final judgement. This is the Savior's prerogative. However, being mindful of his reaction to the thievery of the money changers in the Temple under the auspices of some Sadducees, Pharisees, judges, we have a strong hunch that these ungodly fakes will learn a hard lesson -

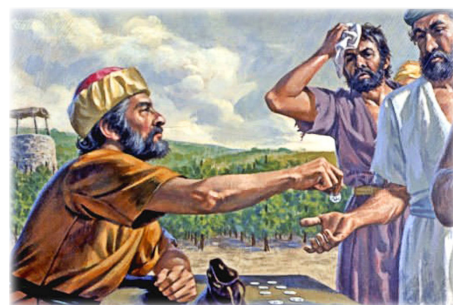
***You Can't Con Christ.✝***



# The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

## (Matthew 20:1-16)

### Part 7



*"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. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 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?' 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.' 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.' And when those came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they had supposed they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the Goodman of the house, 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'? But he answered one of them, and said, 'Friend, I do you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a penny? Take what is yours, and go your way. I will give to the last, even as I gave to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with my own? Is your eye evil, because I am good?' So the last will shall be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.*

*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" (Verse 8).*

The day closes, and the workers are given the wages for their labors in the vineyard by the hand of the master's chief servant, or more precisely by the one appointed as deputy manager over the vineyard. The order of pay was in the reverse starting from the last to the first that were hired. The "servant" in verse 8 is the one solely responsible for carrying out the householder's specific methods of compensation to the workers of the vineyard. Some would pause here to make the unwarranted, critical remark, "Why pay unnecessary detail to the 'servant' mentioned in verse 8. By doing this, you are placing overemphasis and undue detail on something incidental to the parable and not integral to it." Our reply is: Nothing in the Scriptures, whatsoever, is casually recorded, which does not bear crucial significance. In Matthew 5:18 our Lord states the Bible is fully God-inspired even down to the last "jot" and "tittle". Comparatively speaking, in the English language, this is equivalent to saying even the crossed "t" and dotted "i" is pertinent to the entire inspiration of the Scriptures. Seeing this true, how much more is the word "servant" in verse 8 divinely inspired to teach us something! There

are several implied characteristics of this much overlooked servant that points to a brilliant, concise type of Christ, the Servant of Jehovah.

First, the servant was above the other servants that were called to work in the vineyard. He was given a higher office to fulfill by virtue of His relational position with the householder of the vineyard. So too, our Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself "the form of the servant" who bears equality with God since He is God. As a result of His perfect, subservient obedience to the Father, He is set above all other ministers of the Gospel in that **"He is God manifest in the flesh"** (1 Timothy 3:16). **"Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name"** (Philippians 2:9). Second, we see the Lord of the vineyard committed the administrative affairs of his business to the head servant, who in turn paid the laborers. The William's Translation of the New Testament renders the word "manager" to be used in place of "servant" in verse 8. The strict definition of manager means "a person who is charged with the control or direction of a business by the owner of it. Christ is the Bishop of our souls by which God

the Father entrusts to Him the care and upkeep of the redeemed souls of the Church in which they are eternally safe in His hands. Thus, our Lord says of them, **"My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all and no man is able to snatch them out of My father's hand"** (John 10:29). From the outset of His life, Jesus was responsible for doing the sacred will of His Father's business. Our Lord's singleness of heart and eager zeal to please the Father in this regard caused Him to say, **"Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business"** (Luke 2:49).

Third, the householder deemed it sufficient to select a person to perform a particular function. If an employer hires an employee, he chooses him according to qualification and ability. God the Father chose Christ to the Messianic office of redemptive service. God qualified and enables His Son by putting on Him the Holy Spirit without measure. The Father says of His Beloved Son, **"Behold My Servant, whom I uphold; My Elect, in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him, for God does not give the Spirit by measure to Him"** (Isaiah 42:1; John 3:34). Fourth, a servant is

(Continued on page 4)

not preoccupied with His own interests, or seeking after his own glory, but does what is expected of Him, so long as it serves to enhance and further fulfill his master's goals. The servant of verse 8 did what the householder expected of him. He did not exceed or fall short of His master's command of paying the hired workers. Christ's subsistent oneness with the Father makes it intrinsically impossible for Him to act apart from the Father's working. Consequently, Christ's task as the Servant of Jehovah consisted of completing the required demands of the Father's will—no more, no less. This Jesus did without vainglory or self-interest but gave due honor to His Father only. ***"Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do, for whatever things He does, the Son does also in like manner"*** (John 5:19).

Christ was sent into the world to do the Father's will and was completely subordinate to that glorious end. Never once did He put His own desires first. ***"For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him that sent Me; for I always do those things that please Him"*** (John 5:38; 8:29). The servant of the householder gave credible witness to the Master's promise of payment by obeying His order to pay the workers, thus honoring the master's words by his prompt obedience to Him. Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve in the glorification of His heavenly Father by filial obedience to Him in completing the sacred work entrusted to Him. Christ verified this in saying, ***"I seek not My own glory. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You gave Me to do"*** (John 8:50; 17:4). Next, we see the servant was committed the liberal wages from the householder's bounteous income to give as payment to each of the workers. The laborers of the Church will also receive the rewarding riches of God's kingdom through His Son Jesus Christ to whom the exceeding riches of the Father's kindness is rewarded to us according to His rightful estimation of our just desserts in spiritual labor done for Him. God has given His unerring, flawless Servant Jesus Christ the divine prerogative of giving just rewards to every minister in the Church, whether good or bad. ***"And all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and the hearts. And will give to each one of you according to your works"*** (Revelation 2:23). Finally, we notice the promise of the householder to pay his workers was activated and made good through the compensatory action of his head servant to the vineyard workers. Likewise, are all the promises of God fulfilled, actualized, and made good through the paragon Servant of God—Jesus Christ to us who believed and labored for Him. ***"For all the promises of God in Him are yes and amen to the glory of God"*** (2 Corinthians 1:20). Verse 8 additionally informs us of the time of day the laborers were paid.

It was at evening time, for the verse opens with the statement, ***"So when evening had come."*** Evening time

was the proper, and we might add, the lawful time to pay the workman. At 6 p.m. wages were paid in accordance with the upright statute of Deuteronomy 24:14-15 which clearly states, ***"You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates. Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it, lest he cry out against you to the Lord, and it be a sin to you."*** The householder was indeed just. He paid each worker at evening time. He therefore could rightly affirm of himself to those wicked workers who unjustly accused him of gross impropriety in wage policy, ***"Friend, I do you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a penny? Take what is yours, and go your way."*** Evening spoken of in the Scripture signifies the close of the day when this life is up and our works and many labors completed. The Psalmist captures the same conception of evening when he penned Psalm 104:23: ***"Man goes forth to his work, and to his labor until the evening."*** The professional completion of work done at the end of the day is far more important than the initial planning of it before the sun rises, ***"for better is the end of a thing, than the beginning thereof"*** (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

The evening came indicating the servants had completed the task given to them. My dear Christian reader, be ever so assured that ***"faithful is He that calls you, who will also do it"*** (1 Thessalonians 5:24). ***"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"*** (Philippians 1:6). Whether you have been called from the dawn of youth in the third hour of the day, or the sixth hour of the day in the prime of life during the virile moments of rigorous manhood, or even in the declining years of old age in the closing ninth and eleventh hours of the passing day when the mortal light of this earth's sun well spent grows dim in the evening of your life, know your life-long obedience to His Word will reap for yourself unending dividends in the life to come. ***"But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer but a doer the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed"*** (James 1:25). By the exceeding lateness of the hour, the Church should be more zealously affected to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. ***"For it is evening, and the day is far spent; for now is our salvation nearer than we believed—and when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away"*** (Luke 24:29; 1 Peter 5:4).✠

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## The Importance of Israel to the Church

In this day, it is essential for Christians to be educated about our Jewish roots and God's plan for Israel as it directly impacts the future of all Believers. To have Todd speak to your church, organization, or Sunday School class about this and other important topics affecting Christians today, please contact Dr. Todd Baker at **866-910-0444** or by email at **[Todd@brit-hadashah.org](mailto:Todd@brit-hadashah.org)**, or go to our website for a link.

The following are just a few of the topics that Todd teaches on:

**Eye on Israel** - volatile current events in the Holy Land and its relevance to prophecy;

**Israel and Prophecy** - the importance of knowing and understanding the relationship of Israel to the Church;

**Israel's Right to the Land** - where and what is Palestine, and do Arabs have claims to the land?;

**Seven Reasons the Gospel must go to the Jews** - is Jewish evangelism Biblical, and why is it so largely ignored?;

**Messengers of Messiah to Israel** - based on Dr. Baker's book that testifies to what God is doing in the hearts of the Israelis, both Jew and Arab;

**The Dead Sea Scrolls** - exploring the authenticity and reliability of Scripture.

### SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

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*There are lessons recorded from Shalom, Shalom teachings, as well as Todd's weekly Bible Study - Studying the Scriptures. Some topics include the book of Isaiah, Defending the Faith, Daniel's Seventy Weeks of Years, and the Shroud of Turin.*

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