

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John  
5:39



Volume 18, Number 2

Summer 2019

## Losing for Israel's Gain

Below are two of many glorious and exciting witnessing encounters August Rosado and myself had sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people in Israel that occurred on our March 2019 Outreach to Israel:

August Rosado and I landed in the glorious Land only to discover that my luggage was lost. I had only the clothes I was wearing on the flight. As I fought the Enemy's urging to blow a gasket at the airline's Lost and Found attendant Nir, God gave me the victory by reminding me of a past experience: When a previous travel agency failed to make our team's hotel arrangements in Israel, it looked like we would be ministering out of the rental car for two weeks. I had been willing to accept this situation because, after all, the Apostles had it much worse. (In 1 Cor. 4:11, Paul wrote that he and Apollos "both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.")



Now God allowed this considerable inconvenience to me so that Nir could receive a witness for Yeshua being the Messiah. I told Nir that if losing my luggage meant giving him an opportunity to obtain a copy of the Scriptures, I

praised God for it. Nir was blown away by my declaration! He stammered his amazement at our attitude and happily received the Complete Hebrew Scriptures (both Testaments) that we offered. The airline provided me with shirts, toiletries, and undergarments to last two days, giving them time to locate and deliver my luggage. If Nir heard about Yeshua the Messiah because of my personal loss, then so be it. I would lose everything to help Israel hear the Gospel and be saved, and count it my gain! (Philippians 3:7-8) On we persevered, into Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Mall, where we gave out additional Bibles and Gospel presentations to even more open-hearted Israelis.

Witnessing the next day in Netanya and Nazareth produced a memorable encounter with Shirel. Amazingly, this young Israeli woman understood this logic: Both Testaments of the Hebrew Bible center on the Jewish Messiah and the clear Messianic prophecies offer the means to identify Him when He comes. If history proves that this Person is Jesus of Nazareth, then He should be accepted as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Praise the Lord, once Shirel's

humble soul accepted this, the Ruach Ha Kodesh (the Holy Spirit) opened her heart to recognize that the central Person of Biblical revelation is Jesus of Nazareth. We gave her a pamphlet that explains this Scriptural concept in



Hebrew and English. After briefing looking at this, she too agreed that since Yeshua is the greatest Jew of all, then every Jewish person needs to read the Jewish New Testament to discover the works and words of our marvelous Messiah. Now possessing a Complete Hebrew study Bible, Shirel will start this saving journey with the One who bids both Jew and gentile to come and follow Him.

Folks, it goes without saying that *we need your financial support. The Word of God mandates the Gospel be taken to the Jew first (Romans 1:16), which this ministry by God's grace has done for twenty years now! Our funds continue to go down without explanation. People that faithfully give no longer do so. Are the Jewish people still not important enough to fund this ministry to make sure the Gospel is brought to them in Israel? God thinks it is. Don't fail to obey Romans 1:16 by failing to support what this ministry has been doing for two decades.* Please send any financial support you can. Your financial support places you with us in Israel taking the Gospel to the Jew first as Scripture commands the Church

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## 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. 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. †

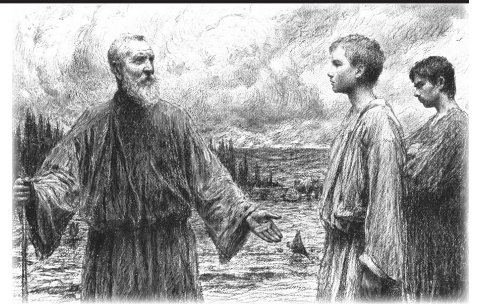


Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible. Also special thanks to Rabbi Samuel of Sar El Tours for supplying us with Hebrew Bibles.

# The Parable of the Two Sons

## (Matthew 21: 28-32)

### Part 5



*“But What Do you think? A Certain man had two sons, and he came to the first, and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he repented and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father. They said to Him, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you that the tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not repent afterward and believe him.”*

*“Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go” (verse 30).*

The father approaches the second son and makes the same appeal he did with his first son. The fact that the father made the same request of the second son is an inviting message of hope and salvation for all people everywhere. In the same manner, the father called the two sons into the vineyard, God also extends the call of salvation to all people. He calls all nations to accept eternal salvation that can be obtained in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation and the subsequent call of ministry in the Lord’s vineyard is not limited to a one group or another. The invitation of salvation given by God to man is offered to every one under the universal context of *“whosoever will”* (Acts 10:43; Revelation 22:17). The father was no less kind to the second son than he was with the first; however, the second son’s actions were altogether far different from his brother’s who repented and went into the vineyard. The second son made a verbal deference to the will of the father, but utterly failed to keep his affirmative promise with punctual action. Instead, he outwardly displayed a filial respect to the command feigning obedience to the will of the father. He is accurately characteristic of all religious prevaricators, and points directly to the Scribes and Pharisees, *“who preach, but do not practice what they preach”* (Matthew 23:3). The second son was quick to promise, but was void of compliable performance to keep that promise. Such a pretentious outcome provides a vivid exposure of the religious hypocrite in all his fraudulent behavior.

Formally defined, a hypocrite is someone pretending to be what he is actually not.

Religious hypocrisy is the untrue assumption of an outward appearance expressing moral virtue or religious profession. The second son graphically epitomizes all religious hypocrites situated in churches everywhere who nominally confess with flattering lips faith in Christ, but whose soul is without the vivifying power of the Lord Jesus Christ and barren of the fructifying work of the Holy Spirit. These people do not know Christ, nor have they surrendered their lives to Him in repentance to His divine Lordship. They substitute a consecrated life in service to God with oratorical blandishments and man-made religions bearing the name of Christ. Well did the Lord Jesus Christ expose such hypocrites from the Scriptures. *“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men’ ”* (Matthew 15:7-9). Religious hypocrisy was a deplorable trait found in the religious leaders of Christ’s day, and is ever indicative of second son, shoddy Christianity whose sanctimonious heritage has been passed down from their ancient fathers—the Pharisees. The second son especially pictures a deluded soul gone “religious.”

In the modern sense, the second son speaks of one who has powerless Christianity. He says in unison with his twin brother, the phony Christian, “Yes sir” to God and offers a hearty “Amen” to passionate preaching from the Bible and nothing more. Words are cheap and easy. But a sold out devotion to Jesus Christ is difficult and costly. The

religious Pharisee verbally confesses to be a child of God, a Christian, although for the most part in daily living, he neither lives for nor obeys the will of the Heavenly Father in the engagement of his day-to-day activities. In Titus 1:16, we have a perfect description of the second son, alias the religious hypocrites, self righteous Pharisees and inauthentic believers of God who fancy themselves children of God merely because they say so; but in all livelihood live as the disobedient heathen without Christ! *“They profess that they know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate”* (Titus 1:16). The second son confessed he would obey the command of the father, but in effect denied his authority in that he failed to venture forth into the vineyard to work. This is ever so true of the unsaved person holding a false profession of the Christian faith, who orally claims to be an obedient adherent to the teachings of Jesus Christ, but alas, defaces and obfuscates it with disobedient living.

There are countless multitudes today resident within every Christian denomination making mental assent to the powerful, saving truth of Jesus Christ but do not repentantly submit themselves under the sanctifying influences of it, *“having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”* (Romans 1:18; 2Timothy 3:5). They are clever to use religious lingo around true saints, but really are *“speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron”* (1Timothy 4:2). The author can well recall the numerous times God privileged him to share the Gospel with many lost people who



were quick to respond affirmatively, “Oh yes, I am a Christian; I read my Bible and am faithful in attending church;” although the consistent manner of their lives later proved contrariwise. The second son displayed an outward show of obedient affection to his father’s will, but in the final analysis chose to follow after the selfish desires of his own heart. The professing church is replete with such characters that hide behind the outward trappings of “respectable” religion but do not obey God. The pharisaical worldling always equates being a “Christian” with the mere external observances of going to church, keeping “holy days of obligation,” Bible reading and recitation, saying prayers, church and community involvement, and so forth. God wants sincere souls humbly turned to him. He is sore grieved with the hypocritical masses playing church. The Lord is not impressed with the vain, outward show of religious exercises abundant on every side. He desires from His people

constant obedience, more so than the ritualistic motions of repetitive religion. ***“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice”*** (1 Samuel 15:22). What John Calvin said in his day rings abundantly true in our day. “On all hands there is abundance of ostentatious ceremonies, but sincerity of heart is rare.”

Instead of the burning presence of the Holy Spirit with clear Gospel preaching confirming the Word of God followed with miraculous regeneration setting the captives free, the church substitutes this with seminars on the intricate techniques of correct Christian education and counseling, or an elaborate service based on entertaining the masses instead of the expository preaching of the Word. For young members, the youth pastor hires the most currently popular Christian music band to attract more youth to regularly attend his church. A prize of

high monetary value is promised to any church member bringing in new sheep. Potluck dinners are organized to stimulate shallow, inert fellowship among fragmented members of the church. Elaborate praise and worship services are carefully organized in coordination with well precisioned, choreographed dances complete with accompanying regalia of musicians with finely tuned instruments and singers carrying multi-colored banners on which are written scriptural slogans and titles of God written with skillful embroidery. But after the religious formalism, pomp and majesty of hyped up churchianity is over after that particular Wednesday or Sunday service is over, the carnality of the flesh, temporarily subdued, rises up and prevails the rest of the week. The ritualistic, reverence of the Word quickly fades out when self-interest predominates, and the so-called ‘Christian’ exchanges his ecclesiastical garb for secular apparel. ■

## The Threat of Heresy

Heresy for many tepid in the church and world today, raised in a thick politically correct atmosphere, is a taboo word reminiscent of haunting images of stern churchmen eager to find dissent and punish it with torture and death against the dimly fire lit backdrop of a cavernous dungeon filled with all sorts of torture mechanisms. Such horrid images, for many, in this time and day, has forced them to avoid the subject of heresy altogether, or out of sheer lack of ignorance or indifference has led many within the mainline denominations of Christendom to not even give passing notice to the perpetual danger of heresy in the church. But heresy historically is what cancer is to the physical body. If left unchecked, it will spiritually ruin and, destroy, and damn those who adhere and believe in heresy. What exactly is heresy and why is it so dangerous? *Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary* defines heresy with the following definitions: (1) Adherence to a religious opinion contrary to church dogma. (2) Dissent or deviation from a dominant theory, opinion, or practice. (3) An opinion, doctrine, or practice contrary to the truth, or to generally accepted beliefs or standards (see <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/heresy>). While these definitions are partially correct when it comes to stressing heresy as a belief or practice contrary to an established truth or dogma, they fall short due to the fact that it is revealed objective biblical truth heresy denies and contradicts, not a mere opinion.

*The Baker Compact Dictionary of Theological Terms* defines heresy to mean:

Any belief that stands opposed to orthodoxy, or sound doctrine, that which correctly reflects in summary form all the Scripture affirms about any particular doctrine and which the church is bound to believe.



Heresy, then, is any belief that contradicts essential teaching. Heresy is a false belief that misinterprets Scripture, or that overlooks or ignores some affirmations of Scripture, or that improperly puts together all the affirmations of Scripture on a particular doctrine (pages 98-99). So, then, heresy twists the Scriptures, in the words of 2 Peter 3:16, out of context to create a doctrine or belief, which contradicts what Scripture *actually* and *truly* means. A good example of heresy was when Arius (256-336 A.D.), father of the heresy of Arianism, denied the deity of Jesus Christ by cleverly twisting certain verses of Scripture out of context, and in the end contradicted clear Bible passages where Jesus and the Apostles clearly affirmed and confessed He was God (see John 1:1-2, 14, 8:58; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 1 Timothy 3:16; Colossians 2:9).

Heresiology is the systematic study of heresy in the Christian Church from the time of the Apostles to the modern day. Those who

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created the major heresies of this time span are called *Heresiarchs*. The opposite of heresy or false teaching is *Orthodoxy*. The word Orthodox comes from Orthodoxy—a word that is taken from the Greek *orthodoxia* (ορθοξια) and literally means, “right doctrine.” Within the context of biblical truth, when we use the term Orthodoxy or Orthodox (we don’t mean a denomination such as Eastern Orthodoxy or Russian Orthodoxy), it is used to mean all accepted revealed Bible teaching that is given in Scripture as theologically formulated and defined by the seven ecumenical councils of the Christian Church from 325 to 787 A.D. Those Creeds, of course, are true because they are subordinate to the correct doctrine Scripture has revealed for the all the Church to believe—thus we call the body of Orthodox biblical doctrine **the historic essentials of the Christian faith**. Heresy is the denial and contradiction of those historic essentials, for example, the deity of Christ, the Trinity, salvation by faith alone, the inerrancy of the Scripture, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, His physical return, etc. Heresy is the deviation from standard biblical truth and doctrine upon which the Christian faith is built and defined—of which is reflected in the Seven Ecumenical creeds of the historic church. From the moment of her inception, the Church has faced and fought the ongoing emergence and threatening presence of heresy. Probably, the first two heresies that appeared were **Legalism** (the belief one can either keep the Law or a set of rules to earn or merit God’s free gift of salvation) the Apostle Paul fought mainly in Galatia and **Gnosticism** (the denial of Christ’s physical Incarnation and resurrection from the dead) the Apostle John fought and refuted in his epistles.

Though in the past, heresy has almost gained the dominant position in the Church (e.g., Arianism in the early fourth century), the Lord Jesus Christ did promise in Matthew 16:18 the indestructibility of the Church and that the truth of God’s Word in the end would preserve the true Church from being overrun and destroyed by the powers of hell with falsehood and heresy. And indeed when it looked like both Church and State would universally embrace the anti-Christ

doctrine of Arianism, God raised up Athanasius (296-373 A.D.) to defend the Orthodox, biblical view that Christ is indeed God in the flesh. Thankfully, the Church finally adhered to this saving truth and universally condemned for all time Arius and his heresy at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.

The word “heresy” comes from the Greek word *hairesis* (αἵρεσις), which means “division” or “faction” (1 Corinthians 11:19; Galatians 5:20). Originally, the word meant a sect, a division, or a dissenting group that separates from the whole group. Eventually, those factious groups that broke away from the main Church came to be known for teaching false doctrine, error, and heresy, hence, the cause of their separation. This is exactly the twofold nature of heresy—deception and division. The Bible condemns false doctrine, error, and false teachers. Heresy is a work of the flesh and fundamentally goes contrary to the biblical Gospel (Galatians 5:20). Those who preach “another” gospel that is contrary to the true Gospel are under the condemnation of God, which Paul makes abundantly clear in Galatians 1:8-9. Fundamentally, heresy, then, is the alteration, denial, and repudiation of the Gospel on one level or another. In the Fall I will be teaching a course on Heresy at Scofield Biblical Institute. If you are interested in taking the class, please contact Dr. Daniel Woodhead at 877-706-2479, e-mail: [info@scofieldinsitute.org](mailto:info@scofieldinsitute.org) ■

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to do in Romans 1:16. ***August Rosado and I head back to Israel this September and we still need to raise enough funds for this important outreach.*** Partner with us now and watch the Lord mightily move once again in the Land, as Jesus is being reunited with his physical kinsmen in Israel. To donate online, you can go to the following secure link on our ministry web site: <https://www.brit-hadashah.org/wp/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.

Your servant in Messiah Jesus,



Dr. Todd Baker.



# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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*Having been to the Holy Land over 50 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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*Thank you for your support.*

**ATTENTION READERS:** I am on the faculty at Scofield Seminary. I will be teaching the course on Christian Apologetics. I would highly recommend attending and enrolling in these very informative courses for theological learning. The Scofield Biblical Institute and Theological Seminary has been organized around the need to provide sound doctrinally and hermeneutically pure teaching of the Word of God, our Bible. We seek to provide high quality teaching to both the lay community and to those who seek professional development in teaching the Word of God as a career. Look over our classes and contact us to further discuss your objectives and how we may assist you in meeting them through our classes. All of our instructors are well prepared and all have significant seminary training along with genuine realized practical church pastoral experience to enhance your learning experience. Our goal is to provide truth and wisdom, through a thorough understanding of the Word of God. There is no substitute for adequate preparation before sending one out to effectively serve our Lord Jesus in the world that needs His truth. We hold to the idea that the best equipped pastor should also be a theologian. Two passages of Scripture are particularly poignant to identify with the need to properly equip oneself for ministry work.

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Daniel E. Woodhead Ph.D., President



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The \$250 donation fee to the BHM non-denomination Ministries is tax deductible. Dr. Baker is an ordained minister in the Baptist Church, Dallas TX, a biblical scholar and professor. Call today at 214/356-2583 or 214 384-1892 (please leave message if not there). We will send complete information on all the services included. The calendar is filling up!

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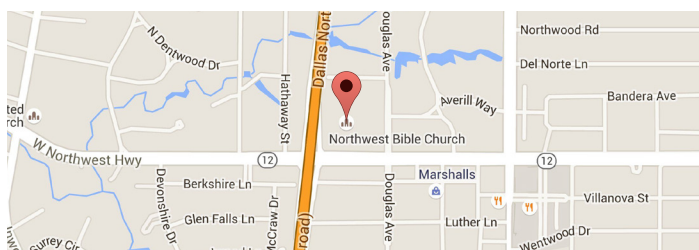
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If you would like to have Todd as a guest speaker at your church or function, visit our website: [www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org) or contact him at: [toddbus@yahoo.com](mailto:toddbus@yahoo.com) or call **(214) 356-2583**.

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