

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 18, Number 3

Fall 2019

Keep Spreading the Word in Israel

This ministry recently completed our 48th Gospel outreach to Israel that occurred from September 16 to September 27th. Evangelist August Rosado once again powerfully co labored with me as we shared the Gospel of Yeshua and distributed Hebrew Bibles and Messianic Gospel tracts to the Jewish population. Robin and Sue also accompanied us and were a big part of having evangelistic success in the Land. On this outreach, all four of us managed to pass out 66 Hebrew Study Bibles that included the New Testament! We arrived in the Land of Immanuel (Isaiah 8:8) midafternoon for the 48th Gospel outreach to Israel. August Rosado and I had the wonderful opportunity to pass out four complete Hebrew Bibles to eager and receptive Israelis the first day of our arrival in Israel. But the one Gospel witnessing encounter that stands out most that brings tears of joy to my eyes was when we met Avi the drummer working at the music store in the Dizengoff Mall in Tel Aviv. August Rosado



at one time was himself a drummer and is quite good like Avi is today. This obviously led Avi to talk to us. Both August and Avi had a drum duel with each other they both enjoyed. When we told Avi that we

Word of God in Israel, he said, “What better place to do that than here.” We next asked Avi about the elections in Israel. He said to us that he doesn’t get into politicians because they are dishonest, plastic, and phony, not direct and honest like we were with him! I further added that the most honest, refreshing, and uplifting Person that ever spoke life giving words are found in the words of Yeshua the Messiah in the Hebrew New Testament. Avi surprised us by not only agreeing with us but even admitted he has read portions of the words of Jesus from the New Testament. Awed by how God orchestrated this divine appointment August and I immediately knew we were sent to give Avi the complete Word of Yeshua that saves sinners. So with that, we offered Avi the gift of God’s Word in Hebrew as given in both Testaments of the Bible. Avi was so grateful that he gave August a gift in return—a pair of drum sticks. The one thing that made me tear up in my eyes happened as we were leaving the music store and what Avi said. He said he would now read God’s Word about salvation in Jesus the Messiah and then exhorted us to, “Keep spreading the Word” in Israel. We joyfully replied that is why we come to

Israel several times a year—to bring Jesus back to the Jewish people. Yes, now that Israel is encouraging us to do this means Messiah’s return is near at hand!

Day Five in Israel was the best as far as handing out Hebrew Bibles with a Gospel



witness to the Jewish people during a transitional day from going one place to another—in this instance we were leaving the Galilee and going to Jerusalem. Praise the God of Israel, August Rosado and I passed out five Hebrew Bibles with Messianic Gospel tracts to five Jewish men who were all demonstrably open and thankful for our ministry. Pictured here is Saby and I. He was a guard and park ranger at Kasser Al-Yahud, one of the places along the Jordan River where John the Baptist frequently immersed those in water who repented of their sins and prepared for the coming of Jesus the Messiah and His imminent Kingdom (Matthew 3:1-6). I shared this very truth with the receptive Shaby. Then the subject turned to the ownership of the Promised Land. He listened as I recited Genesis 17:7-8 which establishes the fact God gave permanent ownership of the Promised Land to the Jewish people forever. I then stated one of the reasons for this was so that the Messiah could have a people and homeland to come through so that He could save the world.

Continued on Page 4

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. †

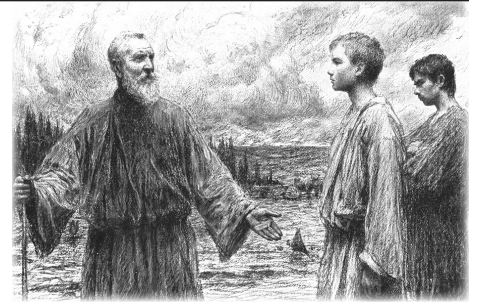


Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible. Also special thanks to Rabbi Samuel of Sar El Tours for supplying us with Hebrew Bibles.

The Parable of the Two Sons

(Matthew 21: 28-32)

Part 6



“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.”

Beloved reader let us learn from the religious pretensions from the second son! It is much easier to sing a melodious Hallelujah and verbally promise an obedient life to the Lord with a resounding “amen” in church, but are we ready with the same courage and holy zeal, unlike the second son, to promote, exclaim and follow the Lord outside the church walls before a Christ-hating world among those who fiercely oppose and hate us and the Gospel we preach. If not, we follow in the same infamous, hypocritical footsteps of the second son. The timely words of Ezekiel the prophet describes well the spiritual epidemic of hypocrisy commonly present among the many congregations of our churches today, where the role of the second son is repeatedly played out. **“They come to You as the people come, and they sit before You as My people and they hear Your words, but they will not do them. For with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goes after covetousness. And lo, You are to them as a very lovely song of one that has a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument; for they hear Your words, but they do not do them”** (Ezekiel 33:31-32). God commands the flamboyant religionist, as He addressed Israel of old, to remove the vain ornaments of glittering religiosity and adorn himself with inner ornament of a meek, quiet and obedient spirit **“which is in the sight of God, of great price”** (1Peter 3:4). **“Therefore now put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what to do with you”** (Exodus 33:5). This must be done so that God may mold the saved person into a sincere, submissive servant after the designation of His will, and not after the hollow fineries of man-centered religions. In the wide and divergent world of

Christendom, the second son’s duplicity is illustrative of several twisted forms of false Christianity prevalent today.

The first barren form of false Christianity represented here is Nominal Christianity. Briefly defined, Nominal Christianity acknowledges the orthodox doctrines of the Christian faith in “name only.” Nominal Christians separate the enlivening and revolutionary truths of Christ from their daily, secular activities and do not constantly act upon the transforming principles of the Scriptures. They merely analyze the Bible, instead of doing it. Repentance, regeneration, and sanctification do not exert their supernatural influences upon their lives. They intellectual muse over the Bible and discuss the numerous benefits of practicing its Judeo-Christian ethics, yet do not live in perpetual conformance to them. The nominal Christian is sure to speak sophisticated, theological compliments of the Lord Jesus Christ, however, he continuously fails to live and abide under Christ’s divine Lordship. Needless to say, the Church is full of these people the world over. Christ is never fooled by the deceptive guise of religious talk commonly used by name only ‘Christians’. **“And why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say”** (Luke 6:46). The second son by his confession of obedience to the father was terribly inconsistent. He hypocritically paid due respect by saying, “Yes,” but did not obey him from the heart. **“You are near in their mouth, and far from their hearts”** (Jeremiah 12:2). If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all!

Another fallacious form of Christianity, as represented in the two-faced actions of the

second son, is Conditional Christianity. Conditional Christianity accepts and communicates certain portions of the Word of God wherein definite circumstances promise that personal gain and worldly advancement are near and can be secured. For the most part, when among the public, Conditional Christianity teaches the inductee that strong disassociation from Christ is best advisable, lest unpopularity, alienation, mockery, and derisive and insulting labels follow, such as “Jesus freak”, “Christian fanatic”, “Religious extremist”, “Holier than thou”, and “Narrow-minded Fundamentalist” stigmatize the Conditional Christian and keep him from the coveted trophy of transient popularity and financial prosperity in the secular and religious world. The Conditional Christian will oblige God so long as it does not conflict with his self-interests. The cross of self-denial is strongly repugnant to the Conditional Christian following in the vein of the second son, since it demands the full surrender of self interests to the participatory role of serving the cause and purposes of the Lord Jesus Christ, first and foremost with all one’s being! In the same fashion, the second son acted this particular way, as do all Conditional Christians when confrontation and exposure to God’s revealed will suddenly occurs. He easily confessed with his mouth the truth of the father’s will in that it was worthy of full obedience, but ultimately, it was inconvenient to execute, since it contradicted the selfish desires of his own heart. Thus he did not obey the father’s will. His constant self-centeredness would never allow such; it was incompatible with the nature of self-sacrificial service required to obey what the father had politely commanded him to do. If

the Conditional Christian knows that adverse circumstances deem it impossible for him to serve two masters—God and himself—he unequivocally chooses to serve and gratify the flesh instead of denying himself, picking up the cross and following Jesus Christ. But, he is subtle enough to retain a Christian semblance, so that his treachery may be cleverly covered and clothed. Because of this very tragic fact, the Conditional Christian, together with the second son, are both unworthy and spiritually ineligible for the work of Christ in the consecrated vineyard of the Heavenly Father. **“And He that does not take up his cross, and follow after Me, is not worthy of Me”** (Matthew 10:38).

Another perverted form of Christianity, picturing the egocentric inclination of the second son, is *Carnal Christianity*. Carnal Christianity rationally constructs a belief system whereby it is justifiably permitted to lay hold of Christ and still enjoy the fleshly satisfactions of the sin nature. Carnal Christians are dominated and spurned on by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. In truth, **“they are the enemies of the cross”**

(Philippians 3:18). The life in eternity to come is never seriously considered by the carnal Christian. He casually mentions the name of Christ in favorable light, but doesn’t give serious consideration about fully committing himself to the Lord Jesus Christ. The carnal Christian prides himself on living in the here and now. The studious searching of the Scriptures, the working out of one’s salvation with “fear and trembling,” seeking God on a daily basis and mortifying the deeds of the corrupt flesh are unessential impracticalities to him. Since the spiritual is not readily seen, touched, tasted, or heard in the physical realm, the carnal minded esteem this to be useless and quickly indispensable; and instead live by the worldly but deadly adage, **“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die”** (1 Corinthians 15:31). The second son disobeyed the father and freely yielded to the carnal inclinations of his rebellious heart. He cleverly hid behind a verbal ruse. He pretended obedience to the father only to go his own insubordinate way, doing what he pleased. The carnal Christian puts sole confidence in the flesh and nothing else. He repudiates serving God first. He says, “I’m a Christian”, but doesn’t act like one. The

central meaning of the cross, which calls for presenting one’s body up a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God in reasonable service, is an alien concept to licentious Christians. Their walk is totally unbecoming of the godly Christian. They despise and scoff at the sincere child of God, who out of love for wayward souls, warns, rebukes, and reproves them, **“whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things”** (Philippians 3:19). The carnal Christian is most easily recognized as the faithful churchgoer desiring to make a religious show in the flesh. Carnal Christians surrender their lips to confess Christ, but not their heart and lives in daily obedience to Him, **“lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ”** (Galatians 6:12).

Bible Questions Asked and Answered

According to Scripture how is a sinner saved?

The Bible makes it crystal clear that salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone. We are saved by the unmerited grace of God exclusively through Jesus Christ alone. The sinner cannot do a good work or perform a righteous deed to earn salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). This is because all men are fallen and sinful creatures—“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Titus 3:5 plainly states, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.” Salvation is a free gift and by logical definition a gift is freely given; it cannot be earned or worked for. What saves the sinner is the belief in Jesus alone for salvation—believing that the divine Savior died on the cross for our sins and rose again from the dead—and trusting in this alone for salvation!. Paul answered in the same way when asked by the Philippian jailer, “What must I do to be saved?” The apostle replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved” (Acts 16:31). The price paid for our salvation was accomplished when Christ offered His life a perfect sacrifice for guilty sinners when He died on the cross. This also included the resurrection because it showed God accepted His Son’s death as payment for the believer’s salvation. Romans 10:9-10 informs us what must be believed for salvation—affirm Jesus is the divine Lord who rose from the dead for the salvation of sinners. That is the Gospel as defined in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.



Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

With that, I stated John the Baptist correctly identified the Messiah to be Jesus of Nazareth, the One also foretold to come by Moses and the Prophets (Luke 24:44). I offered Saby a complete Hebrew Bible to read and see this superlative truth for himself. He jumped at the opportunity to do so. August and I had a good thirty minute Bible teaching with him and his co-worker. We give Yeshua all the glory for working again among His ancient people disclosing Himself to be their Messiah through the biblical teaching of this ministry. *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! The Church is commanded in the Word of God to obey Romans 1:16 and preach the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah first to the Jewish people.* We humbly implore our reader to help financially see that we do this together. Your financial support places you with us in Israel taking the Gospel to the Jew first as Scripture commands the Church to do in Romans 1:16. **August Rosado and I head back to Israel this December for what will be this ministry's 49th Gospel outreach in the Holy Land 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.

Continued from Page 3

Does the Bible teach there will be a future thousand year kingdom of Christ on earth?

Scripture clearly says there will be a literal 1,000-year kingdom of Christ on earth when He returns. Theologians call this the millennial kingdom as derived from the Latin word for a thousand—*mille*. This will be a literal kingdom that will last one thousand years—six times we are told of this very fact in Revelation 20:1-7.

There is nothing in Revelation 20 that would indicate this time span is symbolic and not literal. At the time of Christ's millennial reign He will rule on David's throne from Jerusalem over the entire earth (Luke 1:32-33; Isaiah 2:1-4). To conclude we entirely agree with what the Got Questions web site has to say about this future thousand-year kingdom of Christ on earth:

“The unconditional covenants demand a literal, physical return of Christ to establish the kingdom. The Abrahamic Covenant promised Israel a land, a posterity and ruler, and a spiritual blessing (Genesis 12:1-3). The Land Covenant promised Israel a restoration to the land and occupation of the land (Deuteronomy 30:1-10). The Davidic Covenant promised Israel a king from David's line who would rule forever—giving the nation rest from all their enemies (2 Samuel 7:10-13). ■

At the second coming, these covenants will be fulfilled as Israel is re-gathered from the nations (Matthew 24:31), converted (Zechariah 12:10-14), and restored to the land under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of the conditions during the millennium as a perfect environment physically and spiritually. It will be a time of peace (Micah 4:2-4; Isaiah 32:17-18), joy (Isaiah 61:7, 10), and comfort (Isaiah 40:1-2). The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience (Jeremiah 31:33), holiness (Isaiah 35:8), truth (Isaiah 65:16), and the knowledge of God (Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 2:14). Christ will rule as king (Isaiah 9:3-7; 11:1-10). Nobles and governors will also rule (Isaiah 32:1; Matthew 19:28), and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world (Zechariah 8:3).

Revelation 20:2-7 gives the precise time period of the millennial kingdom. Even without these scriptures, there are countless others that point to a literal reign of the Messiah on the earth. The fulfillment of many of God's covenants and promises rests on a literal, physical, future kingdom. There is no solid basis for denying the literal interpretation of the millennial kingdom and its duration being 1000 years.”



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,

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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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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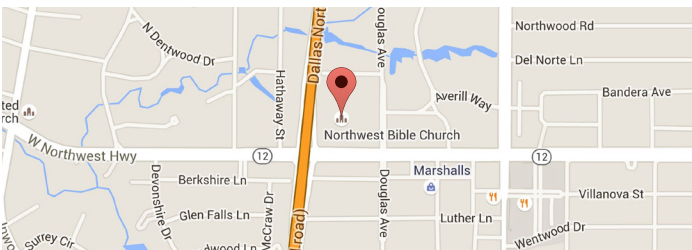
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In This Issue

- Keep Spreading the Word in Israel 1
- The Parable of the Two Sons Part 6 2
- Bible Questions Asked and Answered 3



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

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