

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John  
5:39



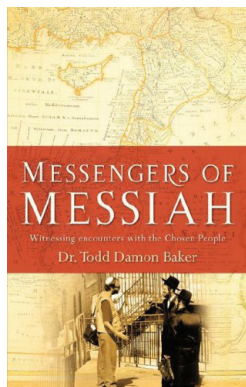
Volume 20, Number 2

Summer 2021

## The Set Time Has Come

### (Psalm 102:13)

Praise God for His mercies and grace! The set time has come for this Gospel outreach ministry to triumphantly return and resume Gospel preaching and Bible teaching in the “glorious” land of Israel (Daniel 11:16, 41). Eighteen long months have tortuously passed since our last Gospel outreach occurred in Israel (December, 2019). It has been more like eighteen years! The year 2020 sadly saw no ministry from us over in the Holy Land due to the COVID 19 pandemic. But now, finally, the set time has come for our return to Immanuel’s land (Isaiah

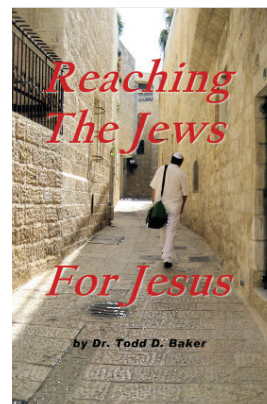


8:8). Our launch date for what will be the 50th Gospel outreach to Israel is July 24th to August 4th. Once again Dr. August Rosado of Today in Bible Prophecy Ministries will be accompanying me to Israel to once again bring the Gospel of salvation to His people in the love and humility of Messiah Jesus. Presently, Brit Hadashah Ministries has carried out 49 ministry trips to Israel where

we have boldly shared the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah, and personally distributed 1,695 complete Hebrew Bibles to both Jews and Arabs. So far, these 49 outreaches to the Chosen People have covered a 21 year time span from 1999 to 2021. Indeed, I have authored two books, *Messengers of Messiah* and *Reaching the Jews for Jesus* that chronicle and give detailed, personal eyewitness accounts that happened during the first eleven years of this Gospel ministry in Israel among many Israelis from all walks of life.

Now, Brit Hadashah Ministries, in collaboration with Zola Levitt Ministries, is on the brink of celebrating its golden anniversary with this 50th Gospel outreach to Israel on the horizon! Gold in the Bible beautifully represents or symbolizes the divine glory of God—the shekinah or divine, visible presence of God, His supernatural luminescence. Remember, the inside of the Tabernacle in the wilderness was all decorated in gold to represent

the glorious presence of God revealed there; and that is the ultimate objective for this ministry—to glorify the Triune God revealed in the glorious Gospel shining back to the everlasting nation through whom it first came (Romans 3:1-2; 9:1-5). By God’s predestined calling and election, August and I are set to return to Israel this July, October, 2021 and March of next year to bear witness for Yeshua the Messiah and personally distribute God’s Word about Him to the Chosen People. This ministry needs to urgently make up for lost time these past 18 months we have been away from the Promised Land due to the Covid moratorium.



Over the past 21 years doing ministry in Israel, I have witnessed and experienced phenomenal things when boldly and powerfully sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people. I have seen Israeli Jews weep over the crucified Savior dying for them when reading Isaiah 53 for themselves, and in many cases reading it for their first time! Through this ministry, I have seen both Jews and Arabs come to know Messiah Jesus and believe in Him for salvation. I have seen desperate Israelis literally hug the Hebrew Bibles we gave them, verbally acknowledging the hope

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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. ✚



# The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen

## (Matthew 21:33-34) Part 2



*“Hear another parable: There was a certain householder who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to husbandmen and went into a far country. Now when the time of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first, and they did to them likewise. But last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘they will reverence my son.’ But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘this is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.’ And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those husbandmen? They said to Him, ‘He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and lease his vineyard to other husbandmen who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.’” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone shall be broken. But on whomever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder”*

In continuing on with the first chronological section of the parable, we read, that after the householder planted his vineyard, he equipped it with the proper elements to ensure its bountiful productivity, bringing forth fruits in their due seasons. After the householder planted the vineyard, he hedged it about with a firm enclosure. It was a customary practice in biblical times, and even now with modern vine dressing, for the owner of the vineyard to hedge or fence it in. The vineyard was usually closed in by a stone wall or a hedge composed of thorns, so as to keep out intruders and predatory animals (Numbers 22:24; Proverbs 24:31). This hedge of protection insured the vineyard from any outside dangers that would threaten its fruitful existence and productivity. The word “hedge” is figuratively used in Holy Writ to signify God’s favorable protection around those of His particular choosing (Psalm 80:12; 89:40; Isaiah 5:5). For instance, in the opening chapter of Job, Satan rightly observed that God placed a “hedge” of protection around Job. **“Have You not made a hedge about him, and about his house and about all that he has on every side?”** (Job 1:10). The significant meaning of the hedge around the vineyard in the parable of the wicked vinedressers is obvious when examined within the historic framework of Israel’s continued existence as God’s chosen nation. God repeatedly promised and markedly mentioned that He, alone, provided the hedge of divine protection for the nation of Israel. A few random observations extracted from selected portions of the Scriptures, as related to Israel’s existence as a theocratic nation, will indeed bear witness that God alone has been their unbreakable hedge of protection from

beginning to end.

From the outset, God miraculously provided the sojourning Israelites with His supernatural guardianship over them during their long pilgrimage from Egypt to Canaan. The Lord went before Israel by day in a pillar of a cloud to cover them and insulate them from the unbearable heat of the Sinai desert. During the night, God gave the Israelites a pillar of fire that provided them light to see and travel by, and protected them from nocturnal attack or invasion by the surrounding Canaanite nations. **“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them in the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light to go by day and night”** (Exodus 13:21; Psalm 105:39). The angel of the Lord led and escorted the children of Israel into the Promised Land. God told Israel, **“For My Angel shall go before you, and bring you into the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I will cut them off”** (Exodus 23:23). Israel was under the hedge of angelic protection during the exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. **“Behold, I send an angel before you, to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place I have prepared”** (Exodus 23:30). Thus, we see that Israel were given transitional protection all around them from Egypt to the Promised Land.

On several occasions throughout the Scriptures and Jewish history, the Lord mightily preserved and saved the nation of Israel from imminent destruction and extinction. The Bible student will recall the great deliverance of Israel from the cruel King Sennacherib and the Assyrian armies

standing outside the walls of Jerusalem. God asserted His protection of the Jewish people to King Hezekiah before the Assyrian invasion. The angel of the Lord smote the military camp of the Assyrians killing 185,000 soldiers! (Isaiah 37) God intervened and spared the Jews from extinction delivering them out of the genocidal hands of Haman. Queen Esther exposed his nefarious plot and he himself was summarily executed. God saved Israel from the invading armies of the Moabites and Ammonites in the days of King Jehoshaphat (2Chronicles 2). Once Israel was established as a chosen nation, God forever promised them His eternal, abiding protection from total annihilation even as the mountainous topography around Jerusalem affords natural protection for the Jewish people from sudden attack or invasion. **“As the mountains are all around Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth even forever”** (Psalm 125:2).

The hedge encircled around purchased property not only served as a means of protection, but was also used as a sign of demarcation indicating that a specified plot of land had been specifically chosen by a landowner for cultivation of fruits. It was by agricultural designation that the vineyard was separated and set apart from the neighboring land expanse lying outside its fenced borders. Once again, we find a striking parallel here in comparison with the holy, sanctified nation of Israel. God chose the Jewish people out of the nations of the world to be His chosen people, set apart from the unholy and sinful nations for a sacred purpose and mission in, and to the world. Israel was to dwell alone and not be **“reckoned among the nations”** (Numbers



23:9; Deuteronomy 7:6). The interceding Moses declared before the Lord of this consecrated separation, **“So shall we be separated, I and your people from all the people that are upon the face of the earth”** (Exodus 33:16). God formally reminds the congregation of Israel of this solemn reality in Leviticus 20:26: **“And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord and holy, and have separated you from other people, that you should be Mine.”** As the conscientious householder carefully sets the boundaries of his vineyard by the enclosure of a hedge or fence to cultivate the ground therein, God also providentially laid down the boundaries of the Promised Land for the Jewish people to live in and made the Holy Land fully inhabitable when the Gentile inhabitants were utterly driven out. **“And I will set your boundaries from the Red Sea even to the sea (i.e., the Mediterranean Sea) of the Philistines, and from the desert to the river (Euphrates); for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand”** (Exodus 23:31). These boundaries were fully established during the reign of King Solomon. **“And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river (Euphrates) to the border of Egypt”** (1Kings 4:21).

The law of separation served as a holy hedge, a cleansing barrier separating the godly nation of Israel in the Promised Land from the rest of the heathen world surrounding them. **“For You did separate them from among all the people of the earth to be Your inheritance”** (1Kings 8:53). The partitioning hedge God imposed upon the Israelites was a preservative

element; it was a wall of separation that allowed the Jews to be a distinct and separated people down through the ages even until this day. Divine providence ordained the setting apart of the nation of Israel for a great and glorious purpose. By separation and sanctification, the Lord God used Israel as a holy channel for the redemption of mankind through which the immaculate Messiah, Jesus the Lord, would come forth and bring salvation to the world of lost souls. Jesus Christ the Savior was born a Jew (Romans 9:5; Hebrews 2:16); hence **“salvation is of the Jews”** (John 4:22). Jesus Christ is the supreme glory of Israel (Luke 2:32). The hedge was an efficient instrument of control and restraint; it retained and defined the limited boundaries of the vineyard. God provided His beloved vineyard Israel with the legislative protection of the Mosaic Law. The divine Law of Moses governed and regulated every detail and aspect of Israel’s domestic, social, moral, religious and spiritual life. The Law defined and controlled the Jews’ civic welfare as a holy nation under God. The observance of the Holy Law secured Israel’s continuance and distinct identity as God’s uniquely chosen nation in the land of Canaan. Moses charged Israel to this effect: **“Set your hearts to all the words which I testify among you this day, which you shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you, because it is your life and through this thing (i.e., obedience to God’s law) you shall prolong your days in the land**

**where you go over Jordan to possess it”** (Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

The ordinances of God’s Law recorded throughout the Torah were given to check and restrain evil. The administration of it circumscribed and punished all rebels and apostate Israelites from the law-abiding congregation. The hedge was also used for a landmark indicating the land was owned and purchased by a particular landholder. The people of Israel were “purchased” by God through deliverance and brought to the land of promise (Exodus 15:16; Psalm 74:2). They were powerfully ransomed from the cruel oppression of Pharaoh in Egypt. **“For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he”** (Jeremiah 31:11). It was through these acts of miraculous power and unending compassion, the Lord became the God of Israel, and Israel the chosen people of God. And we might also add to this, in the definitive context of our parable, the Householder became the owner and caretaker of His vineyard. **“And what nation in the earth is like your people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be His own people, to make a name of greatness and terribleness by driving out from before Your people, whom You have redeemed out of Egypt. For your people Israel did You make Your own people forever and You, Lord became their God”** (1Chronicles 17:21-22).

## What Does Sealing of the Holy Spirit Mean?

The sealing of the Holy Spirit, spoken of three times in the New Testament (2Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30), is the mark of identification that the believer is truly God’s own and is kept forever by the power of God. It is an unbreakable seal of divine ownership and salvation. In the ancient world, the use of “seal” was primarily used in three ways, which also answers to the three purposes for the sealing of the Holy Spirit. First, the ancient seal was given to denote that a document was genuine and certified by the one who sealed it. So also when the Holy Spirit seals the believer of the Gospel, the sealing of the Holy Spirit is God’s certification that the salvation of the believer is real and authentic. The Bible knows of no Christian saved without the Holy Spirit; every true Christian is sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit without exception. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is God’s mark of identification a person has truly believed the Gospel and is marked out as genuinely saved. Second, the seal was affixed to denote ownership. Today’s



equivalent of this is the title deed to a property or piece of land. The one who has a title deed shows proof that he is the owner of a purchased property. This accords well with the imagery of the seal of the Holy Spirit within the context of Ephesians chapter

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Scripture crucified and risen for their salvation, kissing the Scriptures and profusely thanking us over and over again for giving them hope in Yeshua the Messiah and the many promises of God's Word given to the precious Chosen People! I am also happy to report that this ministry is getting closer to operating full time again so that more evangelistic trips can be planned for Israel, and perhaps other parts of the world. This ministry needs to raise only about



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they have from the Messiah of Hebrew 1,500 to 2,000 thousand dollars more a month to achieve this goal! So I humbly ask our readers, donors, and supporters to please seriously and prayerfully

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His possession of ownership as an heir of eternal life in the kingdom of God. And the purchase price is the shed blood of Jesus Christ that has redeemed the saved sinner (Ephesians 1:7).

Thus, the seal of the Holy Spirit is the indelible sign and proof that God through Christ has redeemed us from sin for His redemptive ownership liberating those who were once enslaved to the old life of sin. Third, the seal is used to insure the security and safety of the object sealed to protect its contents from being violated. During the time of the New Testament period, the Greco-Roman world customarily sealed official documents sent to the recipient. Scribes, administrators and rulers would place soft wax on a document impressed with the regal or government insignia to guarantee authorship, authenticity, ownership, and authority. The seal of the Holy Spirit is God's means of protecting the believer. The Holy Spirit is God's seal of protection over the believer's life. Under this sacred seal, no man, demon, or any other thing can wrest the Christian from the secure position he has in Christ. The seal of the Holy Spirit is the imprint on the child of God—that he or she is placed under the eternal security of salvation whereby those who trust in Christ are secure forever in the Father's hand so that once they receive eternal life vouchsafed and sealed by the Holy Spirit **“they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand”** (John 10:28).

Paul goes on to describes the sealing of the Spirit as the “earnest” or “down payment” of God to the believer in Christ. The down payment of the Holy Spirit freely and graciously

deposited by God in the Christian life is the Lord's irrevocable promise and guarantee He will finish the work of salvation in the life of the believer. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is the indelible assurance of this wonderful fact! Down-payment is the meaning behind the Greek word ἀρραβὼν (arrabon) used by Paul in verse 14 and carries with it the idea that when God seals the born-again believer with the Holy Spirit it is the guarantee, not only of the security of the believer in Jesus Christ, but also the assurance that seal of the Holy Spirit is the down payment of the final inheritance of salvation to come. The Holy Spirit down payment is the irreversible guarantee that what God starts with salvation, He will irrevocably complete it with the glorification of all believers (see Philippians 1:6).

The down payment is thus the guarantee of the full payment to come. God is the Subject who alone performs this action on the believer who is the proper object of this action—which is especially confirmed when Paul formally speaks of sealed believers in verse fourteen as the “redemption of the purchased possession.” Every bona fide Christian is redeemed (purchased) by the propitiatory sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and then sealed by the Holy Spirit for the completion of his redemption. And what is the over-arching purpose for the sealing and redemption of every believer? It is to magnify, praise, and glorify God and Jesus Christ as the Author and Finisher of our salvation in this world and in the world to come!



# B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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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.



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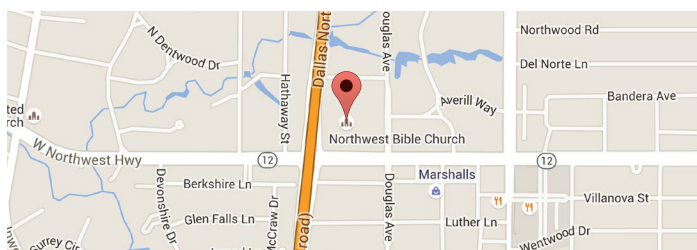
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