

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



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Fall 2025

The Light Shines in the Darkness (John 1:5)

This past September of 2025, August Rosado and I completed the 58th Gospel outreach to Israel. Once we landed in Israel, sharing the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah immediately began with Itay at Ben Gurion airport. August and I let him know that our salvation in Yeshua the Messiah is directly due to the God of Israel raising up the Chosen People through whom the Word of God was given and also by whom Jesus the Messiah came to save sinners and to bring light into darkness with eternal life, and forgiveness of sins to those who believe in His Name (John 1:5; Romans 3:2; 9:5; 10:13). Itay gratefully welcomed the Gospel message with obvious joy and openness. He jumped at receiving a complete Jewish Bible from us so that he may meet and know this crucified and risen Messiah for himself unto salvation. Itay was touched to the core and said that it would be an "honor" for him to receive and read the Word of God to learn more about this Jewish Messiah. Blown away, August and I knew the Lord set up this divine appointment to share the Word of life with Itay.

On day two of the 58th Gospel Outreach to Israel, August Rosado and I had the providential opportunity to share the Jewish roots of the Gospel with Moshe. He was very polite and more than happy to receive the Word of God written in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. He so cherished the copy we gave him that he immediately showed it to his coworkers. Later, at the Ir Yamim Shopping Mall,



Itay and Todd



Moshe and August



Jamal, Basel, and Todd

we had an effective and powerful Gospel ministry with Shiraz, an Ethiopian Jew. She expressed her concerns of traveling abroad and telling others she was a Jew from Israel for fear of the rising wave of Anti-Semitism in the world. August and I calmed her



August, Shiraz, and Todd



Michal

fears about being Jewish, as we recounted to her of God's noble, holy, blessed, and divine calling of Israel revealed in both Testaments of the Hebrew Bible. From that, we said to her the most important and wisest thing for a Jewish person to do is to search the Scriptures, read them, and plainly see Yeshua is the prophesied Messiah and believe on Him for redemption, of Whom God the Father sent to save Jew and Gentile with eternal life (John 5:39; 6:40). To that end, Shiraz joyfully took a complete Hebrew Bible from us and said she would read the

Scriptures given to her to find Yeshua in them. And in doing so, we pray that her fear will be turned into saving faith in the One who says, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you" (Isaiah 43:1).

Amazingly, the Lord allowed August and I to then cross paths with a young Israeli woman, Michal. When she was told I was from Dallas, Texas, she beamed with excitement and told us she had recently visited her sister who lives there too! This uncanny fact led us to share with her that God's will for Israel is to know and recognize that Yeshua His Son is the Messiah of Israel from the Hebrew Bible He gave to them. We pointed this out to her from several Messianic prophecies in a

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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 Diotrephes Disease

By. Dr. August Rosado

Founder and Evangelist of Today In Bible
Prophecy Ministries



“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church” (3John 1:9-10).

John the Apostle dealt with issues in the Church as he was the Pastor of the Church at Ephesus shortly after Paul’s death. Paul established the Church at Ephesus in Acts 19. After Paul the Apostle’s passing at Rome, John would leave Jerusalem and travel to Ephesus to take over that work. Ephesus served as the mother Church to all the other Churches in Asia Minor at that time. John was dealing with an individual that was looking to undermine John’s spiritual authority as the under shepherd at the Ephesian Church.

Diotrephes opposes John the Apostle’s teaching and looks to remove John and his followers because he is not content with John’s leadership. He puts John and his people out of the Church because Diotrephes desires to have the preeminence above all in the Church. That word, “Preeminence” simply means, ‘the fact of surpassing all others, to have the superiority’. Diotrephes is a prideful individual who loves to be first. He is rejecting not only John’s apostolic authority, but his Pastoral authority as well. He is unhospitable, he spreads gossip and rumors with no merit at all, and he excommunicates those who disagree with him.

John condemns his selfish ambition and desire for control over serving the church, contrasting his harmful actions with the hospitality and gospel partnership exemplified by Gaius.

Pride and Desire for Preeminence:

Diotrephes' primary characteristic is his love of being first, which manifests as a selfish ambition and a desire

for power within the church. This is seen as contrary to the teachings of Christ, who taught that greatness comes through service. The motive for such ungodly behavior is power and greed. There is selfish ambition to serve one’s own needs rather than the needs of the people in the Church. We see this today with many TV “Evangelists” today who holler for a dollar and seek to live the lavish lifestyle. They have the Diotrephes disease because they come first, and you last. They have no care of your personal struggles, whether spiritually or financially. All they care about is having a fat wallet and a luxurious lifestyle. They tell you if you send so much to them God is obligated to send this much to you. They make God out to be a genie in a bottle. Some even threaten and say if you don’t send them so much money, God will curse you with demons. I have heard Pastors misuse Malachi 3:8-10 so many times than I want to count. Yet, none of the Apostles, not even Jesus for that matter ever quote from Malachi 3 in the New Testament concerning giving. All Paul says is, “God loveth a cheerful giver”, (2 Cor 9:7).

Rejection of Apostolic Authority:

Diotrephes refuses to receive John's authority, his letter, and those whom he sends. This rejection of the apostle's leadership is seen as a rejection of Christ Himself, who said that those who receive the apostles receive Him. To reject the man of God is to reject the Messiah, the Son of God Himself, (Matt 10:40). We follow the man of God as long as he follows the Bible and teaches it for

its plain sense interpretation. The moment that Pastor no longer teaches the Bible we no longer follow him. There is a lack of the fear of God in many Christian denominations today. I have experienced this up close and personal.

In Franklin, Kentucky about four years ago I preached at a Church and had a guy there who began arguing with me right after my message in the congregation because he did not like my response to a Covid question. Instead of taking me privately to the side he decided to kill the service and grieve the Holy Spirit with public arguing. What made things worse is there were visitors and unsaved people who were there. I have had to call out people from behind the pulpit because of foolishness in the pews during the message. That is something I do not enjoy doing but when it continues, and it becomes a distraction then I have no choice.

Diotrephes' refusal to welcome the missionaries and other believers is a direct challenge to Christian fellowship and gospel partnership, which were vital for supporting evangelists in the first century. The goal is to preach the gospel and win as many to the Lord as possible. Since the first century A.D., the Church expected Jesus to return in their lifetime. Diotrephes was not concerned with any of this other than his own self-interest. To him the Church was a social hall and anyone coming in looking to disturb the waters was considered a threat to this man. One mega Church in the States had a raffle in which if you win you get to spend 15 minutes with the Pastor. This is the condition of the 21st century Church today in America. We have lost all credibility in the eyes of the world because of internal Church strife, false prophecy predictions, lack of soul winning, and the undermining of Pastoral authority. There is more worldliness in the Church as there is in the world. We should not ignore this and stick our heads in the sand like an ostrich and pretend these problems do not exist. Diotrephes is accused of spreading malicious gossip, tearing others down while elevating himself and disrupting the community. The Bible warns about slandered another brother, and yet, this is a major problem in the Church today.

Both Dr. Todd Baker and I had to deal with wicked individuals in the Church who sought to destroy both our ministries because of a disagreement. That is not of God. Can Satan use Christians to carry out such ungodly behavior? Absolutely! If you have a disagreement that is

fine. But it is evil to go out of your way to slander and personally attack another brother and set out to destroy their ministry. It once again boils down to a lack of a fear of God within and outside the Church. It is the last days scenario we see happening all over the country and only getting worse as the days go by. Souls are at stake, both Jews and Gentiles and Satan is on the war path.

In my travels across the US speaking at Churches on Bible prophecy, I am amazed at what I see! It is the undermining of Pastoral authority among some congregants who believe they should be above the Pastor. They feel they should have the pre-eminence in the Church and control the man of God and Church affairs. Again, I call this the "Diotrephes Disease",

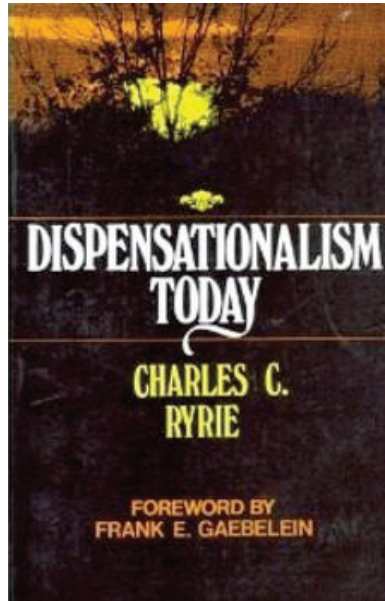
I mention this because of a Pastor who is a friend of mine is currently having issues with busy bodies causing him problems in the Church. The Diotrephes Disease is becoming contagious in the Church, and the only remedy for this spiritual disease is getting one's heart right with the Lord Jesus. Pastoring in this day and age is indeed a challenge to the man of God as he deals with a plurality of issues within and outside the Church.

You must pray and stand behind your Pastor as he does not have an easy job. Pray for his family as they come under attack as well. Avoid those who are looking to cause division in the Church and bring it to your Pastor's attention immediately so he can address the issue and put it to rest. Not only is there a Diotrephes Disease in the Church we also deal with the "Korah Explorer", who look for ways to rebel against the man of God and remove the Pastor simply because he wants things to go his way. He/she is not content with Pastoral leadership. How do we put a stop to such nonsense in the Church? Pray for your Pastor, stay in the Word, pray for the moving of God in your Church, and remove the chaff that is causing division if they continue this discord. It is the last days and Jesus is coming soon. The devil is on the attack with a bullseye on the man of God. As long as your Pastor follows the Lord and preaches the plain sense interpretation of Scripture, you follow, pray, and support him. Maranatha!

What Does a Dispensation Mean?

The word dispensation is used nine times in the New Testament. The word comes from the Greek word *oikonomia* and refers to a steward managing a household or economy. In fact the English word economy comes from this word. The Apostle Paul uses the word dispensation to mean his commission to preach the Gospel or a particular period of time, like the "dispensation of grace." The word is used by Paul four times in his New Testament epistles. The Greek word for "dispensation" is *oikonomia* (οικονομία); the English word economy derives from this word. It literally means "household management" and is often translated in the Bible as "stewardship" or "administration" to describe God's management of His divine plan (1 Corinthians 9:17; Ephesians 3:2; Colossians 1:25). In Ephesians 1:10 Paul speaks of the end of this present age and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom as "the dispensation of the fullness of times" to describe the completion of history and God's plan for the ages. A dispensation can also mean a specific period of time God marks off to test mankind with a particular aspect of His revelation given to individuals, and humanity in general, or Israel and the Church. The Scofield Reference Bible defines a dispensation to be "a period of time during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God."

Charles Ryrie in his classic work *Dispensationalism Today* defines a dispensation to mean "a distinguishable economy in the outworking of the plan of God" (Page 29). H.A. Ironside adds in his book, *In the Heavens*, "There are various economies running through the word of God. A dispensation, an economy, then, is that particular order or condition of things prevailing in one special age which does not necessarily prevail in another" (Page 67). The belief that God's outworking of



His eternal plan for man centered in Jesus Christ can be distinguished by different periods of unfolding, progressive revelation is called Dispensationalism. In this theological system there have been proposed two to eight distinct periods or dispensations. At the barest minimum there are two dispensations or periods of time—the Old Testament and the New Testament. Gotquestions.org states that "Dispensationalism is a theological system that recognizes these ages are ordained by God to order the affairs of the world."

Dispensationalism maintains the biblical distinction between Israel and the Church and that both redeemed Israel and the born-again Church form the people of God in the end. Standard Dispensationalism sees seven distinct dispensations in the economy of God as revealed in Scripture: (1) Dispensation of Innocence (Genesis 1:1-3:7), (2) Dispensation of Conscience (Genesis

3:8-8:22), (3) Dispensation of Human Government (Genesis 9:1-11:32), (4) Dispensation of Promise (Genesis 12:1-Exodus 19:25), (5) Dispensation of Law (Exodus 20:1-Acts 2:4), (6) Dispensation of Gospel Grace (Acts 2:4-Revelation 20:3), (7) the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6). The dispensations are not different paths to salvation, but the various ways God relates to men living in that particular dispensation. There is a uniform pattern seen in each dispensation—(1) Responsibility to God's revelation (2) Man's failure to obey that revelation (3) God's judgment (4) God's grace given to save from that judgment. Currently, we are in the Dispensation of Gospel grace and look ahead to the Millennial Kingdom Dispensation when the Lord Jesus Christ gloriously returns to the earth at the Second Coming.



ATTENTION READERS: I am on the faculty at Scofield Seminary. 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

The Light Shines in the Darkness (John 1:5)

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pamphlet we gave to her along with a complete Hebrew Study Bible. Now, she can look up these prophecies for herself to see and believe this for salvation. Michal was nearly moved to tears over our ministry to her touching on these vital things concerning the Messiah of Scripture. As this ministry does on every Gospel outreach to Israel, we traveled once again to Mount Hermon (the likely site of the Mount of Transfiguration) to minister the Word of the Gospel to the IDF stationed there. Once we arrived, we met two welcoming IDF soldiers, Jamal and Basel. Both men were informed by us of how Yeshua the Messiah revealed His divine glory on this mountain while Moses and Elijah stood on either side of Him (Mark 9:2-13). We hastened to add that Simon Peter, a Talmid (disciple) of Jesus, who was there with Him, later wrote the Word of God was more certain and sure in its authority than any personal supernatural experience, like what happened on that mountain two thousand years ago (2Peter 1:16-19). In light of this, August and I gave the two open soldiers the opportunity to read "the more sure Word of prophecy" by giving each one a complete Jewish Bible that included the New Testament. The soldiers high fived and hugged us giving a clear indication they wanted to read and learn more from God's Word about His Son and the Messiah of Israel!

Beloved in Messiah, I will be heading back to Israel this December to carry out this ministry's 59th Gospel outreach to Israel in obedience to Roman 1:16. As many of you know, I took a step of faith and went back into full time ministry over a year ago. If you could please support this outreach and help us continue going full time, as well, it will be deeply appreciated. Our donations went down this past month, but we simply cannot let the lack of funds impede this crucially important ministry of reaching the "the lost sheep of the House of Israel" (Romans 15:24). We are one of very few ministries in the Church that is traveling to Israel

and taking the Gospel to the Jew first there as Scripture mandates (Roman 1:16) Supporting us with your donations enables us to commit uninterrupted, full time devotion and commitment to soundly teach God's Word, and bring the Gospel back to Israel several times a year. We need your financial help. Please consider becoming a regular financial supporter of this worthy ministry. As you give, God will bless you in return according to the promise of Genesis 12:3. Please help us reach both Jews and Arabs in Israel with the saving message of the Gospel. You can donate by clicking on our secure link here: <https://www.brit-hadashah.org/donate/>

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Thank you so much for letting the Lord use you to allow us to continue this crucial ministry of sound Bible teaching and Jewish evangelism in Israel.

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, 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.

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Thank you for your support.

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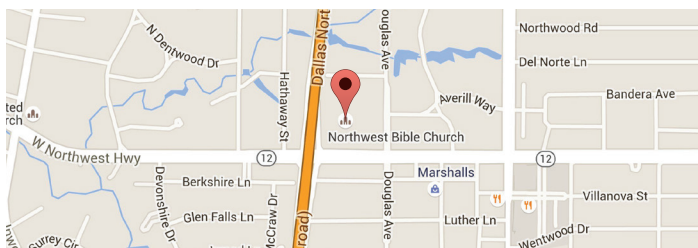
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Come learn about the Jewish roots of Christianity, enjoy great teachings from the Bible by Dr. Todd Baker, and join in loving fellowship with the Shalom, Shalom Congregation.

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