

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



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The Holy Spirit is Working in Israel Today (Matthew 10:23)

The Following report are some of the many wonderful Gospel witnessing encounters August Rosado had on the 60th Gospel Outreach to Israel we completed this past July of 2026. In Tel Aviv, the Lord opened the heart and mind of Yardenna to the Gospel of Yeshua. She asked how Christianity was connected to the Jewish people. She assumed, like so many do in Israel, the two were irreconcilable. August and I were able to explain to her that the first Christians were all Jews and the Christian faith was started and perpetuated by all Jews. The first Christian assembly of all Christian Jews was in Jerusalem, and the New Testament was penned by all Jews (including Luke who was probably a Hellenistic Jew). So from these facts we demonstrated that one can still be a Jew while believing Yeshua is the Messiah at the same time. The two are not irreconcilable as the Rabbis falsely teach! But for a Jew, we said, to trust in Yeshua is the completion of being Jewish (Acts 26:22-23). Yardenna, somewhat convinced by our words, received a copy of the Scriptures in Hebrew from us to further study these truths for herself to come to faith in the crucified and risen Messiah for salvation.



Todd and Yardenna



Todd and Dana



Todd, Boaz, and August

At the Ir Yamim Mall in Netanya, August and I had an effective witness with an Observant Jewish lady by the name of Dana. In our witness we utilized the fulfilled proof of Messianic prophecy by Yeshua of Nazareth to argue He is the one and only true Messiah of the Jewish people. We lovingly exhorted Dana to study both Testaments of the Scriptures to

confirm this, which is able to make one “wise unto salvation” (2Timothy 3:15). During our stay in the Galilee, August and I visited Tel Shifon in the gorgeous Golan Heights and had bold Gospel ministry with two Israeli Jewish women—Shira and Yasmin. Shira said she loved reading the Bible when she was a young girl. This was Providence at work because right after she told us that we told her that we frequently come to Israel as Bible teachers to proclaim that all the Law and Prophets unanimously point to Yeshua the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. Both ladies excitedly listened and received without hesitation complete Hebrew Bibles and Messianic tracts from August and I to read this on their own so that they will believe on Ha Adon Yeshua Mashiach (the Lord Jesus Christ) for salvation (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10).

At our hotel in Jerusalem the Lord brought two open and grateful Israelis across our path for powerful ministry. Rima is the guest relations manager at our hotel. She mentioned that she was a Russian Jew who immigrated to Israel several years ago. Suddenly, August Rosado and I remembered the great End-time prophecy of Jeremiah 16:14-15 where God promised He will bring back the Jewish people from the far north, Russia is directly north of Israel. We further said to Rima God had kept His promise to her and all Russian Jews who immigrated to Israel from Russia in the north by bringing them back to the Land of Promise at the end of days. This led us to inform her that the Lord has

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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 Wicked Husbandmen

(Matthew 21:33-44) Part 16



“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”

Anyone haughtily claiming to profess faith in Jesus Christ, and yet deems it unnecessary to exhibit a walk of constant repentance and brokenness in the presence of the Lord because of an imagined displacement or abolition of the sin nature from his life, is sorely deceived, inflated with spiritual pride, and is without the Spirit of truth! “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1John 1:8). Though the legal and habitual power of sin has been decisively broken over the child of God by the conquering power of Christ, the regenerate soul, while having the nature of Christ within him, still has the old nature of sin simultaneously residing in him too. Albeit, the old nature’s ruinous power and corrupting influence is hampered and subdued by the greater indwelling power and presence of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:17). Thus the born-again Christian has two natures, the new nature, which is after Christ, having dominion over the old sin nature, but the believer is liable to sin from time to time, which necessitates the need of repentance before the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood cleanses us from all sins repented of. Let us, therefore, humble ourselves and daily fall on the “Rock of Ages” with brokenness of spirit in self-deprecation of that which is sinful, openly admitting our own intrinsic unworthiness before Jesus Christ, knowing all too well that in many things we have offended all (James 3:2).

A life of humility and constant repentance before the Lord brings honorable favor and commendation from the Almighty (1Peter 5:6). Anything done with the apparent respect and sincerity in the eyes of men in the name of God and the Church, yet smacks of sanctimony and self-centered pride hidden within, is steadfastly refused and resisted by the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose ears are open only to the humble prayers of the repentant sinner, “that goes not out of deceitful lips” (Psalm 9:12; 17:1). God exclusively dwells within the contrite and lowly soul to revive and refresh his wearied spirit in times of struggling with sin. The same God, who through the painful, yet therapeutic influence of repentance, demands we must be “broken” and emptied of self reliance, with our pride left mortified, promises in return recovery and everlasting redemption. Hence, the divine promise is given by the Lord to all those who have undergone the lamenting and quelling effects of God given repentance. “For I will restore health to you, and I will heal you of your wounds, says the Lord” (Jeremiah 30:17). So too can the erring and straying saints of God confidently say in antiphonal

exclamation, “Come, and let us return to the Lord. For He has torn, and He will heal us. He has smitten, and will bind us up” (Hosea 6:1).

The stubborn hearted, like the Pharisees of Jesus’ day that opposed and murdered Him, who constantly refuse to have their self-centered and worldly preoccupied lives shattered, broken, and morally ruled over by the Lord Jesus Christ, will suffer eternal destruction by the descending Christ. He will land on them, so to speak, as a hurled stone from heaven with pulverizing judgment “in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2Thessalonians 1:8). The phrase “broken in pieces” accurately describes the catastrophic and disturbing judgment that yet awaits the Christ rejecting world for casting away His proffered salvation for these long and many centuries! This will culminate and manifest completely in the battle of Armageddon, when all the armies from the unbelieving nations of the world array themselves in one last, vain concerted effort to defeat the returning Messiah with His angelic and saintly armies following His lead. His return and descent from heaven will universally bring the crushing defeat, the breaking in pieces of all opponents of Christ at the decisive Battle of Armageddon. For the historic example of God grinding and breaking the unbelieving nations into nothing see Jeremiah 50:2. Though the breaking in pieces of all the nations of the world that oppose and fight the Lord Jesus Christ is not yet come, God, who declared the end from the beginning, and events not yet done, has already pronounced their doom and fatal disarmament, as if already done here in Matthew 21:44 in accordance with other portions of prophetic Scripture that foretell of the same cataclysmic event. We read in Isaiah 8:9, “Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing.”

The correlation of Matthew 21:44 with other verses of Bible Prophecy, as some would quickly assume, is not out of place to the harmony of the context of the parable’s conclusion. Indeed, the very same apocalyptic imagery is used elsewhere in Holy Writ. Jesus undoubtedly had in mind the end time events of Daniel 2 when He uttered the coup de grace ending of this parable. In Daniel chapter two we have the prophet by the same name, give the interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar’s strange, prophetic dream. In this vision, we are told of a great

colossus made of assorted metals, which depict the four different Gentile empires of the world. The top part of the statue was composed of gold—emblematic of the Babylonian Empire. The mid-section consisted of silver and portrays the Medo-Persian Empire. Directly under this part comes the belly and thighs of the statue, which are made of bronze—personifying the Grecian Empire of Alexander the Great. Beneath this are the two legs of iron, picturing the Eastern and Western parts of the Roman Empire. Finally, the last bodily part of the statue is the ten toes mixed with iron and clay that foretells of the last world Empire to come under the Anti-Christ (Daniel 2:19-43). During the global administration of this last empire, a heavenly Stone extracted from the mountain “without hands” will speedily descend and mortally strike the top-heavy colossus upon the feet smashing it into pieces and thoroughly grinding it into powder. This impregnable and immovable stone will then expand to a mountainous size of awe inspiring proportions, filling the whole world with its wonderful and universal dimensions (Daniel 2:44-45).

The meaning of this Stone surely points to the visible establishment of Messiah’s kingdom and millennial rule on earth at the end of the present age when He shall put down all man-made government and gloriously rule in their place over all the earth (Zechariah 14; Revelation 19:11-21). Jesus, as the plummeting Stone from heaven, will completely subjugate all global resistance and military protestations of all prideful, unbelieving nations when He returns on the white horse of war as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS in righteousness to judge and make war against the unbelieving nations of the world! But since this parable’s main locus concerns disobedient Israel during the First Advent of Christ, how does the previous observations made above have any coherent relevance to the scattering of unbelieving Israel; for Daniel 2 only focuses on the decimating Stone of divine vengeance in relation to the abolition of Gentile rule and the end of the age? Ah, but the astute student of Scripture knows that during the time frame of this parable, unbelieving Israel was under the imperial dominion of Rome—the fourth Gentile empire of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. It was under this form of Gentile rule Jesus the Messiah came to Israel for their salvation, but, by and large, the nation turned aside in unbelief and rejection of Him, and like the eventual fate of all unbelievers, suffered defeat and damning visitation from above in that generation.

The grinding into granules of powder of defiant Israel, which Jesus speaks about in this parable, no doubt, points to the second dispersion of the Jews throughout the world with the subsequent scattering of their nation from the Promised Land with the Roman invasion of 70 A.D. The castigation of Messiah Jesus from their national midst brought about the swift, reciprocated reprisal of mass ejection and bloody dispersion of Israel some forty short years later by the Lord for their part in the murder and rejection of His Son! Through the cruel instrumentality of iron fisted Rome, Israel was scattered in unbelief to all the nations of the world. The few remaining Jews who survived the crushing invasion were sold into slavery and dispersed throughout the world (Deuteronomy 28:62-68; Amos 9:8-9). Thus when Christ the Chief Cornerstone came, Israel stumbled over Him, because they, in their hardness of heart and rank unbelief, took offense at the lowly Nazarene of descending humility; and so they pompously reasoned with scornful skepticism: “Shall Christ come out of Galilee” (John 7:41)? They expected a conquering, military Messiah of public acclamation, not a suffering and crucified Messiah from the remote village of Nazareth in despised Galilee.

Furthermore, they could not stomach the simplicity of the Gospel of grace and, instead, tenaciously held to establishing their own righteousness by the ritual and outward observance of the Mosaic Law and the consequent works thereof (Romans 10:2-3). Hence, Israel “stumbled at that stumbling Stone”. What is true of Israel then, is true of the sneering worldlings that protest the Christ of the Bible today!

This same humble and meek Jesus, who came with lowliness “in the form of a servant” to suffer and die on the cross of ignominy for the redemption of man, is casually pushed aside, only to be universally summoned with sentimental, vague recollection during the infrequent religious holidays of the year, namely, “Easter” and “Christmas”. The real Jesus of Scripture is contemptuously labeled as the “crutch” of naïve simpletons, and the newfound drug of the former addict, now turned a “religious addict” instead. Those that are saved and truly proclaim and love Jesus unceasingly are then considered “rejects” and “oddballs” and are hurriedly and quietly placed in a secluded corner of their own by the pluralistic, neo-pagan society of today! And no wonder, “for the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but to us who are saved, it is the power of God.... for it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1Corinthians 1:18,21). Yet this same Christ of Calvary, as the crushing Stone of God, continues to smash into pieces the philosophical edifices of the unbelieving Gentiles, and brings to naught the messianic misconceptions of the unbelieving Jews, as well.

In concluding the exposition of this parable, we note that the religious luminaries of Israel were distinctly set apart by Jesus for this horrendous destruction He prophesied in verse 44. In fact, we continuously find in the Gospel narratives, that Jesus reserved His sternest condemnation, not for the manifest sinner, but for the eminently religious and well honored of the community. The Messianic Nazarene will always be repugnant to these men-pleasing religious groups. Indeed, our Lord suffered the most violent opposition and persecution, leading to His death, by the same “respectable” and “godly” men of public repute. To such, in all ages, Christ rebuffingly proclaims, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32). Nothing has changed today. The most difficult and hardened to reach for Christ is surely the pedantic cleric and religious devotee who conform to the externals of the Christian religion, and deem themselves acceptable before God, but lack the spiritual rebirth experience from above as authored by the Holy Spirit, with subsequent fruits bearing evidence thereto.

Like the Pharisees, these sort hold to the dead letter of Orthodoxy, while denying with academic pride and denominational idolatry the genuine supernatural move of God’s Spirit in the Church today. Why? The answer is because in the same spirit of the Pharisees of Christ’s day, such a wondrous display of the presence of the living Christ would take away the honor and attentive prestige of leadership they court and love, and rightfully focus attention on the simple Christ of Scripture, instead of the unbiblical theological speculations of men. To those, who after the same mindset of the Pharisees, listen to the same truths contained in the Gospel, and willfully reject it after understanding its eternal implications, have nothing to look forward to, “but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:27). Therefore to all, far and near, to both secular and religious, we earnestly beseech you to fall upon the merciful Christ in self-abasing repentance, who is near to save, lest this avenging Stone fall upon thee in eternal judgment. “For it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).

What is Biblical Hermeneutics?

Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible. Second Timothy 2:15 commands believers to be involved in hermeneutics: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who . . . correctly handles the word of truth.”



The purpose of biblical hermeneutics is to help us to know how to properly interpret, understand, and apply the Bible. The most important law of biblical hermeneutics is that the Bible should be interpreted literally. We are to understand the Bible in its normal or plain meaning, unless the passage is obviously intended to be symbolic or if figures of speech are employed. The Bible says what it means and means what it says. For example, when Jesus speaks of having fed “the five thousand” in Mark 8:19, the law of hermeneutics says we should understand five thousand literally—there was a crowd of hungry people that numbered five thousand who were fed with real bread and fish by a miracle-working Savior. Any attempt to “spiritualize” the number or to deny a literal miracle is to do injustice to the text and ignore the purpose of language, which is to communicate. Some interpreters make the mistake of trying to read between the lines of Scripture to come up with esoteric meanings that are not truly in the text, as if every passage has a hidden spiritual truth that we should seek to decrypt. Biblical hermeneutics keeps us faithful to the intended meaning of Scripture and away from allegorizing Bible verses that should be understood literally.

A second crucial law of biblical hermeneutics is that passages must be interpreted historically, grammatically, and contextually. Interpreting a passage historically means we must seek to understand the culture, background, and situation that prompted the text. For example, in order to fully understand Jonah’s flight in Jonah 1:1–3, we should research the history of the Assyrians as related to Israel. Interpreting a passage grammatically requires one to follow the rules of grammar and recognize the nuances of Hebrew and Greek. For example, when Paul writes of “our

great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” in Titus 2:13, the rules of grammar state that God and Savior are parallel terms and they are both in apposition to Jesus Christ—in other words, Paul clearly calls Jesus “our great God.” Interpreting a passage contextually involves considering the context of a verse or passage when trying to determine the

meaning. The context includes the verses immediately preceding and following, the chapter, the book, and, most broadly, the entire Bible. For example, many puzzling statements in Ecclesiastes become clearer when kept in context—the book of Ecclesiastes is written from the earthly perspective “under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:3). In fact, the phrase under the sun is repeated about thirty times in the book, establishing the context for all that is “vanity” in this world.

A third law of biblical hermeneutics is that Scripture is always the best interpreter of Scripture. For this reason, we always compare Scripture with Scripture when trying to determine the meaning of a passage. For example, Isaiah’s condemnation of Judah’s desire to seek Egypt’s help and their reliance on a strong cavalry (Isaiah 31:1) was motivated, in part, by God’s explicit command that His people not go to Egypt to seek horses (Deuteronomy 17:16).

Some people avoid studying biblical hermeneutics because they mistakenly believe it will limit their ability to learn new truths from God’s Word or stifle the Holy Spirit’s illumination of Scripture. But their fears are unfounded. Biblical hermeneutics is all about finding the correct interpretation of the inspired text. The purpose of biblical hermeneutics is to protect us from misapplying Scripture or allowing bias to color our understanding of truth. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17). We want to see the truth, know the truth, and live the truth as best we can, and that’s why biblical hermeneutics is vital.



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Daniel E. Woodhead Ph.D., President

The Holy Spirit is Working in Israel Today (Matthew 10:23)

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also kept His Word about sending the Messiah to Israel in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth. Rima warmly received from us a complete Jewish Bible to explore this major fulfillment of Bible prophecy and see for herself Jesus is the only One to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). An Israeli Jewish man by the name of Boaz overheard us and wanted to know more about our visit to Israel. August and I said the God of the Bible sent us to the Jewish people in Israel to tell them He has placed them back in the Land He gave them never to be uprooted or scattered from there again (Amos 8:14-15) in preparation for the return of Yeshua the Messiah, and to believe in Him now for salvation through the Gospel we proclaim. To our awe and astonishment, Boaz showed us his muscular forearm, and there, we saw, as he told us, chill bumps over what we just said to him. Boaz was rejoicing over our sharing the Gospel with him in the course of thirty minutes. He was so moved by this Holy Spirit encounter that when we gave Boaz a complete Hebrew Bible with Messianic Gospel tracts, he hugged us, firmly shook our hands, promising to stay in touch with us. He had also shared that he grew up with Christian Zionists in Ecuador and has a special love for those like them and us!

Beloved in Messiah, I will be heading back to Israel this July to carry out this ministry's 60th 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. If you could please support this outreach and help us continue our Gospel outreaches to Israel, it will be deeply appreciated. We are one of very few ministries in the Church that is regularly 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. 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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Every donation is tax deductible when you give to this 501(c)(3) ministry.

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

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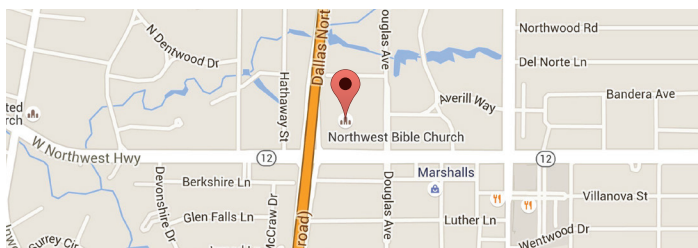
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What is Biblical Hermeneutics? 4



Friday Evenings at 6:00pm
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A stylized illustration of an open book with white pages and a blue cover, resting on a wooden stand. The stand has a thick, rectangular top and a base with vertical slats. The entire illustration is rendered in a simple, hand-drawn style with bold outlines and flat colors.

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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