



December 2016

Dear brothers and sisters in Messiah,

Shalom! שלום!

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith Jehovah of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

זְכַרְיָה 4:6 "וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר יְהוָה אֶל־זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בִמְחִיל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם־בְּרוּחִי אֶמַּר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

It's hard to believe that 2016 is drawing to a close. With Samuel we say, **Even – Ezer, thus far the LORD has helped us**, 1 Samuel 7:12b. Soon, unless the Lord comes, we will start a new year with its new blessings and challenges. God is good and we praise Him for His great love towards us all.



There is much in this news letter that Irene and I can share with you, but we want to highlight just a few things for praise and prayer. We were happy to receive another letter from James, the Jewish believer who is an inmate at San Quentin in California. James listens to our Holy Scriptures and Israel radio program, but apparently the radio signal in winter is weak, resulting in a poor reception and therefore making it difficult to hear. James received from us bible-teaching booklets which were helpful to him and other inmates for which we can praise the Lord. One of the booklets titled The LORD Said Unto My Lord is from Psalm 110, a psalm that points us to our glorified Lord, *Yeshua* the Messiah. Please continue to keep



our brother James and the other inmates in your prayers.

In past newsletters we had requested prayer for the baptism of seven believers in our Messiah *Yeshua*, five of them are of Jewish descent. The baptism was held last Saturday and was well attended by friends and families. We praise the Lord, as it was our joy to hear their testimonies and witness their identification with our Lord Jesus the Messiah, in His death, burial and resurrection. All seven are thankful to the Lord for the great salvation that He has provided for them. The message showed that Baptism, טבילה - Tvilah in

Hebrew, was commanded by the Lord, practiced by the early believers in Israel and around the world, and taught by the biblical writers. We read passages from the Gospels, the Acts and the Epistles. In Matthew we read the command of our Lord *Yeshua* who said; **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father - Abba, and of the Son - Ben, and of the Holy Ghost Ruach Ha-Kodesh:** Matt 28:19. In Acts we read of the practice of the early believers. **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.** Acts 2:41. In the Epistles we read what Paul wrote to the believers in Rome; **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Messiah was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** Romans 6:4.



We were glad to see other Jewish believers present and it was an encouragement to speak with believers who are burdened for the salvation of our people Israel. Some shared the fact that today in Israel, and around the world, more and more of our Jewish brethren are opening their eyes and hearts to *Yeshua* the Messiah. We thank God that it is clear from the Bible that Jesus – *Yeshua* is truly the promised one of Israel. It was Nathaniel who said to *Yeshua* in John 1:49b. **Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.** Yes, for more than 2000 years, our people Israel have been in a state of partial and temporary spiritual blindness. We are now seeing growth in the work of the Lord among our Jewish people. We praise God that His promises will surely come to pass. God is ever true to His word, His word will never fail; whether to the church or to Israel, as our Lord declared in Mark 13:31 **Heaven and earth shall pass**

away: but my words shall not pass. God, by His Spirit directed Jeremiah who wrote, that Israel would be restored to Himself. **For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.** Jeremiah 30:3

It is also clear from Scripture that we live in the last days of the church age, called the Laodicean Age. Soon our blessed Lord Jesus will come and take His heavenly people out of this world, to be forever with Him in glory. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also, John 14:3. Then He will resume His direct dealing with His earthly people Israel. The nation of Israel and the whole world will go through tribulation, known as Jacob's trouble, out of which God in His grace, will save Israel. The prophet Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 30:7. **Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.**



As we await these promises to come to pass, we continue on. We thank the Lord for the privilege that He gives us to preach and teach His Word, both on the radio and at our outreach meetings. Our confidence is not in ourselves, but in *Yeshua* our Messiah. The desire of our hearts is to continue to develop the radio ministry as the Lord allows. We want to express our special thanks to those who have supported us and the radio ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel during the year of 2016, your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. We pray that the Lord, should He tarry, will continue to bless the ministry of The Holy Scriptures and Israel in the year 2017. We recently finalized the recordings on the book of Nehemiah and added it to our website. You can find these Bible teaching messages on the Holy Scriptures And Israel website, click on the radio tab. <http://www.holyscripturesandisrael.com>

We have much to be thankful for, one of them being improvement in Irene's health, the medication has helped and she feels better. Thank you for the many prayers, they have sustained us. We have another request for prayer for myself, as I had a routine physical when the doctor detected a heart murmur and sent me to do a echogram at which time they discovered I had severe aortic stenosis which is a narrowing of the aortic valve. Which is probably the reason that I always feel tired. Today I had an appointment with the cardiologist who confirmed the heart murmur and the need of surgery to replace the aortic valve. As the initial echogram was not an optimal reading the cardiologist is booking me to have another echogram done at the hospital where the equipment is more sophisticated. She wants to determine whether or not the degeneration of the valve is genetic or not before proceeding with

plans for the surgery. If it is genetic then our three sons will need to be tested as well. Irene and I have committed this situation to the Lord Jesus our Messiah, knowing that all things are in his hands. With Israel's king David we can say. **For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.** Psalm 103:12.



Please pray for:

- For the brothers and sisters who were baptized.
- For James the Jewish believer in the California prison.
- For the radio program of The Holy Scriptures and Israel.
- For the Bible classes in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- For Irene to continue to improve.
- For Gideon's heart condition and the upcoming surgery.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: **they shall prosper that love thee.** Psalm 122:6

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."
Isaiah 62:1

God bless you.

In Messiah, Gideon and Irene



Please pray for Israel to open their hearts and see Yeshua our Messiah who said, "I am the light of the world." John 8:12