



March 2019

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-זְרֻבְבָּל לֵאמֹר לֹא בִמְחִיל וְלֹא בִקֶּחַץ כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

As we write this newsletter, Irene and I are preparing for our spring Land of the Bible tour. We thank the Lord for the privilege of studying His word in Israel together with other brothers and sisters in Messiah, who are like-minded believers. We would value your prayers for our group and for our family in Israel, as we will be seeing them for a short visit. They, as well as the rest of our Jewish brethren, need to know the Lord *Yeshua* as their Messiah.



There is an election coming up in Israel, which will determine the direction of the whole nation. While militarily, Israel is a strong nation, without true spiritual restoration to God through the Redeemer, the Lord *Yeshua* the Messiah, Israel cannot sustain itself. The Hebrew Scriptures clearly show that Israel is heading towards a time of trouble and conflict. Scripture shows us that the enemies of Israel will continue to seek to destroy Israel from being a nation. Asaph, the psalmist of Israel prayed on behalf of the nation, saying, **Do not**

keep silent, O God! Do not hold your peace, and do not be still, O God. For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have

taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more. For they have consulted together with one consent, they form a confederacy against You. Psalm 83:1-5. In spite of human opposition, the plan, purposes and program of God will not change, as He is a sovereign God and His desire will prevail. The apostle Paul reminded the believers at Rome of the plan of God for Israel by saying. **Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness.** Romans 11:12.

We, who are believers in the Lord Jesus the Messiah, know from the Word of God, that before Israel, its neighbours and the whole world experience true peace, true shalom, this world will experience much conflict, trials and tribulation. Not until the long-awaited day of the return of *Yeshua* the Messiah, and the repentance of Israel, will we see peace. This is why we are exhorted by the Word of God to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of Israel, as the long awaited peace will only come once Israel will say, **Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.** Mathew 23:39b.

Some weeks ago, we began the study of the book of Lamentations, during our Saturday - Shabbat outreach meetings in Toronto. This study of Lamentations is really moving, as we learn of the brokenness of the heart of Jeremiah the prophet. Jeremiah, who loved his people, lamented over the burning of the first temple, the destruction of the city of Jerusalem, and the carrying away of his brethren to the land of Babylon. In Hebrew the name of the book is *Eycha* - *הֵיכָה*, meaning HOW. Jeremiah who was an eye-witness to the devastation, asked, HOW is it possible, that this terrible destruction and desolation happened to his people, he was so overwhelmed, that he lamented with a great cry for Jerusalem saying, **How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow is she, Who was great among the nations. The princess among the provinces has become a slave.** Lamentations 1:1. This sad occasion of the destruction of Jerusalem and its first temple, took place around the 9th day of the Hebrew month of AV, in the year 586 B.C. God disciplined His erring people, and this sad day became one of the most solemn days of the year for our people Israel, as the destruction of the second temple by the Romans took place in 70 A.D. on the same day, the 9th of AV.



Of late the Lord impressed upon our hearts the value of our Holy Scriptures and Israel radio and internet ministry. We took note of remarks made by others who use the radio and the internet to reach out with the message of the gospel. It was said that while technology is exploding and handheld devices and social networking have become primary sources of information and communication in other parts of the world, radio continues to play an important role in sharing with others the person of the Lord Jesus the Messiah. Radio reaches people in places and times when they are alone, open to quietly listen to the Word of God, radio reaches some who live in isolated and desperate areas of the world, who otherwise would have no access to the Gospel. Radio is the ideal medium to break through barriers of illiteracy. Radio allows millions of people worldwide to hear what they cannot read. Radios are prized possessions in remote areas; a single radio often serves an entire village. Radios can be heard in countries and cultures where faith in the Lord Jesus the Messiah is forbidden. Any person, a Muslim or Buddhist or of any religion interested in learning about *Yeshua* - Jesus, might not open their door to a missionary, but often he or she will listen privately to a radio broadcast or internet. We thank you all for your prayers and support which make it possible for us to continue with the radio and internet ministry, sharing and spreading the Word of God.



This week, the people of Israel and the Jewish community world wide, are celebrating the Feast of Purim, known also as the Feast of Esther. At our meeting we studied together the third chapter of the book of Esther and the reason Israel began to celebrate the Feast of Purim. We learned of Mordecai the Jew, who did not compromise his belief in the true and living God and did not bow his knees to the wicked Haman, the enemy of the Jews even though he had remained in Persia instead of returning to the promised land. The name of God is not mentioned even once in the book of Esther, yet it was the providence of God that preserved the people of Israel. God used Esther, who became the wife of King Ahasuerus, also known as King Xerxes, to turn the table on the wicked Haman who planned to kill all the Jews in the Persian empire. What an amazing God we have! As it was for Israel, so it is for the assembly, the Lord Jesus promised the sure preservation of the assembly when He gave Peter and His disciples this wonderful promise, **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** Mathew 16:18

We were blessed with a good attendance, including a good number of Jewish brethren, for which we thank the Lord. We were also happy to have in our midst brother Yossi Ovadia, an Israeli believer in *Yeshua* our Messiah. Yossi, a nickname for the Hebrew name Yosef, shared with us his testimony and ministry in Karmiel, a city in Galilee, in the northern part of Israel. Yossi was born in Haifa, Israel in 1960 into a traditional religious Jewish family. His father worked in the Rabbinate (the state's official Jewish religion authority) as a Circumciser, also as a Cantor and a Bar Mitzvah teacher. In 1983, after nine months of searching after being exposed to the person of *Yeshua* the Messiah, Yossi came to faith in *Yeshua*. Some years later the Lord called Yossi to full time service in the Galilee, where he and his wife Ronit have been serving faithfully for thirty years. Irene and I have known Yossi and Ronit for many years and I am so encouraged by the fellowship of another Israeli believer who shares the same background and faces the same challenges unique to an Israeli believer in ministry to his brethren, who are opposed to the gospel. Please keep Yossi and Ronit in your prayers as they serve the Lord in Israel.



We wish to thank you dear brothers and sisters for your prayers for us, and the ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel, the Lord sustains Irene and me, for which we are thankful. Along with the apostle Shaul - Paul we are, **giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.** Colossians 1:12.

Please pray:

- For our group during our trip to Israel
- For the radio program and website outreach
- For the weekly bible classes and meetings
- For spiritual growth of the believers who attend meetings
- For Yossi and Ronit Ovadia and their ministry in Israel
- For our family to come to faith in Yeshua the Messiah
- For physical health and strength
- **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,

A. Leon & Irene

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