



December 2020

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 6:4 "וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר-יְהוָה אֶל-זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בְחַיִל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

It is hard to believe, but we are swiftly coming to the last days of the year of 2020. This year was filled with many challenges, especially the unexpected COVID-19 virus. We thank God, who knows all things and is in control of everything, that whatever happens in His universe, He allows for His own purposes. We are thankful that our Lord Jesus the Messiah has given us the privilege of participating, along with other believers, in His vineyard. He exercises our hearts to share the gospel message with our Jewish brethren, enabling us to present His precious Word from a first century Hebrew - Messianic perspective via radio and various platforms. We praise our Lord for His goodness!

Graciously, the Lord *Yeshua* has through the years opened one door at a time, enabling us to continue to air the Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible teaching program for many years. The Lord has sustained us during this year as well, and like David, Irene and I can say, **Behold, God is my helper**. Psalm 54:4a. We are reminded of the words of Samuel to our people Israel in days of old, **Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us,** 1 Samuel 7:12.

We are glad to share with you brethren that the Lord has opened yet another door for the ministry of His Word. In His will, on January 3, 2021, we will begin airing the Bible teaching



program of the Holy Scriptures and Israel on the radio station, Sound of Faith, in London, Ontario, <https://london.faithfm.org>. The Sound of Faith Broadcasting was born in 1994, when a group of people began meeting in the city of Woodstock, Ontario, with a dream of bringing Christian radio into Southwestern Ontario. The CHJX, Sound of Faith FM, 99.9 radio, went on air in the fall of 2003, with the name Grace FM,

105.9, and in September 2012, the station was re-branded as Faith FM 99.9. We thank God for this open door and we would appreciate your prayers as we continue to prepare Bible teaching messages for this new London station. As to the Global Vision TV in Scotland, we continue to record new messages each week for the series on the Parables of Jesus the Messiah. The series can be seen on their channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/GlobalVisionTV/videos>.

As you may know, our families and the Jewish community are now in the midst of celebrating the feast of Hanukkah - חנוכה, in english the feast of Dedication, also known as the feast of lights. The feast of Hanukkah / Dedication looks back and points us to the faithfulness of God in preserving His people Israel, allowing them to re-dedicate His Temple which what been desecrated. This was the same Temple to which our Lord Jesus the Messiah was brought to by His mother Miriam when He was 8 days old, Luke 2:21-32. Hanukkah came as a result of a very sad time in the history of our Jewish people, yet at the same time Hanukkah reminds us of the faithfulness of God to His people.



In the second century B.C., after the death of Alexander the Great, Judea fell under the control of the Greek Syrian Seleucids, approximately in the year 200 B.C. During those days, many of the Jews were influenced by the pagan Greek way of life, and some began to adopt the Greek hellenized lifestyle and culture. Antiochus the 4th, Epiphanes, became the ruler of the Greek Seleucid Empire at about 173 B.C. He was a cruel king who did not care for the Jewish people and their God-given lifestyle in the land of Israel. Antiochus Epiphanes, also known as Antiochus Epimanes, the madman, desired to unite his kingdom by forcing the Greek religion and lifestyle upon the Jews, he sent his army from town to town in the land of Israel, forcing the Jewish people to worship pagan gods. King Antiochus out-lawed the temple sacrifices, the weekly observance of the Shabbat day, the celebration of the biblical Feasts of the LORD, the God

given ordinance of circumcision, and made it an offence for any Jewish person to possess the Torah, the Hebrew Scriptures. He established throughout the land of Judea altars to the Greek gods, upon which the Jews were forced to offer unclean animals. Antiochus then desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem by erecting a pagan image and offered pigs on the altar, by doing this he committed the abomination of desolation which was prophesied by Daniel the prophet in Daniel 8:9-14. Antiochus' persecution of the Jews is a sad symbol of that, which another wicked man, the antichrist, will do in the future tribulation days. It is amazing, how our Sovereign God knew what would happen to His people ahead of time, and He revealed this to His prophet Daniel, graciously promising that He would deliver His people from their enemy and that the God-fearing Jews would re-dedicate the desecrated Temple back to God. Daniel recorded this terrible historic event in his book, in Daniel 8:13-14 we read, **Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot. And he said to me, For two thousand three hundred days, then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.** We thank God for fulfilling His promises as they are given in His Word, in helping His people Israel to rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem. We have prepared a special video which we trust will help you to better understand the link between the feast of Hanukkah and the coming of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. You can watch the video on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/HolyScripturesIsrael>. Please subscribe if you haven't already!

It is now nearly ten months, since March, that our Holy Scriptures and Israel weekly outreach meetings have been done through Zoom. Obviously, we miss being together at the meeting hall. We truly love to embrace and express our affection for each other. Yet, the Lord allowed these changes and we take it from His hand. While meeting through Zoom is not the best way, we praise God that we are able to be together and study His Word. It is good for us to be able to see and hear each other and also to be under the teaching of the Word of God. On Friday mornings we finished the study of 1st Corinthians and started the study of the book of Joshua, on our Friday evening meetings we arrived to the 13th chapter of the book of Revelation, and on our Saturday / Shabbat meeting we are studying the gospel of John. What a blessing, as both Jewish and non Jewish believers grow together in appreciation of the whole councils of God, as the apostle Paul said in Acts 20:27, **For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.** Should you wish to receive an invitation to any of these studies, feel free to connect with us by e-mail, using this e-mail address, gideon@holyscripturesandisrael.com. We would be glad to have you study the scriptures with us.

Looking back, over all that the Lord Jesus our Messiah has allowed us to experience during this year, we can truly say that we are thankful. The song which is sung from time to time point us to our faithful Lord and saviour, reminding us that. **Tis Jesus the first and the last, Who shall guide us through all to the throne, We'll praise Him for all that is past, We'll trust Him for all that's to come.** In Proverbs 3:5-6, King Solomon gives us some good advice, when he said, **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**



Dear brethren, Irene and I wish to thank you once again for your love, your prayers and support of us during this year of 2020, we appreciate the care shown to us in so many ways. Thank you for remembering to pray for our people of Israel, who need to know that our Messiah has come. Just imagine, what it will be for this world, when Israel as a nation, individually and collectively will come to know that *Yeshua* is indeed their Messiah, as God purposed and promised in His Word. **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.** May the Lord hasten that day. Soon the Lord Jesus will come to take His church to glory, and should He tarry, we wish you and yours to have a blessed end of the year, and a happy New Year.

Please pray for:

- The Holy Scriptures and Israel.
- The Radio and Website Bible teachings.
- The Weekly Zoom meetings.
- The spiritual growth of the believers.
- The needed encouragement for the discouraged.
- The salvation of our family members.
- The needed health and strength for Irene and me.
- **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,

G. Leon & Irene