



December 2022

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 "וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר-יְהוָה אֶל-זֵרְבָבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בְחֵיל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי אֶמֶר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

We are amazed that this is our year-end newsletter already. Surely, 2022 has passed by so quickly. We've had the privilege of sharing the goodness of the Lord, ministering to our Jewish people, and teaching the Word of God. Looking over this past year, Irene and I can truly say, along with Jeremiah, that the Lord has been merciful and His compassions fail not. Jeremiah reminded his people Israel of the grace of the LORD and declared in Lamentations 3:23 **Thy mercies are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness.**

As we look back at the final days of this year, we can only say, thank you Lord. Although situations and circumstances change, our God remains the same, He changes not. The early Hebrew believers were told of Jesus the Messiah in Hebrews 13:8, **Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.** This was a reminder of what God said to His people some 450 years earlier, **For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.** How good to know that God the Father and our Lord Jesus the Messiah do not change. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, wrote these encouraging words, **If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.** 2 Timothy 2:13.



We are in the season when the professing Christian world is preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Messiah. At the same time, the Jewish world is celebrating the feast of Hanukkah, a feast which reminds us of the faithfulness of God. There is an amazing link between the feast of Hanukkah and the birth of our Lord, Yeshua the Messiah. Hanukkah, which means dedication, points to an historical event that took place in Jewish history some 2200 years ago. 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 this time, many of the Jews were influenced by the pagan Greek way of life and 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 Jews and for their 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 Jewish people. Going from town to town, he forced the Jewish people to worship pagan gods. Antiochus also out-lawed the Temple sacrifices, the weekly observance of the Shabbat day, the celebration of the biblical feasts of the LORD, and the God given ordinance of circumcision, Brit-Mila. He also made it an offence to possess the TANACH, the Hebrew Scriptures. Antiochus established altars to Greek gods throughout the land of Judah, upon which unclean animals were sacrificed. He 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 chapter 8:9-14.

In a miraculous way, God preserved His people Israel by delivering them from Antiochus and his army. God raised up Judah the Maccabee, who led his people to win a victory over the Grecian Syrian army, driving them out of the land of Israel. Judah and the Maccabees removed the idols which were placed in the temple there by Antiochus, and built a new altar, dedicating the temple to God on the 25th of the Hebrew month of Kislev. Tradition teaches us that when the Maccabees wanted to light the unlit Menorah, the lamp-stand, they did not have the needed oil. As they searched, they found a small pot of pure olive oil which was sufficient to light the Menorah for only one day. Yet miraculously, God allowed the Menorah to burn for eight days instead of only one. This miracle provided the needed time for the preparation of proper new oil for the Menorah. This miracle was evidence that God was restoring His people Israel to Himself, placing them under His protection. As a memorial of the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem and the deliverance of the people of God, an eight-day feast called Hanukkah was appointed by the Jewish people. The thanks-giving feast is there to remind them of the faithfulness of God to His people and to His Temple.

By divine design, some 170 years later, Miriam, along with Joseph her husband, brought baby Jesus to this same re-dedicated Temple, in order to present Him to the Lord God of Israel. Luke 2:21-30. It was there that aged Simon, who waited for the restoration of his people Israel, held baby Yeshua and called upon God saying, **Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy**



people Israel. Luke 2:29-32. Jesus the Messiah came to this very same re-dedicated Temple, some 33 years later, for the celebration of the feast of Hanukkah. It was in that Temple, during the feast of Hanukkah, that He publicly declared Himself the promised Messiah, one with God the Father, John 10:22-33. Our Lord Yeshua invited all to believe in Him, the promised Messiah. He declared these amazing words, **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never**

perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:27-28.

We also were blessed this Hanukkah season to be able to meet together with brothers and sisters, both Jewish and non Jewish believers, for our Hanukkah meeting, and to celebrate the birthday of Esther our sister in Messiah. We heard once again the Hanukkah story, foretold through Daniel the prophet, and learned of its fulfillment which took place some years later. We were encouraged as we read in the gospels of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Yeshua, the Messiah. We were challenged by the Scriptures to appreciate the life eternal which He provided through His death on the cross, for all who turn to Him by faith. A presentation of the ministry on the feast of Hanukkah can be seen below.

The outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel has experienced God at work in the lives of His people, the power of His Word, and its ability to change lives. We realize we can do nothing of ourselves. We need the help of the Lord, the prayers and support of the saints of God, and the faithful brothers and sisters who practically and tangibly assist us with this outreach ministry. There is a lot of preparation that takes place in order to provide audio segments of Bible teaching messages to various radio stations, as well as in the recording of bible teaching video for posting on YouTube and Facebook. Please continue to keep our brother Scott Cassel in your prayers as he continues to heal from his accident and will be resuming his work cleaning messages along with his wife Connie. Also, for our son Shalom, who does all the technical work for our YouTube and Facebook channels.

We seek to present sound and clear ministry from the Scriptures which will be helpful to both Jews and Gentiles alike. Our trust is in our God who is able to open the eyes and hearts of each person, to search the Scriptures and find in the Word the beauty of the person of our Lord Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah. Just as we read of Lydia, although she believed in her God of Israel, she needed the help of the Holy Spirit in order to know who Yeshua, Jesus was. In Acts 16:14, Paul wrote concerning Lydia, **And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.**

In the will of the Lord, should He delay His coming, in 2023 we will continue reaching out in sharing the simple message of the gospel from the Word of God through the radio and video, as well as through our Zoom and in-person meetings. We greatly appreciate your continued prayers and support of us and the ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel.

Radio Ministry - Each week our Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible teaching program is aired on these five radio stations. On some stations, our Bible teachings programs are aired for 15 minutes each day. On others, our Bible teachings programs are aired for 30 minutes each day. Purchasing air time is not cheap, and by the grace of God and through His provision, the radio outreach ministry continues to be aired in Ontario, Canada, in New York and California, USA, and in Namibia, South Africa.

YouTube and Facebook Ministry - The Bible teaching outreach through YouTube and Facebook has been growing. We continue to regularly post weekly Bible teaching messages which are presented from a Hebrew, Messianic perspective. We have a good response from those who are helped by these messages.

Websites, International Ministry - The website of the Holy Scriptures and Israel has been helpful as it contains various and complete book by book Bible teachings, which were recorded over many years. Thankfully, these messages are available at any time for those who wish to listen. The use of websites has allowed the gospel message to spread as far as the water covers the sea. Solomon, the king of Israel, gave a good council to His people when he said, **Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.** Ecclesiastes 11:1. Please pray that the Lord will bless His Word to reach out to many, including our Jewish people, as it is presented through these websites.

Zoom International Bible Classes - Over the last two years, the Lord has blessed our Bible classes over Zoom. These Bible classes are enabling believers from other cities, provinces, states, and countries, to be part of a consistent Bible classes where the Scriptures are taught from first century Hebrew Messianic perspective. We thank the Lord for bringing our way individuals who desire to study the Word of God. Should any of you, or anyone you know, wish to join us in the study of the Word of God through these Bible classes, feel free to send us a request by emailing gideon@holyscripturesandisrael.com. A link to join the weekly Bible classes will be sent back.

In Person Meetings - In the will of the Lord, we are seeking direction as to resuming our in-person outreach meetings which were paused for a season and replaced with Zoom. While brethren are blessed through the ministry of the Word via Zoom, there is a need for in-person meetings as well. Unfortunately, the international believers who join the Bible classes through Zoom will not be able to attend our in-person meetings. We ask for your prayers in this matter.

Please pray for:

- The people of Israel during the feast of Hanukkah.
- The outreach fellowship of the Holy Scriptures and Israel.
- The needed grace for us as we continue on in the work of the Lord.
- **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 & Irene