



January 2023

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 "וַיֵּשֶׁן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר יְהוָה אֶל־זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בְחֵיל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם־בְּרוּחִי אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

As we write our first newsletter of 2023 we pray that the grace of the Lord will guide us in the outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. How wonderful to participate in the service of our God who is so good! We need to encourage one another as we continue-on in following our Lord Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah, serving Him even in weakness, in these days of much decline. It was the prophet Azariah - עֲזַרְיָהּ, the son of Oded, of whom we read in 2 Chronicles 15, who encouraged Asa the king of Judah, and the people of Judah, to continue on in seeking and serving the Lord God of Israel. We read, **And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.** 2 Chronicles 15:1-2. In order for us to be an encouragement to others, each of us must be led by the Holy Spirit of God, just as we read, **and the Spirit of God came upon Azariah.** It is interesting to note that the Hebrew meaning of the name Azariah - עֲזַרְיָהּ, is - Jehovah is my helper, and further, the father of Azariah was Oded, which in Hebrew means to encourage. This is exactly what we are in need of these days. May the Lord help us all!

During our recent visit to Cuba, Irene and I had the privilege to attend the small assembly of believers who gather to meet together in the city of Holguin. It was a joy to remember our Lord

Jesus the Messiah in His death, burial and resurrection with the local brethren. We were also blessed for the opportunity to open the Word of God for a time of ministry. We appreciate the love and hospitality of the saints in Holguin. Thankfully, in spite of the fact that freedom of assembly is somewhat restricted in Cuba, God is at work in that island, as He is everywhere around the globe. Please remember to pray for these dear brethren in Holguin and for all the believers in Cuba, particularly those who are serving the Lord Jesus the Messiah throughout the island.



It is very informative and extremely interesting to note, that wherever one travels around the world, one will find some small or large community of our Jewish people, including the island of Cuba. The latest known origin of the Jewish community in the Island of Cuba had its beginning as early as the end of the 14th century. Later-on in the 17th and 18th centuries other Jews fled and migrated to Cuba. Records show that before the revolution of 1959 which was headed by Fidel Castro, there were some 10,000 to 12,000 Jews in Cuba. The Jewish people continued to settle on the island of Cuba at the end of the 19th century. Through the years some have immigrated to Israel, currently there remains a very small Jewish community of approximately 1200 Jews in Cuba. Most of them live in the city of Havana, where there are three synagogues, the rest are spread throughout the island.



We are reminded of the faithful promise of God to His scattered people, which He declared to all the nations of the world, regarding His plan for His earthly people Israel in the future. Through the prophet Jeremiah He says, **Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.** Jeremiah 31:10. Please remember to pray for the Jewish people of Cuba as well. God is able to speak to the hearts of our Jewish brethren and reveal to them the person of Yeshua the

Messiah, just as He did to Lydia of the city of Thyatira, **whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.** Acts 16:14b.

We praise God for our international weekly Bible classes, as He continues to enable us to learn

from His Word, with the help of His Holy Spirit. Presently, we are studying these three books from the Word of God - Romans on Friday morning, Hebrews on Friday evening and Ecclesiastes on Shabbat / Saturday. We seek, with the help of the Lord, to search the scriptures, and in some small measure, to be helpful to believers and be like the Bereans of whom we read in Acts 17:11. **These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.** May the Lord help us to love His Word, and be like David the king of Israel, who shared his heart with God. **O how love I thy law, it is my meditation all the day.** Psalm 119:97.

We are encouraged by the interest and faithful attendance to the various Bible studies. Our Bible study class on Friday mornings has just completed the first chapter of Romans. In the outline introduction to the book of Romans, we learned of the Divine guidance which the Holy Spirit provided for the apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul laid out before the Roman believers the clear truth, that all man-kind are sinners, who need to receive salvation through the person of the Messiah Jesus.

We understand that some of you, who are registered for our weekly Bible classes, did not receive by e-mail the link which is regularly sent. If that is the case, please be sure to let us know, and we will correct this. We are in the process of making some changes in order to improve the current link issues. Just e-mail to gideon@holyscripturesandisrael.com if you are not receiving the link. Our sister Justine continues to be a great help with posting the various charts, illustrations, verses and songs which greatly enhance our weekly Bible studies. This all involves a lot of time and effort, and we are most thankful to the Lord for all her help.



The radio ministry outreach continues to be a blessing and is continuing on with encouraging feedback, along with the video outreach ministry which is also moving forward. It takes much prayer, time to prepare, record, edit and post, both radio and video messages on the stations and websites so we value your on-going prayers for this. We are continuing with the series from the Hebrew Scriptures on the Prophecies of the Messiah - נְבוֹאוֹת הַתָּנָ"ךְ עַל הַמָּשִׁיחַ. with the help of the Lord we seek to record in an orderly fashion some of the prophecies which pointed to the Lord Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah. This should be helpful to those seekers who are Jewish, whom the Lord will lead to watch and listen. Please pray with us for this series. We have posted

הַמָּשִׁיחַ זָרְעוֹ שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם - Messiah, The Seed of Abraham -
<https://youtube.com/HolyScripturesandIsrael>

For those of you who requested information concerning the dates for our next Israel the Land of the Bible tour, please note that our next tour to Israel is scheduled for April the 29th to May the 9th, 2023. Due to the request of some brethren, we are in the process of preparing a second trip to Israel during the summer. Also, our Fall Bible teaching tour to Greece, following in the Footsteps of Paul, is scheduled for October 19th to 30th, 2023. For more information, please contact us by e-mail, gideon@holyscripturesandisrael.com or through the website of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. <https://www.holyscripturesandisrael.com/tours> we value your prayers for these upcoming trips.



The
Holy Scriptures and Israel
Bible Society

April 29 - May 9, 2023

ISRAEL THE LAND OF THE BIBLE TOUR LED BY GIDEON & IRENE LEVYTAM



As we close our January newsletter, we wish to acknowledge before the Lord, and you dear brothers and sisters, our appreciation for the many years you have prayed and supported us and the ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. Many years have passed by since the ministry of the Holy Scriptures had its beginning, and as we look back, we can truly see the hand of the Lord and His grace upon us and the ministry among the Jewish people. **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.** Psalm 100:5.

Please pray for:

- The encouragement of the believers in Cuba.
- The salvation of many in the island of Cuba.
- The Outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel.
- The health situation of some of our elderly brethren.
- **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