



January 2024

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־זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בִמְחִיל וְלֹא בִכֹּחַ כִּי אִם־בְּרוּחִי אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

As we ushered in the new year of 2024 with some of our brothers and sisters, we enjoyed a time of singing, together and reading from the Word of God. Ever mindful of the Lord's faithfulness to each one of us during this past year, we reflected on His goodness to us, as we committed ourselves into His loving care for the year ahead. While we don't know what the future holds for us, we do know Who holds the future. We can rest assured, knowing that our times are in His hands.

We also held our first in-person meeting of the year in Toronto, with the believers who are part of the outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. The Lord blessed our time together, as we were occupied with the gospel of Matthew, specifically the fourth chapter, where Matthew records the temptation of Jesus the Messiah. **Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.** Matthew 4:1.



The Spirit of God used Matthew to record the temptations of the Man Jesus, who was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, to be tempted by satan, before beginning His public ministry. These temptations of Jesus the Messiah, by satan, took place immediately following His fast of forty days and forty nights. We read that our Messiah did not give-in to any of the three temptations, which satan tried to tempt Him with. Rather, Jesus quoted the recorded Word of God, from the book of Deuteronomy, when Moses spoke to our forefathers Israel during their wilderness journey, Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Matthew 4:10. The message was recorded over zoom for those who could not be with us in person, it can be heard by [using this link](#) and passcode. Passcode: E*Ywd1P7

Our weekly studies over zoom are extremely helpful, not only for our Jewish brothers and sisters who are growing to appreciate the Word of God as it is presented from Hebrew Messianic perspective, but it has been a benefit to those believers who are shut-ins, and are unable to attend meetings in person because of age, distance, or health issues. Occasionally, some have come into the Zoom Bible classes directly from their hospital beds. We are so pleased that by the grace of God we are able to furnish this setting, and reach many through this open door. These meetings are recorded and aired live, and in time they are posted on our Holy Scriptures and Israel Youtube and Facebook channels. For those of you who inquired about receiving our latest Bible study videos, we recommend that you subscribe to the Holy Scriptures and Israel Youtube channel, this is the best way to receive all the Bible teaching messages, please use this link. <https://www.youtube.com/@HolyScripturesandIsrael/videos> once you are subscribed, you will receive a notification for every new Bible teaching message as it becomes available.

As we begin a new year, we are reminded to be thankful to the Lord for those who assist in this ministry. It takes skill and time to clean, prepare, and post the recorded messages for the radio and websites. Likewise, the time and effort involved in preparing the videos to be posted on the Youtube and Facebook channels. We are thankful for the helpful hands of Scott and Connie Cassell who assist us with our radio outreach, and for Chris and Justine who assist us with our Zoom outreach ministry, as well as others who assist in other arias. The Lord has been gracious to us in so many ways. Our son Shalom is currently updating the website and Youtube channels of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. Please pray with us that the Lord Jesus our Messiah will use the ministry of His word and bless these studies as they are shared on the radio and internet. **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.** Isaiah 55:11. Our God is able to do far above all that which we can imagine.



Over the years, the Lord has raised-up those whom He would use to share His word with His people. We are thankful for them and praise God for their service over the many years. Some are now older and unable to serve as in the past, and others have already been taken to heaven, and are in the presence of the Lord. We look back and reflect how each one of us has benefited from the ministry of these servants of the Lord, those who taught us from the Scriptures. Whether through the local assembly meetings, recorded messages, or by the written commentaries on the Word of God, these brethren sought with the help of the Spirit of God, to minister to our hearts the beauty of the person of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. The author of Hebrews reminded his brethren not to forget the ones who were used by God for their spiritual growth. **Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.** Hebrews 13:7.



We have just heard that brother Hans Vanderwerff, who attended our Holy Scriptures and Israel outreach ministry, has passed away into the presence of Jesus His Messiah. Brother Hans was just short of his 95th birthday. Hans loved the Lord and he enjoyed to be under the sound of the Word of God. In his younger days brother Hans was involved in Jewish ministry, having a burden for the nation of Israel and for the salvation of our Jewish people. One of Hans' favourite Hebrew expressions was, BARUCH HA-SHEM, an Hebrew expression which means Blessed Be The Name, referring to the Hebrew name of the LORD. When he was able, Hans was glad to attend our weekly bible classes and our Saturday - Shabbat meetings, and was blessed to be with the believers at the meetings. We are thankful for the times when we could be together. It was a blessing for us to hear brother Hans expressing how much he enjoyed listening to the word of the Lord. We thank God that Hans is now with *Yeshua* the Messiah. **We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be**

absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8. Please remember the family in your prayers.

We are truly thankful to the Lord when we receive encouraging feed-back from believers who listen to our Holy Scriptures and Israel radio program on the various radio stations. Recently, a brother and sister encouraged us when they shared with us that they use the messages which we have posted on the Holy Scriptures and Israel website, as a resource for teaching in their congregation and local group setting. In order to view and listen to the recorded messages, use this link. <https://www.holyscripturesandisrael.com/messages/> The objective and purpose of the outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel, is to present with the help of the Lord, the word of God, from a first century Hebrew Messianic perspective, in order to present the person of Jesus the Messiah also to the Jewish people.

As to our family in Israel, thankfully they are doing okay. We continue to pray for an answer from the Lord to come in and bring an end to this war. Yet, we do realize that everything which the prophets have spoken will surely come to pass.

May the Lord grant you, dear brethren, His richest blessings in the year 2024. We appreciate your prayers and support of us in this ministry. May the Lord continue to give us all the needed grace as we labour in His vineyard, and may He hasten the day of His promise to return. **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.** Revelation 22:12.

Please pray for:

- The upcoming funeral service of brother Hans.
- The family of brother Hans.
- The elderly and the sick brethren in their special needs.
- The Holy Scriptures and Israel ministry.
- The people of Israel during this sad war situation.
- The innocents who suffer because of wars.
- The salvation of souls and the growth of believers.
- The three weekly zoom Bible classes.
- The radio and video outreach.
- The ones who assist in ministry.
- **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