



February 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 "וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר יְהוָה אֶל-זְרֻבָּבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בְחֵיל וְלֹא בִכְסֶּף אִם-בְּרוּחִי אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

How quickly a month has passed by since our last newsletter. It's hard to believe that it is already the middle of February. This past month, the Lord has given opportunity to make various visits both locally, and elsewhere. It is always encouraging to have a time of sharing and praying with one another. We noticed that in almost all of our conversations, the subject of Israel rises up, and many questions regarding the current situation and the on-going war. It is fascinating to see how time and time again the people of Israel find themselves in the centre of yet another conflict. This has been a reality for our people of Israel throughout their history, since Abraham was called by God to be the father of a nation, through whom the Messiah Jesus would come, providing salvation to all who put their trust in Him. The promise God gave to Abraham is recorded for us in Genesis 12:1-3. **Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

Ever since the fall, satan has been seeking to frustrate the plan of God by persecuting the Jewish people, Revelation 12. The Word of God records for us the miraculous way in which God has preserved His people throughout the ages. Israel has undergone many persecutions throughout its history, whether by the Egyptians, the Amalekites, the Midianites, the Moabites,

the Ammonites, the Amorites, the Philistines, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Romans etc., Israel has survived and is preserved, because God has His plan which He will bring to fruition through His chosen people. The persecutors of Israel will come and go, they will continue until the second coming of Jesus the Messiah, when the national salvation of Israel will take place, at the end of the Tribulation. In 2 Corinthians 3:15-16 we read. **But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.** How important for us to be praying now, before the tribulation, that many of our Jewish brethren will come to faith in Yeshua, Jesus their Messiah.



During our visit in San Antonio, Texas I had the privilege to share with the local believers concerning the plan of God for His earthly people Israel, from the book of Romans. Thankfully, Paul guided by the Spirit of God, recorded for us the clear plan of God for His earthly people Israel. Looking at Romans 9, 10 and 11, we can clearly see how our sovereign God, who in His providence, orchestrated all things according to His will. Paul points us to the privileged history of Israel in Romans 9, in Romans 10 we see the present problem of Israel during the church age, then in Romans 11 we see the glorious future prospect for Israel. We read, **For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.** Romans 11:25-26.

It was so refreshing to experience the love of the saints for the Lord, their desire to study the scriptures, and their concern for the salvation of our Jewish people. We had an opportunity for some personal conversations, answering some good biblical questions they had. Many expressed their prayers that the Lord will open the hearts of their Jewish friends, neighbours and colleagues. As we continue to share the gospel message, our prayers are that the Lord will open the hearts of many Jews and Gentiles during these last days, while it is still the day of grace.

One of the questions that we received of late is from listeners to our Bible teaching program who are struggling with assurance of their salvation. Although, knowing that they are believers, doubts creep in and they wonder if they are truly saved. They find these thoughts very upsetting and question if other believers are sometimes troubled with these thoughts or feelings as well.

This is a question which is real in the hearts of many. In response to this question, we pointed to

the truth that our salvation does not depend on how we feel, but it depends on what God says in His Word. Although, sometimes we do feel disappointed in ourselves, we must remember that we do not surprise God, He already knows the heart condition of His people. In the scriptures we read, **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** John 3:16. In 1st John 5:12 we read, **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.** Please remember to pray for these individuals and many like them who are struggling to know whether they truly belong to the Lord. We praise God that He has provided the righteousness of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, to them that believe on Him.

As to our on-going ministry, we continue to host our three weekly Bible classes over Zoom and record messages and Bible studies for the various radio stations and websites. The latest messages we have posted are on Hebrews 3, and a introduction to the book of Esther. You can watch them on our [YouTube channel](#).

We recently enjoyed being with the Willowdale young people for a time of ministry, we always feel encouraged to see the younger ones going on for the Lord. We were happy to be able to be with the brethren in the Willowdale Assembly the following Lord's Day. Later that day, in the evening, we were blessed to host our Holy Scriptures and Israel monthly in-person meeting. It was so good to be with our outreach group and even see new faces of some who were attending for the first time. We were all encouraged by a time of singing and prayer, thanking the Lord for his goodness to us and being much encouraged seeing our brother Ian, who last month attended in a wheelchair, now being able to walk on his own. The subject message from the Word of God was the Name of Jesus the Messiah taken from Proverbs 30:4. **Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended. Who hath gathered the wind in his fists. Who hath bound the waters in a garment. Who hath established all the ends of the earth, what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell.** Should you wish to listen to the message from February 4th, please use [this link](#) and passcode (AB1\$Ly^#).



Since our last Bible teaching tour to Greece in November of 2023, some have asked whether we will be leading another Footsteps of the Apostle Paul tour to Greece. We have also had inquiries regarding the Israel, land of the Bible Tour, which previously had been scheduled for April of this year. In light of the current situation in Israel, the new dates for the Israel tour will be November 2-11, 2024, and in the will of the Lord, the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul tour to Greece, will be

September 16-24, 2024. For brochures, registration, or any additional information, feel free to connect with us by writing to gideon@holyscripturesandisrael.com or just go directly to our [Holy Scriptures and Israel website](http://www.holyscripturesandisrael.com).

As believers in the Lord Jesus the Messiah, we have the privilege of sharing the gospel of the grace of God with those around us. We thank God for His Word, which we hold in our hands, for His Spirit that leads us and teaches us the truth concerning our fallen nature, and that forgiveness of sins can only be received through His Son, Jesus the Messiah. The sinless God-Man, who offered Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world, of whom we read, **Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth... who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripe ye were healed.** 1 Peter 2:22,24.



Once again, we wish to thank you dear brothers and sisters for your love, care, and support of us and the ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. The Lord is good and He is sustaining us, with the psalmist of Israel we can say, **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.** Psalm 100:5.

Please pray for:

- The Holy Scriptures and Israel outreach ministry
- The assurance of salvation for those who are unsure.
- The nation of Israel during these difficult days.
- The deliverance of the innocent and the salvation of many.
- The end of the Arab-Israeli war.
- The believers in our fellowship outreach.
- The radio stations we air our Bible teaching program.
- **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