



May 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 6:4 "וַיַּעַן וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר זֶה דְּבַר-יְהוָה אֶל-זֵרְבָבֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא בְחֵיל וְלֹא בְקֹחַ כִּי אִם-בְּרוּחִי אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת:

As we write our May newsletter, Israel is celebrating its Independence Day, also known in Hebrew as Yom Ha-Atzmaut. This year commemorates 76 years since the declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14th, 1948 of the Gregorian calendar, which according to the Hebrew calendar falls on the 5th day of the Hebrew month Iyar. This day marks the fulfilment of the longings of our Jewish people to return to their homeland after being removed by the Romans in 70 AD, nearly 2000 years ago.

As it so happens, my birthday is also on May 14th, and we were happy to be with our family to celebrate with us. Thank you dear brothers, sisters and friends for blessing me with your cards, e-mails, texts and phone calls for my birthday. God is good, He sustains us each and every day, and together with David we can say, **My times are in thy hand**. Psalm 31:15a. We praise God for an even greater birth-day, the new birth which each believer receives through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah who loved us and gave Himself for us. Every believer in the Lord Jesus is spiritually a born-again child of God, **having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever**. 1 Peter 1:23.



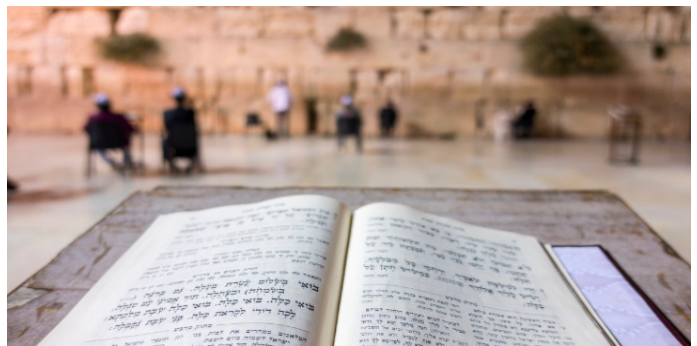
Although Israel has experienced many challenges through the years, and still is today, with even more challenges to come, we as believers who read the Word of God, are assured that God is watching over His earthly people. That He is preparing for the time when the nation will turn to their Messiah Yeshua, and be fully restored to Himself. **Who hath heard such a thing, who hath seen such things, Shall the**

earth be made to bring forth in one day, or shall a nation be born at once, for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Isaiah 66:8.

In the book of Romans, we read the inspired words of the apostle Paul which he wrote to the believers in Rome concerning the unconditional promises of God, **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.

This year also marks 40 years since the establishment of the outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. In 1984, brothers John Van Stormbroek, Alfred Bouter and Gideon and Irene Levytam, by the grace of God, formed the ministry called The Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible Society of Canada. The purpose of the ministry was to reach our Jewish people with a copy of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament, the Tenach, and the New Testament, the Brit Ha-Hadasha. Over the years, we have had the privilege of providing hundreds of copies of the Word of God to Jewish homes across Canada.

We marvel at the grace of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, and we praise God for His faithfulness in sustaining this outreach ministry to our Jewish people. Over these 40 years we have sought to present Jesus the Messiah to our people, and to any who are willing to listen to the Word of God. We also seek to help non-Jewish believers in the Lord Jesus, to understand how to share the gospel with their Jewish friends. Through the years we have seen how Jewish individuals are willing to listen to the message of the gospel, when shared with them by gentile believers. We can only praise God and with Samuel the prophet can say, **Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.** 1 Samuel 7:12b. We can also say with the prophet Jeremiah, **Great is thy faithfulness.** Lamentation 3:23b.



As time passed by, the Lord took dear brother John Van Stormbroek home to himself. The ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel continued to develop and in the early 1990's, a weekly morning Bible class began which brother Gideon Levytam led, and was held in the Willowdale assembly meeting hall in Toronto. Eventually, a second mid-week evening Bible class was added, and in 1995 we began a regular weekly Saturday/Shabbat ministry meeting. In 2004, we began airing our Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible teaching program on Joy 1250 radio station in Oakville, Ontario, <http://www.joy1250.ca/> with a 15 minute Bible teaching program called The Holy Scriptures and Israel with brother Gideon Levytam. This broadcast teaches the word of God from a Hebrew Messianic perspective and has proved to be a blessing to many. The program is now aired seven days in a week in Ontario as well as on other radio stations in the USA, Canada and South Africa. We continue to pray that many people will be exposed to the gospel message and have a clear understanding of who Jesus is, and why they need him, and

that they would come to trust in Him as their Lord, Saviour, and Messiah.



We continue with our weekly bible classes and on Saturday, Shabbat meetings we are studying the book of Revelation. Currently, we are in Revelation 16, dealing with the final bowl judgments which will be poured out on the inhabitants of the earth, in the second half of the tribulation. How terrible it will be for those who refuse to believe the gospel, and remain on earth to go through the tribulation of those coming days. Our Lord Jesus the Messiah spoke of these days saying. **For then shall be great tribulation,**

such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. Matthew 24:21.

We thank the Lord for the interest of those who study with us the word of God and appreciate the attendance of our international group and for those who recently joined the Bible classes. It is also encouraging to see the numerical growth of subscribers on our [Holy Scriptures and Israel YouTube channel](#) which is dedicated entirely to the ministry of the Word of the Lord. How gracious is our Lord, to open such a door for us, enabling us to simply continue to share the Word.

On May 5th we had our Holy Scriptures and Israel in-person meeting in Toronto, and were encouraged with the attendance of both Jewish and non-Jewish individuals. The Lord continues to bless us with committed brothers and sisters who love to be together around the Word of God. The subject of the meeting was taken from the first letter to Timothy chapter 3:14-16, where Paul instructed Timothy of the fact that the true church of the living God is the pillar and ground of the truth. Paul pointed to the mystery of godliness, and without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up in glory. The ministry meeting was recorded and should you wish to listen to the message, please use [this link](#) and passcode: ^42RL.rf



From time to time we receive correspondence from those who listen to us on the radio, YouTube etc., sometimes they have biblical questions or they request prayer for situations in their life. We are always happy to hear from our listeners and to hear that the Lord is using our programs to encourage believers and strengthen their faith. Here is an excerpt from an e-mail which we recently received, brother Gideon, your weekly meetings truly help me not only to learn, but also brings me a lot of joy due to the fact that since I'm not connected to a local ministry I don't have fellowship with many people, and I'm comforted when you teach God's word. May God bless you and the people of Israel. Please pray with us for the many who are in need of encouragement and instruction as they seek to follow the Lord Jesus the Messiah.



We wish to thank you dear brothers and sisters for your prayers for us as we continue on in sharing the word of God. We also appreciate your practical support of us and the radio and video outreach ministry of the Holy Scriptures and Israel. We praise the Lord for His provision through His people. **In every thing give thanks. for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.** 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Please pray for:

- The needed grace and strength for Irene and Gideon
- The war situation in Israel and Gaza
- The salvation of many during these difficult days
- The spiritual growth of the believers
- Our families in Israel
- **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



Please pray for Israel to open their hearts and see Yeshua our Messiah who said, "I am the light of the world." John 8:12