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"To the Jew first" הַיְהוּדִי בְּרִאשׁוֹ (Romans 1:16)

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*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me;
because the LORD hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek;
He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison (an opening of the understanding or heart) to them that are bound;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;
To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified." (Isaiah 61:1-3).*

Dear Friend in the Lord,

Warmest greetings to you in the Name of our Lord and Saviour and Risen Messiah Who shall be glorified in Israel's salvation! (Isaiah 49:5). Thank you for your fellowship with us in the Gospel *"to the Jew first"*. May you know the LORD'S richest blessing, as you help us by your prayers and support this ministry, loving the Jew for the Messiah's sake.

In recent days I have read through the Book of the Prophet Isaiah in my quiet time. I would like to share with you some precious truths and Scriptures from this Book.

We have in Isaiah 61:1 the word *"anointed"* from which *"Messiah"* comes, giving us the meaning of *"Messiah"* = *"The Anointed ONE"*. *"Behold My Servant, Whom I uphold; Mine Elect, in Whom My soul delighteth; I have put My Spirit upon Him..."* (Isaiah 42:1). *"And He said, It is a light thing that Thou (The Son) shouldst be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel"* (Isaiah 49:6a).

Isaiah 61:2b-3 speaks of Israel's future mourning over her sin of rejecting *"The Christ of God"* and her restoration to Him. In Isaiah 61:1-3 THE MESSIAH tells why He has been anointed ~ for the purpose of restoring a penitent Israel to Himself, the Crucified One, the Risen and Exalted One. The ministry of Christ at His first and second Comings are spoken of in this passage. In Zechariah 13:1 we read the promise *"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."* The Hebrew verb *'hayah'*, which is translated *'shall be'*, is not in the simple future tense, it is in the participle. This means *the fountain shall be permanently opened for (the expiation of) Israel's sin and uncleanness.*

God recently used Isaiah 61:3 to give me His love for Israel and the assurance of her everlasting salvation in the LORD. The Holy Spirit used the words *"to appoint unto them in Zion"* to do this. The word **"appoint"** means **"to set as a permanent, irrevocable thing"**. This working of THE MESSIAH through His Word sown, on the ground of His precious Blood shed and by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, shall be **a permanent, irrevocable thing** that He shall do in bringing Israel to Himself. THE MESSIAH went to Golgotha to redeem and save Israel. Her salvation will be the fruit and reward of His sufferings and of His pouring out upon the remnant of the Jewish People *"the spirit of grace and of supplications"*, as He uses the Word of God that is being sown among them now. Isaiah 61:2b-3 tells what He shall do in Jewish hearts as we pray and give them the Scriptures. Thank you for standing with the Lord and us in this ministry to Him and His People.

"But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end." (Isaiah 45:17). "Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away." (51:11). "In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee," saith the LORD thy Redeemer. (54:8). "and I will make an everlasting covenant with them." (61:8). "And all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour [Israel's Saviour] and thy Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob." (Isaiah 49:26c).

"But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her People a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My People: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying." (Isaiah 65:18-19).

Since my last letter in July we have had the privilege of sending the Hebrew Scriptures to a missionary for Jewish People

in Mexico and to his co-worker for Israelis in Florida. We have also served Jewish People who wrote from various cities throughout America who requested *New Testaments and complete Bibles* to read.

I have begun to serve eight other persons in Israel (Israelis and friends of Israelis) who wrote, asking for *the Hebrew New Testament and the Hebrew/ New Testament and Hebrew/English Old and New Testaments*. Please pray that greater support will come in to serve heads of Yeshivas in Jerusalem, and other Israelis from cities throughout Israel.

I will be following through on serving the Israeli Ambassador to the United States and Israeli Consul Generals. Please pray for the LORD'S blessing on these contacts and that *the complete Hebrew Bibles* will safely reach their hands and be the means of bringing great blessing to their hearts and other Israelis whom they are serving with.

I asked continued prayer recently that we would be honored by the Lord to be able to serve more Jewish People who are searching for *the Hebrew New Covenant*. We received a phone call from a Jewish man living in South Carolina who has been searching for this New Testament. He was very excited to receive this gift from us and has begun to read the Lord's Word in Hebrew. Please pray for James.

The friend who is the Treasurer of this ministry has asked me to relay to you for your prayers that we are receiving on a regular basis \$6,000 per month. Our regular expenses per month total \$7,000. We have been short \$1,000 each month. Please bring this need to the LORD in your prayers for this deficit to be met and for monies above the \$1,000 to be given that we might reach out to very Orthodox Jewish leaders in Israel with His Word and to Israeli government officials around the world. No one is reaching these Jewish People. It is expensive to mail the Holy Scriptures these days.

A friend wrote earlier this year, "My wife Esther and I have been reading your Spring letter and rejoicing with you in the blessings the Lord has brought your way. It is remarkable to learn of this son of Israel, this Orthodox Rabbi who received *the Hebrew/Yiddish New Covenant Scriptures*, coming to know the Messiah of Israel in a real and wonderful way. Again we are reminded of the power of prayer, and the wondrous work of the Holy Spirit, convincing of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come...We know that through the use of the Holy Scriptures, the Gospel and the whole counsel of God will reach those who will read and study His Word. By His matchless Grace, Gerald and Esther."

"Shalom Tom! We trust you are experiencing in abundance our Lord Messiah's blessings and mercies. It has been our joy to continually pray for you and your family personally, and for your wonderful ministry. We share your prayer requests with our Friday night prayer group, too. We rejoice with you in the great opportunities God has given you recently. He has opened some unique doors to you and we pray for much fruit to come from each Bible given! Please use the enclosed to further your work for Him. May He cause it to increase as only He can! Know you are in our hearts and prayers. (Hebrews 6:10) In His service together, Ruth & Rachel."

"Greetings in the Lord, Previously you have shared copies of *the Hebrew-English New Testament*. I have been privileged to share each one with the House of Israel. I am enclosing \$20 so that you can send me more. Pray for me, that doors will stay open to share the good news of Jesus found in the New Testament. Thank you and may God continue to bless your labours... "to the Jew first". In Him, Nancy Wilson. (WY)."

"Dear Tom, You are on my daily prayer list...Is it possible to have two Bibles? Have a blessed day! Sylvia Cohen." "Dear Tom & Joy, Hope this finds you and your family well. I am sure you have need of this gift to help with the ministry. Please use as you need to. We pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of the Jewish People. Love, Dale & Kathy."

My wife Joy found the following letters of Jewish souls whom we served in the past. I share these to encourage you to keep praying that we might receive more such letters and have more God-given contacts with Jewish People who are searching for *the Hebrew New Testament* and for the Lord's work to be enlarged to reach many Jewish hearts.

"Peace...unto All. Dear Mr. Atwood, I return to you for I would like to THANK YOU. HOW GREAT THE JOY that my heart received as you bless me with the Scriptures you sent to me. I received them today. Yes, what a joy ~ For a long time I searched and searched for the Old and New Testaments in Hebrew with no success. I thank you greatly. My G-d and L-rd Yeshua (Jesus) Bless you with His Greatness, and may He give you a place close to Him. with Hebrew closing, Efrain."

"I am an Orthodox Jew who is leaning towards Christianity...I want to thank you again for *the Hebrew/English New Testament*. It has and will continue to be of great benefit to me. I am using it every day and I've learned a lot from it. Just knowing the old Biblical Hebrew, reading it and comparing it to the English in the New Testament is so beautiful and eye opening, that I just don't quite know how to describe it. Every one whom I share it with is fascinated...I celebrated Hanukkah by lighting the candles and praying for the full eight days. On Christmas day I lit the candles in the menorah and thanked God for the birthday of Emmanuel, The Messiah, my Jesus! Shalom, David."

In His glad service,

Tom and Joy