

Mr. Thomas W. Atwood  
General Secretary  
Mr. Gideon Levytam  
Chairman

# HS

## HEBREW SCRIPTURES

P.O. Box 347367  
Parma, OH 44134-7367  
(216) 459-8775  
[grace@hebrewscriptures.org](mailto:grace@hebrewscriptures.org)

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

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Dear Friend in the LORD Jesus Christ,

Warmest greetings to you in the Precious Name of our Risen and Exalted Lord and Saviour-Messiah! I pray this letter finds you well and being built up in Him. Thank you for your faithful giving to the LORD and your support of this ministry.

*"Cause me to hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto Thee."* (Psalm 143:8-12).

This prayer of David has been used by the LORD Jesus in recent days to teach me His will, and how I need each morning to sit at Jesus' feet and hear His words. (Luke 10:38-42). I have come to see the LORD Jesus Christ as *"The Shepherd of Israel"*, and as *"The LORD ~ my Shepherd"* Who desires to feed me with His words, and Who will in His love comfort and build me up in Himself each day, giving me in the morning for that day, as I wait on Him, His guidance and direction, becoming to me moment by moment All that I need through the day. *"Yea, He loveth the People (Israel); all His saints are in Thy hand: and they sat down at Thy feet; every one shall receive of Thy words."* (Deuteronomy 33:3).

A Hebrew Christian named Joseph Yoelson-Taffen understood what it means to gain Christ and to be His servant. He wrote, "We are so preoccupied with *our service for God* (but not necessarily *the service of God*) that we often, either neglect or curtail that which is of the highest importance, waiting upon God, and having communion with Him. Hence we suffer from both spiritual and physical exhaustion, and our ministry suffers accordingly."

F.B. Meyer as a pastor wrote, 'Our Lord Jesus wants our love, and He will not be satisfied if we give time, energy, and thought to His service, and forget HIM.' *"And He goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto Him whom He would: and they came to Him. And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach, and to have power . . ."* (Mark 3:13-15).

Mr. Taffen wrote, 'The place of communion with Christ is our power house for service and witness to Him. In Mark 6:30 we read how those whom our Lord had *"sent forth"* returned *"and told Him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.* And He said unto them, *"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile."* Of God's People we read in Jeremiah 50:6, *"they have forgotten their Resting Place"*. The LORD Jesus is teaching me that *"better part"*. I am learning to *"rest in" Him*. CHRIST is my Resting Place, my Life and my Strength.

*"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."* (Isaiah 30:15). *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew (change) their strength"* (Isaiah 40:31); *"Wait on the LORD . . . and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say upon the LORD"* (Psalm 27:14).

The LORD Who is my Shepherd is teaching me to sit down at His feet. He is feeding me with His words. He in this way *"maketh me (each new day) to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters (waters of quietness). He restoreth my soul (brings back my soul to Himself): He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake."* (Psalm 23:1-3).

My needs are met in *"my Shepherd"*. May we be as Mary who chose that better part, and sat at Jesus' feet, hearing His words; and praise and worship as David in Psalm 103, "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's . . . bless the LORD, O my soul."

I am learning that all of God's dealings with us (His redeemed ones), in His wisdom and love, are that we would gain His Beloved Son, Who is *most Precious* beyond words, and in knowing Christ He is loved, served and honored.

Your continued prayers are greatly valued, that we would gain The Messiah, and so bear witness to Him, through the faithful sowing of His Word among the Jews for His Name. Please pray for my personal need of courage and His strength, that Christ Himself would be to me moment by moment All I need. I pray this for you too.

Please pray with us that more and more Jewish hearts will be brought by the Lord to receive His Words in Hebrew and to see and believe on Him, and to rejoice in Him and worship the eternal Son of God. One of His servants wrote, "The WORD comes first, and with the WORD the Spirit breathes upon my heart so that I believe."

We can be encouraged and strengthened by the words the Lord's servant Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 15:57-58. He teaches us, as we gain Christ, to do the Will of God, what is pleasing to God: "*But thanks be to God Which giveth us the victory (moment by moment) through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the LORD, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the LORD.*" (1 Cor. 15:57-58).

My wife Joy is a real help in the office. She is helping to put things in order and she is finding requests I have overlooked. Please pray for us, that we will be daily renewed in the LORD and in His strength, that our service will be *for Him*, and that His Word will continue to be sown under His blessing and bear much fruit in Jewish hearts, for His glory and praise.

A dear friend wrote, "My prayer is for Israel and the Jewish People. I pray for your ministry that God will give you added strength for what you do. Enclosed is a check for your ministry for the Jew. I enjoyed reading from your letter about your travel, and your meeting with the Jewish People and their receiving the Bible. May the LORD bless you and your family."

An Orthodox Rabbi recently wrote to many Rabbis, speaking against "nice Christians who are pointing Jews to Jesus Christ", pressing Rabbis and Jews in their synagogues to reject this witness. My wife showed me a letter from a Jewess we served, who wrote: "To the people who are offering the Bibles. I am Jewish and would like to have the chance to read your New Testament. The Rabbis say it is not for Jews, but Christians say it is. Please send me a *Hebrew/English New Testament Book*. Thank you for this free opportunity. Sincerely, Rhonda." Pray for her and other Jewish hearts to be protected from Satan, as he sends anti-missionaries and others to turn their hearts from the Gospel.

Since receiving her letter in 2001, more encouragements have been given in the past few years from the Lord. More Israelis and Jewish hearts have been softened in answer to prayer, even a greater number of Orthodox Jews and Rabbis have taken *the Hebrew T'Nach and the Hebrew New Covenant* from us. We have served more Jewish souls who were searching for the New Testament. More Jewish hearts have wanted the Hebrew New Covenant as friends have prayed. The LORD'S Spirit has touched more Jewish hearts to take His Word through prayer and perseverance. Prayer opens the hearts of Jewish People. Continue to pray and praise Him for what the Lord is doing and what He shall do in Israel.

Please pray the LORD Jesus Christ will over-rule Satan's opposition, and that He Who is The Shepherd of Israel will protect Jewish hearts from the enemy of our souls, that He will bring more Jewish hearts to want *the Hebrew New Testament* and draw them to Himself; that we would be given more grace, and be the ones honored to give them His Words. Pray the Lord will bring more and more searching Jewish hearts to us and guide us to them. In the past few months Israelis whom I have spoken with were turned by the enemy from taking and reading the New Testament. Pray our Risen and Exalted Lord will continually give us the victory and receive much glory.

"Dear Tom, I thank you for your letters telling of the Rabbis that are receiving the Bibles in Hebrew. My prayer is that they will read and receive them with joy, and accept the Lord Jesus as their Saviour and Messiah. May the Lord richly bless you for your faithfulness in ministering to the dear Jewish People. Love in Christ. Rose." "Thanks for keeping us informed on what is going on with your ministry! We sent out two *New Testaments in Yiddish* recently. Please pray for the recipients, that their eyes may be opened to see their Messiah. Augusta." "Thank you, Tom, for your good work in getting the Scriptures in Hebrew into the hands of God's Ancient People. I'm praying, as you asked, about your approaching the Yeshivas with God's Word. May God lead and strengthen by His grace and for His glory. In His fellowship, Ruth."

While recently packing His Word, the Lord drew my attention to pocket-size Yiddish Scriptures we received from friends at Trinitarian Bible Society. These books are left from Yiddish Scriptures they sent to us in the past. They are *The Gospel according to Mark, Hebrews and Romans*. These Scriptures are waiting to go out and bear fruit for the LORD. The LORD Jesus put in my heart the desire that Orthodox Jewish Yeshiva students, who are studying to live as Jews and to be Rabbis, would receive and read these Scriptures. These Books are small enough to carry in one's shirt pocket. Pray the LORD will guide and give His blessing, that Orthodox Yeshiva students will be reached with these Scriptures.

I have returned from speaking in meetings and distributing the Holy Scriptures in Philadelphia, and Lakewood, NJ where God gave me a great love for Orthodox Jewish People. They are beautiful and precious. Fifty percent of Lakewood are mainly religious Jews. Pray the three copies of *the purest Hebrew Holy Scriptures and the Hebrew/Yiddish New Covenant* received by a Hassidic Rabbi who oversees the library of the largest Yeshiva in America will be treasured and read, and that more of these Scriptures will be asked for and searched, and bear fruit in His remnant throughout world Jewry.

Let us pray the Holy Spirit will prosper His Word that is being sown in giving Life and light, faith in the LORD Yeshua, and the Knowledge of HIMSELF to Jewish hearts. (John 17:3, 8 and 17). Thank you for your partnership and friendship in the LORD, for standing with Him and us in this ministry of reaching His Ancient People, the Jews, with His Words.

By His grace, **Tom and Joy Atwood**