

Notes: March 16, 2019

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: *Purim Message- A Faithful Remnant in Exile*

What do we know about the books of Esther, Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah? What is their connection?

They all occur during the time of the Babylonian captivity, Ezra and Nehemiah during the tail end, documenting the time of conclusion of Adonai's stated time.

Jer 29:8 For this is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says: 'Don't let your prophets who are living among you and your diviners deceive you, and don't pay attention to the dreams you urge them to dream.

Jer 29:9 For they are prophesying falsely in my name; I have not sent them,' says Adonai.

Jer 29:10 "For here is what Adonai says: 'After Bavel's seventy years are over, I will remember you and fulfill my good promise to you by bringing you back to this place.

So, the 70 years are coming to a conclusion, and yet another king of this ever changing empire, now the Persian empire makes the following declaration...

Ezr 1:1 In the first year of Koresh king of Persia, in order for the word of Adonai prophesied by Yirmeyahu to be fulfilled, Adonai stirred up the spirit of Koresh king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his whole kingdom, which he also put in writing, as follows:

Ezr 1:2 "Here is what Koresh king of Persia says: Adonai, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms on earth; and he has charged me to build him a house in Yerushalayim, in Y'hudah.

Ezr 1:3 Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! He may go up to Yerushalayim, in Y'hudah, and build the house of Adonai the God of Isra'el, the God who is in Yerushalayim.

Not a moment sooner and not a moment later. Adonai inspires Koresh to make a proclamation.

It is in these four books that we seek an accounting of the relevant moments from Adonai's perspective during His nations exile from the land, due to their transgressions. We can also include Jeremiah in this quartet, thus making it a quintet. Jeremiah was there when the

Jer 52:3 And it was because of Adonai's anger that all these things happened to Yerushalayim and Y'hudah, until he had thrown them out of his presence. Tzidkiyahu rebelled against the king of Bavel;

Jer 52:4 so in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, N'vukhadretzar king of Bavel marched against Yerushalayim with his entire army. He set up camp against it and built siege towers against it on every side.

Jer 52:5 The city remained under siege into the eleventh year of King Tzidkiyahu.

Jer 52:6 On the ninth day of the fourth month, when the famine in the city was so severe that there was no food for the people of the land,

Jer 52:7 they broke through into the city. All the soldiers fled and left the city by night through the gate between the two walls, near the king's garden. Because the Kasdim were surrounding the city, they took the route through the `Aravah.

Jer 52:13 He burned down the house of Adonai, the royal palace and all the houses in Yerushalayim — every notable person's house he burned to the ground.

Jer 52:14 The whole army of the Kasdim, who were with the commander of the guard, broke down all the walls of Yerushalayim on every side.

Jeremiah was there.

Can Adonai make lemonade out of lemons?

Certainly.

The lemons are Israel's transgression, their adultery, their unfaithfulness to Adonai in worshiping other gods

Quoting 1 Kings 19:18 where Eliyahu encounters Ach'av told Izevel, Sha'ul conveys this promise made by Adonai...

Rom 11:2 God has not repudiated his people, whom he chose in advance. Or don't you know what the Tanakh says about Eliyahu? He pleads with God against Isra'el,

Rom 11:3 "Adonai, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I'm the only one left, and now they want to kill me too!"

Rom 11:4 But what is God's answer to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt down to Ba`al."

Rom 11:5 It's the same way in the present age: there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

And it would be this faithful remnant for whom we are still talking about to this day...

Today we talk about a faithful woman who put her life on the line for her people.

Est 4:16 "Go, assemble all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and have them fast for me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, night and day; also I and the girls attending me will fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."

An unauthorized appearance before the king could have meant her death. Yet the footsteps of her path too were ordered by Adonai.

Est 8:3 Again Ester spoke to the king; she fell at his feet and begged him with tears to put an end to the mischief Haman the Agagi had caused by the scheme he had worked out against the Jews.

Est 8:4 The king extended the gold scepter toward Ester. So Ester got up and stood in front of the king.

Est 8:5 She said, "If it pleases the king, if I have won his favor, if the matter seem right to the king and if I have his approval, then let an order be written rescinding the letters devised by Haman the son of Hamdata the Agagi, which he wrote to destroy the Jews in all the royal provinces.

Est 8:6 For how can I bear to see the disaster that will overcome my people? How can I endure seeing the extermination of my kinsmen?"

Est 8:7 King Achashverosh said to Ester the queen and Mordekhai the Jew, "Listen! I gave Ester the house of Haman, and they hanged him on the gallows, because he threatened the lives of the Jews.

There is nothing that says this specifically, so how do we know.

Stay tuned...

Today we talk of a faithful man who would not concede to the king's ways and was ultimately honored by the king...

You think I am going to talk about Mordekhai

Est 3:2 All the king's servants at the King's Gate would kneel and bow down before Haman, because the king had so ordered. But Mordekhai would neither kneel nor bow down to him.

Est 10:1 King Achashverosh laid tribute on the land, the coasts and the islands.

Est 10:2 All the acts of his power and might, along with a full account of the high honor to which the king advanced Mordekhai, are written in the Annals of the Kings of Media and Persia.

Est 10:3 For Mordekhai the Jew was second only to King Achashverosh; he was a great man among the Jews, popular with all his many countrymen. He sought the good of his people and interceded for the welfare of all their descendants.

Yet, there is another man who lived during the Babylonian captivity who was faithful also.

Daniel refused to eat the king's food. Notice the word used...

Dan 1:8 But Dani'el resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or the wine he drank, so he asked the chief officer to be excused from defiling himself.

"he would not defile himself"

This could mean one of two things or both.

Daniel would not defile himself by eating food that was sacrificed to idols, a provision given to gentiles in the New Covenant...

Act 15:20 Instead, we should write them a letter telling them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from fornication, from what is strangled and from blood.

Or it could have to do with the food not meeting the standards as conveyed in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

Or it could be a combination of both.

Yet, Daniel took a stand. Something that could have very easily gotten him killed, yet it was Adonai who not only ordered the steps of his path, but also provided along the way...

Dan 1:9 God caused the chief officer to be kind and sympathetic toward Dani'el;

Dan 1:10 however, the chief officer said to Dani'el, "I'm afraid of my lord the king. After all, he has given you an allowance of food and drink; so if he were to see you boys looking worse than the others your age, you would be putting my own head in danger from the king."

And through the wisdom of Adonai, Daniel made this offer...

Dan 1:12 "Please! Try an experiment on your servants — for ten days have them give us only vegetables to eat and

water to drink.

Dan 1:13 Then see how we look, and compare us with how the boys who eat the king's food look; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

Dan 1:14 He agreed to do what they had asked and gave them a ten-day test.

What transpired at the end of the 10 days?

Dan 1:15 At the end of ten days they looked better and more robust than all the boys who were eating the king's food.

Dan 1:16 So the guard took away their food and the wine they were supposed to drink, and gave them vegetables.

So, Adonai would honor Daniel in that he honored Him...

Dan 1:17 To these four boys God had given knowledge and skill in every aspect of learning and wisdom; moreover, Dani'el could understand all kinds of visions and dreams.

Dan 1:18 When the time the king had set for them to be presented came, the chief officer presented them to N'vukhadnetzar;

Dan 1:19 and when the king spoke with them, none was found among all of them to compare with Dani'el, Hananyah, Misha'el and `Azaryah. So they entered the king's service;

Dan 1:20 and in all matters requiring wisdom and understanding, whenever the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and exorcists in his entire kingdom.

Dan 1:21 So Dani'el remained there until the first year of King Koresh.

Dan 6:1 (6:2) Daryavesh decided to set over the kingdom 120 viceroys to rule throughout the entire kingdom,

Dan 6:2 (6:3) with three chiefs over them, of whom Dani'el was one, so that these viceroys could be responsible to them and so that the king's interests would be safeguarded.

Dan 6:3 (6:4) But because an extraordinary spirit was in this Dani'el, he so distinguished himself above the other chiefs and the viceroys that the king considered putting him in charge of the whole kingdom.

Dan 6:4 (6:5) The other chiefs and the viceroys tried to find a cause for complaint against Dani'el in regard to how he performed his governing duties, but they could find nothing to complain about, no fault; on the contrary, because he was so faithful, not a single instance of negligence or faulty administration could be found.

Dan 6:5 (6:6) Then these men said, "We're not going to find any cause for complaint against this Dani'el unless we can find something against him in regard to the law of his god."

Dan 6:6 (6:7) So these chiefs and viceroys descended on the king and said to him, "King Daryavesh, live forever!

Dan 6:7 (6:8) All the chiefs of the kingdom, along with the prefects, viceroys, advisers and governors, have met and agreed that the king should issue a decree putting in force the following law: 'Whoever makes a request of any god or man during the next thirty days, except of you, your majesty, is to be thrown into the lion pit.'

Dan 6:8 (6:9) Now, your majesty, issue this decree over your signature, so that it cannot be revoked, as required by the law of the Medes and Persians, which is itself irrevocable."

Dan 6:9 (6:10) So King Daryavesh signed the document, and the decree became law.

Dan 6:10 (6:11) On learning that the document had been signed, Dani'el went home. The windows of his upstairs room were open in the direction of Yerushalayim; and there he kneeled down three times a day and prayed, giving thanks before his God, just as he had been doing before.

Dan 6:11 (6:12) Then these men descended on Dani'el and found him making requests and pleading before his God.

Dan 6:12 (6:13) So they went to remind the king of his royal decree: "Didn't you sign a law prohibiting anyone from making requests of any god or man within thirty days, except yourself, your majesty, on pain of being thrown into the lion pit?" The king answered, "Yes, that is true, as required by the law of the Medes and Persians, which is itself irrevocable."

Dan 6:13 (6:14) They replied to the king, "That Dani'el, one of the exiles from Y'hudah, respects neither you, your majesty, nor the decree you signed; instead, he continues praying three times a day."

Dan 6:16 (6:17) So the king gave the order, and they brought Dani'el and threw him into the lion pit. The king said to Dani'el, "Your God, whom you are always serving, will save you."

Daniel would be put in the den of lions.

Dan 6:19 (6:20) Early in the morning, the king got up and hurried to the lion pit.

Dan 6:20 (6:21) On approaching the pit where Dani'el was, the king cried in a pained voice to Dani'el, "Dani'el, servant of the living God! Has your God, whom you are always serving, been able to save you from the lions?"

Dan 6:21 (6:22) Then Dani'el answered the king, "May the king live forever!"

Dan 6:22 (6:23) My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths, so they haven't hurt me. This is because before him I was found innocent; and also I have done no harm to you, your majesty."

Dan 6:23 (6:24) The king was overjoyed and ordered Dani'el taken up from the pit. So Dani'el was taken up from the pit, and he was found to be completely unharmed, because he had trusted in his God.

Dan 6:24 (6:25) Then the king gave an order, and they brought those men who had accused Dani'el, and they threw them into the lion pit — them, their children and their wives — and before they even reached the bottom of the pit, the lions had them in their control and broke all their bones to pieces.

Dan 6:25 (6:26) King Daryavesh wrote all the peoples, nations and languages living anywhere on earth: "Shalom rav! [*Abundant peace!*]"

Dan 6:26 (6:27) "I herewith issue a decree that everywhere in my kingdom, people are to tremble and be in awe of the God of Dani'el. "For he is the living God; he endures forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed; his rulership will last till the end.

Dan 6:27 (6:28) He saves, rescues, does signs and wonders both in heaven and on earth. He delivered Dani'el from the power of the lions."

Dan 6:28 (6:29) So this Dani'el prospered during the reign of Daryavesh, and also during the reign of Koresh the Persian.

And just what is the key to all of this?

We see a faithful remnant that resided in the land of Persia for 70 years. The key is found in Daniel's prayer...

Dan 9:1 In the first year of Daryavesh the son of Achashverosh, a Mede by birth who was made king over the kingdom of the Kasdim —

Dan 9:2 in the first year of his reign, I, Dani'el, was reading the Scriptures and thinking about the number of years which Adonai had told Yirmeyah the prophet would be the period of Yerushalayim's desolation, seventy years.

Dan 9:3 I turned to Adonai, God, to seek an answer, pleading with him in prayer, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

Dan 9:4 I prayed to Adonai my God and made this confession: "Please, Adonai, great and fearsome God, who keeps his covenant and extends grace to those who love him and observe his mitzvot!"

The righteous may get caught up in the unrighteousness of others as being “collateral damage”. Meaning we too must face the consequence of the nation's transgression. Yet this does not mean we have lost favor.

A little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough. Yet a rotten apple does not spoil the whole bushel

In other words, we are in the world but not off the world.

As Daniel was reading the prophecy of Jeremiah, his faith was likely encourage by these words given to the Prophet.

Jer 29:11 For I know what plans I have in mind for you,' says Adonai,'plans for well-being, not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future.

They did not change because of their circumstances.

They did not change because of the transgression of others.

They did not cast blame on those who transgressed.

But they followed these words as was conveyed by Jeremiah...

Jer 29:12 When you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 When you seek me, you will find me, provided you seek for me wholeheartedly;

Jer 29:14 and I will let you find me,' says Adonai. "Then I will reverse your exile. I will gather you from all the

nations and places where I have driven you,' says Adonai, 'and bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.'

Wherever you are...When you enter into the Covenant of Adonai, and adhere to its standards, wholeheartedly, He will hear you well...so we say with all our heart - Sh'ma Yeladim