

May 16, 2020

Adonai's Normal

Last week, after I had webexed with Angela, she had sent me an email. When I read it, I immediately thought I could use this because it offers another lesson on context.

Angela wrote:

“There is a siren that sounds twice in Brooklyn to signal the sabbath. Ella, who is from Oklahoma, said that if we were there it would be the tornado warning. If we were in Israel it would be the missile or bomb warning.”

This is a glaring example of just how important context is, not just in the subject matter being presented but also in the understanding of the individual who is listening. Each of us have our own individual experiences whereby we, through those experiences assess information and process it in such a way that more than one conclusion can be drawn from the same information.

This is the siren. A siren on its own typically represents a means to warn people. However, what that warning is, depends on other factors, thus providing a context to the warning.

Case in point...sermons. When constructing a sermon, I ask and pray, “what does the listener need to conclude from this message?” There have been times when I would get a response to a sermon where the individual would convey what they had gleaned from the message. Their take was not what I had intended, yet it was equally as valid in that their understanding was still within the context of the overall message being conveyed.

I share this with you because much is being said about this pandemic and a phrase I am not a fan of - “The New Normal” Ultimately, being in the midst of this, “the experts” cannot truly convey with 100% certainty what life will be like after this has subsided. History teaches us that it will subside, but we will be challenged in how we move on in that within the context of History, circumstances are different.

Spanish flu (H1N1 strain) 1918

*The **Spanish flu**, also known as the **1918 flu pandemic**, was an unusually deadly [influenza pandemic](#) caused by the [H1N1 influenza A virus](#). Lasting more than 12 months from [spring](#) 1918 (northern hemisphere) to early [summer](#) 1919, it infected 500 million people – about a third of the world's population at the time.^[4] The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere from 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, making it one of the [deadliest pandemics](#) in human history.*

There were an additional three waves of the virus, ultimately burning itself out in 1920.

Many millions infected, many millions dying from this novel (new) strand of H1N1, yet the context of what transpired here is not applicable to today.

- Healthcare was not as advanced as it is today.
- We were in the midst of World War I while this pandemic was spreading throughout the world.

The lasting impact of this pandemic was anything but lasting.

Despite the high morbidity and mortality rates that resulted from the epidemic, the Spanish flu began to fade from public awareness over the decades until the arrival of news about [bird flu](#) and other pandemics in the 1990s and 2000s.^[135] This has led some historians to label the Spanish flu a “forgotten pandemic”

Upon the conclusion of the fourth wave of the virus in 1920 what would transpire but what we have come to know as the Roaring 20s, a time of great prosperity and indulgence that through the lense of History would appear that the 1918 flu outbreak had very little residual effect.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu

Swine Flu (H1N1 strain) 2009

The 2009 swine flu pandemic was an [influenza pandemic](#) that lasted for about 20 months, from January 2009 to August 2010, and the second of the two pandemics involving [H1N1 influenza virus](#) (the first being the 1918–1920 [Spanish flu](#) pandemic), albeit a new strain. First described in April 2009, the virus appeared to be a new strain of H1N1, which resulted from a previous triple [reassortment](#) of bird, swine, and human flu viruses further combined with a Eurasian pig flu virus, [\[10\]](#) leading to the term "[swine flu](#)". [\[11\]](#)

Some studies estimated that the actual number of cases including asymptomatic and mild cases could be 700 million to 1.4 billion people—or 11 to 21 percent of the global population of 6.8 billion at the time. [\[12\]](#) The lower value of 700 million is more than the 500 million people estimated to have been infected by the Spanish flu pandemic. [\[13\]](#)

The number of lab-confirmed deaths reported to the [WHO](#) is 18,449, [\[7\]](#) though this 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic is estimated to have actually caused about 284,000 (range from 150,000 to 575,000) deaths. [\[14\]](#) A follow-up study done in September 2010 showed that the risk of serious illness resulting from the 2009 H1N1 flu was no higher than that of the yearly seasonal flu. [\[15\]](#) For comparison, the WHO estimates that 250,000 to 500,000 people die of seasonal flu annually.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_swine_flu_pandemic

Was there a “New Normal” after this pandemic?

For most of us, 2009 is still within the annals of our memory in that it was only 12 years ago. More people infected than there have been today, yet nowhere near the media coverage of today. The death rate in 2009 was different, while the outbreak was far greater. Yet, there wasn't anywhere near the response by the Government or the media.

Was there a “New Normal” that ensued?

No.

We went about life as we knew it prior to the Swine Flu outbreak. We were in the midst of the financial crisis, another worldwide event, yet unlike WWI, was not a catalyst that further extended the spread of the virus.

Do you remember any changes to “Our Normal” that occurred as a result of the Swine Flu?

For me, I don't.

I provide all of this context to you for the simple reason of providing what is Normal. More specifically what is Adonai's Normal. I provided two examples, for which there are many more, where life was disrupted, as it has been today. Yet the lasting impact of those events subsided with the viruses. Recall earlier, The Spanish Flu was identified as the “forgotten pandemic”

When in the midst of a life impacting event, it is challenging to see past the present, to a time when we will return to our daily routines as prior. Keeping in mind there will likely be some changes because of technology,

yet, we will not be restricted in the manner by which we currently are experiencing.

There will be a time when we will be able to gather together again...



Heb 10:23 Let us continue holding fast to the hope we acknowledge, without wavering; for the One who made the promise is trustworthy.

Heb 10:24 And let us keep paying attention to one another, in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other. And let us do this all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The writer of Hebrews, conveying this message of gathering together is not lost on their audience, the Jewish people, but is meant to continue, now with Yeshua. Yeshua did not negate gathering together at the Synagogue, considering He did...

Luk 4:14 Yeshua returned to the Galil in the power of the Spirit, and reports about him spread throughout the countryside.

Luk 4:15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone respected him.

His Talmidim did...

Mar 6:1 Then Yeshua left and went to his hometown, and his talmidim followed him.

Mar 6:2 On Shabbat he started to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They asked, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom he has been given? What are these miracles worked through him?"

Sha'ul did...

Act 13:13 Having set sail from Paphos, Sha'ul and his companions arrived at Perga in Pamphylia. There Yochanan left them and returned to Yerushalayim,

Act 13:14 but the others went on from Perga to Pisidian Antioch, and on Shabbat they went into the synagogue and sat down.

Act 13:15 After the reading from the Torah and from the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent them a message, "Brothers, if any of you has a word of exhortation for the people, speak!"

As did many Gentiles...

Act 14:1 In Iconium the same thing happened — they went into the synagogue and spoke in such a way that a large number of both Jews and Greeks came to trust.

The foundation for our gathering together is unmistakably connected to Shabbat.

Exo 20:8 7 "Remember the day, Shabbat, to set it apart for God.

Exo 20:9 You have six days to labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is a Shabbat for Adonai your God. On it, you are not to do any kind of work — not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside the gates to your property.

Exo 20:11 For in six days, Adonai made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. This is why Adonai blessed the day, Shabbat, and separated it for himself.

We will gather together, though we may have to do some things that will not be normal, but it will only be for a time. We have seen, regardless of any health situation, we have returned to what we once did.

Keeping in mind, I have shared with you the possibility of our congregating being restricted and that this is a trial balloon for the Government to see how far they can push, until there is resistance. That is another sermon for another day.

There will be a time again when we will be able to worship and dance TOGETHER, before Adonai...



Just as David did...

2Sa 6:12 King David was told, "Adonai has blessed the house of `Oved-Edom and everyone who belongs to him, thanks to the ark of God." So David went and joyously brought the ark of God up from the house of `Oved-Edom into the City of David.

2Sa 6:13 When those bearing the ark of Adonai had gone only six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened sheep.

2Sa 6:14 Then David danced and spun around with abandon before Adonai, wearing a linen ritual vest.

2Sa 6:15 So David and all the house of Isra'el brought up the ark of Adonai with shouting and the sound of the shofar.

I want to emphasise the “TOGETHER” aspect here. We are meant to worship our God, Our Redeemer and we do individually. However, there is nothing more powerful than when we come together and Worship. This is the intended outcome as we see through Scripture.

Rev 7:9 After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands;

Rev 7:10 and they shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:11 All the angels stood around the throne, the elders and the four living beings; they fell face down before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

Rev 7:12 "Amen! "Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! "Amen!"

We will come together as a congregation on Shabbat and pray together...

Isa 55:3 Open your ears, and come to me; listen well, and you will live — I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the grace I assured David.

Isa 55:4 I have given him as a witness to the peoples, a leader and lawgiver for the peoples.

Isa 55:5 You will summon a nation you do not know, and a nation that doesn't know you will run to you, for the sake of Adonai your God, the Holy One of Isra'el, who will glorify you."

Isa 55:6 Seek Adonai while he is available, call on him while he is still nearby.

1Th 1:1 From: Sha'ul, Sila and Timothy To: The Messianic Community of the Thessalonians, united with God the Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah: Grace to you and shalom.

1Th 1:2 We always thank God for all of you, regularly mentioning you in our prayers,

1Th 1:3 calling to mind before God our Father what our Lord Yeshua the Messiah has brought about in you — how your trust produces action, your love hard work, and your hope perseverance.

And that we will study Torah together again...



Psa 18:30 (18:31) "As for God, his way is perfect, the word of Adonai has been tested by fire; he shields all who take refuge in him.

Psa 18:31 (18:32) "For who is God but Adonai? Who is a Rock but our God?"

2Ti 2:15 Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.

Everything I have shared with you, we can do on our own, with the exception of coming together. You can't come together on your own, unless it is with me, myself and I.

Yet, all that we are able to do on our own, leaves out the important element of community. Throughout Scripture, the emphasis is placed on community. Israel as a community flourished together when following Adonai, and were judged together as a community when they were disobedient to Adonai. The entire nation went into exile.

We as individuals are part of something that is much bigger than ourselves and as such requires us to function as part of that much bigger entity – The Body of Messiah.

Many PSA's have conveyed this very dynamic at this time “We Are All In this Together”

What can you truly be reassured by...an encouraging meme and soundbite or TTR

Turn, Trust, Rely.

Turn

Deu 30:10 "However, all this will happen only if you pay attention to what Adonai your God says, so that you obey his mitzvot and regulations which are written in this book of the Torah, if you turn to Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being.

Psa 22:25 Because of you I give praise in the great assembly; I will fulfill my vows in the sight of those who fear him.

Psa 22:26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek Adonai will praise him; Your hearts will enjoy life forever.

Psa 22:27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to Adonai; all the clans of the nations will worship in your presence.

Psa 22:28 For the kingdom belongs to Adonai, and he rules the nations.

Psa 22:29 All who prosper on the earth will eat and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him, including him who can't keep himself alive.

Psa 22:30 A descendant will serve him; the next generation will be told of Adonai.

Psa 22:31 They will come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he is the one who did it.

Trust

Pro 3:1 My son, don't forget my teaching, keep my commands in your heart;

Pro 3:2 for they will add to you many days, years of life and peace.

Pro 3:3 Do not let grace and truth leave you — bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Pro 3:4 Then you will win favor and esteem in the sight of God and of people.

Pro 3:5 Trust in Adonai with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge him; then he will level your paths.

Rely

Psa 23:1 *[A psalm of David:]* Adonai is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

Psa 23:2 He has me lie down in grassy pastures, he leads me by quiet water,

Psa 23:3 he restores my inner person. He guides me in right paths for the sake of his own name.

Psa 23:4 Even if I pass through death-dark ravines, I will fear no disaster; for you are with me; your rod and staff reassure me.

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table for me, even as my enemies watch; you anoint my head with oil from an overflowing cup.

Psa 23:6 Goodness and grace will pursue me every day of my life; and I will live in the house of Adonai for years and years to come.

This is the only real certainty in times of trial or times of blessing.

This is Adonai's Normal.

After we Bring out the Torah Scroll and read from it, we hold up in front of the congregation and recite...

V'zot ha-Torah a-sher sahm Mo-sheh lef-nay b'nay Yees-ra-el al pee Adonai b'yad Mo-sheh.

And this is the Torah that Moses placed before the children of Israel, at the command of the Lord, by Moses' hand.

