

Notes: August 6, 2016

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. Jeri - Drash
8. Praise and Worship Songs
9. Message
10. Aaronic Blessing
11. Kiddush
12. 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: Communicating To Others The Vision

Last week during our time of prayer, there were several requests for prayer that involved being able to communicate to others about their experience at Kehilah Portland and what Adonai has opened their eyes and mind to regarding the totality of His ways.

So, just how can we communicate this vision? This vision of Messianic Judaism...

For starters, even before you communicate anything, you must know what the vision is.

Do you know what you have embraced by being part of Kehilah Portland?

Do you know that it is more than Hebrew Roots?

For starters, I have come to hate the term Hebrew Roots. It reminds me of Hebrew Christian where Hebrew is an adjective meant to describe what type of Christian you are. Interestingly, there is no adjective for any other people identified as being Christian. Rather, when you look at how Jewish believers are identified the adjective is not their ethnicity, but rather their belief. Messianic Jew. You can do the same for non-Jews as well - Messianic Gentile (Believer). Keeping in mind that being a Gentile is not a bad thing or in any way negative. Unfortunately, goy (nation) or Gentile has become associated with being pagan, which is extremely bad exegesis. It simply means you are not a Jew. There are many nations of people, but in the eyes of God, they are all Gentiles. This distinction is not meant to be a negative, but unfortunately has taken on a negative perception.

This distinction is further emphasized through Adonai's relationship with Israel and the purpose He established them to be.

Adonai entered into a Covenant first with Avraham that would ultimately lead to a nation of his descendants and a Covenant that would ultimately establish them as a nation (Mosaic Covenant), and thus be further built upon with the promise of a New Covenant. It is in this relationship that Adonai has purposed Israel to be a light to the Gentile world, the nations with His message.

A message that ultimately is a Jewish message when you connect all the dots.

Adonai's vision for Israel can be summed up in Isaiah 49:5 – 6

Isa 49:5 So now Adonai says — he formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Ya`akov back to him, to have Isra'el gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the sight of Adonai, my God having become my strength —

Isa 49:6 he has said, "It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya`akov and restore the offspring of Isra'el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth."

And further emphasized through Romans 1:16 -17:

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News, since it is God's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting, to the Jew especially, but equally to the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 For in it is revealed how God makes people righteous in his sight; and from beginning to end it is through trust — as the Tanakh puts it, "But the person who is righteous will live his life by trust."

Adonai's vision involves both Jew and Gentile, whereby the Jew is responsible for demonstrating the lifestyle that Adonai desires from those who choose to follow Him. The Gentile's responsibility is to come along side the Jew and emanate that light they have received to the rest of the nations.

So, getting back to the vision...we as a congregation do not focus on Hebrew Roots nor for that matter teach Hebrew Roots.

We are about the entire TREE.

It isn't about the roots of your faith, it is the entire TREE. The totality, from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22 and EVERYTHING in between.

Vision:

- Kehilah Portland, (The Congregation at Portland) a Messianic Jewish Synagogue is a manifestation of God's present day regeneration and restoring work in the House of Israel.
- Kehilah Portland is a faith community where Jewish people can embrace their Jewish identity and heritage as believers in King Messiah, Yeshua.
- Kehilah Portland encourages non-Jewish believers in Messiah Yeshua, who desire to embrace the Jewish heritage of their faith and come along side Jewish believers to serve and express their faith in worshiping the God of Israel.

The first point is a statement that emphasizes the reason for our existence. We exist because of what Adonai is doing in restoring a dispersed people, a kingdom yet to be united. A people who are embracing in ever increasing numbers their Messiah.

This leads to the second statement of identifying who we are. We are a Messianic Jewish Synagogue, who is comprised of Jewish people having embraced their King.

While the third statement opens the door, just as the New Covenant does to anyone who desires to embrace Israel's Messiah, the Messiah of the world and worship Him in different and more profound way. A way that emanates layer

upon layer of richness and meaning.

This is something you can't teach, but something you must embrace if you truly want to flourish.

I will tell you from experience, when people say “this is exactly what I have been searching for” to wait and see if this is truly what they have been searching for, because time will be the ultimate indicator as to whether they come to embrace the vision.

I have heard this before, only to witness their absence as soon as the following week.

So, if this is the vision, how do you enact this vision? What is your role and responsibility? What do you do?

Mission:

Kehilah Portland is established with the purpose of restoring the people of Israel, in the state of Maine, to their God, and ultimately to their biblical calling. We will set forth to do this in the following manner:

- Be committed to and grow in a lifestyle of faith called Biblical Judaism
- Reveal first to the Jewish people of Maine, and also to the non-Jewish people of Maine the true identity and heritage of King Messiah Yeshua
- Support Israel and the Jewish people in opposing all acts of hatred (anti-semitism) brought against them.
- Call all people in the body of Messiah to the proper understanding of God’s covenant promises to Israel and their restoration.

It can't get any simpler than these four points.

Did anyone notice the term “roots” in either the vision or mission statement?

No...that is because it is not about the roots but the entire TREE

So, now we get to the fourth point of the Mission statement and in essence your role.

Calling all people in the body of Messiah to a proper understanding of God's covenant promises to Israel and their restoration.

This is where Adonai has placed a burden and desire upon your heart. Those of you who desire to communicate His message and ultimately being that light must first be confident in what you believe.

I have said this many times and consider this to be extremely important before you enter your boat and go fishing.

Know what you believe, why you believe it and be able to defend your belief

I say this because if you can't do this, how can you share this vision with other people?

You will be asked questions, you will be challenged.

If you can't truly verbalize the vision that you have come to embrace and believe, how can you truly convey this to others?

So, before you even start, check to see that you are in alignment with the vision of this congregation.

Now let's look at a few other aspects regarding communicating Adonai's vision.

First and foremost, before approaching people, you need to pray about that person. No matter how gifted you may be, there is preparation being done by Adonai, and you therefore need to be in sync.

Why?

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

Luk 24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

It is not you who opens their minds, but rather Yeshua our Lord.

Mat 28:18 Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Mat 28:19 Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh,

Mat 28:20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age."

In opening their eyes, we are responsible for conveying the Reality of who the Father is, who Yeshua the Son is and who the Ruach HaKodesh is, what their role is.

The Son's role is to glorify the Father...

Joh 17:1 After Yeshua had said these things, he looked up toward heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son may glorify you —

Joh 17:2 just as you gave him authority over all mankind, so that he might give eternal life to all those whom you have given him.

Joh 17:3 And eternal life is this: to know you, the one true God, and him whom you sent, Yeshua the Messiah.

Joh 17:4 "I glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Joh 17:5 Now, Father, glorify me alongside yourself. Give me the same glory I had with you before the world existed.

The Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit) and the Spirit of Adonai are ONE and the same. Therefore, throughout Scripture, we can see how the Spirit of Adonai has functioned and how it functions within us as believers in Messiah:

Act 1:6 When they were together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore self-rule to Isra'el?"

Act 1:7 He answered, "You don't need to know the dates or the times; the Father has kept these under his own authority.

Act 1:8 But you will receive power when the Ruach HaKodesh comes upon you; you will be my witnesses both in Yerushalayim and in all Y'hudah and Shomron, indeed to the ends of the earth!"

The very power that brought everything into existence, the very life that was breathed into us upon our creation, the very power that fell upon the Prophets of Israel, would come to reside in us.

Ultimately, you can share these truths with people, but it is through the workings of Adonai through His Spirit, that people will embrace these truths.

Likewise the truths you have experienced in attending this congregation and desire to share, Adonai must be involved before you even say a word.

In order to place the responsibility upon the person you are talking with, rather than you merely preaching at them, I would first ask permission to speak to them.

They may ask what you what is it that you want to talk about, for which you would tell them the truth.

If they accept your invitation to speak, then you have removed the burden and responsibility off of yourself and placed it upon them. This tactic will allow you to speak freely because they have given you permission to do so.

What if they say no?

If they say no, you honor their decision because speaking without permission, would likely irritate them to the point that they will dismiss every word you say.

Another indication to a no response is that Adonai has not yet prepared the heart of this person to truly receive what you are going to say.

Is no absolute?

Meaning, if they said no, am I never to approach them again.

The answer to that is no – no is not absolute.

I would continue to have a dialog with them, regarding other things, thus not closing the door, but keeping the interaction ongoing to the point that there will come a time where they will give you permission to speak.

You do not want to badger the person, asking them every day for their permission, but rather wait upon Adonai to make your path clear. Asking, is in essence testing the water to see if it has been stirred.

Mat 16:13 When Yeshua came into the territory around Caesarea Philippi, he asked his talmidim, "Who are people saying the Son of Man is?"

Mat 16:14 They said, "Well, some say Yochanan the Immerser, others Eliyahu, still others Yirmeyahu or one of the prophets."

Mat 16:15 "But you," he said to them, "who do you say I am?"

Mat 16:16 Shim`on Kefa answered, "You are the Mashiach, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 "Shim`on Bar-Yochanan," Yeshua said to him, "how blessed you are! For no human being revealed this to you, no, it was my Father in heaven.

I want to share with you an experience that may help you relate to what I am talking about in terms of communicating and response...

2Ch 30:1 Then Hizkiyahu sent to all Isra'el and Y'udah, and wrote letters also to Efrayim and M'nasheh, summoning them to the house of Adonai in Yerushalayim, to keep the Pesach to Adonai the God of Isra'el.

2Ch 30:2 For the king, his officials and the entire Yerushalayim community had agreed to keep the Pesach in the second month. (Numbers 9:10 - 11)

You are not the king but you have been given permission and authority from the KING.

2Ch 30:3 They had not been able to observe it at the proper time because the cohanim had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number; also the people had not assembled in Yerushalayim.

2Ch 30:4 The idea had seemed right to the king and to the whole community;

2Ch 30:5 so they issued a decree that it should be proclaimed throughout all Isra'el, from Be'er-Sheva to Dan, that they should come to keep the Pesach to Adonai the God of Isra'el at Yerushalayim; for only a few had been observing it as prescribed.

2Ch 30:6 So runners went with the letters from the king and his officers throughout all Isra'el and Y'hudah. They conveyed the king's order: "People of Isra'el! Turn back to Adonai, the God of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov! Then he will return to those of you who remain, who escaped capture by the kings of Ashur.

2Ch 30:7 Don't be like your ancestors, or like your kinsmen who sinned against Adonai the God of their ancestors, with the result that he allowed them to become an object of horror, as you see.

2Ch 30:8 Don't be stiffnecked now, as your ancestors were. Instead, yield yourselves to Adonai; enter his sanctuary, which he has made holy forever; and serve Adonai your God; so that his fierce anger will turn away from you.

2Ch 30:9 For if you turn back to Adonai, your kinsmen and children will find that those who took them captive will have compassion on them, and they will come back to this land. Adonai your God is compassionate and merciful; he will not turn his face away from you if you return to him."

2Ch 30:10 So the runners passed from city to city through the territory of Efrayim and M'nasheh, as far as Z'vulun; but the people laughed at them and made fun of them.

Who are the runners?

The runners are you and the decree from the KING is to convey His message.

This sounds like it is a vast majority of the people who scoffed at the decree of King Hizkiyahu...

Yet consider the next verse...

2Ch 30:11 Nevertheless, some from Asher, M'nasheh and Z'vulun were humble enough to come to Yerushalayim.

The King, Hizkiyahu made a decree and sent it to all throughout the land of Israel, the northern kingdom, but according to verse 11 only some attended.

Do verses 10 and 11 sound familiar...it could easily be the Message of Messiah being dismissed by at least 2/3 of the worlds population today, yet where only some have truly accepted the KING'S decree.

Some were humble enough to come.

The message was sent to everyone, but only a some attended.

We must keep in mind that not everyone will embrace this vision or your words, regardless of how passionate you are about it.

Adonai had prepared their hearts, hearts that were not overcome with pride. Now consider the next verse...

2Ch 30:12 Also in Y'hudah the hand of God was at work, uniting their hearts to do what the king and the leaders had ordered in accordance with the word of Adonai.

The hand of God was at work.

God must be involved.

And the result, many from Judah and some from the northern tribes assembled in Yerushalayim...

2Ch 30:13 Thus, many people assembled in Yerushalayim to keep the festival of Matzot in the second month, a huge crowd.

2Ch 30:14 First they set about removing the altars that were in Yerushalayim, and they also removed all the altars for incense and threw them in Vadi Kidron.

Those that came began to purify Yerushalayim, removing the altars used for pagan sacrifice and thus restoring the city, making it ready for Passover. Likewise, when people embrace this vision, they will begin purifying their lives. This is something you can't force but must be embraced.

2Ch 30:15 Then they slaughtered the Pesach lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. Ashamed of themselves, the cohanim and L'vi'im had consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings into the house of Adonai.

2Ch 30:16 Now they stood at their stations, as prescribed in the Torah of Moshe the man of God; the cohanim splashed the blood given to them by the L'vi'im.

2Ch 30:17 For there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves; therefore the L'vi'im were responsible for slaughtering the Pesach lambs and consecrating them to Adonai on behalf of everyone who was not clean.

2Ch 30:18 For a large number of the people, especially from Efrayim, M'nasheh, Yissakhar and Z'vulun, had not cleansed themselves but ate the Pesach lamb anyway, despite what is written. (Numbers 9:10 – 14) For Hizkiyahu had prayed for them, "May Adonai, who is good, pardon

2Ch 30:19 everyone who sets his heart on seeking God, Adonai, the God of his ancestors, even if he hasn't undergone the purification prescribed in connection with holy things."

2Ch 30:20 Adonai heard Hizkiyahu and healed the people.

And here you have the people's response, who desired to be there...

2Ch 30:21 The people of Isra'el there in Yerushalayim observed the festival of Matzot for seven days with great joy; while every day the L'vi'im and cohanim praised Adonai, singing to Adonai with the accompaniment of loud instruments.

2Ch 30:22 Hizkiyahu spoke encouragingly to all the L'vi'im who were well skilled in the service of Adonai. Thus they ate throughout the festival for the seven days, offering sacrifices of peace offerings and giving thanks to Adonai, the God of their ancestors.

Our excitement about the vision we have embraced should be spoken in the same manner whenever we are given permission to share with others.

2Ch 30:23 Then the whole assembly decided to celebrate for yet another seven days, and they observed those seven days too with joy.

2Ch 30:24 For Hizkiyahu king of Y'hudah gave the assembly a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep for offerings, while the leaders gave the assembly a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep; and great numbers of cohanim consecrated themselves.

2Ch 30:25 All the people who had assembled from Y'hudah rejoiced, as did the cohanim and L'vi'im, those assembled from Isra'el, and the foreigners who had come from the territory of Isra'el or who lived in Y'hudah.

2Ch 30:26 So there was great joy in Yerushalayim; for since the time of Shlomo the son of David, king of Isra'el,

there had been nothing like it in Yerushalayim.

2Ch 30:27 Then the cohanim, who were L'vi'im, stood up and blessed the people; [*Adonai*] heard their voice, and their prayer came up to the holy place where he lives, heaven.

When you embrace the vision, there will be great joy. Again something that is not teachable, but must be embraced and therefore experienced.

Why do you think I encourage you to invite people to our Passover Seder?

It is the perfect and complete representation of the Gospel, by which no alternate presentation even comes close to expressing in its fullness.