

Notes: September 19, 2020

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. Kiddish
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: Days of Awe Message – Honor Him

Just what are the 10 days of Awe?

The ten days starting with [Rosh Hashanah](#) and ending with [Yom Kippur](#) are commonly known as the Days of Awe (Yamim Noraim) or the Days of Repentance. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the sins of the previous year and repent before Yom Kippur.

So, today we begin this amplified period of time that will bring us to Yom Kippur.

Today, I want to talk about a verse that is often used but rarely understood in its context. Next weekend there are two “events” taking place, one in Washington and one in Maine. The event in Washington is called the Return. Jonathan Cahn is one of the primary speakers (you may have seen a commercial for it recently). The other event is being held in Waterville on Septemeber 27th and is called “If My People”. Both are prayer gatherings with the foundation of their premise from the event coming from 2 Chronicles 7:14:

2Ch 7:14 then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.

an often quoted verse regarding prayer and the promise Adonai has made.

Yet are people aware of the context of this verse?

Notice the verse starts off “then” indicating a response to something occurring previously.

What are the verses that come prior to 2 Chronicles 7:14?

2Ch 7:12 Adonai appeared to Shlomo by night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.

2Ch 7:13 If I shut up the sky, so that there is no rain; or if I order locusts to devour the land; or if I send an epidemic of sickness among my people;

"I have heard your prayer"

Thus verse 14 is a response by Adonai to Shlomo's prayer, prior to the dedication of the Temple.

Shlomo's prayer can be found beginning in 2 Chronicles 6:12. We will look at that in a moment. First I want to also look at the verse that come immediately after 2 Chronicles 7:14...

2Ch 7:15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears will pay attention to the prayer made in this place.

2Ch 7:16 For now I have chosen and consecrated this house, so that my name can be there forever; my eyes and heart will always be there.

Adonai conveys to Shlomo that His eyes will be open and His ears will pay attention to the prayer made in this place.

This place being the Temple. What else occurs in the Temple?

Sacrifices.

Adonai has chosen this place as a house of Sacrifice. So, the place that He had alluded to...

Deu 12:1 Here are the laws and rulings you are to observe and obey in the land Adonai, the God of your ancestors, has given you to possess as long as you live on earth.

Deu 12:2 You must destroy all the places where the nations you are dispossessing served their gods, whether on high mountains, on hills, or under some leafy tree.

Deu 12:3 Break down their altars, smash their standing-stones to pieces, burn up their sacred poles completely and cut down the carved images of their gods. Exterminate their name from that place.

Deu 12:4 "But you are not to treat Adonai your God this way.

Deu 12:5 Rather, you are to come to the place where Adonai your God will put his name. He will choose it from all your tribes; and you will seek out that place, which is where he will live, and go there.

Deu 12:6 You will bring there your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tenths [*that you set aside for Adonai*], the offerings that you give, the offerings you have vowed, your voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep.

Deu 12:7 There you will eat in the presence of Adonai your God; and you will rejoice over everything you set out to do, you and your households, in which Adonai your God has blessed you.

...has now been formally established.

So then, prayer and sacrifices will encompass the activities of the Temple. The place where blood is applied on the altar for the remission of sin...

Lev 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for yourselves; for it is the blood that makes atonement because of the life.'

And as the writer of Hebrews conveys...

Heb 9:22 In fact, according to the Torah, almost everything is purified with blood; indeed, without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

What the writer of Hebrews is referring to is found throughout Leviticus chapters 4 – 6, whereby we read

Lev 4:16 The anointed cohen is to bring some of the bull's blood to the tent of meeting.

Lev 4:17 The cohen is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times in the presence of Adonai in front of the curtain.

Lev 4:18 He is to put some of the blood on the horns of the altar before Adonai, there in the tent of meeting. All the remaining blood he is to pour out at the base of the altar for burnt offerings, which is at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

Lev 4:19 He is to remove all its fat and make it go up in smoke on the altar.

Lev 4:20 This is what he is to do with the bull—he must do the same with this bull as he does with the one for the sin offering. Thus the cohen will make atonement for them, and they will be forgiven.

So, upon hearing Shlomo's prayer Adonai's response was that He will reside in the Temple, pay attention to the peoples prayers and if they are truly humble, that is sincere and therefore one of a contrite heart, He will respond.

There is an interesting part of Adonai's response to Shlomo that I want to spend some time exploring. Adonai says to Shlomo in verse 14 “then, I will hear from heaven”

Adonai resides in heaven and is saying that He will hear the peoples prays from heaven. Recall Adonai had stated that He would pay attention to the prayer made in this place that being the Temple.

Yet, “then, I will hear from heaven” is actually a response to Shlomo's prayer, specific actions he is seeking a response from Adonai. Within His prayer to Adonai, Shlomo uses the phrase “I will hear from heaven” seven times. So what is attached to these pleas by Shlomo?

To understand Adonai's response of 2 Chronicles 7:14 we must know what Shlomo's prayer was.

Shlomo begins his prayer by recognizing who Adonai is...

2Ch 6:14 and said, "Adonai, God of Isra'el, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth. You keep covenant with your servants and show them grace, provided they live in your presence with all their heart.

2Ch 6:15 You have kept your promise to your servant David, my father; you spoke with your mouth and fulfilled it with your hand; so it is today.

2Ch 6:16 Now therefore, Adonai, God of Isra'el, keep what you promised to your servant David, my father, **when you said**, 'You will never lack a man in my presence to sit on the throne of Isra'el, if only your children are careful about what they do, so that they live by my Torah, just as you have lived in my presence.'

2Ch 6:17 Now therefore, Adonai, God of Isra'el, please let your word, which you spoke to your servant David, my father, be confirmed.

2Ch 6:18 "But can God actually live with human beings on the earth? Why, heaven itself, even the heaven of heavens, cannot contain you; so how much less this house I have built?

2Ch 6:19 Even so, Adonai my God, pay attention to your servant's prayer and plea, listen to the cry and prayer that your servant is praying before you,

2Ch 6:20 that your eyes will be open toward this house day and night—toward the place where you said you would put your name—to listen to the prayer your servant will pray toward this place.

Here, Shlomo is seeking confirmation to everything Adonai had spoken to his father David, that they will be honored with Shlomo as King, concluding with this plea...

2Ch 6:21 Yes, listen to the pleas of your servant, and also those of your people Isra'el when they pray toward this place. **Hear from where you live, from heaven; and when you hear, forgive!**

Then Shlomo presents to Adonai a set of prayer requests on behalf of the people whom he serves as King...

2Ch 6:22 "If a person sins against a fellow member of the community, and he is made to swear under oath, and he comes and swears before your altar in this house;

2Ch 6:23 **then hear from heaven**, act and judge your servants, paying back the wicked, so that his way of life devolves on his own head, and vindicating the one who is right, giving him what his righteousness deserves.

2Ch 6:24 "If your people Isra'el sin against you and in consequence are defeated by an enemy; then if they turn back to you, acknowledge your name, and pray and make their plea to you in this house,

2Ch 6:25 hear from heaven, forgive the sin of your people Isra'el, and bring them back to the land you gave to them and their ancestors.

The manner by which the people would be defeated by an enemy would be via transgression of Torah. Remember one of the promises of the blessings was to reside in the land in safety, yet the curse removed the safety and thus made the people vulnerable to an enemy attack. So, this prayer actually makes sense.

2Ch 6:26 "When they sin against you, and in consequence the sky is shut, so that there is no rain; then if they pray toward this place, acknowledge your name and turn from their sin when you have brought them low;

2Ch 6:27 hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your servants and of your people Isra'el—since you keep teaching them the good way by which they should live—and send down rain on your land, which you have given your people as their inheritance.

2Ch 6:28 "If there is famine in the land, or blight, windstorm, mildew, locusts or shearer-worms; or if their enemies besiege them in any of their cities—no matter what kind of plague or sickness it is;

2Ch 6:29 then, regardless of what prayer or plea anyone among all your people Isra'el makes—for each individual will know his own plague and his own pain—and the person spreads out his hands toward this house;

2Ch 6:30 then hear from heaven where you live, and forgive; also, since you know what is in each one's heart, give each person what his conduct deserves (because you, and only you, know human hearts),

2Ch 6:31 so that they will fear you and therefore live according to your ways throughout the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors.

What is this prayer referring to but the healing of the land should there be a famine. Whereby Shlomo is requesting that the land be healed. In past week's I have talked about the connection of Israel to the land in relation to the Covenants made both with Avraham and through Moshe. There is an intimate connection to the people and the land like no other nation on earth. A covenant with the creator of the one who formed the earth and created everything in it has been established with the people of Israel. Thus this pray offers significant meaning. No other people or nation has such a relationship with Adonai.

2Ch 6:32 "Also the foreigner who does not belong to your people Isra'el—when he comes from a distant country because of your great reputation, your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when they come and pray toward this house;

2Ch 6:33 then hear from heaven, from where you live; and act in accordance with everything about which the foreigner is calling to you; so that all the peoples of the earth will know your name and fear you, as does your people Isra'el, and so that they will know that this house which I have built bears your name.

Here we have a prayer of intercession for the foreigner, the goy, who chooses to reside in the land with Adonai's

people because of His reputation. We have seen this through Scripture. Before Shlomo there was Ruth,

Rth 1:16 But Rut said, "Don't press me to leave you and stop following you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God.

Rth 1:17 Where you die, I will die; and there I will be buried. May Adonai bring terrible curses on me, and worse ones as well, if anything but death separates you and me."

Next we have a prayer for battle, that is Israel going against their enemies...

2Ch 6:34 "If your people go out to fight their enemies, no matter by which way you send them, and they pray to you toward the city you chose and the house I built for your name;

2Ch 6:35 then, from heaven, hear their prayer and plea, and uphold their cause. 2 Chronicles

And this final plea of Shlomo...

2Ch 6:36 "If they sin against you—for there is no one who doesn't sin—and you are angry with them and hand them over to the enemy, so that they carry them off captive to a land far away or nearby;

2Ch 6:37 then, if they come to their senses in the land where they have been carried away captive, turn back and make their plea to you in the land where they are being held captive, saying, 'We sinned, we acted wrongly, we behaved wickedly,'

2Ch 6:38 if, in the land where they were brought and are being held captive, they return to you with all their heart and being and pray to you toward their own land, which you gave to their ancestors, toward the city you chose and toward the house I have built for your name;

2Ch 6:39 then, from heaven, from where you live, hear their prayer and pleas, uphold their cause, and forgive your people who have sinned against you.

A plea for reconciliation upon exile. A plea that resides within Adonai's heart already, yet Shlomo seeks Adonai's response. Long before Shlomo's prayer, Adonai made this promise...

Deu 30:1 "When the time arrives that all these things have come upon you, both the blessing and the curse which I have presented to you; and you are there among the nations to which Adonai your God has driven you; then, at last, you will start thinking about what has happened to you;

Deu 30:2 and you will return to Adonai your God and pay attention to what he has said, which will be exactly what I am ordering you to do today—you and your children, with all your heart and all your being.

Deu 30:3 At that point, Adonai your God will reverse your exile and show you mercy; he will return and gather you from all the peoples to which Adonai your God scattered you.

The effort expended in erecting a house for Adonai on earth, was bathed in prayer by Shlomo, seeking Adonai's response that their labor was not in vain, for Shlomo concludes His prayer...

2Ch 6:40 "Now, my God, please, let your eyes be open, and let your ears pay attention to the prayer being made in this place.

2Ch 6:41 "Now go up, Adonai, God, to your place of rest, you and the ark through which you give strength. "May your cohanim, Adonai, God, be clothed with salvation; may those loyal to you take joy in good.

2Ch 6:42 "Adonai, God, don't turn away the face of your anointed one; remember the mercies of your servant David."

So now, you have a better understanding of 2 Chronicles 7:14. It is a response to the specific requests made by Shlomo relating to the Temple, the People and the land.

Yet, people are using this verse as a generic template without understanding the specifics. That being it is a response to Shlomo's prayer for the Temple where the presence of Adonai is to reside.

2Ch 7:14 then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.

Sacrifice and prayer are at play here.

Shlomo seeks Adonai regarding the people's transgression primarily.

To seek Adonai's face is coupled with "turn from their evil ways" refers to following Torah. Living by Torah for which they had transgressed.

The New Covenant, made through Yeshua and with the Jewish people,

Jer 31:30 "Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah.

we have a better promise...

Heb 9:11 But when the Messiah appeared as cohen gadol of the good things that are happening already, then, through the greater and more perfect Tent which is not man-made (that is, it is not of this created world),

Heb 9:12 he entered the Holiest Place once and for all. And he entered not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, thus setting people free forever.

Heb 9:13 For if sprinkling ceremonially unclean persons with the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer restores their outward purity;

Heb 9:14 then how much more the blood of the Messiah, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself to God as a sacrifice without blemish, will purify our conscience from works that lead to death, so that we can serve the living God!

Remember the prayer Shlomo made on behalf of the foreigner?

This also resides within the New Covenant. Those that are grafted in...

Rom 11:11 "In that case, I say, isn't it that they have stumbled with the result that they have permanently fallen away?" Heaven forbid! Quite the contrary, it is by means of their stumbling that the deliverance has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy.

The promises are there for all. Consider the words written by Kefa...

Kefa writes the following:

1Pe 3:8 Finally, all of you, be one in mind and feeling; love as brothers; and be compassionate and humble-minded,

1Pe 3:9 not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult, but, on the contrary, with blessing. For it is to this that you have been called, so that you may receive a blessing.

1Pe 3:10 For "Whoever wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit,

1Pe 3:11 turn from evil and do good, seek peace and chase after it.

1Pe 3:12 For Adonai keeps his eyes on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers; but the face of Adonai is against those who do evil things."

Kefa references Psalm 34, so what does this Psalm convey?

Psa 34:1 [*By David, when he pretended to be insane before Avimelekh, who then drove him away; so he left:*] I will bless Adonai at all times; his praise will always be in my mouth.

Psa 34:2 When I boast, it will be about Adonai; the humble will hear of it and be glad.

Psa 34:3 Proclaim with me the greatness of Adonai; let us exalt his name together.

Psa 34:4 I sought Adonai, and he answered me; he rescued me from everything I feared.

Psa 34:5 They looked to him and grew radiant; their faces will never blush for shame.

Psa 34:6 This poor man cried; Adonai heard and saved him from all his troubles.

Psa 34:7 The angel of Adonai, who encamps around those who fear him, delivers them.

Psa 34:8 Taste, and see that Adonai is good. How blessed are those who take refuge in him!

Psa 34:9 Fear Adonai, you holy ones of his, for those who fear him lack nothing.

Psa 34:10 Young lions can be needy, they can go hungry, but those who seek Adonai lack nothing good.

Psa 34:11 Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of Adonai.

Psa 34:12 Which of you takes pleasure in living? Who wants a long life to see good things?

Psa 34:13 [*If you do,*] keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceiving talk;

Psa 34:14 turn from evil, and do good; seek peace, go after it!

Psa 34:15 The eyes of Adonai watch over the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

Psa 34:16 But the face of Adonai opposes those who do evil, to cut off all memory of them from the earth.

Psa 34:17 [*The righteous*] cried out, and Adonai heard, and he saved them from all their troubles.

Psa 34:18 Adonai is near those with broken hearts; he saves those whose spirit is crushed.

Psa 34:19 The righteous person suffers many evils, but Adonai rescues him out of them all.

Psa 34:20 He protects all his bones; not one of them gets broken.

Psa 34:21 Evil will kill the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

Psa 34:22 But Adonai redeems his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Is this not an equally powerful promise presented to the righteous. Those who seek Adonai...just not as pithy as a single verse. Yet this is not a response to a specific prayer but rather a proclamation. Consider this...I pray for something specifically and you respond to the answer I receive. Technically, the response was intended for me based on a specific petition, yet you are acting upon it as if it were given to you.

Does Psalm 34 not provide us with a roadmap for living righteously?

We are always to be humble before our creator, seeking His face, that is living by His Word. We now have a better Sacrifice and a more powerful Cohen Ha Gadol in Yeshua our Passover Lamb and now the power of the Ruach Ha Kodesh residing in us to live by His Word.

So, during these 10 days, rightly divide the Word of Truth, Seek His face, that is seek His ways, turning from that which are not His ways. Honor Him.