

Notes: July 18, 2015

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: Defiance Continued...

Much has happened this week. It takes me back just three weeks when major decisions by the Supreme Court forever changed the law of the land and our relationship as a nation with Adonai.

On Thursday you had what appeared to be an independent domestic terrorist attack, killing four Marines in a shooting rampage at two military centers in Chattanooga, Tennessee, yet the investigation is still in its infancy.

Then on Monday you have the G5+1 (U.S., Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia & China), negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran that smells of special interest.

Here is what Prime Minister Netanyahu said:

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2015/07/14/netanyahu-iran-nuclear-deal-reaction.reuters/video/playlists/iran-u-s-relations/>

In this week's Parashah we read of Adonai's judgment being cast against Midyan.

Num 31:1 Adonai said to Moshe,

Num 31:2 "On behalf of the people of Isra'el, take vengeance on the Midyanim. After that, you will be gathered to your people."

Num 31:3 Moshe said to the people, "Equip men from among yourselves for war. They are to go and fight Midyan, in order to carry out Adonai's vengeance on Midyan.

Num 22:3 Mo'av was very afraid of the people, because there were so many of them; Mo'av was overcome with dread because of the people of Isra'el.

Num 22:4 So Mo'av said to the leaders of Midyan, "This horde will lick up everything around us, the way an ox licks up grass in the field." Balak the son of Tzipor was king of Mo'av at that time.

Why was Mo'av afraid?

It was likely more so because of the reputation of the God of Israel than their size in that Adonai says that they are among the smallest of the nations, then and are so today as well.

Israel was certainly not a large nation in relation to others, but it was the reputation that preceded Israel, in other words Adonai proceeded them wherever they would travel and His reputation became known to the world by what He did to Egypt.

Num 22:5 He sent messengers to Bil'am the son of B'or, at P'tor by the *[Euphrates]* River in his native land, to tell him, "Listen, a people has come out of Egypt, spread over all the land and settled down next to me.

Num 22:6 Therefore, please come, and curse this people for me, because they are stronger than I am. Maybe I will be able to strike them down and drive them out of the land, for I know that whomever you bless is in fact blessed, and whomever you curse is in fact cursed."

So, Mo'av and Midyan conspired together...

Num 22:7 The leaders of Mo'av and Midyan left, taking with them the payment for divining, came to Bil'am and spoke to him the words of Balak.

With the ultimate intent to destroy Israel. In order to do so, Balak hired Bil'im to curse Israel.

To curse Israel is to in essence remove the blessing that has made them great. What Balak is unaware, is that the one who has blessed Israel is the one who protects Israel. It is He and He alone that can invoke a curse upon Israel.

Yet, we as a nation have previously spoken these words from Isaiah 9...

Isa 9:8 (9:7) Adonai sent a word to Ya'akov, and it has fallen on Isra'el.

Isa 9:9 (9:8) All the people know it, Efrayim and the inhabitants of Shomron. But they say in pride, in the arrogance of their hearts,

Isa 9:10 (9:9) "The bricks have fallen, but we will rebuild with cut stone; the sycamore-fig trees have been chopped down, but we will replace them with cedars."

Thinking we are speaking words of encouragement, binding a nation together at a time of national tragedy, we are in essence acting as defiant towards Adonai, the God whom this nation modeled its framework after.

Not knowing what was done, those that spoke these words over our nation have in essence invoked a curse upon the nation.

We still continue to act in defiance, but this time it is towards a nation God has blessed.

We as a nation have in essence done as Balak of Mo'av and Midyan has done. Through this nuclear deal with Iran, we are attempting to curse Israel through this treaty with Iran. In supporting this deal, we are in essence empowering Israel's enemy.

The majority of people I have heard speaking towards this subject, other than the administration, have conveyed how devastating this treaty will be, not only for America, but for Israel and the Sunni nations of the Middle East.

Last I recall, America is identified by Iran as the Great Satan while Israel is called the Little Satan.

I recall Iran's intent to destroy both America and Israel, yet a deal has been negotiated with the one's who want us

destroyed and we have ultimately left the capabilities within their hands to do so.

We as part of the G5+1 have negotiated a deal but did nothing regarding the 4 American hostages being held by Iran.

Does anyone think Iran will uphold the requirements of the treaty in good faith or do everything in their power to circumvent it? It was conveyed by the President that we were acting in good faith as a result of the deal, yet when has Iran ever acted in good faith.

In 1979 they released the women and negro hostages, not as a sign of good faith but because they esteemed them higher than the white male hostages. They continued to hold them hostage.

It wasn't until **Jan. 20, 1981**, Iran released 52 Americans who had been held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan. The hostages were placed on a plane in Tehran as Reagan delivered his inaugural address.

In my opinion, Iran viewed Carter as a weak president who would not use force to eradicate the hostages, yet they viewed Reagan as someone who would use force.

For another 34 years, America's relationship with Iran has been contentious at best, yet from Iran's perspective hostile is an accurate term to describe their views towards America.

The Arab nations have never recognized or supported the UN resolution that gave Israel its standing as a nation within the international community and likely never will.

Our willingness to negotiate “in good faith” with a terrorist nation, when the directive is not to negotiate with terrorists flies in the face of our own directives.

Ask Israel about acting in good faith when they voluntarily withdrew from Gaza in 2005, removing Israelis from the region. What has that good faith afforded them?

Continued attacks and the ongoing reality that their need to defend themselves will continue.

What was known as “land for peace” was an ideological dream sold to Israel through pressure by the international community.

Yet, we are hearing this is the best possible deal that could be made.

Yet it seems there was no regard for Iran's position towards us.

We have in essence kicked the can down the road, letting the next President deal with the fallout 10 years from now.

- We have ultimately equipped them with nuclear weaponry.
- We have given a terrorist nation an infusion of funds to the tune of over 100 billion dollars – to give you an idea of the impact of 100 billion dollars, Hamas had about 500 million dollars when it was attacking Israel in 2013.
- Should the bill before congress supporting this treaty pass both houses it would be adopted.
- Should congress not support the treaty, they will need a 2/3 majority to override a Presidential veto that is promised to happen even before the ink is dry.

Do they really think Iran will live up to this treaty?

- March 5, 2014 the Israeli Navy intercepted a ship containing dozens of long-range rockets being smuggled from Iran to the Gaza Strip.

This is hot off the presses or rather hot off the internet...

Here are a few excerpts from an article published by Reuters: (entire article posted below in notes)

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei withheld his verdict on Iran's nuclear deal on Saturday but in a fiery address vowed enduring opposition to the United States and its Middle East policies, saying Washington sought Iran's

'surrender'.

In an speech at a Tehran mosque punctuated by chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel", Khamenei said he wanted politicians to examine the agreement to ensure national interests were preserved, as Iran would not allow the disruption of its revolutionary principles or defensive abilities.

"Whether the deal is approved or disapproved, we will never stop supporting our friends in the region and the people of Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain and Lebanon. Even after this deal our policy toward the arrogant U.S. will not change,"

Iran regards its nuclear program as an emblem of national dignity and dynamism in the face of what it sees as decades of hostility from Western countries that opposed its 1979 Islamic revolution.

In the end Balak was unsuccessful because what he was unaware of was that what Adonai has already blessed could not be cursed. From Adonai as spoken by Bil'im:

Who was Balek?

Balek was the leader who opposed Adonai and His people. Who, with intent to harm desired to curse them.

A nation is judged because of its leaders.

Egypt was judged because of Pharaoh's defiance.

Israel was judged because of its defiant Kings that led them down a path of idolatry.

Midyan was judged for being part of a conspiracy to curse Adonai's people.

A few weeks ago I had indicated that I believe we have crossed the line to where we could not return as a nation and that Adonai's judgment would be upon this nation.

It would appear that our defiance is only intensifying.

We have had opportunity as a nation to return to Adonai, yet have defiantly turned our back on Him, time and time again.

Num 23:8 "How am I to curse those whom God has not cursed? How am I to denounce those whom Adonai has not denounced?"

Midyan's bill came due.

How much longer as a Nation are we going to fly into the headwind that is impending judgment before our bill comes due?

How much longer as a Nation are we going to defiantly disregard the Words of Adonai?

Speaking to Avram, Adonai made this promise to him...

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Yet, is anyone really paying attention?

It is Adonai who pronounces judgment on Israel, should they turn away, yet it is also the same One who bestows blessing upon them for following Him.

As not just a believer, but as talmidim, as disciples, as students of Yeshua, He is our shield with whom we fend off the fiery arrows of attack from the enemy.

It is through Yeshua that we are made strong.

It is through Yeshua that we are to remain the course.

We are in the midst of a battle with an enormous target on our backs.

Many of you have been experiencing increased trials and tribulations, attacks by the adversary, for what I will say is being part of this congregation. I firmly believe that if you were to leave because of the attacks...

1. the attacks would likely stop
2. but, your adversary will have accomplished their mandate

The adversary doesn't want you here, because you are growing as a talmid in Yeshua.

To the adversary you are merely fodder for him.

To Adonai, you are precious in His sight.

You will likely experience more attacks the longer you stay with us. But keep in mind, you have tools at your disposal.

Adonai didn't leave you comfortless or ill-equipped.

So, buckle up, it will likely continue to be a bumpy ride.

Eph 6:10 Finally, grow powerful in union with the Lord, in union with his mighty strength!

Eph 6:11 Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary.

Eph 6:12 For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

Recognize the source of your trials and tribulations. Once you recognize it, you can fight it.

Eph 6:13 So take up every piece of war equipment God provides; so that when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist; and when the battle is won, you will still be standing.

A missing piece of equipment means that you are leaving yourself exposed to the enemy. By not utilizing everything provided for you, you are making yourself susceptible and therefore vulnerable to the tools of the adversary.

Eph 6:14 Therefore, stand! Have the belt of truth buckled around your waist, put on righteousness for a breastplate,

Eph 6:15 and wear on your feet the readiness that comes from the Good News of shalom.

Eph 6:16 Always carry the shield of trust, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of deliverance; along with the sword given by the Spirit, that is, the Word of God;

Eph 6:18 as you pray at all times, with all kinds of prayers and requests, in the Spirit, vigilantly and persistently, for all God's people.

This description of **the armor and weaponry that God provides** confounds people who are used to fighting people by worldly methods and have no sensitivity to God's methods, which are: **truth, righteousness, readiness** grounded in **the Good News of shalom, trust, deliverance** (or: "salvation"), **the Word of God** given by **the Spirit**, and **prayers**.

- Truth – know what you believe, why you believe and be able to support it.
- Righteousness – living what Adonai deems as the right way, his right way, that brings forth life
- Readiness grounded in the Good News of Shalom – always being ready with our staff in hand
- Deliverance – knowing that we have already been delivered because of whom we follow and that the attacks of the adversary have no effect on us.

- The Word of Adonai given by the Ruach – it is our foundation, it is where everything else originates.
- Prayers – Our means to communicate with the one we follow and are called to.

Reuters: *Iran leader withholds verdict on nuclear deal, vows anti-U.S. Policies (July 18, 2015)*

DUBAI/BEIRUT (Reuters) - Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei withheld his verdict on Iran's nuclear deal on Saturday but in a fiery address vowed enduring opposition to the United States and its Middle East policies, saying Washington sought Iran's 'surrender'.

In an speech at a Tehran mosque punctuated by chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel", Khamenei said he wanted politicians to examine the agreement to ensure national interests were preserved, as Iran would not allow the disruption of its revolutionary principles or defensive abilities.

An arch conservative with the last word on high matters of state, Khamenei repeatedly used the phrase "whether this text is approved or not", implying the accord has yet to win definitive backing from Iran's factionalized political establishment.

"Whether the deal is approved or disapproved, we will never stop supporting our friends in the region and the people of Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain and Lebanon. Even after this deal our policy toward the arrogant U.S. will not change," he said.

Under the agreement reached on Tuesday, sanctions will be gradually removed in return for Iran accepting long-term curbs on a nuclear program that the West has suspected was aimed at creating a nuclear bomb. Iran denies it seeks a nuclear bomb.

Khamenei's combative remarks about U.S. policies in the Middle East may sit awkwardly with a diplomatic offensive Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif plans in coming days in the wake of the deal.

"INSULT"

Iran regards its nuclear program as an emblem of national dignity and dynamism in the face of what it sees as decades of hostility from Western countries that opposed its 1979 Islamic revolution.

Khamenei did not echo criticisms of the deal made on Friday by a top cleric, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Movahedi Kermani, who said in an address broadcast on radio that it reflected excessive demands by world powers that were an "insult".

But Khamenei's remarks radiated a broad mistrust of U.S. intentions, claiming that successive American presidents had sought Iran's "surrender", and declaring that if war broke out America would come off worst, nursing "a broken head".

"The Americans say they stopped Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon," Khamenei said.

"They know it's not true. We had a fatwa (religious ruling), declaring nuclear weapons to be religiously forbidden under Islamic law. It had nothing to do with the nuclear talks."

He said the slogans of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" chanted at demonstrations in Iran this week supporting the Palestinian cause showed what Iranians think and "shook the atmosphere of the country".

"We have repeatedly said we don't negotiate with the U.S. on regional or international affairs; not even on bilateral issues. There are some exceptions like the nuclear program that we negotiated with Americans to serve our interests.

He said U.S. policies in the region were "180 degrees" opposed to Iran's policies.

"LEGAL PATH"

He paid tribute to Iranian negotiators who thrashed out the accord in marathon negotiations in Vienna, saying their work was worthy of reward, whether the deal was approved or not, and added there was now "a foreseen legal path" in Iran for the nuclear agreement to take.

"Our expectation is that those involved will very carefully keep the issues of the country and national issues in mind. And what they present to the people they should also be able to present to God with their head held high."

His remarks did not shed further light on Iran's procedures for ratifying the accord, which are not known in any detail. Zarif will brief parliament on July 21, Iranian media have said, and the agreement will also be examined the National Security Council, the country's highest security body.

Zarif, who plans to visit several countries in the region, told fellow Muslim countries on Friday that Iran hoped the accord could pave the way for more cooperation in the Middle East and internationally.

Some Gulf Arab states have long accused Tehran of interference, alleging financial or armed support for political movements in several countries including Bahrain, Yemen and Lebanon. Shi'ite power Iran denies interference but vows undimmed support for the Syrian and Iraqi governments, both of whom are fighting insurgencies by a variety of Sunni armed groups.

In a message to Islamic and Arab countries on the occasion of the Eid al-Fitr holiday at the end of Ramadan, Zarif said: "By solving the artificial crisis about its nuclear program diplomatically, a new opportunity for regional and international cooperation has emerged."

Some prominent conservatives have kept silent on the deal. Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to Khamenei, did not mention the agreement in his Eid al-Fitr message.

"If any of our security officials or members of parliament approve or denounce the deal before fully scrutinizing it, they will regret," Revolutionary Guard commander and head of Iran's Basij organization, Mohammad Reza Naghdi said on Friday in an interview with Fars news agency.

(Reporting by Babak Dehghanpisheh, Bozorgmehr Sharafedin; Editing by William Maclean, Robert Birsell)