

Notes: July 4, 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: Does Adonai Have A Fourth of July?

Today, across the nation there will be fireworks, family, picnics, parades and sports of all kinds as people focus on a celebration of this nation's "birthday", a day in which America declared its independence from the British Commonwealth.

The **Declaration of Independence** is the statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, which announced that the thirteen American colonies then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as thirteen newly independent sovereign states, and no longer a part of the British Empire. Instead they formed a new nation—the United States of America.

It is through this declaration that America became a nation, but it had to be fought for. It wasn't something Britain was just willing to give up. It would take over 8 years to obtain that freedom.

This is the opening of the Declaration of Independence...

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America,
When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,...

This statement is by the people and for the people. It is a statement based on being created with specific rights that are self-evident.

If you are created, you are granted the right to life.

If you are created you are granted the right to liberty

If you are created you are granted the right to the pursuit of happiness.

Out of this nation's battle for independence, a document would be created to protect these rights – The United States Constitution.

The **United States Constitution** is the supreme law of the United States of America. The Constitution, originally comprising seven articles, delineates the national frame of government. Its first three articles entrench the doctrine of the separation of powers, whereby the federal government is divided into three branches: the legislative, consisting of the bicameral Congress; the executive, consisting of the President; and the judicial, consisting of the Supreme Court and other federal courts.

It comprises a Preamble that sets the tone for the document.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

It sets the tone for the Constitution, defined as - a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed.

The **Bill of Rights** is the collective name for the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. Proposed to assuage the fears of Anti-Federalists who had opposed Constitutional ratification, these amendments guarantee a number of personal freedoms, limit the government's power in judicial and other proceedings, and reserve some powers to the states and the public.

The Bill of Rights enumerates freedoms not explicitly indicated in the main body of the Constitution, such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, a free press, and free assembly to name a few.

So, when you put together the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, you have a more complete document that is the foundation for establishing a more perfect union of States.

So, this is what we are celebrating today, if you didn't already know.

Why did I give you this History lesson?

You will be able to answer that by the end of my sermon.

Let me ask you a question – Does Adonai have a 4th of July?

Does He have an Independence Day?

Does He have a Constitution?

Does He have a Bill of Rights?

The answer to all these questions as you could have already deduced is yes. But, what are they?

Everything that we have just talked about is people centered in order to protect the rights of people from an overreaching and oppressing government.

What Adonai has is Adonai centered for His people and in order to establish His ways which have been given to His people, in order to have Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

One way is people centered because people are governing people

The other way is God centered because we are being governed by God through His representatives.

One is elected, one is by appointment.

Yet both are very similar in structure.

I have conveyed the foundation of America's Declaration for Independence.

This is Israel's Declaration for Independence:

Exo 2:23 Sometime during those many years the king of Egypt died, but the people of Isra'el still groaned under the yoke of slavery, and they cried out, and their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.

Exo 2:24 God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov.

Exo 2:25 God saw the people of Isra'el, and God acknowledged them.

It came as a cry for freedom for which Adonai heard.

Exo 3:4 When Adonai saw that he had gone over to see, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moshe! Moshe!" He answered, "Here I am."

Exo 3:5 He said, "Don't come any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy ground.

Exo 3:6 I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya`akov." Moshe covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

To where a man was chosen to represent Him and convey this Declaration for Independence from a nation that has greatly oppressed the people of Adonai...

Exo 3:7 Adonai said, "I have seen how my people are being oppressed in Egypt and heard their cry for release from their slavemasters, because I know their pain.

Exo 3:8 I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that country to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the place of the Kena`ani, Hitti, Emori, P'rizi, Hivi and Y'vusi.

Exo 3:9 Yes, the cry of the people of Isra'el has come to me, and I have seen how terribly the Egyptians oppress them.

It wasn't as lengthy of document as is America's, but rather direct and to the point, because of the author.

Exo 3:10 Therefore, now, come; and I will send you to Pharaoh; so that you can lead my people, the descendants of Isra'el, out of Egypt."

Exo 5:1 After that, Moshe and Aharon came and said to Pharaoh, "Here is what Adonai, the God of Isra'el, says: 'Let my people go, so that they can celebrate a festival in the desert to honor me.' "

Four simple, direct and uncomplicated words..."Let My People Go"

This is the Declaration for Israel's Independence from Egypt.

Everyone here should already know the outcome, so I won't go into detail as to how Israel obtained its Independence, but I will say that it was not in the same way that America obtained her independence.

When you are a people identified by Adonai and you identify yourself as His by accepting His Covenants the battle ultimately belongs to Him.

There was no war lasting 8 years. The only casualties of Israel was anyone who didn't follow Adonai's instructions. As "Commander In Chief" He deployed a General – Moshe, to execute His plan that would lead to independence.

After Israel left Egypt there would be one final battle between Adonai and Egypt, for which Moshe conveyed to the people...

Exo 14:13 Moshe answered the people, "Stop being so fearful! Remain steady, and you will see how Adonai is going to save you. He will do it today – today you have seen the Egyptians, but you will never see them again!

Exo 14:14 Adonai will do battle for you. Just calm yourselves down!"

Speaking of another battle that would ensue, Adonai responds to the people's fears...

Deu 1:29 "I answered you, 'Don't be fearful, don't be afraid of them.

Deu 1:30 Adonai your God, who is going ahead of you, will fight on your behalf, just as he accomplished all those things for you in Egypt before your eyes,

The battle would be His.

Not one Israelite would die at the hands of Egypt in the desert.

Exo 14:29 But the people of Isra'el walked on dry ground in the sea, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left.

Exo 14:30 On that day, Adonai saved Isra'el from the Egyptians; Isra'el saw the Egyptians dead on the shore.

Exo 14:31 When Isra'el saw the mighty deed that Adonai had performed against the Egyptians, the people feared Adonai, and they believed in Adonai and in his servant Moshe.

So you have this battle for independence that really wasn't a battle but a statement by Adonai.

America sets aside a day to recognize their independence, yet it took much longer than a day.

Israel's Day of Independence actually happened in a day.

It would be Passover that would break the will of Pharaoh, but it would be the next day that Israel would walk out free from Egyptian slavery.

Yet the time that we remember these moments actually lasts 8 days.

Exo 12:17 You are to observe the festival of matzah, for on this very day I brought your divisions out of the land of Egypt. Therefore, you are to observe this day from generation to generation by a perpetual regulation.

Exo 12:18 From the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month until the evening of the twenty-first day, you are to eat matzah.

Exo 12:19 During those seven days, no leaven is to be found in your houses. Whoever eats food with hametz in it is to be cut off from the community of Isra'el – it doesn't matter whether he is a foreigner or a citizen of the land.

Passover was the end of the battle that wasn't a battle and the festival of matzah commemorates Israel's independence.

I had also mentioned America's constitution as being a component of independence. It is really no mystery that Adonai has a constitution for Israel as I have mentioned this many times, but let's look at it further.

The preamble is a brief introductory statement of the Constitution's fundamental purposes and guiding principles.

So, what would be Adonai's Preamble?

And actually the way it is structured in Deuteronomy, it isn't really a preamble but a "postamble" It comes after the "bill of rights" which are commandments, providing everyone under this constitution a framework, that in following these mitzvot the outcome will be life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, not by man's definition, but by the Word of Adonai.

How about Deuteronomy 6:

Deu 6:1 "Now this is the mitzvah, the laws and rulings which Adonai your God ordered me to teach you for you to obey in the land you are crossing over to possess,

Deu 6:2 so that you will fear Adonai your God and observe all his regulations and mitzvot that I am giving you - you, your child and your grandchild - as long as you live, and so that you will have long life.

Deu 6:3 Therefore listen, Isra'el, and take care to obey, so that things will go well with you, and so that you will increase greatly, as Adonai, the God of your ancestors, promised you by giving you a land flowing with milk and honey.

Deu 6:4 "Sh'ma, Yisra'el! Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad [*Hear, Isra'el! Adonai our God, Adonai is one*];

Deu 6:5 and you are to love Adonai your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources.

Deu 6:6 These words, which I am ordering you today, are to be on your heart;

Deu 6:7 and you are to teach them carefully to your children. You are to talk about them when you sit at home, when you are traveling on the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deu 6:8 Tie them on your hand as a sign, put them at the front of a headband around your forehead,

Deu 6:9 and write them on the door-frames of your house and on your gates.

Then you have Deuteronomy 5, the 10 Commandments comprising 12 instructions we would associate with the Bill of Rights, but it is not really a Bill of Rights, but rather a Bill of Responsibility.

What are your responsibilities as a citizen of Adonai's people that will produce life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, not only for yourself, but for the nation as well?

Love Adonai your God...

Honor Your Father and Mother...

Do Not...

These are the foundation that Adonai has establish that will produce life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for Israel.

So long as Israel follows the Bill of Responsibility and all of its mitzvot.

Yet unlike America's Constitution, Israel's has an additional section that conveys the outcome when Israel as a nation follows the Adonai, and an outcome when Israel doesn't follow Adonai.

It contains a legal system that protects the liberty of the individual from the time of conception, yet is extremely specific regarding what practices are not acceptable.

You have already been given these rights through Adonai's covenants, so the question isn't the need to protect them but

to perpetuate them through a nation.

The American constitution attempts to do this in that it is framed by a plurality... "We the people", yet and I say this with a heavy heart "we the people" has gone from a plurality to divided singularity. Special interest and a right within the constitution has derailed its intent. The right to lobby the government is in the constitution, yet you don't see this "right" in Torah.

Furthermore, I find it interesting that Adonai's document makes provisions for the foreigner and slave, yet the U.S. Constitution, which includes the statement "all men are created equal" yet, that statement did not include African American slaves. An amendment (14th) had to be added in order to guarantee the rights of African Americans under the Constitution. It would be this precedent that would lead to others seeking specific rights based, thus reaching beyond the scope and intent of this document.

Within our Bill of Responsibilities is a law to rest. Shabbat is in there. I had this conversation last night and will convey the primary points of our conversation...

When you ask a Christian about the Sabbath, in many cases their gut reaction is "legalism" It is in the law, and therefore to follow it would put me under the law, because the law is legalism.

Yet, is it legalism to follow Adonai's mitzvot?

In some cases it is, but it is when they are taken out of their context that they can become legalistic.

This is legalism..."In order for a male gentile to be saved when accepting Yeshua, he must be circumcised and convert to Judaism."

Yet through events conveyed in the Brith Hadoshah, they speak against converting gentiles through circumcision.

To have a day set apart by Adonai as a Shabbat is legalistic?

"I guess it would be legalistic in that He is not giving me the right to choose which day I can recognize."

People who state this are missing the point of Shabbat.

It is a day set aside by Adonai, the Creator of all things, and given specifically to Israel. No other nation in the world, past, present or even into the future can make this claim.

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised —

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

But, because you have been redeemed by Adonai, through Yeshua, you have now been brought into the national life of Israel that includes Shabbat.

The national life of Israel also comprises:

Rom 9:4 the people of Isra'el! They were made God's children, the Sh'khinah has been with them, the covenants are theirs, likewise the giving of the Torah, the Temple service and the promises;

Rom 9:5 the Patriarchs are theirs; and from them, as far as his physical descent is concerned, came the Messiah, who is over all. Praised be Adonai for ever! Amen.

Is there a day to recognize the constitution in that it is foundational to the country.

Can anyone think of a day other than July 4th?

Believe it or not, Adonai has a day for which he recognizes the giving and ratification of Torah for Israel.

That day – Shavuot

Exo 19:1 In the third month after the people of Isra'el had left the land of Egypt, the same day they came to the Sinai Desert.

Exo 19:3 Moshe went up to God, and Adonai called to him from the mountain: "Here is what you are to say to the household of Ya`akov, to tell the people of Isra'el:

Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

Exo 19:5 Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant, then you will be my own treasure from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine;

Exo 19:6 and you will be a kingdom of cohanim for me, a nation set apart.' These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el."

Exo 19:7 Moshe came, summoned the leaders of the people and presented them with all these words which Adonai had ordered him to say.

Exo 19:8 All the people answered as one, "Everything Adonai has said, we will do." Moshe reported the words of the people to Adonai.

Exo 19:9 Adonai said to Moshe, "See, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, so that the people will be able to hear when I speak with you and also to trust in you forever." Moshe had told Adonai what the people had said;

Exo 19:10 so Adonai said to Moshe, "Go to the people; today and tomorrow separate them for me by having them wash their clothing;

Exo 19:11 and prepare for the third day. For on the third day, Adonai will come down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people.

And in Exodus 20 Adonai conveys the *Bill of Responsibility* to the people of Israel.

We have a day to recognize receiving these instruction that no other nation to this day has ever received, directly from Adonai.

To keep on the all things American theme – America has a day for Thanksgiving, while we have an 8 day celebration of thanksgiving – Sukkot.

So, America may have a day to celebrate their independence as a nation and a day to be thankful, but it is nothing compared to what Adonai has provided.

We may not have the right to lobby our God, but we have the right to approach Him through Yeshua, who is our advocate and intercedes on our behalf.

We don't have a Supreme court to interpret Torah for us through judicial process, because there is no need to. (even though there are many in need of an interpretation based on their own understanding)

Deu 32:1 "Hear, oh heavens, as I speak! Listen, earth, to the words from my mouth!

Deu 32:2 May my teaching fall like rain. May my speech condense like dew, like light rain on blades of grass, or showers on growing plants.

Deu 32:3 "For I will proclaim the name of Adonai. Come, declare the greatness of our God!

Deu 32:4 The Rock! His work is perfect, for all his ways are just. A trustworthy God who does no wrong, he is righteous and straight.

Deu 32:5 "He is not corrupt; the defect is in his children, a crooked and perverted generation.

Deu 32:6 You foolish people, so lacking in wisdom, is this how you repay Adonai? He is your father, who made you his!
It was he who formed and prepared you!

2Sa 22:31 "As for God, his way is perfect, the word of Adonai has been tested by fire; he shields all who take refuge in him.

2Sa 22:32 For who is God but Adonai, and who is a Rock but our God?

2Sa 22:33 "God is my strength and protection; he makes my way go straight.

2Sa 22:34 He makes me swift and sure-footed as a deer and enables me to stand on my high places.

2Sa 22:35 He trains my hands for war until my arms can bend a bow of bronze;

2Sa 22:36 You give me your shield, which is salvation; your answers make me great.

There is no other document that can not only make these claims but back them up. We may be scoffed at right now for what we believe. We may be ridiculed to the point of even being persecuted because of what we believe. Keep in mind we serve a patient God, for whom the battle is His for all those who call on Him.

We are instructed to remain faithful until the end.

Being faithful until the end means continuing to follow Him and not be discouraged by what others say or do. We are to be a light for this world.