

Notes: December 14, 2019

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tov
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: Don't Judge A Book By Its Title

You can't always judge a book by its title. Here, to judge I am referring to the contents of the book based on its title. For instance, if you read "The Temple" by Robert Cornuke, you would expect the contents to be about the Temple. And you wouldn't be disappointed. It was not only about the Temple but about the location of the Temple mount. Is it really where everyone thinks it is? We know it today as the Western wall. There has been very little debate about the location. However, Mr. Cornuke utilises both biblical testimony and archaeological evidence to convey a much different conclusion than that which is supported today.

On the other hand, you look at what many consider a classic piece of literature "Lord of the Flies" What would you expect from the title? Would you expect the following...

Lord of the Flies is a 1954 novel by Nobel Prize–winning British author William Golding. The book focuses on a group of British boys stranded on an uninhabited island and their disastrous attempt to govern themselves. Themes include the tension between groupthink and individuality, between rational and emotional reactions, and between morality and immorality.

What about Catcher in the Rye?

The Catcher in the Rye is a story by J. D. Salinger, partially published in serial form in 1945–1946 and as a novel in 1951.[3] It was originally intended for adults but is often read by adolescents for its themes of angst and alienation, and as a critique on superficiality in society.

The **Meaning** of the Title: The **Catcher in the Rye**. The title of **The Catcher in the Rye** is a reference to "Comin' Thro

the **Rye**," a Robert Burns poem and a symbol for the main character's longing to preserve the innocence of childhood.

So a title doesn't always give you a true glimpse into the book that you are about to read. In many instances, titles are meant to capture your attention, your interest, your curiosity.

Can you tell by the title of my sermon what I am about to talk about?

Well for starters, it certainly won't be book reviews.

But it does have to do with addressing labels and titles. As we live in this fast paced world where our attention spans seem to be getting shorter and shorter, we tend to gravitate towards the executive summary, the synopsis. A summary of the "main points"

So when you summarise, you can potentially miss a great deal of context.

The group Black Hebrew Israelites...

On the surface what was your first thought by this title?

When looking a little further...

Black Hebrew groups were founded in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, from Kansas to New York City, by both African Americans and West Indian immigrants.[9] In the mid-1980s, the number of Black Hebrews in the United States was between 25,000 and 40,000.[10] Black Hebrew Israelism is a non-homogenous movement with a number of groups, that have varying beliefs, practices, and relationships to Judaism and Christianity.

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

Sometimes, more information is required. If any have been watching the news and have heard of what transpired in Jersey City, NJ, then you have likely heard of Black Hebrew Israelites:

From a recent article by Daniel Burke in response to the recent shooting...

The Black Hebrew Israelite movement has a complex history in the United States, with sects and branches splintering into dozens of branches over theological and leadership disputes. The movement, which is now best known for its confrontational brand of street preaching in urban areas, dates back to the 19th century.

What unites most Black Israelites is the belief that they are the true descendants of biblical Jews. Some sects within the movement disdain modern white Jews, experts say, claiming the mantle of the religion for themselves.

"Black Hebrew Israelites claim to be from the Twelve Tribes of Israel, who will one day be given dominion by God to rule over the Earth," said Heidi Beirich, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project. "They believe that Jewish people are 'fake Jews' imposters who will be supplanted by them in the future," Beirich added. "They also believe that God will make whites, who these groups consider spawns of the devil, into their slaves, forced into eternal servitude."

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/11/us/hebrew-black-israelites-jersey-city/index.html>

Additional what we learned this week was that the kosher market was not the intended target where three Jewish people were shot and killed. The intended target of the individuals from this group was the Yeshiva next door. A Jewish school with approximately 50 children. The mayor of Jersey City speculated that if they had reached their

intended target, we could be talking about a Sandy Hook level tragedy. This does not diminish what happened but conveys it could have been much worse.

This group is greatly segregated, comprising at most 40,000, not all of which are radical and hostile towards the Jewish people, but it doesn't take a lot of leaven to leaven a batch of dough. The ones you hear about are the ones to be concerned about.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/12/12/jersey-city-shooting-who-black-hebrew-israelites/4408073002/>

Not too long ago in Washington there was an uproar over a group of Catholic school kids being the instigators towards a Native American. A small video went viral and the boys were eviscerated by the media for the sole reason that they were wearing red MAGA hats. Yet, when another video was released it showed the Native American approaching the boys and mixed into all of this were a group of Black Hebrew Israelites actually trying to provoke the Catholic kids. They were seen yelling derogatory statements towards them.

Incorporated in our Vision statement under our mission as a congregation is to...

Support Israel and the Jewish people in opposing all acts of hatred (anti-semitism) brought against them.

This hatred is not to be taken lightly. There is Scriptural foundation for just such hatred. So, it is nothing new, and yet something we must remain vigilant towards.

Est 3:8 Then Haman said to Achashverosh, "There is a particular people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people; moreover, they don't observe the king's laws. It doesn't befit the king to tolerate them.

Est 3:9 If it please the king, have a decree written for their destruction; and I will hand over 330 tons of silver to the officials in charge of the king's affairs to deposit in the royal treasury."

Est 3:10 The king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hamdata the Agagi, the enemy of the Jews.

Est 3:11 The king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, and the people too, to do with as seems good to you."

Est 3:12 The king's secretaries were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month. They wrote down all Haman's orders to the king's army commanders and governors in all the provinces and to the officials of every people, to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language; everything was written in the name of King Achashverosh and sealed with the king's signet ring.

Est 3:13 Letters were sent by courier to all the royal provinces "to destroy, kill and exterminate all Jews, from young to old, including small children and women, on a specific day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to seize their goods as plunder."

Est 3:14 A copy of the document to be issued as a decree in every province was to be publicly proclaimed to all the peoples, so that they would be ready for that day.

We are not just talking an adversary with differences, but rather an enemy so consumed by hatred that the only solution is a final solution.

Again, nothing new under the sun here. This hatred is systemic and rooted in pure evil. Its origins are direct from The Adversary. As we know, one of the Adversary's deceptions is deception.

The Black Hebrew Israelite groups, having claimed to be of Jewish descent, offer no foundational proof and as such have been denied under Israel's law of return, hence further fueling the hatred for the Jewish people. They are only one group of many who have been attempting to deny the Jewish people their heritage. Whether it's Islam claiming

to be the rightful heir of Avraham, Seventh Day Adventists claiming to be the people of the promise because they are the true Sabbath keepers, The Catholic church denegrating the Jewish people for “killing Jesus” or main stream Christianity claiming to have replaced Israel as His covenant people, there is no shortage of deception to go around.

Yeshua conveys the following to those gathered around Him on the mount. A primarily Jewish audience hears these words...

Mat 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets! They come to you wearing sheep's clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves!

Mat 7:16 You will recognize them by their fruit. Can people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?

Mat 7:17 Likewise, every healthy tree produces good fruit, but a poor tree produces bad fruit.

Mat 7:18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, or a poor tree good fruit.

Mat 7:19 Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire!

Mat 7:20 So you will recognize them by their fruit.

So when one is identified as being anti-semitic, do their actions, their deeds, their lifestyle align with the accusations?

Case in point, our President has been labelled a white supremisist and therefore is anti-semitic.

Do the facts align?

Does his actions align?

Earlier this week, the same week as some from the Black Hebrew Israelites were intending to decimate a Yishiva in Jersey City New Jersey, our president was signing an executive order against anti-semitism.

Keeping in mind, the very labels placed upon him are still placed upon him when these facts have not changed...

- His son in law is Jewish
- His daughter converted to Judaism
- Their children, his grandchildren are Jewish
- He relocated the American Embassy in Jerusalem, thereby officially recognising Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel. A promise made by four previous presidents dating back 25 years to President Bush (41) yet none taking the initiative to actually put pen to paper and finalise this promise.
- He identified the Golan Heights to be Israel's territory. A decision that took 52 years to happen, in that Israel gained control as a result of the 6 days war in 1967.

Does this sound like the actions of an anti-semite?

On Tuesday, when he signed the executive order many were in attendance, including:

- Alan Dershowits, a Harvard law professor emeritus who staunchly defends the rights of Israel
- Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots and another staunch supporter of Israel
- Oscar Steward and Jonathan Morales, both of whom intervned during the Poway Chabad shooting
- Jonathan Greenblatt, the chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League

The room was packed.

Does the title place upon our President actively reflect the contents within the book?

This isn't about whether you like or dislike our President. It is about his actions. What he said he was going to do four years ago is actually what he is doing today. Rather refreshing in that politicians promise the sun, moon and stars and deliver very little.

This is the executive order signed on Tuesday December 10th, 2019...

The vile, hate-filled poison of anti-Semitism must be condemned and confronted everywhere and anywhere it appears.

President Donald J. Trump

COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM: President Donald J. Trump is issuing an Executive Order to further the fight against the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States.

- President Trump's order makes it clear that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to anti-Semitic discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.
- When enforcing Title VI against covered anti-Semitic discrimination, agencies will consider the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism as well as the IHRA's contemporary examples.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hr_7-NUXUBX0QelURfNZGFCif_cBhODG/view

- The President is also directing Federal agencies to identify other ways the Government can use nondiscrimination authorities to address anti-Semitism.
- This action further demonstrates the unwavering commitment of President Trump and his Administration to combating all forms of anti-Semitism.

CONFRONTING RISING HATE: In recent years, Americans have witnessed a disturbing rise of anti-Semitic incidents and rhetoric across the country.

- In the past few years, there has been a disturbing trend of rising anti-Semitism in the United States.
- Anti-Semitic incidents have increased in America since 2013, particularly in schools and on college campuses.
- These incidents include horrific acts of violence against Jewish Americans and synagogues in the United States.
- Earlier this year, 18 Democrat Members of Congress cosponsored legislation in support of the anti-Semitic "Boycott, Divest, Sanctions" (BDS) movement.
 - In their resolution, these Congressmen and Congresswomen shockingly compared support for Israel to support for Nazi Germany.

TAKING ACTION: President Trump and his Administration have repeatedly taken action to combat hate and support the Jewish community.

- During this year's State of the Union Address, President Trump promised to "never ignore the vile poison of anti-Semitism, or those who spread its venomous creed."
- Since January 2017, the Civil Rights division at the Department of Justice (DOJ) has obtained 14 convictions in cases involving attacks or threats against places of worship.
 - The Division has also obtained 11 convictions in cases involving hate crimes against individuals because of their religious beliefs.
- DOJ has launched a new, comprehensive website providing a centralized portal for law enforcement, media, advocacy groups and others to access hate crime resources.
- DOJ's Community Relations Service has facilitated 17 forums since September 2018 focused on protecting

- places of worship and preventing hate crimes.
- The President signed the JUST Act, strengthening Holocaust restitution efforts.
- The Trump Administration removed the last known Nazi criminal from the United States.

According to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance the IHRA

DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM is:

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

In addition, such manifestations could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

Examples of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself with regard to the State of Israel taking into account the overall context could include:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.
- However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

It is not always in the title of the book but in the contents of the book.

These Black Hebrew Israelites displayed antisemitism through their act of violence, while President Trump displayed the opposite, a measure to counteract this stain of antisemitism on humanity.

There was actually a third thing that happened this week in denouncing antisemitism. It wasn't obvious but it is significant.

Over in the United Kingdom, an election occurred on Thursday. The Tory Party, the equivalent to our Republican party won an overwhelming majority. An under-story to this profound victory was the defeat of the Labor party, the equivalent of the Democratic party and its leader Jeremy Corbyn, a staunch antisemite. Brits were speaking towards their voice being heard, in support of Brexit and against Socialism, which has taken a position against Israel and the Jewish people. In many instances there is no distinction between antisemitism and anti-zionism (against Israel). The people of Great Britain spoke against both.

“I will know it when I see it”

The phrase "**I know it when I see it**" is a colloquial expression by which a speaker attempts to categorize an observable fact or event, although the category is subjective or lacks clearly defined parameters.

The phrase was used in 1964 by United States Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart to describe his threshold test for obscenity in *Jacobellis v. Ohio*. In explaining why the material at issue in the case was not obscene under the Roth test, and therefore was protected speech that could not be censored, Stewart wrote:

I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description ["hard-core pornography"], and perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But *I know it when I see it*, and the motion picture involved in this case is not that.

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

This past week you were able to see what was an antisemitic act and what was not an antisemitic act.

Pay attention to what is happening because.

Sermon Postscript...

A Sunday article by Caroline Glick provides further information to the rise and impact of anti-semitism and thus further validates what was presented on Shabbat..

<http://carolineglick.com/why-american-jews-slander-president-trump/>