

Notes: August 4, 2018

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: Gentiles in the Synagogue!!!

A question was recently posed to which I accepted to respond...

The question was, "Quote ONE post-resurrection Bible verse where ANYONE trained personally BY JESUS, EVER tells ANYONE they must "Keep the Sabbath".

I came at this question from a different angle in that I knew there was not one verse, hence the loaded question with its extremely narrow parameters, first starting with Yeshua, in that this person who I will call the antagonist keeps emphasizing "Jesus is his Sabbath rest" and that the Sabbath is a shadow of things to come, so he states to me "why do you keep chasing after shadows?"

Example 1: Yeshua...

Luk 4:15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone respected him.

Luk 4:16 Now when he went to Natzeret, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue AS USUAL. He stood up to read,

Luk 4:17 and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha`yahu. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

Luk 4:18 "The Spirit of Adonai is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed,

Luk 4:19 to proclaim a year of the favor of Adonai."

## Example 2:

Act 13:13 Having set sail from Paphos, Sha'ul and his companions arrived at Perga in Pamphylia. There Yochanan left them and returned to Yerushalayim,

Act 13:14 but the others went on from Perga to Pisidian Antioch, and on Shabbat they went into the synagogue and sat down.

Act 13:15 After the reading from the Torah and from the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent them a message, "Brothers, if any of you has a word of exhortation for the people, speak!"

Act 13:16 So Sha'ul stood, motioned with his hand, and said: "Men of Isra'el and God-fearers, listen!"

Act 13:17 The God of this people Isra'el chose our fathers. He made the people great during the time when they were living as aliens in Egypt and with a stretched-out arm he led them out of that land.

Keeping the Sabbath after Judea's return from Babylon centered around the synagogue. There was one in every town and it was the center of the community. On Shabbat they would be in the synagogue, honoring it, not working and participating in the highest form of worship, the study of Adonai's Word.

## Example 3: And what is this...God-fearers???

Act 10:1 There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a Roman army officer in what was called the Italian Regiment.

Act 10:2 He was a devout man, a "God-fearer," as was his whole household; he gave generously to help the Jewish poor and prayed regularly to God.

Cornelius, A Roman officer, a Gentile – a God-fearer. Likewise other God-fearers were in the synagogue on Shabbat.

## Example 4:

Act 14:1 In Iconium the same thing happened — they went into the synagogue and spoke in such a way that a large number of both Jews and Greeks came to trust.

Here it is again.

## Example 5:

Act 17:1 After passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Sha'ul and Sila came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue.

Act 17:2 According to his usual practice, Sha'ul went in; and on three Shabbats he gave them drashes from the Tanakh,

Act 17:3 explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and that "this Yeshua whom I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah."

Act 17:4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and threw in their lot with Sha'ul and Sila, as did a great many of the Greek men who were "God-fearers," and not a few of the leading women.

And again. This time we not only have God-fearers but we also have Greek men...men who did not believe. More Gentiles!!!

#### Example 6:

Act 17:10 But as soon as night fell, the brothers sent Sha'ul and Sila off to Berea. As soon as they arrived, they went to the synagogue.

Act 17:11 Now the people here were of nobler character than the ones in Thessalonica; they eagerly welcomed the message, checking the Tanakh every day to see if the things Sha'ul was saying were true.

Act 17:12 Many of them came to trust, as did a number of prominent Greek women and not a few Greek men.

And again. This time there are not only Greek men but also Greek women in the synagogue on Shabbat.

#### Example 7:

Act 18:4 Sha'ul also began carrying on discussions every Shabbat in the synagogue, where he tried to convince both Jews and Greeks.

Act 18:5 But after Sila and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Sha'ul felt pressed by the urgency of the message and testified in depth to the Jews that Yeshua is the Messiah.

Act 18:6 However when they set themselves against him and began hurling insults, he shook out his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! For my part, I am clean; from now on, I will go to the Goyim!"

Act 18:7 So he left them and went into the home of a "God-fearer" named Titius Justus, whose house was right next door to the synagogue.

#### Example 8:

Act 19:8 Sha'ul went into the synagogue; and for three months he spoke out boldly, engaging in dialogue and trying to persuade people about the Kingdom of God.

Act 19:9 But some began hardening themselves and refusing to listen; and when these started defaming the Way before the whole synagogue, Sha'ul withdrew, took the talmidim with him, and commenced holding daily dialogues in Tyrannus's yeshivah.

Act 19:10 This went on for two years; so that everyone, both Jews and Greeks, living in the province of Asia heard the message about the Lord.

Act 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Sha'ul.

Hopefully you get the point. Although I rather doubt it, given your spots. When you are in the synagogue on Shabbat you are not working and therefore honoring it by keeping it...

And finally, a time that is way, way after the resurrection and will occur when Yeshua returns...

Isa 66:22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will continue in my presence," says Adonai, "so will your descendants and your name continue.

Isa 66:23 "Every month on Rosh-Hodesh and every week on Shabbat, everyone living will come to worship in my presence," says Adonai.

Isa 66:24 "As they leave, they will look on the corpses of the people who rebelled against me. For their worm will never die, and their fire will never be quenched; but they will be abhorrent to all humanity."

This is my M/O, is it not, a long response with many Scripture references.

People may give you Scripture to support their position, but they may not always be the best Scripture references or they may omit certain verses, so as not to compromise their own narrative.

Here was my antagonist's initial response after I had provided these examples of both Jew and Gentile being in the synagogue on Shabbat...not just one occurrence stated in passing, but example after example.

*I knew that [Stephen Luft](#) would NOT have ONE single verse of Scripture to meet the challenge. Why? Because NO apostle after the resurrection EVER told ANYONE that they HAVE TO keep the Sabbath.*

*But the apostles DID tell people that they DID NOT have to keep a DAY of the WEEK... here are the NECESSARY things that the apostles DID proclaim (notice... there is NO mention of the Sabbath)...*

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*Acts 15:28-29*

*28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than THESE NECESSARY THINGS;*

*29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.*

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*Not Listed Among The Necessary Things:*

- \* Keep the Sabbath*
- \* Keep the Law*
- \* Keep the Passover (and other religious feasts)*
- \* etc.*

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*The apostles NEVER commanded ANYONE to keep the Sabbath!*

Keeping in mind several things...

1. Every example provided was post resurrection
2. In the case of Isaiah 66, it was revealed long before the resurrection, but would be prominent after the resurrection.

So, in looking further into this response, the gentleman quotes Acts 15:28 – 29 which is part of the letter sent out to all the communities, yet he ignores the rationale by those at the Jerusalem council and their reasoning behind their decision...

The same aspects of the pagan lives are discussed and documented in Acts 15:19 – 20 where Kefa renders the following...

**Act 15:19** "Therefore, my opinion is that we should not put obstacles in the way of the Goyim who are turning to God.

**Act 15:20** Instead, we should write them a letter telling them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from fornication, from what is strangled and from blood.

With the following reasoning...

**Act 15:21** For from the earliest times, Moshe has had in every city those who proclaim him, with his words being read in the synagogues every Shabbat."

By the forbidding of these pagan practices from among Gentiles coming into the body of Messiah, which aligns with Torah, Shimon was using the exact same manner as conveyed by Torah regarding those who would be residing with Israel in the land.

From last week's parsha...

**Deu 5:12** **⚔** "Observe the day of Shabbat, to set it apart as holy, as Adonai your God ordered you to do.

**Deu 5:13** You have six days to labor and do all your work,

**Deu 5:14** but the seventh day is a Shabbat for Adonai your God. On it you are not to do any kind of work - not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your ox, your donkey or any of your other livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside the gates to your property — so that your male and female servants can rest just as you do.

**Deu 5:15** You are to remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and Adonai your God brought you out from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore Adonai your God has ordered you to keep the day of Shabbat.

The foreigner staying with you...

Yet I have provided you with example after example “after the resurrection” that both Jewish and Gentile believers were in the synagogue, on Shabbat, to which I asked my antagonist the following question...

By whose authority were Gentiles in the synagogue on Shabbat?

They just didn't show up by accident. It wasn't a fluke that so many Gentiles who were God-fearers were in the synagogue on Shabbat. So, by whose authority, by whose directive did they respond by attending?

If you are a literalist for which I believe my antagonist is, you will not be able to find an answer, in that there is no specific verse that will meet “his demands”. Yet, there is an overwhelming amount of evidence that supports the premise:

1. Gentiles were instructed about Shabbat as being part of their new practice, while moving away from pagan practices, because they are in the synagogue on Shabbat in many different places
- 2.

I go back to these verses as support that you don't need a specific verse, but an understanding of how Yeshua trained His talmidim and in essence how they would train there's...

A good student will mimic their teacher in that they are their example, their mentor, their guide. Taking a wet lump of clay, the teacher will mold it and form it into something recognizable and of use, such as a clay pot, whereby it will function as was intended by the potter...

Yet my antagonist is looking for a very narrow response, only from the apostles, and after the resurrection.

**Isa 29:16** How you turn things upside down! — Is the potter not better than the clay, Does something made say of its maker, "He didn't make me"? Does the product say of its producer, "He has no discernment"?

Adonai posing this question through the Prophet regarding the plans He just revealed for Israel's life after their punishment of captivity.

In this same manner, Yeshua molded His talmidim into functioning leaders, whereby, after His resurrection we read:

**Luk 24:44** Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

**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.

Yeshua was with them for forty days, opening their minds and preparing them.

In a similar manner, Sha'ul did the same thing with Timothy, focusing on Scripture...

**2Ti 3:14** But you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, recalling the people from whom you learned it;  
**2Ti 3:15** and recalling too how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which can give you the wisdom that leads to deliverance through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah.  
**2Ti 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living;  
**2Ti 3:17** thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work.

Notice the last verse "may be fully equipped" not partially, but fully.

Just because you don't see a specific verse that references a specific command doesn't mean that command is not important.

Whereby in Yeshua's own words...

**Mat 5:17** "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete.

And yet, let me emphasize further, not all of Torah applies to all people, whether Jew or Gentile, male or female.

This is where the study of Torah is most important, so not to apply aspects of Torah that don't apply. This would be a form of legalism. The other form of legalism is the adding of commands that are man-made, over and above the mitzvot of Adonai. Remember Sha'ul's instruction to Timothy...

**2Ti 2:11** Here is a statement you can trust: If we have died with him, we will also live with him.  
**2Ti 2:12** If we persevere, we will also rule with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.  
**2Ti 2:13** If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.  
**2Ti 2:14** Keep reminding people of this, and charge them solemnly before the Lord not to engage in word-battles. They accomplish nothing useful and are a catastrophe for the hearers!  
**2Ti 2:15** Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.