

Notes: December 2, 2017

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovu
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: God – Where Are You?

How often have we asked the question... God, where are you?

Usually, this question seems to be asked most frequently when we are in the midst of something.

Whether it is an illness, where we ask, God, where are you...why haven't you healed me or God, where are you? Why did I get sick?

Whether it is in the midst of our grieving for someone who has passed on, questioning God's reasons for their death – God, where are you? Why did they have to die now? Or maybe you weren't sure if they were a believer and you ask God, where are you? Why couldn't I have had more time with them?

Whether it is in the midst of a struggle, whether financial where you are struggling to make ends meet. You are doing everything you think you are supposed to, but you ask God, where are you? Where is your provision.

Whatever the situation, there is likely a time in a believers life that they will ask this question – God, where are you?

On Erev Shabbat we conveyed the following parable...

A Bible teacher once summoned his students and challenged them with this question, "Where can you find God?" One student volunteered, "His glory resides in heaven."

The teacher frowned with displeasure. A second student offered, "The entire world is filled with His glory."

Once again, the teacher shook his head in disapproval. Anxious to understand, the students implored the teacher, For those of you who were here, already know the answer, for which I will share later.

Where can you find God? In other words – Where is God?

In the midst of our trials and tribulations, when it seems that He is far from us. In our grief, anguish, fear and yes in our transgression, He seems miles away...as far as the east is from the west...

In our circumstances, How can we find Him?

At times when we transgress from God, whether intentionally or unintentionally if we have experienced a close fellowship with Adonai, we will likely have trouble feeling His presence, His closeness.

God speaks to us and resides with us in ways that are unique to us.

In that He created us, He knows how best to relate to us.

So, when we ask Where is God? The question now is – who moved?

The writer of Hebrews conveys...

Heb 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money; and be satisfied with what you have; for God himself has said, "I will never fail you or abandon you."

This verse is quoted from Deuteronomy 31:6...

Deu 31:6 Be strong, be bold, don't be afraid or frightened of them, for Adonai your God is going with you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

When Adonai was transitioning power from Moshe to Yoshua, as they were preparing to enter the land.

Keep this in mind...

"He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

In 2 Samuel 11, we read of David's desire to be with Bat-Sheva, ultimately leading to his transgressions of murder, adultery, coveting someone else's wife, to where he is confronted by Natan, as recorded in 2 Samuel 12:

2Sa 12:1 Adonai sent Natan to David. He came and said to him, "In a certain city there were two men, one rich, the other poor.

2Sa 12:2 The rich man had vast flocks and herds;

2Sa 12:3 but the poor man had nothing, except for one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and reared. It had grown up with him and his children; it ate from his plate, drank from his cup, lay on his chest — it was like a daughter to him.

2Sa 12:4 One day a traveler visited the rich man, and instead of picking an animal from his own flock or herd to cook for his visitor, he took the poor man's lamb and cooked it for the man who had come to him."

2Sa 12:5 David exploded with anger against the man and said to Natan, "As Adonai lives, the man who did this deserves to die!"

2Sa 12:6 For doing such a thing, he has to pay back four times the value of the lamb — and also because he had no pity."

2Sa 12:7 Natan said to David, "You are the man. "Here is what Adonai, the God of Isra'el says: 'I anointed you king over Isra'el. I rescued you from the power of Sha'ul.'

A rather eye opening moment in David's life. Even God's anointed can stray. No one is immune.

And Adonai's response to David.

2Sa 12:8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives to embrace. I gave you the house of Isra'el and the house of Y'hudah. And if that had been too little, I would have added to you a lot more.

2Sa 12:9 " 'So why have you shown such contempt for the word of Adonai and done what I see as evil? You murdered

Uriyah the Hitti with the sword and took his wife as your own wife; you put him to death with the sword of the people of 'Amon.

To which this was not a shining moment in David's life...God didn't move, David did...through his transgressions, murder, adultery, theft and covetousness, he moved away from Adonai...a separation. To where we read Psalm 51, a confession of David and a profession by David of who Adonai is...

Psa 51:1 [For the leader. A psalm of David, (51:2) when Natan the prophet came to him after his affair with Bat-Sheva:] (51:3) God, in your grace, have mercy on me; in your great compassion, blot out my crimes.

Psa 51:2 (51:4) Wash me completely from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psa 51:3 (51:5) For I know my crimes, my sin confronts me all the time.

Psa 51:4 (51:6) Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil from your perspective; so that you are right in accusing me and justified in passing sentence.

Psa 51:5 (51:7) True, I was born guilty, was a sinner from the moment my mother conceived me.

Psa 51:6 (51:8) Still, you want truth in the inner person; so make me know wisdom in my inmost heart.

Psa 51:7 (51:9) Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Psa 51:8 (51:10) Let me hear the sound of joy and gladness, so that the bones you crushed can rejoice.

Psa 51:9 (51:11) Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my crimes.

Psa 51:10 (51:12) Create in me a clean heart, God; renew in me a resolute spirit.

Psa 51:11 (51:13) Don't thrust me away from your presence, don't take your Ruach Kodesh away from me.

Psa 51:12 (51:14) Restore my joy in your salvation, and let a willing spirit uphold me.

Psa 51:13 (51:15) Then I will teach the wicked your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Psa 51:14 (51:16) Rescue me from the guilt of shedding blood, God, God of my salvation! Then my tongue will sing about your righteousness -

Psa 51:15 (51:17) Adonai, open my lips; then my mouth will praise you.

Psa 51:16 (51:18) For you don't want sacrifices, or I would give them; you don't take pleasure in burnt offerings.

Psa 51:17 (51:19) My sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God, you won't spurn a broken, chastened heart.

Psa 51:18 (51:20) In your good pleasure, make Tziyon prosper; rebuild the walls of Yerushalayim.

Psa 51:19 (51:21) Then you will delight in righteous sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then they will offer bulls on your altar.

Yet through T'shuvah, David restored his relationship with Adonai...and as is the message throughout Scripture...

Return to me and I will return to you.

What is it they say..."confession is good for the soul"

In David's case, it was cleansing, restorative,

Cleansing in that it purified him of his transgression, once he repented of these transgressions

Restorative, towards his relationship with Adonai.

To where we ask the question for David...

Where was God?

In one word – waiting.

Through our times of grief, anguish and fear Adonai's wisdom through Shlomo conveys to us...

Ecc 3:1 For everything there is a season, a right time for every intention under heaven –

Ecc 3:2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

Ecc 3:3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

Ecc 3:4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

Ecc 3:5 a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

Ecc 3:6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to discard,

Ecc 3:7 a time to tear and a time to sew, a time to keep silent and a time to speak,

Ecc 3:8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecc 3:9 What does the worker gain from his efforts?

Ecc 3:10 I have seen the task God has given humanity to keep us occupied.

Ecc 3:11 He has made everything suited to its time; also, he has given human beings an awareness of eternity; but in such a way that they can't fully comprehend, from beginning to end, the things God does.

Yet, in our times of grief, anguish and fear we must hold on tightly to the Adonai and trust His Words even more...

Psa 37:23 Adonai directs a person's steps, and he delights in his way.

Psa 37:24 He may stumble, but he won't fall headlong, for Adonai holds him by the hand.

Psa 37:25 I have been young; now I am old; yet not once have I seen the righteous abandoned or his descendants begging for bread.

Psa 37:26 All day long he is generous and lends, and his descendants are blessed.

Psa 37:27 If you turn from evil and do good, you will live safely forever.

Psa 37:28 For Adonai loves justice and will not abandon his faithful; they are preserved forever. But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.

If you are truly part of the commonwealth of Israel, either as the natural branch that has accepted the seed of Avraham, the Son of David, the Son of Man, Yeshua as the nation's and therefore Adonai's Messiah, anointed one or as the wild branch grafted into the olive tree of Israel, then this is for you also...

Isa 41:9 I have taken you from the ends of the earth, summoned you from its most distant parts and said to you, 'You are my servant' — I have chosen you, not rejected you.

Isa 41:10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you; don't be distressed, for I am your God. I give you strength, I give you help, I support you with my victorious right hand.

Isa 41:11 All those who were angry with you will be disgraced, put to shame; those who fought against you will be destroyed, brought to nothing.

Isa 41:12 You will seek them but not find them, those who contended with you; yes, those who made war with you will be brought to nothing, nothing at all.

Isa 41:13 For I, Adonai, your God, say to you, as I hold your right hand, 'Have no fear; I will help you.'

From my own experience

Psa 16:1 [Mikhtam. By David:] Protect me, God, for you are my refuge.

Psa 16:2 I said to Adonai, "You are my Lord; I have nothing good outside of you."

Psa 16:3 The holy people in the land are the ones who are worthy of honor; all my pleasure is in them.

Psa 16:4 Those who run after another god multiply their sorrows; to such gods I will not offer drink offerings of blood or take their names on my lips.

Psa 16:5 Adonai, my assigned portion, my cup: you safeguard my share.

Psa 16:6 Pleasant places were measured out for me; I am content with my heritage.

Psa 16:7 I bless Adonai, my counselor; at night my inmost being instructs me.

Psa 16:8 I always set Adonai before me; with him at my right hand, I can never be moved;

Psa 16:9 so my heart is glad, my glory rejoices, and my body too rests in safety;

Psa 16:10 for you will not abandon me to Sh'ol, you will not let your faithful one see the Abyss.

Psa 16:11 You make me know the path of life; in your presence is unbounded joy, in your right hand eternal delight.

To where we get to the question originally posed...Where can you find God?

The Rabbi responded...

"Please, tell us where can we find Him?" The teacher said, "Wherever you invite Him!"

Whether it is through accepting the promise of Adonai's Messiah, Yeshua, thus establishing a new or renewed relationship with Adonai or T'shuvah for your already existing relationship with Adonai, both are times whereby we are either inviting Him in, or inviting Him to return. In both cases, when we invite Him in, we will find Him...

...because, He is waiting for us.

Rev 3:20 Here, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If someone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he will eat with me.

Rev 3:21 I will let him who wins the victory sit with me on my throne, just as I myself also won the victory and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Rev 3:22 Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities."'"

Ultimately, the question isn't "God where are you?"

But in essence God Asking – Where are you...