

Notes: April 7, 2018

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Shabbat Shalom – Service Begins
2. God Bless America: *Prayer for America and it's Leadership*
3. Children's Song:
4. Children's Lesson:
5. Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Class
6. Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer
7. Matovu
8. Drash – Susan MacMullen – Habbakuk 3:17 - 19
9. Name of God For the Week: *Adonai Doe-dee*
10. Liturgy
11. Prayer
12. Worship in Music and Dance
13. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *Heritage vs. Roots*
14. Kiddush

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: Heritage vs. Roots

There is a movement within the body of Messiah towards discovering the roots of their faith. Through reading Scripture, the Ruach Ha Kodesh is revealing to people the Jewishness of their faith. The terms that are most often used to describe this revelation is Hebrew Roots or Jewish Roots.

What are roots?

Other than the part of a plant, they are the basic cause, source, or origin of something.

In some instances when people are seeking the roots of their faith, they come to embrace them with their whole heart and ultimately don't rely on their own understanding, but ultimately follow Adonai. However, more times than not, people in pursuit of the roots of their faith, don't fully embrace what they discover but rather view it as an experiential moment, file it away and may revisit it later.

We have probably had in excess of 600 people come through the congregation in our eight years. Many would say they desire to learn more about the Hebrew Roots of their faith. As you can see, we are not a congregation that is running 600 people for a Shabbat service.

So, what's up with that?

I believe there are at least two contributing factors...

1. Their desire to know more was more a curiosity than a true seeking journey, ultimately leading them into this fullness of expression in honoring Adonai, through Yeshua.
2. The current believers experience of swimming upstream, against the majority, against common teaching and understanding, is extremely strong to the point whereby they change direction

What do I mean by this current?

Whether blatant or subtle, it is the theology of supersessionism that continues to remain an influence on the vast majority of congregations.

In Christianity, supersessionism is a theological view on the current status of the church in relation to the Jewish people and Judaism.^[1] It holds that the Christian Church has succeeded the Israelites as the definitive people of God or that the New Covenant has replaced or superseded the Mosaic covenant.[[]

Supersessionism has formed a core tenet of the Church for the majority of its existence. Subsequent to and because of the Holocaust, some mainstream Christian theologians and denominations have rejected supersessionism

So, let's unpack this further...

It is taught...For most of Christian history, supersessionism has been the mainstream interpretation of the New Testament of all three major historical traditions within Christianity — Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant.^[19]

The text most often quoted in favor of the supersessionist view is Hebrews 8:13: "In speaking of 'a new covenant' [Jer. 31.31-32] he has made the first one obsolete." What is interesting here, is the amalgamation of the covenant with the people. By making obsolete the Mosaic covenant, you subordinate the people of that covenant.

What's interesting is in whom the New Covenant is made with...The house of Israel and the House of Judah...in other words, the Jewish people. Yet, beginning in the second century CE we witness the following beliefs...

Many Early Christian commentators taught that the Old Covenant was fulfilled and replaced (superseded) by the New Covenant in Christ, for instance:

- Justin Martyr (about 100 to 165): "For the true spiritual Israel ... are we who have been led to God through this crucified Christ."^[21]
- Hippolytus of Rome (martyred 13 August 235): "[The Jews] have been darkened in the eyes of your soul with a darkness utter and everlasting."^[22]
- Tertullian (c. 155 – c. 240 AD): "Who else, therefore, are understood but we, who, fully taught by the new law, observe these practices,—the old law being obliterated, the coming of whose abolition the action itself demonstrates ... Therefore, as we have shown above that the coming cessation of the old law and of the carnal circumcision was declared, so, too, the observance of the new law and the spiritual circumcision has shone out into the voluntary observances of peace."^[23]

- [Augustine](#) (354–430) follows these views of the earlier [Church Fathers](#), but he emphasizes the importance to Christianity of the continued existence of the Jewish people: "The Jews ... are thus by their own Scriptures a testimony to us that we have not forged the prophecies about Christ." Like his anti-Jewish teacher, [St. Ambrose](#) of Milan, he defined Jews as a special subset of those damned to [hell](#), calling them "Witness People"

You can read more about supersessionism through the following link:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supersessionism>

The origin of supersessionism appeared early and remains an influence to this day...consider the following responses I received when I commented on a post "Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath"

A response to a post regarding a thread on LinkedIn...

Sunday is the Christian Sabbath, it has been since the beginning of church history. We ARE NOT JEWS WE ARE NOT JEWS WE ARE NOT JEWS WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW. If we are forced to keep the Sabbath, then Christ atonement means NOTHING. If we have to keep the Seventh Day Sabbath then we all have to be circumcised, we all have to refrain from getting tattoos, cutting our hair, eating pork and shellfish, wearing clothing with two different types of material and making sure our wives don't sleep in the same bed with us when they are having their period.

Paul and Barnabas were sent to the Gentiles in Acts 15, with instructions from the church leaders in Jerusalem of how the Gentiles were to behave, and what was required of them.

To which, a third person responded...

My response: Jewish Messiah? REALLY??? You LIMIT Jesus to being Jewish????

- * *Adam was NOT Jewish - yet God prophesied the Messiah FIRST to him!*
- * *Melchisedec was NOT Jewish - yet Jesus' High Priestly ministry is patterned after him!*
- * *Noah was NOT Jewish - yet God saved humanity through him!*
- * *Enoch was NOT Jewish - yet he walked so close with God that God took him!*
- * *Job was NOT Jewish - yet God called him the best in all the land!*
- * *Abraham was NOT Jewish - yet he is the father of FAITH!*

If you think God had NO PLANS for people BEFORE there were Jews... YOU ARE DELUSIONAL!

Jesus was the LAMB OF GOD from the FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD (i.e. BEFORE there were Jews... there was the LAMB OF GOD!)

I wrote in response: "You imply that being Jewish is in essence a curse. Yet, you have come to believe in the Jewish Messiah?"

Both of these people are professed Christians, yet their responses are deeply rooted and influenced in supersessionism.

Another term for this is Replacement Theology. Something I have talked about many times prior.

Yet, there is a shift in the current of the stream many of you have been swimming in. That upstream current you have been battling is changing.

From Joanne Chancey...

Summit Faith Community in Farmington used your Haggadah for their first ever Passover service. This is the note the Pastor wrote to me...The Holy Spirit is working in Farmington Maine!

Shalom!

Joanne

Hi Joanne,

I wanted very much to thank you for pointing us in the direction of this information. The Haggadah was beautifully put together. The Seder meal was tremendous and so meaningful! Kylie and I agree this will be something we do each year. Baruch Adonai!

To my experience this past week with a group of Pastors that meet once a month. This month, we started a book "Old Paths, New Powers" by Daniel Henderson

The beginning of the book talks about the decline in church attendance and seeks to identify how Pastors can respond.

As I was reading, my initial response was "this isn't us" We are not in decline but are at the beginning of a tidal wave.

I shared with them several things...

- An email from one of our congregants, expressing the joy they experienced at our Seder
- The article from WND, regarding the survey sponsored by Chosen People Ministry, revealing a larger number of Jewish believers in Messiah than originally thought.
- The counting of the Omer
- Our Passover Haggadah

In providing this packet, my intent was to paint a picture.

The facilitator opened by saying "when was the last time we said, "How was your Passover" yet doing this as part of "How was your Easter"

What you are truly seeking is more than just the roots of your faith...

Yet still, there is more to this journey than just discovering the roots of your faith...you have a right to a heritage...

Property that is or may be inherited; an inheritance.

- valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions, unspoiled countryside, and historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations.
"the richness of our diverse cultural heritage"

Rom 8:14 All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!").

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God;

Rom 8:17 and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.

When one focus on the roots rather than the heritage they take on a similar perspective of Ya'akov...

For the longest time Ya'akov identified Adonai as the God of his father and grandfather.

Gen 31:42 If the God of my father, the God of Avraham, the one whom Yitz'chak fears, had not been on my side, by now you would certainly have already sent me away with nothing! God has seen how distressed I've been and how hard I've worked, and last night he passed judgment in my favor."

Thus bringing in a deeper understanding of what it means to be grafted in, and further amplifying Sha'ul's letter to believers in Ephesus...

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.

Eph 2:13 But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

Your not just on a journey to discover what those roots are, but are claiming your heritage as one who has accepted the Jewish Messiah. And together, Jew is equipping Gentile in worshipping Adonai through the authority given Yeshua, by the power of the Ruach ha Kodesh.

So, what is your inheritance?

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.

You too are considered a child of God.

You too have been brought close to God through His Covenant...the New Covenant

The richness of Torah is available to you.

From whom is promised the Messiah Yeshua.