

Notes: January 31, 2015

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: Hostility Amongst Hope

At the Rabbi's Conference we had a speaker Jim Garlow, who shared with us the challenges of – Shepherding in a Hostile Culture.

As I had conveyed upon my return from the conference, many of the speakers were confirming what I believe Adonai had already instilled in me with regards to our purpose and progress as a congregation.

I want to share with you a number of things he stated during his first message:

He talked about an upcoming conference that was going to center around the following thought:

“what you thought might happen is here” (Future Conference)

Messianic movement is the future:

Promised avalanche of evangelism that will impact the Jewish people  
Holy Spirit lead hunger for understanding Jewishness of faith  
2000 years old yet 50 years old bipolar chronology

On the cutting edge

As a young child he queried there must be something to the feasts

coercion to be like gentiles, yet new understanding is

Just as Israel has reemerged from the shadows of non-existence so to the Jewish believers have reemerged from the shadows.

Messianic Judaism to guide, coach and teach to come into a stronger fulfillment of what God is doing.

Pastor Garlow, provided some resounding insight as to what is happening at his church.

He himself is gaining a new understanding that he couldn't obtain on his own but has learned through his wife, through Rabbi Lieberman – seeing so many things that he couldn't comprehend.

A unique and sociological complicated task.

Why are we embracing this?

Christians ask why are you wanting to be like the Jews and not just be as you were?

Evangelical “Nancy know it alls”

“Blair blastim” (discover easter and christmas pagan and blast judgmentally)

Pastor - to persuade people

Complexity of our job

Talks of the relationship between Skyline Church and Tree of Life Messianic Jewish Synagogue as a marriage.

Two weeks ago in my message “The Mystery of the Relationship between Israel and Gentiles In the New Covenant” I had talked about the purpose of this relationship between Jew and Gentile as conveyed by Sha'ul in Ephesians.

Pastor Jim took this concept to another level, by calling it a marriage.

be patient with people, because it is a learning curve that is rather steep. Referring to the church.

Becoming one - challenges identity

Skyline to learn how to become like Tree of Life – “a journey”

Recognize that it is an honor and privilege to partner together  
Richer understanding as a result of this partnership

In conveying this dynamic that is contrary to what we have experienced Pastor Jim leads into the current cultural dynamic which is typically contrary to what is happening between Skyline and Tree of Life

Cultural Construct:

Hostility of culture

Greater intensity in prayer required. What would have worked 10 years ago, won't work today.

He referenced Psalm 11:3 but never really focused on it. As I was rereading Psalm 11:3

**Psa 11:3** If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

I will focus on Psalm 11 in a bit, but want to continue on with Pastor Jim's observations of the Hostile Culture we are living in as believers in Yeshua.

We are living in a nation founded on Scriptural principles, yet the climate we live in today is hostile towards anything having to do with God.

Many of you have read the Harbinger and the history provided by Rabbi Cahn to understand our origins as a nation.

But, the culture is hostile towards us. So much so, that in the last 60 years we are experiencing legal challenges that are resulting in an increasing loss of Religious liberty.

Today, Pastors are censoring themselves because of laws that are on the books.

Choosing not to speak out on specific issues

Pastor Jim made this statement: "If your shepherd will not speak the full truth of God, it is time to get a new shepherd"

Certain things not spoken by shepherds:

Abortion – afraid to offend

Homosexuality – not spoken from the pulpit

Marriage – too controversial to define

One email can intimidate a shepherd – elaborate on analogy – speaking on a controversial topic...

In bondage idols to attendance and tithe

Boldness has been lost

George Barna – Research on 325,000 Churches – of those surveyed...

90% agreed Bible speaks towards political and social issues

10% said yes when asked if they would speak about those issues.

90% said no they would not speak about these things from the pulpit.

87% said they didn't want government intrusion affecting the pulpit.

On the defensive because we are not actively and positively proclaiming the full council of God's word. A problem found in evangelical churches

Wars are fought to be won.

We must be offensive

To push back in graceful ways.

Smile and sweet attitude – yet push back stronger and harder

Some denominations have accepted homosexual marriage. "Those that are against it are on the wrong side."

Each denomination that accepts these non-biblical principles are losing people because they are not standing for biblical standards

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1954 – No 501-c3 can endorse a political candidate - Johnson amendment

Bold in proclaiming the truth of God's Word.

Free speech movement - October 4<sup>th</sup> 1964

10 years before, free speech taken away from pastors

Pew Research – last 2 – 4 years change

48% - didn't want churches speaking out on the decay

49% - must speak out

75% - religion is losing influence

62% - say this is bad.

There is a hunger for those who understand the word of God to proclaim it more boldly to its application to national and community life.

Who are we and how are we supposed to live according to the Word of God.

God's spokespeople are to rise up and proclaim His truth.

Standing for Kingdom principles.

Consider the progressive nature in which the decay of biblical standards in our culture has transpired

Many of you have lived through the progressive decay of our culture from biblical standards.

This was not something that happened overnight but was subtle and progressive. So subtle that as it was happening many didn't even notice it.

Let's look at our list again and identify who is being attacked:

Abortion – who is the giver of life? Psalm 139

**Psa 139:13** For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**Psa 139:14** I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well.

Homosexuality – not spoken from the pulpit

**Gen 1:27** So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.

**Gen 1:28** God blessed them: God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and every living creature that crawls on the earth."

Marriage – too controversial to define

**Gen 2:23** The man-person said, "At last! This is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh. She is to be called Woman [*Hebrew: ishah*], because she was taken out of Man [*Hebrew: ish*]."

**Gen 2:24** This is why a man is to leave his father and mother and stick with his wife, and they are to be one flesh.

These attacks are aimed at the one who created everything. It is ultimately an attack against Adonai Himself. As we have seen in various places in scripture, the people are rebelling against their God. This has happened with Israel on a few different occasions. There was rebellion against Moshe, the Prophets, and of course Yeshua.

It happened in Genesis 11 with the people wanting to be like God.

This rebellion isn't anything new. It is the latest rebellion.

In order for an attack to be successful, it must focus on the foundation.

The foundation of our culture in America was based on the same foundation for Israel. America was modeled after Israel and the Scriptures they received from Adonai.

Yet as David asks...

**Psa 11:3** If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

This hostile culture are comprised of tactical strikes intended to undermine the very foundation we live by, Adonai's foundations.

Newsweek article – December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 (January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015)

Dr. Michael Brown Response (introduction)

Is it true that prominent Christian leaders in America are misusing the Bible to suit their own purposes?

Have the sacred Scriptures become a political weapon in the hands of religious hypocrites?

Could it be that those who most loudly proclaim, "The Bible says!" are actually ignorant of the contents of that very book?

Has the text of the Bible undergone such dramatic changes over the centuries that it bears little resemblance to the original teachings of Moses, Jesus, and Paul?

There is certainly a tremendous amount of biblical illiteracy in evangelical Christian circles today, and some of it has trickled down from TV preachers and pastors whose sermons seem more like motivational pep talks than serious expositions of the Scriptures. And there is no shortage of hypocrisy in our midst – I speak as an evangelical leader – as we often major on a few specific sins of others while ignoring many sins of our own. As for using the Bible for political purposes, white evangelical Christians in particular can be guilty of associating true patriotism with allegiance to the Bible and the Republican Party, portraying their opponents as both anti-American and anti-God.

But does *Newsweek* paint an accurate picture of conservative evangelicals? Certainly not.

More importantly, does *Newsweek* paint an accurate picture of the reliability of the Scriptures? Emphatically not.

That is why the article has been so controversial. First, it is difficult to know who, exactly, is being targeted. Is it some evangelical politicians? A few street preachers? Evangelicals in general? Second, *Newsweek* appears to be attacking the Bible itself – although claiming not to – and it does so in a slipshod, methodologically flawed way at that.

It isn't surprising that the media is hostile towards believers, yet it is one of many dynamics we are dealing with today.

Hostility from:

Government  
Media

What about from within the body of Messiah?

We have already seen it affecting some in that they will not confront certain matters, even if they know they are wrong.

We have denominations that are bending and assimilating into the "New World Order"

Leading to the softening of God's standards, to the point of downright neglect

To the point, you have a divided body.

So divided that you

A person posted the following question on the Pastor's Network via LinkedIn:

“What Are Appropriate Ways to Honor Sabbath in Our Day”

Needless to say after 10 posts of sharing what Shabbat is from a Jewish perspective and what it means or should mean to Christians, I got...

JUDGE AWAY!

ENSLAVE PEOPLE (if they will let you)!

As for me, I will OBEY GOD and NOT LET YOU JUDGE ME!

“The law that Christ fulfilled was the law in general—not one part of it. He “fulfilled” it in that He did what the law failed to do: showed people how to live. The law was a temporary measure—God wanted to tell His people that they should have certain attitudes. He did that by commanding actions (the law) with the idea that they would see the attitudes behind them. They failed. Christ, on the other hand, preached the attitudes (Matthew 5) but more importantly lived an example of the proper attitudes (Philippians 2:5-8) as well as the proper actions (John 8:46), thus accomplishing what the law failed to accomplish.”

Two other dialogs I have been having with people who are either being challenged by others regarding their belief in Yeshua and this Messianic way or people who are questioning why the Rabbis didn't convey certain aspects, feeling deceived and demanding answers from us as to why we teach differently than the other Rabbis.

There is a sign on the I-95 that reads “all points north” meaning that direction is the primary path that will take you anywhere north in the state of Maine. Meaning you can get there from here.

Likewise, it seems all points of hostile culture will be finding their way to us at some point in time.

I have talked extensively about the challenges in establishing relations with the Jewish community due to our belief in Yeshua and how we are not even given an opportunity to dialog.

We are on the forefront of where Adonai wants us.

Even in spite of the hostile environment, whether from outside or from within, we as believers are to remain firm.

There is hope and I have heard it.

**Psa 11:2** See how the wicked are drawing their bows and setting their arrows on the string, to shoot from the shadows at honest men.

To where David poses the question in verse 3:

**Psa 11:3** If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

But, notice David's opening statement in verse 1:

**Psa 11:1** [For the leader. By David:] In Adonai I find refuge. So how can you say to me, "Flee like a bird to the mountains!"

**Psa 11:2** See how the wicked are drawing their bows and setting their arrows on the string, to shoot from the shadows at honest men.

**Psa 11:3** If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

**Psa 11:4** Adonai is in his holy temple. Adonai, his throne is in heaven. His eyes see and test humankind.

**Psa 11:5** Adonai tests the righteous; but he hates the wicked and the lover of violence.

**Psa 11:6** He will rain hot coals down on the wicked, fire, sulfur and scorching wind will be what they get to drink.

**Psa 11:7** For Adonai is righteous; he loves righteousness; the upright will see his face.