

Notes: April 21, 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
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: Israel and 70 Years

There is no relationship between a people and a land so connected than that of the Jewish people and Eretz Israel.

Part of the Covenant Adonai makes with Avram is the giving of land...

Gen 17:7 "I am establishing my covenant between me and you, along with your descendants after you, generation after generation, as an everlasting covenant, to be God for you and for your descendants after you.

Gen 17:8 I will give you and your descendants after you the land in which you are now foreigners, all the land of Kena'an, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God."

A land that is prominent within the history of Israel as a people and nation. So prominent, that Israel's occupancy of the land is conditional to their faithfulness in keeping the conditions of the Covenant...

Exo 19:3 Moshe went up to God, and Adonai called to him from the mountain: "Here is what you are to say to the household of Ya`akov, to tell the people of Isra'el:

Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

Exo 19:5 Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant, then you will be my own treasure from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine;

Exo 19:6 and you will be a kingdom of cohanim for me, a nation set apart.' These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el."

For which the people replied...

Exo 19:8 All the people answered as one, "Everything Adonai has said, we will do." Moshe reported the words of the people to Adonai.

For which, when the people of Israel observed the Covenant Adonai made with them, they resided safely in the land...

Chapters 27 and 28 of Deuteronomy address the benefits when being faithful to the Covenant while also addressing the consequences for being unfaithful to the Covenant...

Deu 27:1 Then Moshe and all the leaders of Isra'el gave orders to the people. They said, "Observe all the mitzvot I am giving you today.

Deu 27:2 When you cross the Yarden to the land Adonai your God is giving you, you are to set up large stones, put plaster on them,

Deu 27:3 and, after crossing over, write this Torah on them, every word - so that you can enter the land Adonai your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as Adonai, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Possessing the land is conditional.

Residing in the land, in safety was conditional.

Yet, what would transpire was not unanticipated by Adonai...It did not come as a surprise...

Deu 30:1 "When the time arrives that all these things have come upon you, both the blessing and the curse which I have presented to you; and you are there among the nations to which Adonai your God has driven you; then, at last, you will start thinking about what has happened to you;

There was a time when Israel was blessed and primarily faithful as a nation to Adonai and His Covenant, yet there would be a time when they would not be, first resulting in a divided Kingdom. Then, expulsion from the land, first the Northern Kingdom, then the Southern Kingdom. We are not talking about something happening overnight, but over years.

The division of the Kingdom came upon Solomon's death, approximately 970 BCE.

The exile from the land of the Northern Kingdom occurred in 722 BCE

The exile from the land of the Southern Kingdom occurred in 586 BCE

At the time of the Southern Kingdom's exile, there was a prophet Yirmeyahu, whose mantle lasted 40 years, constantly and consistently warning Judea to return to Adonai...yet as a nation, they did not listen.

Nearly 400 years from a united Kingdom to exile...further emphasizing just how patient Adonai

Exo 34:6 Adonai passed before him and proclaimed: "YUD-HEH-VAV-HEH!!! Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [*Adonai*]
is God, merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace and truth;

Exo 34:7 showing grace to the thousandth generation, forgiving offenses, crimes and sins; yet not exonerating the guilty, but causing the negative effects of the parents' offenses to be experienced by their children and grandchildren, and even by the third and fourth generations."

To where this prophet Yirmeyahu conveyed what the consequences of Judea's transgression would be...

Jer 25:8 "Therefore, here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot says: 'Because you haven't paid attention to what I've been saying,
Jer 25:9 I'm going to send for all the families of the north,' says Adonai, 'and for my servant N'vukhadretzar the king of Bavel, and bring them against this land, against its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them, making them an object of horror and ridicule, a perpetual ruin.
Jer 25:10 Moreover, I will silence among them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bridegroom and bride, the grinding of millstones and the light of lamps.
Jer 25:11 This entire land will become a ruin, a waste; and these nations will serve the king of Bavel for seventy years.

Yet, this punishment did not mean then and doesn't mean today that Adonai was done with Israel.

Jer 29:10 "For here is what Adonai says: 'After Bavel's seventy years are over, I will remember you and fulfill my good promise to you by bringing you back to this place.
Jer 29:11 For I know what plans I have in mind for you,' says Adonai, 'plans for well-being, not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future.
Jer 29:12 When you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to you.
Jer 29:13 When you seek me, you will find me, provided you seek for me wholeheartedly;
Jer 29:14 and I will let you find me,' says Adonai. 'Then I will reverse your exile. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have driven you,' says Adonai, 'and bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.'

Not a day sooner, nor a day later would Adonai move, that is until...

2Ch 36:21 Thus was fulfilled the word of Adonai spoken by Yirmeyahu, "until the land has been paid her Shabbats" – for as long as it lay desolate, it kept Shabbat, until seventy years had passed.

For centuries 70 years has been associated with the period of exile Judea would experience.

Yet today, 70 years no longer is prominent and exclusively related to the exile.

This past week, Israel celebrated their 70th year as a nation.

On this day (Iyyar 4) 70 years ago, as authorized by the United Nations, David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel and became the nation's first prime minister. With the United States the first to recognize Israel's declared independence.

A day to which the Prophet Yesha`yahu spoke...

Isa 66:8 Who ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Is a country born in one day? Is a nation brought forth all at once? For as soon as Tziyon went into labor, she brought forth her children.

From Gordon Robertson...

The anniversary of Israel's independence from Britain is also a day of denunciation from many countries opposed to Israel's existence, since this day is known to Arabs as al-Nakba, or "the catastrophe" – and is the day the Arab nations surrounding Israel declared war against the newborn state in 1948, determined to wipe it off the map.

Israel's existence inspires visceral responses from people, both positive and negative. People either see it as a bastion of stability and democracy, or a cause of instability and radicalization.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2018/04/19/its-israel-independence-day-and-millions-around-world-are-being-aided-by-jewish-state.html>

At minimum there are two perspectives to any one situation.

Israel's existence inspires visceral responses from people, both positive and negative. People either see it as a bastion of stability and democracy, or a cause of instability and radicalization.

You hear about the conflict in the Middle East, basically Israel against everyone. You hear about the Palestinian oppression at the hands of Israel. You hear more about a negative narrative than the positive, so much so, this week Natalie Portman, a dual citizen of Israel and the United States, famous actress, declined to receive an honor from the Israeli government...

Oscar-winning actress Natalie Portman said she chose not to attend a ceremony in Israel to accept a million-dollar prize because she did not want to be seen as supporting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was scheduled to speak at the event.

The award she declined - The Genesis Prize has been awarded since 2014 to individuals for excellence in their professional fields and "who inspire others through their dedication to the Jewish community and Jewish values".

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-portman/natalie-portman-says-to-skip-israeli-ceremony-due-to-netanyahu-speech-idUSKBN1HS05C>

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Black-swan-551403>

Yet, with all the negative surrounding Israel and the Jewish people...approaching from many different angles

BDS

The United Nations

Many Muslim countries

Has ever such a small country impacted the world on such a grand scale. Setting aside the Scriptural significance for a moment, what has this tiny bastion of democracy in a region immersed by principalities contributed to the world:

- Treatments for Parkinson's and MS
- Development of Interferon cells used in the treatment of many types of cancers
- The world's smallest DNA computing machine system composed of enzymes and DNA molecules capable of performing simple mathematical calculations and which uses its input DNA molecule as its sole source of energy.
- USB Flash Drive
- Intel 8088 Microprocessor used in the first desktop computers in the 1980s...including the IBM XT, the foundation of all computing today
- Much of the technology you are holding in your hands today...Your Smartphone
- The Iron Dome missile defense system
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Israeli_inventions_and_discoveries

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

Deu 30:3 At that point, Adonai your God will reverse your exile and show you mercy; he will return and gather you from all the peoples to which Adonai your God scattered you.

The curse has most certainly been reversed. And in such a profound way as I mentioned earlier...A nation born in a single day!!!

Yet, Adonai is not done yet. The mere establishment of Israel, a nation once again is just the beginning...

As prophesied...

Zec 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which lies to the east of Yerushalayim; and the Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, to make a huge valley. Half of the mountain will move toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Act 1:11 The men said, "You Galileans! Why are you standing, staring into space? This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Act 1:12 Then they returned the Shabbat-walk distance from the Mount of Olives to Yerushalayim.

Mat 24:29 "But immediately following the trouble of those times, the sun will grow dark, the moon will stop shining, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in heaven will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, all the tribes of the Land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with tremendous power and glory.

Mat 24:31 He will send out his angels with a great shofar; and they will gather together his chosen people from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

For last week during Yom Hashoah I told you about the significance of the fig tree.

Deu 30:4 If one of yours was scattered to the far end of the sky, Adonai your God will gather you even from there; he will go there and get you.

Deu 30:5 Adonai your God will bring you back into the land your ancestors possessed, and you will possess it; he will make you prosper there, and you will become even more numerous than your ancestors.

As we stand here today, there are more believers in Messiah, living in the land than at any time in history.

Deu 30:6 Then Adonai your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your children, so that you will love Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being, and thus you will live.

For their size as a nation, Israel is a joyful giver...

Innovation: Africa is an Israeli organization on a mission to bring Israeli solar and water technology to remote African villages. So far, the organizations has helped improve the lives of nearly 1 million people across the continent. Because of Israeli innovation, crops now grow where people were once starving. Boys and girls study in classrooms with electric lights for the first time in their lives. Clean water brings life where contaminated water once brought disease and death.

Save a Child's Heart is an Israeli-based international humanitarian project that provides life saving heart surgery and follow-up care for children from developing countries. The group gives these children free medical care regardless of their nationality, religion, color, gender or financial status.

Springs of Hope Foundation, another Israeli organization, provides food, supplies, medical care and comfort to the Yazidi refugees in Kurdistan. ISIS terrorists attacked the Yazidi people in Iraq in 2014, enslaving or killing thousands and creating a half-million refugees.

IsraAid is an Israeli group that provides lifesaving disaster relief wherever people are in crisis. Its professional medics, search-and-rescue squads and post-trauma experts have been on the frontlines of every major humanitarian crisis, from rescuing Syrian refugees in Greece to helping Texans in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

The Israel Defense Forces provide humanitarian aid worldwide. IDF doctors and nurses have established field hospitals at major disaster sites around the world, including Turkey, Nepal, Haiti, Mexico, the Philippines and even the United States.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2018/04/19/its-israel-independence-day-and-millions-around-world-are-being-aided-by-jewish-state.html>

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/04/israel-independence-security-IDF-Syria-Iran-Conflicts-War.html>

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With all the good Israel does, in spite of the negative press, first and foremost, they are the nation and people by which Messiah will return. To quote a slogan from Hebrew National – “who answers to a higher power”

No if's and or Butts about it!!!