

Notes: January 10, 2015

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: Movement

Upon attending this year's Rabbi's conference, I left with a wealth of encouragement, insight and purpose.

I spent time with many who received a vision from Adonai, going forth as visionaries, who, with the purpose of Shepherding His people Israel.

Shepherding anyone who calls the Jewish Messiah theirs and is willing to be shepherded.

This vision of Adonai is greater than me or you, yet we are part of it. An important component that without us, His vision is incomplete.

I have conveyed many times that Messianic Judaism is a movement. It is a movement of God.

So, I want to break down some words, in order to make things clearer.

Movement (as a verb) can be in many different directions – you can move up, down, left, right, forward, backward. It is about not being stationary.

Movement (as a noun) – a group of people, working together to advance their shared, idea, belief

There are two directions a Movement can go...

Progress – Forward or onward movement towards a destination

Regress – return to a former or less developed state

However when you look at the definition of Movement, the direction can only be one way...

You cannot advance by regressing,

You can only advance by moving forward in a purposeful way,

Purposeful – showing determination and resolve

Determination – firmness of purpose.

Can't be moved from your position but are moving your position forward

Not too long ago, we honored the memory of Yohanna Chernoff, wife of Martin Chernoff, leaders in this Movement that were instrumental in paving the way for us as a congregation to exist.

Anniversaries tend to make us reflect upon time.

It is 100 years since a group of Believing Jews formed what was then the Hebrew Christian Alliance of America and is today known as the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America.

This movement dates back well beyond 1915, in that Adonai has always protected a faithful remnant of His people.

This movement has been progressing forward with determination, a firmness of purpose.

100 years of planting, seeding and watering congregations.

Vision that has been handed to us, in order to continue it.

Rabbi Frank portion – minute 18:38 – 27:09

A movement of humble beginnings, yet one that would continually move forward.

A movement that was once “on the fringe”

A movement once very small in number that it was not considered meaningful, relevant or even considered to be valid either by the Jewish community or by the Christian world.

What did God say...

I shared these verses with you last week...

Act 5:38 So in the present case, my advice to you is not to interfere with these people, but to leave them alone. For if this idea or this movement has a human origin, it will collapse.

Act 5:39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop them; you might even find yourselves fighting God!" They heeded his advice.

It is over 1900 years later...since Gamaliel made this wise statement.

Needless to say, this Movement should have perished long time ago if as he indicates – it was of human origin.

It has not collapsed.

Through many attempts by the enemy to extinguish the Light of the World, God has been faithful in keeping His promise.

Rom 11:1 "In that case, I say, isn't it that God has repudiated his people?" Heaven forbid! For I myself am a son of Isra'el, from the seed of Avraham, of the tribe of Binyamin.

Rom 11:2 God has not repudiated his people, whom he chose in advance. Or don't you know what the Tanakh says about Eliyahu? He pleads with God against Isra'el,

Rom 11:3 "Adonai, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I'm the only one left, and now they want to kill me too!"

Rom 11:4 But what is God's answer to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt down to Ba`al."

Rom 11:5 It's the same way in the present age: there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

We are that faithful remnant

In week's to come I am going to talk about our movement as a congregation, in a Movement that has been progressing with determination.

I said this two years ago...

“the training wheels are coming off”

Meaning that our progress as a congregation brought us to the point where we were ready to move forward into the community, making ourselves known, not only to the Jewish community but the Christian community as well.

It was time to step out of the boat and walk towards Messiah with the intent of conveying the “Message of Messiah”

To the Jew first, but equally to the Goy, the Gentile.

This past year, we have put our self out there with the Gathering at the Square, our Yom Hashoah remembrance and the March to Support Israel.

I was asked at the conference by a Rabbi, what was your best moment of the year.

Without hesitation, I said, receiving our Torah scroll.

This was something special that the congregation experienced internally.

It brought forth a notion of legitimacy for us as a congregation.

We are now truly a synagogue, because we have our own Torah.

Needless to say, we were already legitimate, but it marked us coming into our fullness as a congregation.

So, if two years ago the training wheels came off, and we are moving forward, what would the next step be?

We have established our balance without needing reassurance (the training wheels)

Now we can go faster without worrying about our balance.

In week's to come, I will be sharing with you what I received at the conference.

“The Days of Elijah”

How a time recorded in scripture applies to us today.

There is a similar pattern today as was experienced by Elijah - Eliyahuh

I will be dealing with the challenges we face, both individually and as a congregation.

I will share with you some additional insight conveyed by one Rabbi regarding the responsibility of the Jewish believer to the Gentile believer.

I will share with you challenges of this movement and opportunities that these challenges offer.

Our movement as a congregation must be forward, it must progress. Regression is not an option and if you remember the definition, it is not part of Movement.

Advancement is God's only acceptable outcome.