

Notes: March 7, 2020

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: Pause for Purim...How Does God Reveal Himself to His People?

How does Adonai reveal Himself to His people?

On this day we honor the memory of those who came before us as is recounted in the megillah of Esther, we are confronted with a challenge. Adonai is not referred to even once throughout the whole megillah, the entire scroll of Esther.

So, How does He reveal Himself when He isn't even mentioned?

Let's look at a couple of aspects...

First we read of Adonai's rebuke of Eli at the time He was bringing up Sh'mu'el...

1Sa 2:29 So why are you showing such disrespect for my sacrifices and offerings, which I ordered to be made at my dwelling? Why do you show more honor to your sons than to me, making yourselves fat with the choicest parts of all the offerings of Isra'el my people?'

Eli was giving greater respect and honor to his sons than he was to Adonai, the one whom he is supposed to serve .

1Sa 2:12 `Eli's sons were scoundrels who had no regard for Adonai.

They had no regard for Adonai and Eil, a cohen, a priest for Adonai gave them more honor than the one he served.

1Sa 2:17 The sin of these young men was very serious in Adonai's view, because they treated offerings made to Adonai with contempt.

Adonai was not silent about this.

1Sa 2:30 "Therefore Adonai the God of Isra'el says, 'I did indeed say that your family and your father's family would walk in my presence forever.' But now Adonai says, 'Forget it! I respect those who respect me, but those who despise me will meet with contempt.

Not only were Eli's sons in the wrong here, but so was Eli, who as Cohen, could not even lead his own house, for his sons were in constant violation of the first command.

Exo 20:2 **⌘ "I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery.**

If you fail to honor this first command which is a statement, you will by no means be able to honor all of Adonai's other instructions that distinguish you from all the other people of all the other nations. This is the starting point for everyone who comes to trust in the God of Avraham, Yitschak and Ya'akov. When preparing the nation for taking possession of the land with Joshua, rather than Moshe, Adonai conveyed to them...

Deu 31:5 Adonai will defeat them ahead of you, and you are to do to them just as I have ordered you to do.

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."

He made a commitment to His people for which He would honor them.

Which now brings us to Mordekhai.

A man who now resides in Persia as a result of Adonai's judgment towards His people for their transgressions. The curses of Deuteronomy have now been placed upon the people.

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;

I lay this foundation for you in that even during the time of exile, there has been a faithful remnant towards Adonai. This was certainly the case with Mordekhai. We read of him at the King's Gate in Shushan...

Est 3:2 All the king's servants at the King's Gate would kneel and bow down before Haman, because the king had so ordered. But Mordekhai would neither kneel nor bow down to him.

This would be standard practice. And yet, the king's servant's noticed that Mordekhai did not comply...

Est 3:3 The king's servants at the King's Gate asked Mordekhai, "Why don't you obey the king's order?"

Est 3:4 But after they had confronted him a number of times without his paying attention to them, they told Haman, in order to find out whether Mordekhai's explanation that he was a Jew would suffice to justify his behavior.

Again, laying the foundation for Mordekhai explanation, bowing indicated reverence to one above to where

Est 3:5 Haman was furious when he saw that Mordekhai was not kneeling and bowing down to him.

Est 3:6 However, on learning what people Mordekhai belonged to, it seemed to him a waste to lay hands on Mordekhai alone. Rather, he decided to destroy all of Mordekhai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole of Achashverosh's kingdom.

In hearing about what was intended, He responded with great grief...

Est 4:1 When Mordekhai learned everything that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes and went out through the city, lamenting and crying bitterly.

Is all lost? Is there any hope?

Est 4:3 In every province reached by the king's order and decree, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing, as many lay down on sackcloth and ashes.

Est 4:4 When the girls and officials attending Ester came and informed her of this, the queen became deeply distressed. She sent clothes for Mordekhai to wear instead of his sackcloth, but he wouldn't accept them.

Ester began to inquire about Mordekhai's grief...

Est 4:5 So Ester summoned Hatakh, one of the king's officials attending her, and instructed him to go to Mordekhai and find out what this was all about and why.

Est 4:6 Hatakh went out to Mordekhai in the open space in front of the King's Gate,

Est 4:7 and Mordekhai told him everything that had happened to him and exactly how much silver Haman had promised to put in the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

Est 4:8 He also gave him a copy of the decree for their destruction issued in Shushan; so that he could show it to Ester, explain it to her, and then instruct her to approach the king, intercede with him and implore his favor on behalf of her people.

Est 4:9 Hatakh returned and told Ester what Mordekhai had said.

Est 4:10 Then Ester spoke to Hatakh and gave him this message for Mordekhai:

Est 4:11 "All the king's officials, as well as the people in the royal provinces, know that if anyone, man or woman, approaches the king in the inner courtyard without being summoned, there is just one law — he must be put to death — unless the king holds out the gold scepter for him to remain alive; and I haven't been summoned to the king for the past thirty days."

Est 4:12 Upon being told what Ester had said, Mordekhai

Est 4:13 asked them to give Ester this answer: "Don't suppose that merely because you happen to be in the royal palace you will escape any more than the other Jews.

Est 4:14 For if you fail to speak up now, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from a different direction; but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows whether you didn't come into your royal position precisely for such a time as this."

Mordekhai, would interact in a covert manner with Esther, who is now queen and in a position of influence. Yet, even in this position, she would not be exempt from any penalty should she transgress one of the king's laws. For her, even death was a real possibility. So she sends this message back to Mordekhai

Est 4:16 "Go, assemble all the Jews to be found in Shushan, and have them fast for me, neither eating nor drinking for three days, night and day; also I and the girls attending me will fast the same way. Then I will go into the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish."

Est 4:17 Then Mordekhai went his way and did everything Ester had ordered him to do.

Were their paths directed by Adonai?

He is not made known here, but one can certainly see Him being honored here.

Mordekhai refused to bow.

Ester requested the Jewish people to fast for her, three days and nights in order to seek favor, for she will be approaching the king without being summoned. The possibility of death is very real.

Both, through their actions were honoring Adonai. Remember Mordekhai's reason for not bowing to the king...

He was a Jew.

As such, He had the Words of Adonai

Deu 30:11 For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach.

Deu 30:12 It isn't in the sky, so that you need to ask, 'Who will go up into the sky for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:13 Likewise, it isn't beyond the sea, so that you need to ask, 'Who will cross the sea for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:14 On the contrary, the word is very close to you - in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

He had the Psalmists...

Psa 46:1 *[For the leader. By the descendants of Korach. On `alamot [high-pitched musical instruments?]. A song:]* God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psa 46:2 Therefore we are unafraid, even if the earth gives way, even if the mountains tumble into the depths of the sea,

Psa 46:3 even if its waters rage and foam, and mountains shake at its turbulence.
(Selah)

Psa 46:4 There is a river whose streams gladden the city of God, the holy habitation of `Elyon -

Psa 46:5 God is in the city. It will not be moved - when daybreak comes, God will help it.

Psa 46:6 Nations were in turmoil, kingdoms were moved; his voice thundered forth, and the earth melted away.

Psa 46:7 Adonai-Tzva'ot is with us, our fortress, the God of Ya`akov. (Selah)

Psa 46:8 Come and see the works of Adonai, the astounding deeds he has done on the earth.

Psa 46:9 To the ends of the earth he makes wars cease - he breaks the bow, snaps the spear, burns the shields in the fire.

Psa 46:10 "Desist, and learn that I am God, supreme over the nations, supreme over the earth."

Psa 46:11 Adonai-Tzva'ot is with us, our fortress, the God of Ya`akov. (Selah)

Psa 27:1 *[By David:]* Adonai is my light and salvation; whom do I need to fear?
Adonai is the stronghold of my life; of whom should I be afraid?

Psa 27:2 When evildoers assailed me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and foes, they stumbled and fell.

Psa 27:3 If an army encamps against me, my heart will not fear; if war breaks out

against me, even then I will keep trusting.

Psa 27:4 Just one thing have I asked of Adonai; only this will I seek: to live in the house of Adonai all the days of my life, to see the beauty of Adonai and visit in his temple.

Psa 27:5 For he will conceal me in his shelter on the day of trouble, he will hide me in the folds of his tent, he will set me high on a rock.

Psa 27:6 Then my head will be lifted up above my surrounding foes, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, sing praises to Adonai.

Psa 27:7 Listen, Adonai, to my voice when I cry; show favor to me; and answer me.

Psa 27:8 "My heart said of you, 'Seek my face.' " Your face, Adonai, I will seek.

Psa 27:9 Do not hide your face from me, don't turn your servant away in anger. You are my help; don't abandon me; don't leave me, God my savior.

Psa 27:10 Even though my father and mother have left me, Adonai will care for me.

Psa 27:11 Teach me your way, Adonai; lead me on a level path because of my enemies

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Psa 27:12 don't give me up to the whims of my foes; for false witnesses have risen against me, also those who are breathing violence.

Psa 27:13 If I hadn't believed that I would see Adonai's goodness in the land of the living, . . .

Psa 27:14 Put your hope in Adonai, be strong, and let your heart take courage! Yes, put your hope in Adonai!

We sense God's activity through the use of irony and through the placing and reversal of events. Each placed with intent. The absence of God's name does not indicate lack of involvement. God is actually very involved and near. Those who thought they were far from God find themselves under his scrutiny and care and are forced into action, which proves that God remains faithful and in sovereign control, even when the objects of his affection are unfaithful.

Est 6:4 The king then asked, "Who's that in the courtyard?" For Haman had come into the outer courtyard of the king's palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordekhai on the gallows he had prepared for him.

Est 9:23 So the Jews took it upon themselves to continue what they had already begun to do, and as Mordekhai had written to them;

Est 9:24 because Haman the son of Hamdata the Agagi, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them and had thrown pur (that is, "cast lots") to crush and destroy them;

Est 9:25 but when Ester came before the king, he ordered by letters that [*Haman's*]

wicked scheme, which he had plotted against the Jews, should recoil on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

The signet ring used to seal the fate of the Jewish people was ultimately used to seal the fate of Haman...

Est 3:10 The king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hamdata the Agagi, the enemy of the Jews.

Est 8:1 That same day King Achashverosh gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Ester the queen. Also Mordekhai appeared before the king, for Ester had revealed his relationship to her.

Est 8:2 The king removed his signet ring, which he had taken back from Haman, and gave it to Mordekhai. Then Ester put Mordekhai in charge of Haman's house.

So, know that Adonai is with you even when you may not hear Him.

So it is just as important to remain faithful to His Word at all times.