

Notes: February 8, 2014

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Jeri's Drash
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. 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: Prepare the Way

Bnei Brak – settled in 1924 on the Mediterranean coast east of Tel Aviv

Settled by Yitzchok Gerstenkorn and a group of Polish [chasidim](#) (orthodox Jews)

Arye Mordechai Rabinowicz, formerly rabbi of [Kurów](#) in [Poland](#), was the first rabbi. He was succeeded by Rabbi Yosef Kalisz, a scion of the Vurker dynasty.

The town was set up as a religious settlement from the outset, as is evident from this description of the pioneers

This is one possible scenario as to how our Torah scroll came into the land. Given that it dates back to the time when Bnei Brak was settled, it is possible that one of the early immigrants brought it with them as they left eastern Europe due to increased anti-semitism.

This is but one possible scenario as to how our Torah scroll came to reside in Israel without any documentation.

Over the last several weeks I have been doing what my predecessors have done, preparing the way...

Next week we will have our first Torah service with the congregations very own Torah scroll.

Today, I want to share with you some of the things that have transpired between Adonai and the people of Israel.

1. Israel's first encounter with Adonai, in preparation to entering into His Covenant and receiving His Torah.

Exo 19:9 Adonai said to Moshe, "See, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, so that the people will be able to hear when I speak with you and also to trust in you forever." Moshe had told Adonai what the people had said;

Exo 19:10 so Adonai said to Moshe, "Go to the people; today and tomorrow separate them for me by having them wash their clothing;

Exo 19:11 and prepare for the third day. For on the third day, Adonai will come down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people.

Exo 19:12 You are to set limits for the people all around; and say, 'Be careful not to go up on the mountain or even touch its base; whoever touches the mountain will surely be put to death.

Exo 19:13 No hand is to touch him; for he must be stoned or shot by arrows; neither animal nor human will be allowed to live.' When the shofar sounds, they may go up on the mountain."

This was not to be just any meeting.

It was the first meeting. Even though Adonai was with them during the Exodus, it would be their first meeting with the intent of entering into a covenant relationship.

It was not just any meeting, but one that required a time of preparation.

As was instructed to Moshe, separate them for me...To stay pure, to be sanctified. The washing of their clothes, in essence bathing was a Mikveh done prior to this meeting.

2. Adonai did the same thing regarding the Living Word, Messiah Yeshua.

He first made a prophetic promise through Malachi:

Mal 4:4 (3:22) "Remember the Torah of Moshe my servant, which I enjoined on him at Horev, laws and rulings for all Isra'el.

Mal 4:5 (3:23) Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai.

Mal 4:6 (3:24) He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers; otherwise I will come and strike the land with complete destruction."

And we see the fulfillment of this prophecy in Yochanan the Immerser:

Mat 3:1 It was during those days that Yochanan the Immerser arrived in the desert of Y'hudah and began proclaiming the message,

Mat 3:2 "Turn from your sins to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!"

Mat 3:3 This is the man Yesha`yahu was talking about when he said, "The voice of someone crying out: 'In the desert prepare the way of Adonai! Make straight paths for him!' "

Mat 3:4 Yochanan wore clothes of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Mat 3:5 People went out to him from Yerushalayim, from all Y'hudah, and from the whole region around the Yarden.

Mat 3:6 Confessing their sins, they were immersed by him in the Yarden River.

What is different is that Israel didn't know the instructions of Adonai, but had agreed to follow Him, without even first hearing them.

Here, Yochanan is warning the people that the Kingdom is near and that you are to return to Adonai if you are to enter into this Kingdom.

Adonai does not offer opportunity without offering instruction and guidance.

Yochanan is instructing like Moshe, separate them for me, stay pure, be sanctified, because the one that is coming will:

Mat 3:11 It's true that I am immersing you in water so that you might turn from sin to God; but the one coming after me is more powerful than I — I'm not worthy even to carry his sandals — and he will immerse you in the Ruach HaKodesh and in fire.

Mat 3:12 He has with him his winnowing fork; and he will clear out his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn but burning up the straw with unquenchable fire!"

Where the Word of Adonai is...

1. There is blessing when the Word of Adonai is present.

2Sa 6:9 David was frightened of Adonai that day; he asked, "How can the ark of Adonai come to me?"

2Sa 6:10 So David would not bring the ark of Adonai into the City of David; rather, David took it over to the house of `Oved-Edom the Gitti.

2Sa 6:11 The ark of Adonai stayed in the house of `Oved-Edom the Gitti for three months; and Adonai blessed `Oved-Edom and all his household.

2Sa 6:12 King David was told, "Adonai has blessed the house of `Oved-Edom and everyone who belongs to him, thanks to the ark of God." So David went and joyously brought the ark of God up from the house of `Oved-Edom into the City of David.

Scripture doesn't elaborate as to the blessings experienced by the house of Oved-Edom, but the mere presence of it blessed those whom

2. There is conviction when the Word of Adonai is read.

Neh 8:1 When the seventh month arrived, after the people of Isra'el had resettled in their towns, all the people gathered with one accord in the open space in front of the Water Gate and asked `Ezra the Torah-teacher to bring the scroll of the Torah of Moshe, which Adonai had commanded Isra'el.

Neh 8:2 `Ezra the cohen brought the Torah before the assembly, which consisted of men, women and all children old enough to understand. It was the first day of the seventh month.

Neh 8:3 Facing the open space in front of the Water Gate, he read from it to the men, the women and the children who could understand from early morning until noon; and all the people listened attentively to the scroll of the Torah.

Neh 8:5 `Ezra opened the scroll where all the people could see him, because he was higher than all the people; when he opened it, all the people rose to their feet.

Neh 8:6 `Ezra blessed Adonai, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted up their hands, bowed their heads and fell prostrate before Adonai with their faces to the ground.

Neh 8:8 They read clearly from the scroll, in the Torah of God, translated it, and enabled them to understand the sense of what was being read.

Neh 8:9 Nechemyah the Tirshata, `Ezra the cohen and Torah-teacher and the L'vi'im who taught the people said to all the people, "Today is consecrated to Adonai your God; don't be mournful, don't weep." For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the Torah.

Years prior – King Yoshiyahu (Josiah)

2Ki 22:1 Yoshiyahu was eight years old when he began his reign, and he ruled for thirty-one years in Yerushalayim. His mother's name was Y'didah the daughter of `Adayah from Botzkat.

2Ki 22:2 He did what was right from Adonai's perspective, living entirely in the manner of David his ancestor and turning away neither to the right nor to the left.

2Ki 22:8 Hilkiyahu the cohen hagadol said to Shafan the secretary, "I have found the scroll of the Torah in the house of Adonai." Hilkiyah gave the scroll to Shafan, who read it.

2Ki 22:10 Shafan the secretary also told the king, "Hilkiyah the cohen hagadol gave me a scroll." Then Shafan read it aloud before the king.

2Ki 22:11 After the king had heard what was written in the scroll of the Torah, he tore his clothes.

2Ki 22:12 Then the king issued this order to Hilkiyah the cohen, Achikam the son of Shafan, `Akhbor the son of Mikhayah, Shafan the secretary and `Asayah the king's servant:

2Ki 22:13 "Go; and consult Adonai for me, for the people and for all Y'hudah in regard to what is written in this scroll which has been found. For Adonai must be furious at us, since our ancestors did not listen to the words written in this scroll and didn't do everything written there that concerns us."

This is the response Yoshiyahu received...

2Ki 22:15 She told them, "Adonai the God of Isra'el says to tell the man who sent you to me

2Ki 22:16 that Adonai says this: 'I am going to bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, every word in the scroll the king of Y'hudah has read;

2Ki 22:17 because they have abandoned me and offered to other gods, in order to provoke me with everything they do. Therefore my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.'

2Ki 22:18 But you are to tell the king of Y'hudah, who sent you to consult Adonai, that Adonai the God of Isra'el also says this: 'In regard to the words you have heard,

2Ki 22:19 because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before Adonai when you heard what I said against this place and its inhabitants — that they would become an object of astonishment and cursing — and have torn your clothes and cried before me, I have also heard you, says Adonai.

2Ki 22:20 Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, you will go to your grave in peace, and your eyes will not see all the calamity I am going to bring on this place.' " So they brought word back to the king.

How do the New Covenant writings reconcile these accounts.

1. Adonai is not looking for you to have a passive relationship with Him.

Jas 1:22 Don't deceive yourselves by only hearing what the Word says, but do it!

Jas 1:23 For whoever hears the Word but doesn't do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror,

Jas 1:24 who looks at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

There are requirements and responsibilities in upholding a covenant relationship.

So, when we look at not only how Adonai prepares His people but the results that ensue we have received all that is required for us.

Heb 12:1 So then, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us, too, put aside every impediment — that is, the sin which easily hampers our forward movement — and keep running with endurance in the contest set before us,

Heb 12:2 looking away to the Initiator and Completer of that trusting, Yeshua — who, in exchange for obtaining the joy set before him, endured execution on a stake as a criminal, scorning the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Verse 2 speaks of the oneness of Adonai...

The initiator (author) is the one who wrote what we have in our hands today.

He is also the one who completes or finishes what He started.

Keep in mind that the presence of Adonai has been in this congregation through you as believers whom have residing in you His Spirit, His Ruach ha Kodesh.

One Rabbi made the statement to me not too long ago, just how exciting it is when the Written Word of Adonai and the Living Word of Messiah reside together.

Every synagogue houses the Written Word, but lack the living Word which is where the power of the New Covenant comes from.

Please continue to pray for our vision, that the Living Word goes forth to all synagogues.

Likewise, there are many that have the Written Word, but don't use it, apply it or live by it.

I have used the example of electricity without a power grid to control and direct. Without it, electricity is dangerous, unpredictable and uncontrollable.