

Notes: September 16, 2017

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. 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: Prepared In The Ways Of Adonai

In Last week's sermon I conveyed that the words observe and Mitzvot appeared 12 times together in the same sentence in Torah, with 8 being found in last week's parshah Ki Tavo. A clear and certain theme of that Parshah. A distinct connection was established between the Covenant and observance of Adonai's mitzvot.

To where in this week's Parshah Nitzavim, we read about a people being prepared in the ways of Adonai, as instructed by Moshe. They are not just being prepared but encouraged...

**Deu 30:10** "However, all this will happen only if you pay attention to what Adonai your God says, so that you obey his mitzvot and regulations which are written in this book of the Torah, if you turn to Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being.

**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!

**Deu 30:15** "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil -

These words of encouragement are contrary to the words you hear spoken about the Mosaic Covenant...

It is impossible to keep the entire law, therefore we need a savior.

**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?'

We didn't need to go up, however in reality, someone came down for us. And among other things, it was to straighten our path, because we were the ones who made it crooked.

The simplicity of what Adonai is conveying through Moshe is in essence the simplicity of the Gospel message for which I would convey is the Gospel message...The Good News:

**Deu 30:15** "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil -

Life and good certainly sounds like Good News to me.

Adonai gives life, from the moment He breathed life into Adam, until we reside with Him on the new earth, meaning eternity's resumption...

And according to 1 John...

**1Jn 3:23** This is his command: that we are to trust in the person and power of his Son Yeshua the Messiah and to keep loving one another, just as he commanded us.

**1Jn 3:24** Those who obey his commands remain united with him and he with them. Here is how we know that he remains united with us: by the Spirit whom he gave us.

Those who obey His commands remain united with Him.

**1Jn 5:11** And this is the witness: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

**1Jn 5:12** Those who have the Son have the life; those who do not have the Son of God do not have the life.

Does Yeshua say anything different than what Adonai conveyed through Moshe to Israel in this Parshah?

**Deu 29:10 (29:9)** "Today you are standing, all of you, before Adonai your God - your heads, your tribes, your leaders and your officers - all the men of Isra'el,

**Deu 29:11 (29:10)** along with your little ones, your wives and your foreigners here with you in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water.

In this case, everyone is standing before Adonai, hearing all these words spoken...

**Mat 5:1** Seeing the crowds, Yeshua walked up the hill. After he sat down, his talmidim came to him,

**Mat 5:2** and he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

The only real difference here is the number of people in attendance. Although numbers are not provided, Yeshua saw crowds of people while Moshe had all Israel in attendance.

Adonai was speaking through Moshe, while here Adonai is speaking through Yeshua for the simple reason He is Adonai.

**Deu 29:12 (29:11)** The purpose is that you should enter into the covenant of Adonai your God and into his oath which Adonai your God is making with you today,

**Deu 29:13 (29:12)** so that he can establish you today for himself as a people, and so that for you he will be God - as he said to you and as he swore to your ancestors, to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov.

A covenant and oath...

A covenant in terms of a relationship.

An oath - a solemn promise, often invoking a divine witness, regarding one's future action or behavior. In this case the dynamic of this covenant relationship.

**Deu 29:14 (29:13)** "But I am not making this covenant and this oath only with you.

**Deu 29:15 (29:14)** Rather, I am making it both with him who is standing here with us today before Adonai our God and also with him who is not here with us today.

This same dynamic...regarding the one's who are not here today can be seen as being two fold...

1. Future generations of Israel
2. The Nations

**Act 2:39** For the promise is for you, for your children, and for those far away — as many as Adonai our God may call!"

Kefa conveys this promise on Shavuot, while in Jerusalem. The promise of the New Covenant, the Ruach Ha Kodesh and Life found through Messiah Yeshua is for them. Yet, it is also for those who were far away...

We identify Sha'ul as the emissary to the Goyim, yet it is Kefa who first introduces the Gospel to Gentiles.

Sha'ul conveys the same thing as well...

**Eph 2:17** Also, when he came, he announced as Good News shalom to you far off and shalom to those nearby,

I will come back to these verses in a moment...

**Deu 29:16 (29:15)** For you know how we lived in the land of Egypt and how we came directly through the nations you passed through;

**Deu 29:17 (29:16)** and you saw their detestable things and their idols of wood, stone, silver and gold that they had with them.

**Deu 29:18 (29:17)** So let there not be among you a man, woman, family or tribe whose heart turns away today from Adonai our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Let there not be among you a root bearing such bitter poison and wormwood.

**Deu 29:19 (29:18)** If there is such a person, when he hears the words of this curse, he will bless himself secretly, saying to himself, 'I will be all right, even though I will stubbornly keep doing whatever I feel like doing; so that I, although "dry," [sinful,] will be added to the "watered" [righteous].'

So this is the evidence of the same message being conveyed to Israel, by Adonai through Moshe...now here is the context of those passages...

**Act 2:36** Therefore, let the whole house of Isra'el know beyond doubt that God has made him both Lord and Messiah — this Yeshua, whom you executed on a stake!"

**Act 2:37** On hearing this, they were stung in their hearts; and they said to Kefa and the other emissaries, "Brothers, what should we do?"

**Act 2:38** Kefa answered them, "Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh!"

**Act 2:39** For the promise is for you, for your children, and for those far away — as many as Adonai our God may call!"

**Act 2:40** He pressed his case with many other arguments and kept pleading with them, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!"

**Act 2:41** So those who accepted what he said were immersed, and there were added to the group that day about three thousand people.

**Eph 2:11** Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised —

**Eph 2:12** at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

**Eph 2:13** But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

**Eph 2:14** For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us

**Eph 2:15** by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom,

**Eph 2:16** and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

**Eph 2:17** Also, when he came, he announced as Good News shalom to you far off and shalom to those nearby,

Notice that Sha'ul is speaking in past tense regarding Gentile's relationship with Adonai, being brought near through the shedding of Messiah's blood.

Yet, many will convey through these verses, Torah is no longer applicable, valid, required...not understanding it is what separated Gentiles from Israel. It is distinct in that only one nation was ever given God's commands.

And the origin for this thinking dates back to the second century... Consider Justin Martyr's view...

From New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge 3rd ed. 1914...

*The old philosophers and law-givers had only a part of the [Logos](#), while the whole appears in Christ.[29]*

*While the gentile peoples, seduced by devils, had deserted the true God for idols, the Jews and Samaritans possessed the revelation given through the prophets and awaited the [Messiah](#). However, the law, while containing commandments intended to promote the true fear of God, had other prescriptions of a purely pedagogic nature (method and practice of teaching) , which necessarily ceased when Christ, their end, appeared; of such temporary and merely relative regulations were [circumcision](#), animal sacrifices, the [Sabbath](#), and the laws as to food. Through Christ the abiding law of God has been fully proclaimed. In his character as the teacher of the new doctrine and promulgator (to make known by open declaration) of the new law lies the essential nature of his redeeming work.*

Yet, this premise is anything but affirmative towards the message of Yeshua...

Let's go back to Matthew 5 and Yeshua's instruction to the crowds in attendance. A Jewish audience familiar with the words He is about to speak...

**Mat 5:17** "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete.

**Mat 5:18** Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a yud ( ך ) or a stroke will pass from the Torah — not until everything that must happen has happened.

**Mat 5:19** So whoever disobeys the least of these mitzvot and teaches others to do so will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever obeys them and so teaches will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Mat 5:20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness is far greater than that of the Torah-teachers and P'rushim, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

These words, while spoken to a Jewish audience are found in the New Covenant writings therefore are applicable to all who trust in Yeshua...

This word trust or faith as many translations convey...

Faith = complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Trust = firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

When you combine these two definitions and apply them to Yeshua...

complete trust and a firm belief in someone.

How does one apply this?

By trusting in Yeshua are you trusting in what He has said.

By trusting in Yeshua are you trusting in what Adonai has said.

**Joh 14:1** "Don't let yourselves be disturbed. Trust in God and trust in me.

Yet many seem to trust more in the words of others than in the Words of Messiah.

The concept of Justin Martyr has become foundational. It was further expanded on by Eusebius and Origen, leading to the adoption of practices perceived to be of God, yet were of man.

Things detested by Adonai were justified and adopted by man. The very warning conveyed by Adonai to Israel...

**Deu 29:18 (29:17)** So let there not be among you a man, woman, family or tribe whose heart turns away today from Adonai our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Let there not be among you a root bearing such bitter poison and wormwood.

**Deu 29:19 (29:18)** If there is such a person, when he hears the words of this curse, he will bless himself secretly, saying to himself, 'I will be all right, even though I will stubbornly keep doing whatever I feel like doing; so that I, although "dry," [*sinful,*] will be added to the "watered" [*righteous*].'

Though the curses and blessings apply to Israel and the land...there is most certainly a connection to Adonai's mitzvot and life...

**Deu 30:10** "However, all this will happen only if you pay attention to what Adonai your God says, so that you obey his mitzvot and regulations which are written in this book of the Torah, if you turn to Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being.

**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!

**Deu 30:15** "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil -

And is now available to those who were far off. Those who were foreigners to the commonwealth of Israel, having been grafted into the olive tree, are now partaking in the rich root of the olive tree.

Yet, you have two very different results that have occurred.

You have an example of a Jewish led movement reiterating the words of Messiah Yeshua that confirm the Words of Adonai, drawing people back to Him or in the case of the nations, drawing them to Him. One way, one path for Jew and Gentile to Messiah.

**Joh 14:6** Yeshua said, "I AM the Way — and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

While you see what is supposed to be the same way conveys things that are contrary to even what Yeshua and the Apostles have said.

**Mat 5:18** Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a yud ( ך ) or a stroke will pass from the Torah — not until everything that must happen has happened.

**Mat 5:19** So whoever disobeys the least of these mitzvot and teaches others to do so will be called the least in the Kingdom of

Heaven. But whoever obeys them and so teaches will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Mat 5:20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness is far greater than that of the Torah-teachers and P'rushim, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

It isn't just those who do not do, but also those who teach others to do so...

Unless your righteousness is far greater than that of the P'rushim...

Where has the trust in the Words of Yeshua gone?

Yeshua's words spoken to the leaders of Israel, rebuking them for leading the people away from Adonai...

**Mar 7:6** Yeshua answered them, "Yesha`yahu was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites — as it is written, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me.

**Mar 7:7** Their worship of me is useless, because they teach man-made rules as if they were doctrines.'

**Mar 7:8** "You depart from God's command and hold onto human tradition.

**Mar 7:9** Indeed," he said to them, "you have made a fine art of departing from God's command in order to keep your tradition!

Can they not also be applied today?

God's righteousness is identified through His Word...

We see an example of it in the Brith Hadoshah...

**Luk 1:5** In the days of Herod, King of Y'hudah, there was a cohen named Z'kharyah who belonged to the Aviyah division. His wife was a descendant of Aharon, and her name was Elisheva.

**Luk 1:6** Both of them were righteous before God, observing all the mitzvot and ordinances of Adonai blamelessly.

Confirmation of Torah...

**Deu 6:24** Adonai ordered us to observe all these laws, to fear Adonai our God, always for our own good, so that he might keep us alive, as we are today.

**Deu 6:25** It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to obey all these mitzvot before Adonai our God, just as he ordered us to do.'

Confirmation of Yeshua...

**Mat 5:19** So whoever disobeys the least of these mitzvot and teaches others to do so will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever obeys them and so teaches will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Mat 5:20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness is far greater than that of the Torah-teachers and P'rushim, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

**Mat 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in heaven wants.

**Mat 7:22** On that Day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we expel demons in your name? Didn't we perform many miracles in your name?'

**Mat 7:23** Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'