

Notes: March 3, 2018 - Purim

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: *What You Sow Is What You Reap*
4. Children's Lesson: *Remember The Sabbath*
5. Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Class
6. Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer
7. Matovu
8. Drash – Cynthia Hudson - Wisdom
9. Name of God For the Week: *El-yon – Most High*
10. Liturgy
11. Prayer
12. Worship in Music and Dance
13. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *Jeremiah's Warning – Part 2*
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: Purim Message

The megillah (scroll) of Esther is one that is subordinated to other Scripture by believers. It was last on the list to make the cannon for the sole reason, God was not mentioned. It is taken lightly, yet without this significant scroll and the events documented in it, would have lead to a world without hope.

The Jewish people are key in the role of Adonai's plan for redemption. This is further evident in Jeremiah's promises as given to 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.

As such, when we look at the role of someone like Mordechai, a role that would lead to the importance of Hadassah (Esther), that it isn't just the future of Israel that is at stake, but the future of all nations.

Mordechai

We read in Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" It is true and we can see that in the life of Mordechai. If God has determined blessing for your life, no outside element can stop it—not the devil, not Haman.

Yes, there are tests and challenges in life. They are not contrary to the blessing of God, but sent to help us mature. Joseph was not ready to save the world from famine as a teenager, when he boasted he would rule over his brothers. But after being sold as a slave, falsely accused of rape and then thrown into prison, he was ready.

The trials developed deep character in Joseph—so much so, that when he was reunited with his brothers he was able to say in essence, "This was God's plan for me, not yours," as he forgave them. Just because you are going through a trial doesn't mean God has forgotten you.

Look how things ended up with Mordechai. Haman hated him. He wanted to kill him. One night the king could not sleep and so he decided to have someone read him the chronicles of his reign. He discovered that Mordechai had once saved his life from an assassination plot. The next day he asked Haman, what should be done for the man that the king wants to honor. Naturally Haman was sure the king wanted to honor him. So he says:

"For the man the king delights to honor, have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'" (Esther 6:7-9)

The king was pleased with Haman's idea and told Haman to do it for Mordechai. Hollywood could not have written a better script. In addition, Esther was given Haman's estate and presented Mordechai with his signet ring that he took back from Haman. If God has determined blessing on your life, then you can expect it. He will overcome the impossible to bless His children. - Ron Cantor

Haman

Fueled by pride and jealousy Haman plotted against the Jewish people.

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.

When we seek to harm others, we clog the funnel of blessing. Like Joseph, we must forgive those who hurt us.

Est 5:9 That day Haman went out happy and in good spirits. But when Haman saw Mordechai at the King's Gate, that he neither rose nor moved for him, Haman was infuriated with Mordechai.

Est 5:10 Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home, where he summoned and brought his friends and Zeresh his wife.

Est 5:11 Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and everything connected with how the king had promoted him and given him precedence over the other officials and servants of the king.

Est 5:12 "Indeed," Haman added, "Ester the queen let nobody into the banquet with the king that she had prepared except myself; and tomorrow, too, I am invited by her, together with the king.

Est 5:13 Yet none of this does me any good at all, as long as I keep seeing Mordechai the Jew remaining seated at the King's Gate."

Est 5:14 At this Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows seventy-five feet high constructed, and in the morning speak to the king about having Mordechai hanged on it. Then go in, and enjoy yourself with the king at the banquet." Haman liked the idea, so he had a gallows made.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matt. 6:14-15)

And if we seek to harm others out of fear, jealousy, anger, pride, etc., we will bring curses on ourselves.

“Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them.” (Prov. 26:27)

This biblical principle states that the very vehicle that you seek to use to harm others will run you down. It is written in Esther, “when the plot came to the king’s attention, he issued written orders that the evil scheme Haman had devised against the Jews should come back onto his own head.” (Esther 9:25)

The King was informed that “a pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman’s house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Impale him on it!” (Esther 7:9) – Ron Cantor

Conclusion

Let’s choose to be people of courage, walking in the blessing of God, forgiving all who sin against us. It is this courage that overcame a plot to eliminate the Jewish people from the face of the earth.

Stop and think about this for a moment.

What would the world look like today without the Jewish people?

We can do that with other people and nations, because this is in part what the world looks like today in their absence.

(STOP AND REFLECT)

However, I believe the world would look extremely different.

For starters, there would be no return from exile, in that they were all killed in exile. What doesn't happen if this domino doesn't fall?

Forget about all the contributions to society.

No return from exile leads to no Messiah. It would be residence in the land of Israel,

WASHINGTON – A new survey by LifeWay Research shows an estimated 871,000 American evangelical Christians have at least one Jewish parent or grandparent – almost three times the largest estimates previously assessed in past studies.

The messianic Jewish movement has been growing in the United States and Israel, but the latest survey is a shocker to those who track the size and scope. There are hundreds of messianic congregations in the U.S. attracting Jews and non-Jews alike because of the unique teachings and beliefs that emphasize a literal Israel-centric view of the Bible – both Old Testament and New.

“We are thrilled with the growth of the messianic movement both within and outside of the nation of Israel,” said Mitch Glaser, president of Chosen People Ministries, one of the sponsors of the survey. “The number of evangelicals saying they have a Jewish parent or grandparent is far greater than we imagined. Probably one of the reasons for this, according to the LifeWay Survey, is because over 70 percent of evangelicals in the United States believe in the importance of reaching out to their Jewish friends with the good news of Jesus.”

The study found that among American adults, almost 40 million have evangelical beliefs using the LifeWay Research definition. Two percent of these evangelicals indicate that one or more of their parents or grandparents are Jewish. This yields the estimate of 870,771 adult Americans who have evangelical beliefs and self-report that they have at least one Jewish parent or grandparent.

In addition, about half of the evangelicals surveyed, or 47 percent, agree with the statement, “Jewish people continue to be significant for the history of redemption as Jesus will return when the Jewish people accept Jesus.” Twenty-three percent disagree, and 31 percent are not sure.

More than 2,000 were surveyed in the study between Sept. 20-28, 2017.

The survey was sponsored by Chosen People Ministries, an organization whose mission is to pray for, evangelize, disciple and serve Jewish people everywhere, and to help fellow believers do the same, and New York Times bestselling author Joel C. Rosenberg.

“The Scripture places God’s commitment to Israel as an expression of his faithfulness and grace,” said Darrell L. Bock, New Testament professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. “God made promises to Israel as a people long ago Scripture says He will keep.”

The survey also found 86 percent of American evangelicals believe sharing the gospel with Jews is important.

“The study indicates unprecedented openness and responsiveness to the gospel among American Jews and Americans with Jewish roots,” said Rosenberg, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen. “What’s more, a significant percentage of American evangelicals without Jewish roots say they believe sharing the gospel with Jewish people is important, though not all of them are doing so. We must always be loving and humble when we share the message of Jesus with anyone. But the church must never be ashamed of the gospel because it is, as the Apostle Paul instructs us, the power of salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jews first and also for the Gentiles.”

The study also found 30 percent of Americans with evangelical beliefs have Jewish friends. But only 32 percent of those told their Jewish friends about Jesus in the past year, and evangelicals in general seem unclear about how Jews fit into God’s plan.

According to the survey, 28 percent embrace “supersessionism” or replacement theology – the claim that the Christian church “has fulfilled or replaced the nation of Israel in God’s plan.” Forty-one percent reject that idea, and 32 percent are not sure.

Younger evangelicals – those between 18 and 34 – are more likely to say Christians have replaced Jews in God’s plan. Thirty-four percent agree, and 30 percent disagree. Thirty-six percent are not sure. In contrast, 48 percent of Evangelicals 65 and older disagree with replacement theology. Twenty-three percent agree, and 29 percent are not sure.

“To see nearly 40 percent of younger evangelicals unsure of how Israel fits into God’s larger story tells me we have a huge opportunity to educate the next generation to appreciate God’s love and plan for both Israel and the nations,” said Esther Fleece, international speaker, author and millennial influencer. “Millennials don’t need help getting involved, we need help understanding a theology that gives Israel and the Jewish people a place in God’s ongoing story.”

More than half of respondents believe “the Bible teaches that one day, most or all Jewish people, alive at that time, will believe in Jesus.” Sixteen percent disagree, and 29 percent are unsure.

Although evangelicals see a clear tie between Bible prophecy and the rebirth of the nation of Israel, they’re less certain whether Jewish people play a role in the return of Jesus.

“According to the survey, many evangelicals believe the Gospel will be spread to all people in the world before Jesus returns,” said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. “But they aren’t sure if Jewish people have a special place in God’s plan anymore.”

When the first part of the study was released in December, showing a need to educate all, especially the young, about Israel’s place in God’s plan, key faith leaders formed the Alliance for the Peace of Jerusalem. The organization is dedicated to facilitating a better public understanding of the complexities of the Middle East, including its roots in history and the Bible. Glaser, Rosenberg and Bock are all founding members of the alliance, of which Fleece is a part.

There is a continued need to educate the church about Israel's place in God's plan and the role of the Jewish people in that plan...

Purim, a Passover preparation...without it, Passover would not have continued as a memorial.

LifeWay Research is a Nashville-based, evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches.

Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2018/03/nearly-1-million-u-s-evangelicals-are-jewish/#mRXXRvgeI50485Qer.99>