

Notes: October 18, 2025

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: Simchat Torah – Rejoicing in Adonai's Word

As we mark this day with the rolling back of Torah, signifying the conclusion of our Parsha readings, we do not move on to something else but rather commence with reading the Parsha again.

Through every turn of the rollers as we wind our way back to Bresheet 1:1, we are reminded of all Adonai has revealed to us. Further, as a congregation we are reminded of the connections the Word of Adonai has established.

Torah reveals to us the character of Adonai, precisely describing who He is...

Exo 34:6 Adonai passed before him and proclaimed: "YUD-HEH-VAV-HEH!!! Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [*Adonai*] is God, merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace and truth;

Exo 34:7 showing grace to the thousandth generation, forgiving offenses, crimes and sins; yet not exonerating the guilty, but causing the negative effects of the parents' offenses to be experienced by their children and grandchildren, and even by the third and fourth generations."

He reveals His attributes to us. Throughout Torah, His character has been made known.

Num 23:19 "God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind. When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it.

During this past year's Torah reading we did something different. I had you bring your questions in advance, having read the Parsha prior to Torah study, thus not spoon feeding you, but requiring you to eat on God's Word yourself.

Whatever we read throughout the Prophets and the Writings, is connected to the foundation – Torah.

Each parsha has something in it that points to Yeshua, hence every study contained a section "Messiah in the Parsha" which will be our focus this year. When He conveyed these words to His talmidim after the resurrection, we have truly experienced His Words to be true...

Luk 24:44 Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,
Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;
Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

In Bresheet 1:2 we read of the Spirit of Adonai hovering over the face of the deep, whereby the sages equate this very Spirit to be the Spirit of Messiah.

We read that there is to be a Prophet like Moshe who will come and...

Deu 18:15 "Adonai will raise up for you a prophet like me from among yourselves, from your own kinsmen. You are to pay attention to him,

Deu 18:16 just as when you were assembled at Horev and requested Adonai your God, 'Don't let me hear the voice of Adonai my God any more, or let me see this great fire ever again; if I do, I will die!'

Deu 18:17 On that occasion Adonai said to me, 'They are right in what they are saying.

Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I order him.

Through these Words, the people would be waiting for the Prophet. Is this the Prophet? they would ask starting with Yochanan the Immerser...

Joh 1:19 Here is Yochanan's testimony: when the Judeans sent cohanim and L'vi'im from Yerushalayim to ask him, "Who are you?"

Joh 1:20 he was very straightforward and stated clearly, "I am not the Messiah."

Joh 1:21 "Then who are you?" they asked him. "Are you Eliyahu?" "No, I am not," he said. "Are you 'the prophet,' the one we're expecting?" "No," he replied.

To say you know Adonai's Torah is to know His plan for our lives, for the world, for His Kingdom.

And later Yeshua...

Andrew proclaiming to his brother Kefa...

Joh 1:40 One of the two who had heard Yochanan and had followed Yeshua was Andrew the brother of Shim'on Kefa.

Joh 1:41 The first thing he did was to find his brother Shim'on and tell him, "We've found the Mashiach!" (The word means "one who has been anointed.")

Joh 1:42 He took him to Yeshua. Looking at him, Yeshua said, "You are Shim'on Bar-Yochanan; you will be known as Kefa." (The name means "rock.")

having likely put all the prophecies together including that of the Prophet whereby the Spirit of Adonai revealed to him who Yeshua is.

Or the people in general...

Joh 6:14 When the people saw the miracle he had performed, they said, "This has to be

'the prophet' who is supposed to come into the world."

Joh 6:15 Yeshua knew that they were on the point of coming and seizing him, in order to make him king; so he went back to the hills again. This time he went by himself.

And at Sukkot on Hoshana Rabbah...

Joh 7:40 On hearing his words, some people in the crowd said, "Surely this man is 'the prophet' ";

Joh 7:41 others said, "This is the Messiah." But others said, "How can the Messiah come from the Galil?

What words had they just heard?

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All based on this one passage in Torah that everyone knew because this was their curriculum. This was their text book growing up. Torah was their teacher.

There has been a clear line drawn through Torah...

Psa 1:1 How blessed are those who reject the advice of the wicked, don't stand on the way of sinners or sit where scoffers sit!

Psa 1:2 Their delight is in Adonai's Torah; on his Torah they meditate day and night.

An entire Psalm is written about the Word of Adonai...His Torah...

Here are just a few aspects of Torah the Psalmist reveals...

Psa 119:1 א (*Alef*) How happy are those whose way of life is blameless, who live by the Torah of Adonai!

The very first verse is a testimony to what one can expect should they choose to live by Adonai's Word.

Psa 119:18 Open my eyes, so that I will see wonders from your Torah.

We have had a glimpse into the wonders of Torah through our study of it. Each year brings greater understanding thus producing greater intimacy with our Lord and God.

Psa 119:29 Keep deceitful ways far from me, and favor me with your Torah.

Once we have tasted the sweetness of Torah, we desire the bitterness of the world's way be kept far from us.

I could go on...176 verses amplifying the magnitude of Adonai's Word make a strong case for following Him.

Without Torah, there is nothing, for Torah is the foundation for the world because it is Adonai's Word that established everything. This will be our focus in studying Torah this year, this Parsha cycle.

Torah is so foundational for our lives, not only does He make it possible for us to do...

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!

Everything I have shared with you has been affirmed by the Prophets Adonai has chosen, including The Prophet – Yeshua.

Joh 10:7 So Yeshua said to them again, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that I am the gate for the sheep.

Joh 10:8 All those who have come before me have been thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them.

Joh 10:9 I am the gate; if someone enters through me, he will be safe and will go in and out and find pasture.

Joh 10:10 The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, life in its fullest measure.

Through Torah Adonai reveals His will. He conveys the very dynamic first to the nation He established by His Word...

Deu 30:19 "I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, so that you will live, you and your descendants,

Deu 30:20 loving Adonai your God, paying attention to what he says and clinging to him—for that is the purpose of your life! On this depends the length of time you will live in the land Adonai swore he would give to your ancestors Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov."

For all that I shared with you, I pray that these Words ring true...

Psa 40:8 Doing your will, my God, is my joy; your Torah is in my inmost being.

Psa 40:9 I have proclaimed what is right in the great assembly; I did not restrain my lips, Adonai, as you know.

Psa 40:10 I did not hide your righteousness in my heart but declared your faithfulness and

salvation; I did not conceal your grace and truth from the great assembly."

1Jn 5:1 Everyone who believes that Yeshua is the Messiah has God as his father, and everyone who loves a father loves his offspring too.

1Jn 5:2 Here is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God, we also do what he commands.

1Jn 5:3 For loving God means obeying his commands. Moreover, his commands are not burdensome,

1Jn 5:4 because everything which has God as its Father overcomes the world. And this is what victoriously overcomes the world: our trust.

1Jn 5:5 Who does overcome the world if not the person who believes that Yeshua is the Son of God?

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Simchat Torah Message

Revived by Torah.

Israel has been separated from God as a result of their transgression, living under Bavel rule for 70 years, judged for their very transgression of what would come to revive this people, God's People.

Adonai composes a letter to Israel through the Prohpet Jeremiah...This is chapter 29, a letter that will establish what is to happen upon this separation...

Isa 59:1 Adonai's arm is not too short to save, nor is his ear too dull to hear.

Isa 59:2 Rather, it is your own crimes that separate you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he doesn't hear.

2Ch 36:21 Thus was fulfilled the word of Adonai spoken by Yirmeyahu, "until the land has been paid her Shabbats"—for as long as it lay desolate, it kept Shabbat, until seventy years had passed.

Adonai Conveys...

Jer 29:1 Following is the text of the letter Yirmeyahu the prophet sent from Yerushalayim to the leaders remaining in exile, as well as to the cohanim, the prophets and all the people N'vukhadnetzar had carried off captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel.

Jer 29:2 This was after Y'khanyah the king, the queen mother, the officers, the leaders of Y'hudah and Yerushalayim, and the artisans and skilled workers had left Yerushalayim.

Jer 29:3 The letter was entrusted to El' asah the son of Shafan and G'maryah the son of Hilkiyah; Tzidkiyah king of Y'hudah sent them to Bavel, to N'vukhadnetzar king of Bavel. The

letter said:

Jer 29:4 "Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says to all those in exile, whom I have caused to be carried off captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel:

Jer 29:5 'Build yourselves houses, and live in them. Plant gardens, and eat what they produce.

Jer 29:6 Choose women to marry, and have sons and daughters. Choose wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage to men, so that they can have sons and daughters—increase your numbers there, don't decrease.

Jer 29:7 Seek the welfare of the city to which I have caused you to go in exile, and pray to Adonai on its behalf; for your welfare is bound up in its welfare.'

Jer 29:8 For this is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says: 'Don't let your prophets who are living among you and your diviners deceive you, and don't pay attention to the dreams you urge them to dream.

Jer 29:9 For they are prophesying falsely in my name; I have not sent them,' says Adonai.

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.

Jer 29:12 When you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 When you seek me, you will find me, provided you seek for me wholeheartedly;

Jer 29:14 and I will let you find me,' says Adonai. 'Then I will reverse your exile. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have driven you,' says Adonai, 'and bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.'

Jer 29:15 "You say that Adonai has raised up prophets for you in Bavel.

Jer 29:16 But here is what Adonai says about the king occupying David's throne and about all the people living in this city, your kinsmen who did not go into exile with you—

Jer 29:17 thus says Adonai-Tzva'ot: 'I will attack them with sword, famine and plague; I will make them like bad figs, so bad they are inedible.

Jer 29:18 I will pursue them with sword, famine and plague and make them an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth; and they will bring on themselves cursing,

astonishment, ridicule and reproach among all the nations where I have driven them;

Jer 29:19 because they have not paid attention to my words,' says Adonai, 'which I sent to them through my servants the prophets. I sent them frequently, but you refused to listen,' says Adonai.

Jer 29:20 "So pay attention now to the word of Adonai, all of you in exile, whom I sent away from Yerushalayim to Bavel.

Jer 29:21 Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says about Ach'av the son of Kolayah and Tzidkiyahu the son of Ma`aseiyah, who prophesy lies to you in my name: 'I will hand them over to N'vukhadretzar king of Bavel, and he will put them to death before your eyes.

Jer 29:22 In fact, all those exiled from Y'hudah who are in Bavel will take up this formula for cursing: "May Adonai make you like Tzidkiyahu and Ach'av, whom the king of Bavel roasted in the fire!"

Jer 29:23 because they have done vile things in Isra'el, committing adultery with their neighbors' wives and speaking words in my name, falsely, which I did not order them to say. For I am he who knows; I am witness to this,' says Adonai.

Yet, when that time had been satisfied, and the decree had been made to return, to rebuild, to reinhabit the land, there is a reunion between Adonai and His people, a Reunion between Adonai's Word and the people...

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 8:4 `Ezra the Torah-teacher stood on a wood platform which they had made for the purpose; beside him on his right stood Mattityah, Shema, `Anayah, Uriyah, Hilkiyah and Ma`aseiyah; while on his left were P'dayah, Misha'el, Malkiyah, Hashum, Hashbadanah, Z'kharyah and Meshulam.

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 8:7 The L'vi'im Yeshua, Bani, Sherevyah, Yamin, `Akuv, Shabtai, Hadiyah, Ma`aseiyah, K'lita, `Azaryah, Yozavad, Hanan and P'layah explained the Torah to the people, while the people remained in their places.

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.

Confronted by the very words of Torah that would predict the nation would go into exile among the nations, causing them to grieve and thus recognize their transgression against the word of Adonai, let to this instruction...don't weep, don't mourn because of your sin, but be joyful as commanded in Deuteronomy coming into this final road, appointed time.

Neh 8:10 Then he said to them, "Go, eat rich food, drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those who can't provide for themselves; for today is consecrated to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy of Adonai is your strength."

Neh 8:11 In this way the L'vi'im quieted the people, as they said, "Be quiet, for today is holy; don't be sad."

Neh 8:12 Then the people went off to eat, drink, send portions and celebrate; because they had understood the words that had been proclaimed to them.

Feast of Booths Celebrated

Neh 8:13 On the second day, the heads of fathers' clans of all the people assembled with the cohanim and L'vi'im before `Ezra the Torah-teacher to study the words of the Torah.

Neh 8:14 They found written in the Torah that Adonai had ordered through Moshe that the people of Isra'el were to live in sukkot during the feast of the seventh month;

Neh 8:15 and that they were to announce and pass the word in all their cities and in Yerushalayim, "Go out to the mountains, and collect branches of olives, wild olives, myrtles, palms, and other leafy trees to make sukkot, as prescribed."

Neh 8:16 So the people went out, brought them and made sukkot for themselves, each one on the roof of his house, also in their courtyards, in the courtyards of the house of God, in the open space by the Water Gate and in the open space by the Efrayim Gate.

Neh 8:17 The entire community of those who had returned from the exile made sukkot and lived in the sukkot, for the people of Isra'el had not done this since the days of Yeshua the son of Nun. So there was very great joy.

Neh 8:18 Also they read every day, from the first day until the last day, in the scroll of the Torah of God. They kept the feast for seven days; then on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

The essence found in Sha'ul's letter to believers in Rome...

Rom 12:1 I exhort you, therefore, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer yourselves as a sacrifice, living and set apart for God. This will please him; it is the logical "Temple worship" for you.

Rom 12:2 In other words, do not let yourselves be conformed to the standards of the `olam hazeh. Instead, keep letting yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds; so that you will know what God wants and will agree that what he wants is good, satisfying and able to succeed.