

Notes: September 9, 2018

Start: 7 PM

## Order of service: Rosh Hashanah

Introduction: Promises Made

Adonai is a promise maker and a promise keeper. Tonight I want to look at a few of the promises He has made.

First...what is a promise?

It is a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.

In the case of Adonai it is both.

He has stated that He will do many things.

He told Noah that He would never again flood the earth.

**Gen 9:14** Whenever I bring clouds over the earth, and the rainbow is seen in the cloud;

**Gen 9:15** I will remember my covenant which is between myself and you and every living creature of any kind; and the water will never again become a flood to destroy all living beings.

Notice, this promise is not just made with mankind, but with every living creature Adonai created.

A promise made.

Likewise, Adonai would choose a man named Avram...

**Gen 12:1** Now Adonai said to Avram, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.

**Gen 12:2** I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing.

**Gen 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

for whom Adonai would make many promises to him.

- I will make you a great nation
- I will bless you
- I will make your name great
- I will bless those who bless you
- I will curse anyone who curses you.
- All the families of the earth will be blessed by you.

Let's look at these promises briefly...

- Through Avram seed the nation Israel came forth. A great nation not in size but in importance and responsibility. Adonai would establish a deep covenantal relationship with Israel, unique to Israel, this nation would be a light to every other nation
- Avram was blessed in many ways, first by the relationship Adonai would establish with him. He would also be blessed in wealth.
- To this day, we still speak of Avinu Avraham. If that were not enough, Islam also recognizes Avraham as the father of their people. Then you have the Christian faith whose origin is Israel and is also revered.

□ All the families of the earth will be blessed by you.

Let's look at this further. How would all the families of the earth be blessed by this one man. This is where the promises of Adonai take center stage. The promises made by Adonai as recorded in Genesis 12:1 – 3 are general in nature, but no less important. Genesis 12 is ground zero for Adonai's promise to Avram. Although generic in presentation, it would be the foundation for which Adonai would build out His promises to Avram.

At this time Avram was 75

The next phase of the promise build out is Genesis 15...

After rescuing Lot, during the “war of the Kings”, Adonai came to Avram in a vision...

**Gen 15:1** Some time later the word of Adonai came to Avram in a vision: "Don't be afraid, Avram. I am your protector; your reward will be very great."

For which Avram replied to Adonai...

**Gen 15:2** Avram replied, "Adonai, God, what good will your gifts be to me if I continue childless; and Eli`ezer from Dammeseq inherits my possessions?"

In essence, how will I be a great nation if I have no child of my own? Ultimately rationalizing “my servant will inherit everything”

**Gen 15:3** You haven't given me a child," Avram continued, "so someone born in my house will be my heir."

To which Adonai responded...

**Gen 15:4** But the word of Adonai came to him: "This man will not be your heir. No, your heir will be a child from your own body."

**Gen 15:5** Then he brought him outside and said, "Look up at the sky, and count the stars — if you can count them! Your descendants will be that many!"

**Gen 15:6** He believed in Adonai, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Yet, there was something new about this iteration of the covenant...land,

**Gen 15:18** That day Adonai made a covenant with Avram: "I have given this land to your descendants — from the Vadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River —

**Gen 15:19** the territory of the Keni, the K'nizi, the Kadmoni,

**Gen 15:20** the Hitti, the P'rizi, the Refa'im,

**Gen 15:21** the Emori, the Kena`ani, the Girgashi and the Y'vusi."

In order to be a great nation, land is required. Promised land. Promise made.

Note that this was prior to Yishmael being born, whose birth would occur in Genesis 16. At that time Avram was 86.

Then we jump ahead many years from Genesis 15 to when now Avram is 99 years old. Twenty-four years after Adonai makes these initial promises that are recognized as the Avrahamic covenant.

**Gen 17:1** When Avram was 99 years old Adonai appeared to Avram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai [*God Almighty*]. Walk in my presence and be pure-hearted.

**Gen 17:2** I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will increase your numbers greatly."

**Gen 17:3** Avram fell on his face, and God continued speaking with him:

**Gen 17:4** "As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations.

24 years later Avram hears the promises reiterated again. Yet, like what was documented in Genesis 15, whereby land was promised, another important element to this covenant would be revealed by Adonai...

**Gen 17:17** At this Avraham fell on his face and laughed — he thought to himself, "Will a child be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah give birth at ninety?"

**Gen 17:18** Avraham said to God, "If only Yishma`el could live in your presence!"

**Gen 17:19** God answered, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you are to call him Yitz'chak [*laughter*]. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

**Gen 17:20** But as for Yishma`el, I have heard you. I have blessed him. I will make him fruitful and give him many descendants. He will father twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

**Gen 17:21** But I will establish my covenant with Yitz'chak, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year."

**Gen 17:22** With that, God finished speaking with Avraham and went up from him.

So, the revelation of the Promise to Avraham is now complete.

What's next?

A test from Adonai that would either destroy Avraham or strengthen him...

**Gen 22:1** After these things, God tested Avraham. He said to him, "Avraham!" and he answered, "Here I am."

**Gen 22:2** He said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Yitz'chak; and go to the land of Moriyah. There you are to offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will point out to you."

Offer his son as a burnt offering!!!

Avraham is no older than 137 when Adonai instructs him to offer Yitz'chak, thus making Yitz'chak no older than 37.

How do we know this...Read Genesis 23:1 – Sarah died when she was 127, thus putting a limit of how old Yitz'chak would be here.

Upon hearing this, Avraham does as Adonai instructs him to do...

**Gen 22:3** Avraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with Yitz'chak his son. He cut the wood for the burnt offering, departed and went toward the place God had told him about.

**Gen 22:4** On the third day, Avraham raised his eyes and saw the place in the distance.

It would be a three day journey to the mountain.

Consider Avraham's experience with Adonai. One who keeps His word in everything He does. So, when Adonai says offer your son, in Avraham's eyes, it is a "done deal"

For three days, in the eyes of Avraham, Yitz'chak is already dead.

**Gen 22:5** Avraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go there, worship and return to you."

Yet his response to those who accompanied them were not words of despair, but words of hope.

Did Avraham believe in the resurrection as did David? Remember this question for a moment...

Avraham would continue on and obediently do as Adonai had commanded...

**Gen 22:6** Avraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on Yitz'chak his son. Then he took in his hand the fire and the knife, and they both went on together.

**Gen 22:7** Yitz'chak spoke to Avraham his father: "My father?" He answered, "Here I am, my son." He said, "I see the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

**Gen 22:8** Avraham replied, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son"; and they both went on together.

**Gen 22:9** They came to the place God had told him about; and Avraham built the altar there, set the wood in order, bound Yitz'chak his son and laid him on the altar, on the wood.

**Gen 22:10** Then Avraham put out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

**Gen 22:11** But the angel of Adonai called to him out of heaven: "Avraham? Avraham!" He answered, "Here I am."

The writer of Hebrews conveys the following...

**Heb 11:17** By trusting, Avraham, when he was put to the test, offered up Yitz'chak as a sacrifice. Yes, he offered up his only son, he who had received the promises,

**Heb 11:18** to whom it had been said, "What is called your 'seed' will be in Yitz'chak."

**Heb 11:19** For he had concluded that God could even raise people from the dead! And, figuratively speaking, he did so receive him.

So, if the three days leading up to Avraham offering Yitz'chak was death,

**Gen 22:12** He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy! Don't do anything to him! For now I know that you are a man who fears God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

**Gen 22:13** Avraham raised his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in the bushes by its horns. Avraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son.

**Gen 22:14** Avraham called the place Adonai Yir'eh [*Adonai will see (to it), Adonai provides*] — as it is said to this day, "On the mountain Adonai is seen."

This is what is read in the Synagogues on Rosh Hashanah...

"Remember unto us, *Adonai* our God, the covenant, the loving-kindness and the oath which you swore to Avraham our father on Mount Moriah. May the binding (*'akedah*) with which Avraham our father bound his son Yitzchak on the altar appear before you, how he overcame his compassion in order to do your will with a perfect heart."

It is highly appropriate that the *'Akedah* should be remembered at this season, when Jewish people are concerned with sin and its punishment, death, as symbolized by sacrifices (see, for example, the *Un'tanneh Tokef* prayer quoted in [Heb 9:22](#)). Indeed, Rashi comments on [Gen 22:14](#) (on "this day"),

"The Lord will see this *'akedah* to forgive Israel every year and rescue them from trouble; so that it will be said, 'On this day' in all coming generations, 'on the mountain of the Lord is seen' the ashes of Yitzchak heaped up and serving for atonement."

Promises made by Adonai to Avraham.

Thus we look at the promises made by Adonai through Yeshua and His return...

The Promise of Rosh Hashanah – Yom T'ruah

What is the Promise???

The promise of His return...

**Mat 24:3** When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the talmidim came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that you are coming, and that the `olam hazeh (this world) is ending?"

**Act 1:9** After saying this, he was taken up before their eyes; and a cloud hid him from their sight.

**Act 1:10** As they were staring into the sky after him, suddenly they saw two men dressed in white standing next to them.

**Act 1:11** The men said, "You Galileans! Why are you standing, staring into space? This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, will come back to you in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Prophets foretold of Messiah's return...

**Joe 2:31 (3:4)** The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai."

**Joe 2:32 (3:5)** At that time, whoever calls on the name of Adonai will be saved. For in Mount Tziyon and Yerushalayim there will be those who escape, as Adonai has promised; among the survivors will be those whom Adonai has called.

**Dan 7:13** "I kept watching the night visions, when I saw, coming with the clouds of heaven, someone like a son of man. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence.

**Dan 7:14** To him was given rulership, glory and a kingdom, so that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him. His rulership is an eternal rulership that will not pass away; and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

**Mat 24:29** "But immediately following the trouble of those times, the sun will grow dark, the moon will stop shining, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in heaven will be shaken.

**Mat 24:30** "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, all the tribes of the Land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with tremendous power and glory.

**Mat 24:31** He will send out his angels with a great shofar; and they will gather together his chosen people from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

There is another Promise for this time...

The Promise of the Second Resurrection...

**1Th 4:13** Now, brothers, we want you to know the truth about those who have died; otherwise, you might become sad the way other people

**1Th 4:14** do who have nothing to hope for. For since we believe that Yeshua died and rose again, we also believe that in the same way God, through Yeshua, will take with him those who have died.

**1Th 4:15** When we say this, we base it on the Lord's own word: we who remain alive when the Lord comes will certainly not take precedence over those who have died.

**1Th 4:16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God's shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise;

**1Th 4:17** then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.

**1Th 4:18** So encourage each other with these words.

Could it be the same thing Avraham believed in when walking Yitzchak to Mount Moriah?

Upon His return, the dead in Messiah will rise first. The promised resurrection

The T'ruah leads to the second resurrection as the Passover Season brought forth the first Resurrection of Yeshua and His offering.