

Notes: October 7, 2023

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.

Yesterday being Hoshana Rabba and today Shemini Atzeret, the eighth day and defined by Scripture as a holy convocation...

Lev 23:36 For seven days you are to bring an offering made by fire to Adonai; on the eighth day you are to have a holy convocation and bring an offering made by fire to Adonai ; it is a day of public assembly; do not do any kind of ordinary work.

This year as we rejoice, just as we do on Passover, our joy is tempered slightly given what is transpiring as we come together on this day. There is war in the land, unprovoked attack just as there was 50 years ago with Egypt and Syria attacking Israel at Sinai and Golan respectively. The beginning of the Yom Kippur war, lasting through October 25th. This attack too, came unexpectedly for which...

Ron Cantor conveys..."We are in shock. We are in tears. How could we not see this coming? How could our intelligence be so bad."

Times of Israel's David Horwitz writes, "'A colossal failure' as Gaza's Hamas terrorists infiltrate, catch Israel unprepared."

To understand it in greater detail I have provided two links...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/01/the-next-days-were-hell-how-the-yom-kippur-war-realigned-the-middle-east>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War

When we waved the Lulav last Shabbat we recognized that Adonai is everywhere and though Israel was not expecting such an attack, Adonai was. For Yeshua conveyed to His talmidim this response when he was asked...

Mat 24:1 As Yeshua left the Temple and was going away, his talmidim came and called his attention to its buildings.

Mat 24:2 But he answered them, "You see all these? Yes! I tell you, they will be totally destroyed—not a single stone will be left standing!"

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 is ending?"

As part of His response, Yeshua conveyed...

Mat 24:6 You will hear the noise of wars nearby and the news of wars far off; see to it that

you don't become frightened. Such things must happen, but the end is yet to come.

Mat 24:7 For peoples will fight each other, nations will fight each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various parts of the world;

Mat 24:8 all this is but the beginning of the 'birth-pains.'

Adonai having reestablished the nation of Israel in 1948 was not taken by surprise but remains faithful to the Covenant He has made with His people.

It is Him and Him alone who has scattered the children from the land, and thus it is only Him who can bring them back...

Deu 30:5 Adonai your God will bring you back into the land your ancestors possessed, and you will possess it; he will make you prosper there, and you will become even more numerous than your ancestors.

We are reminded of these promises because we are made aware of them because we do Study Torah. We need to continue to pray for Israel as Psalm 122 conveys...

Psa 122:1 [*A song of ascents. By David:*] I was glad when they said to me, "The house of Adonai! Let's go!"

Psa 122:2 Our feet were already standing at your gates, Yerushalayim.

Psa 122:3 Yerushalayim, built as a city fostering friendship and unity.

Psa 122:4 The tribes have gone up there, the tribes of Adonai, as a witness to Isra'el, to give thanks to the name of Adonai.

Psa 122:5 For there the thrones of justice were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Psa 122:6 Pray for shalom in Yerushalayim; may those who love you prosper.

Psa 122:7 May shalom be within your ramparts, prosperity in your palaces.

Psa 122:8 For the sake of my family and friends, I say, "Shalom be within you!"

Psa 122:9 For the sake of the house of Adonai our God, I will seek your well-being.

It is on this day, where war has been declared in the land that we pray for the nation's safety and Adonai's sovereignty towards His people and the covenant He has made. Just as Moshe did after the Golden Calf...

Exo 32:11 Moshe pleaded with Adonai his God. He said, "Adonai, why must your anger blaze against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a strong hand?"

Exo 32:12 Why let the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intentions that he led them out, to slaughter them in the hills and wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger! Relent! Don't bring such disaster on your people!

Exo 32:13 Remember Avraham, Yitz'chak and Isra'el, your servants, to whom you swore by your very self. You promised them, 'I will make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky; and I will give all this land I have spoken about to your descendants; and they will possess it forever.' "

We too offer this pray of petition. Consider Isaiah 54...

Isa 54:1 "Sing, barren woman who has never had a child! Burst into song, shout for joy, you who have never been in labor! For the deserted wife will have more children than the woman who is living with her husband," says Adonai.

Isa 54:2 Enlarge the space for your tent, extend the curtains of your dwelling; do not hold back, lengthen your cords, make your tent pegs firm.

Isa 54:3 For you will spread out to the right and the left, your descendants will possess the nations and inhabit the desolated cities.

Isa 54:4 Don't be afraid, for you won't be ashamed; don't be discouraged, for you won't be disgraced. You will forget the shame of your youth, no longer remember the dishonor of being widowed.

Isa 54:5 For your husband is your Maker, Adonai-Tzva'ot is his name. The Holy One of Isra'el is your Redeemer. He will be called the God of all the earth.

Isa 54:6 For Adonai has called you back like a wife abandoned and grief-stricken; "A wife married in her youth cannot be rejected," says your God.

Isa 54:7 "Briefly I abandoned you, but with great compassion I am taking you back.

Isa 54:8 I was angry for a moment and hid my face from you; but with everlasting grace I will have compassion on you," says Adonai your Redeemer.

Isa 54:9 "For me this is like Noach's flood. Just as I swore that no flood like Noach's would ever again cover the earth, so now I swear that never again will I be angry with you or rebuke you.

Isa 54:10 For the mountains may leave and the hills be removed, but my grace will never leave you, and my covenant of peace will not be removed," says Adonai, who has compassion on you.

Isa 54:11 "Storm-ravaged [*city*], unconsoled, I will set your stones in the finest way, lay your foundations with sapphires,

Isa 54:12 make your windows shine with rubies, your gates with garnet, your walls with gemstones.

Isa 54:13 All your children will be taught by Adonai; your children will have great peace.

Isa 54:14 In righteousness you will be established, far from oppression, with nothing to fear; far from ruin, for it will not come near you.

Isa 54:15 Any alliance that forms against you will not be my doing; whoever tries to form such an alliance will fall because of you.

Isa 54:16 It is I who created the craftsman who blows on the coals and forges weapons suited to their purpose; I also created the destroyer to work havoc.

Isa 54:17 No weapon made will prevail against you. In court you will refute every accusation. The servants of Adonai inherit all this; the reward for their righteousness is from me," says Adonai.

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 (י ה ו ה) [*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. We explored the themes of Torah and discovered the depth by which Adonai has revealed His Word to us. What appeared to be random musing of Adonai were proven to be intricately woven themes providing us, His reader with a deeper context that enabled us to draw the ultimate conclusion leading to Yeshua, Messiah, the anointed one who would ultimately redeem His people.

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" 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?

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

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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?

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.

It is because we have embraced Torah and study it that we have greater certainty in our

lives. We have come to understand our purpose and His purpose for us. We have come to know the Will of God because He has revealed His will to us through His Word. Torah is the foundation of our Faith and Yeshua the Cornerstone.

We rejoice in Torah and the giver of it for all these reasons. It has been given to the Jewish people to be stewards of and thus to share with the world. To be a light to the nations. Let us continue to do so, if not moreso given what has transpired this Shabbat, the attack against Israel and the Jewish people and ultimately Adonai.

The nations surrounding Israel will attack...

Psa 83:1 [A song. A psalm of Asaf:] God, don't remain silent! Don't stay quiet, God, or still;

Psa 83:2 because here are your enemies, causing an uproar; those who hate you are raising their heads,

Psa 83:3 craftily conspiring against your people, consulting together against those you treasure.

Psa 83:4 They say, "Come, let's wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Isra'el be remembered no more!"

Psa 83:5 With one mind they plot their schemes; the covenant they have made is against you—

Psa 83:6 the tents of Edom and the Yishma`elim, Mo'av and the Hagrim,

Psa 83:7 G'val, `Amon and `Amalek, P'leshet with those living in Tzor; (Selah)

Psa 83:8 Ashur too is allied with them, to reinforce the descendants of Lot.

Psa 83:9 Do to them as you did to Midyan, to Sisra and Yavin at Vadi Kishon—

Psa 83:10 they were destroyed at `Ein-Dor and became manure for the ground.

Psa 83:11 Make their leaders like `Orev and Ze'ev, all their princes like Zevach and Tzalmuna,

Psa 83:12 who said, "Let's take possession of God's meadows for ourselves."

Psa 83:13 My God, make them like whirling dust, like chaff driven by the wind.

Psa 83:14 Like fire burning up the forest, like a flame that sets the mountains ablaze,

Psa 83:15 drive them away with your storm, terrify them with your tempest.

Psa 83:16 Fill their faces with shame, so that they will seek your name, Adonai.

Psa 83:17 Let them be ashamed and fearful forever; yes, let them perish in disgrace.

Psa 83:18 Let them know that you alone, whose name is Adonai, are the Most High over all the earth.

Be reassured by Adonai that He is never taken by surprise and is fully aware of all that has happened and will happen.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

Joh 1:3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing made had being.

Joh 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.

Joh 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not suppressed it.

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God whose name was Yochanan.

Joh 1:7 He came to be a testimony, to bear witness concerning the light; so that through him, everyone might put his trust in God and be faithful to him.

Joh 1:8 He himself was not that light; no, he came to bear witness concerning the light.

Joh 1:9 This was the true light, which gives light to everyone entering the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world—the world came to be through him—yet the world did not know him.

Joh 1:11 He came to his own homeland, yet his own people did not receive him.

Joh 1:12 But to as many as did receive him, to those who put their trust in his person and power, he gave the right to become children of God,

Joh 1:13 not because of bloodline, physical impulse or human intention, but because of God.

Joh 1:14 The Word became a human being and lived with us, and we saw his Sh'khinah, the Sh'khinah of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.