

Notes: Shabbat – July 19, 2014

Start: 10 am

Order of Service:

Meet and Greet
Liturgy – Ma Tovv
Introduction (if new people)
Liturgy – Sh'ma
Announcements
Prayer
Praise Reports
Praise and Worship Songs
Message
Aaronic Blessing
Kiddush
Oneg

Introduction: Spiritual Condition

Last week

Keeping in mind that people comprise congregations and people lead congregations. There is a Spiritual element within each congregation.

Just because you are attending doesn't make you Spiritually mature. Application of what you receive needs to be applied to your life.

Sometimes we go through the motions when we have been doing it for awhile:

“The Torah Parshah again!”

“Passover again”

What we must understand about Adonai and what traditional Judaism embraces is the cyclical nature of His creation.

Time forever moves forward, never to return to the past.

However, time is comprised of cycles:

- The seasons are a cycle – There are four seasons in one cycle, or one year to where once the cycle is complete everything starts over.
- Within the seasons are cycles themselves – The growing season begins in the spring, matures in the summer, is harvested in the fall and rests in the winter
- Within the growing season there are cycles – there is the first harvest in spring, the second harvest in summer and the third harvest in fall.
- Within the yearly cycle there is a weekly cycle
- Within the weekly cycle there is a daily cycle
- On a larger scale, there are 7 and 50 year cycles

Within these cycles humans have their own cycle, known as the cycle of life

We as a congregation recognize these seasonal cycles that include:

- The weekly cycle that ends with Shabbat – our time of gathering

As I had mentioned last week, Shabbat is more than just a day of rest, but also includes a gathering of people that is set apart by Adonai. It is a time that is special because Adonai blessed this day and He Himself rested to enjoy the fruits of His labor

- The three Pilgrim Festivals-*Pesach* (Passover), *Shavu'ot* (Weeks, Pentecost) and *Sukkot* (Tabernacles)
- *Rosh-HaShanah* (New Year), *Yom-Kippur* (Day of Atonement),
- *Chanukkah* (Dedication, Lights), *Purim* (Lots) and other minor festivals and fasts.
- The **years** are the Sabbatical Year (every seven years), the Jubilee Year (every fifty years)
- Other years related to tithing; and there may be reference to the life
- Events of *milah* (circumcision), *pidyon-haben* (dedication of the firstborn son), marriage and the ceremonies related to death. See also.

But when Gentiles observe these Jewish holidays neither out of joy in sharing what God has given the Jewish people nor out of spiritual identification with them, but out of fear induced by Judaizers who have convinced them that unless they do these things, God will not accept them, then they are not obeying the *Torah* but subjugating themselves to legalism; and legalism is just another species of **those weak and miserable elemental demonic spirits**, no better than the idols left behind.

Gal 4:7 So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if you are a son you are also an heir.

Gal 4:8 In the past, when you did not know God, you served as slaves beings which in reality are non-gods.

Gal 4:9 But now you do know God, and, more than that, you are known by God. So how is it that you turn back again to those weak and miserable elemental spirits? Do you want to enslave yourselves to them once more?

Gal 4:10 You observe special days, months, seasons and years!

Gal 4:11 I fear for you that my work among you has been wasted!

Spiritual Condition of congregations.

So, when we look at the letters to the Messianic communities in Revelation what can we glean?

Like the days of creation in Genesis 1, the seven letters of chapters 2-3 to the Messianic communities named in **Rev 1:11** share a common form.

Rev 1:11 saying, "Write down what you see on a scroll, and send it to the seven Messianic communities — Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea!"

In Genesis we see the structure as follows:

1. Adonai said:
2. Adonai made:
3. Adonai called, put: He did something with what He had created
4. So there was evening, and there was morning

However, unlike the first six days, Adonai did not do the same as He would do on the seventh day...

Last week I talked about the Sabbath not just being a day of rest but also a holy gathering.

Gen 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, along with everything in them.

Gen 2:2 On the seventh day God was finished with his work which he had made, so he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Gen 2:3 God blessed the seventh day and separated it as holy; because on that day God rested from all his work which he had created, so that it itself could produce.

Regarding the congregations mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3, each commences with:

- "Here is the message from,"
- Followed by a characterization of Yeshua the Messiah based on specifics found in **Rev 1:12-18**.

- Next the congregation is praised for its virtues (except Laodicea) and warned about its faults (except Smyrna and Philadelphia).
- Yeshua then gives promises of good things, especially to "those winning the victory"

Rev 2:1 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Ephesus, write: 'Here is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven gold menorahs:

Rev 2:2 "I know what you have been doing, how hard you have worked, how you have persevered, and how you can't stand wicked people; so you tested those who call themselves emissaries but aren't — and you found them to be liars.

Rev 2:3 You are persevering, and you have suffered for my sake without growing weary.

Enduring spiritual attacks on a daily basis, let alone the grind that is the cycle of life can cause a depletion of one's Spiritual exuberance.

Yeshua has this against the congregation at Ephesus:

Rev 2:4 But I have this against you: you have lost the love you had at first.

You have endured the battle, you have suffered and not grown weary, but...

What is Yeshua referring to here?

I would say it has nothing to do with an emotional feeling, but rather a zeal and passion that comes from Adonai,

When we look at someone like Moshe he had a zeal, a passion for Adonai:

- He followed Him faithfully
- He defended His reputation
- He would speak to Him directly, as one would speak to a loved one

Looking at Moshe's life summarized in Hebrews 11:

Heb 11:24 By trusting, Moshe, after he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Heb 11:25 He chose being mistreated along with God's people rather than enjoying the passing pleasures of sin.

Heb 11:26 He had come to regard abuse suffered on behalf of the Messiah as greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he kept his eyes fixed on the reward.

Heb 11:27 By trusting, he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered as one who sees the unseen.

Heb 11:28 By trusting, he obeyed the requirements for the Pesach, including the smearing of the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Isra'el.

Heb 11:29 By trusting, they walked through the Red Sea as through dry land; when the Egyptians tried to do it, the sea swallowed them up.

Yet, even he too grew weary, which led to an action that would relinquish a promise. Moshe's forward movement was hampered by his transgression.

Yet even enduring this setback, he endured Adonai's judgment and remains an example for all of us...

As the writer of Hebrews reminds us...

Heb 12:1 So then, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us, too, put aside every impediment — that is, the sin which easily hampers our forward movement — and keep running with endurance in the contest set before us,

Heb 12:2 looking away to the Initiator and Completer of that trusting, Yeshua — who, in exchange for obtaining the joy set before him, endured execution on a stake as a criminal, scorning the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Rev 2:5 Therefore, remember where you were before you fell, turn from this sin, and do what you used to do before.

Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place — if you don't turn from your sin!

Yeshua is calling this loss a sin.

He is telling them to turn from your sin, t'shuvah (repent and return to Adonai, what the KJV calls “your first love”

Rev 2:6 But you have this in your favor: you hate what the Nicolaitans do — I hate it too.

Nicolaitans. A heretical sect which encouraged idolatry and sexual sin

Rev 2:7 Those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him winning the victory I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in God's Gan-`Eden." '

Eating from the Tree of Life is an idiom which means receiving eternal life.

Speaking to His talmadim, Yeshua warns in Matthew 10:22

Mat 10:22 Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever holds out till the end will be preserved from harm.

You are going to go through much, because of Me and the belief you have in Me and the Message you are conveying

The one's that endure until the end...

Heb 6:9 Now even though we speak this way, dear friends, we are confident that you have the better things that come with being delivered.

Heb 6:10 For God is not so unfair as to forget your work and the love you showed for him in your past service to his people — and in your present service too.

Heb 6:11 However, we want each one of you to keep showing the same diligence right up to the end, when your hope will be realized;

Heb 6:12 so that you will not become sluggish, but will be imitators of those who by their trust and patience are receiving what has been promised.

This world, a shadow of its once pristine self can suck the life out of you. With daily cares and spiritual warfare, believers are inundated and potentially overwhelmed.

When one becomes overwhelmed, it can lead to depression and anxiety. It opens the door to transgression because we are weakened.

No congregation is immune to attacks, to becoming complacent.

What are we to do?

1Co 15:30 For that matter, we ourselves — why do we keep facing danger hour by hour?

1Co 15:31 Brothers, by the right to be proud which the Messiah Yeshua our Lord gives me, I solemnly tell you that I die every day.

1Co 15:32 If my fighting with "wild beasts" in Ephesus was done merely on a human basis, what do I gain by it? If dead people are not raised, we might as well live by the saying, "Let's eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" (Isaiah 22:13)

1Co 15:33 Don't be fooled. "Bad company ruins good character."

1Co 15:34 Come to your senses! Live righteously and stop sinning! There are some people who lack knowledge of God — I say this to your shame.

Sha'ul references the challenges in Ephesus to the congregation in Corinth.

“There are some people who lack knowledge of God — I say this to your shame.”

Not having knowledge of Adonai, Sha'ul considers to be one's own shame.

It is not because you are lacking in opportunity, but you are not pursuing, seeking,

No one here should have any excuse for not knowing Adonai's knowledge...

We do this through being renewed daily.

Sha'ul says we are to die to self each day;

Isaiah talking of Yeshua:

Isa 11:1 But a branch will emerge from the trunk of Yishai, a shoot will grow from his roots.

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of Adonai will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fearing Adonai —

Isa 11:3 he will be inspired by fearing Adonai. He will not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

Isa 11:4 but he will judge the impoverished justly; he will decide fairly for the humble of the land. He will strike the land with a rod from his mouth and slay the wicked with a breath from his lips.

Pro 1:7 The fear of Adonai is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Pro 1:29 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of Adonai,

Pro 1:30 they refused my counsel and despised my reproof.

Pro 1:31 So they will bear the consequences of their own way and be overfilled with their own schemes.

Pro 2:1 My son, if you will receive my words and store my commands inside you,

Pro 2:2 paying attention to wisdom inclining your mind toward understanding —

Pro 2:3 yes, if you will call for insight and raise your voice for discernment,

Pro 2:4 if you seek it as you would silver and search for it as for hidden treasure —

Pro 2:5 then you will understand the fear of Adonai and find knowledge of God.

Pro 9:7 "He who corrects a scoffer only gets insulted; reproving a wicked man becomes his blemish.

Pro 9:8 If you reprove a scoffer, he will hate you; if you reprove a wise man, he will love you.

Pro 9:9 Give to a wise man, and he grows still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will learn still more.

Pro 9:10 The fear of Adonai is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of holy ones is understanding.

Pro 9:11 For with me, your days will be increased; years will be added to your life.

2Co 4:15 All this is for your sakes, so that as grace flows out to more and more people, it may cause thanksgiving to overflow and bring glory to God.

2Co 4:16 This is why we do not lose courage. Though our outer self is heading for decay, our inner self is being renewed daily.

2Co 4:17 For our light and transient troubles are achieving for us an everlasting glory whose weight is beyond description.

2Co 4:18 We concentrate not on what is seen but on what is not seen, since things seen are temporary, but things not seen are eternal.

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.

Mat 10:21 "A brother will betray his brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against their parents and have them put to death.

Mat 10:22 Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever holds out till the end will be preserved from harm.

As was mentioned in previous scriptures, enduring to the end is your reward. As trampled down as Ephesus was from

the constant barrage of attacks from the enemy, Yeshua encouraged them that their repentance would restore them and their promise.

This is another reason why it is important to be here on a weekly basis.

Can you read scripture at home, most certainly and it is encouraged, but it is no substitute for what we do here.

Last week I emphasized the importance of being together as a congregation. This week I am reemphasizing my stance from last week.

[Mat 16:24](#) Then Yeshua told his talmidim, "If anyone wants to come after me, let him say 'No' to himself, take up his execution-stake, and keep following me.