

Notes: September 29, 2018

Start: 10 AM

**Order of service:**

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tov
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

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: Sukkot – Promises Kept

Law and Order states that their episodes are “ripped from the headlines”. Meaning their stories are based on actual events.

Today, this sermon is “ripped from the headlines” Even though I had conveyed with you prior to Rosh Hashanah that my moadim sermons would be...

Promises Made on Rosh Hashanah

Promises Forfeited on Yom Kippur

Promises Kept on Sukkot

It is amazing how circumstances align to where Adonai can use the most relevant and current events for His purpose.

This past week, a man's credibility was being questioned. It was believed by some that he had lied under oath, before a congressional committee. An accusation serious enough it comes with a penalty of incarceration for up to five years.

The credibility of a man with an exemplary record of public service over the last 25 years was placed in question by the uncorroborated allegations of a few, going back over 30 years. A man who went through a total of six FBI background checks, ultimately revealing nothing in the way of claims that came forth during the confirmation process for the position he was now being considered, Supreme Court Justice of the United States of America.

Of course I am talking of Brett Kavanaugh.

A career of public service, having clerked for Justice Anthony Kennedy of the Supreme Court during the 1993-94 sessions, White House Staff Secretary for the Bush 43 administration as with nary a hint of any questionable conduct.

Then in 2003, his former boss, President Bush 43 nominated him for the position of Judge for the United States Court of Appeals DC Circuit, the second highest court in the land.

A man's credibility has been placed on trial in the court of public opinion.

A quality we tend to look at and judge as being an extremely important quality in those we place in positions of authority and those we place in positions of responsibility, such as Pastor or Rabbi.

Without being considered credible in our words and deeds, undermines our authority as leaders.

To be credible means to be one with the quality of being trusted and believed in.

This is a high standard placed on those in positions of influence and authority. Yet one accusation can erase a lifetime of credibility. A good name can be ruined in the blink of an eye.

I bring up this concept of credibility because it is important in our lives when it comes to others who impact our lives, whether directly or indirectly. We place an enormous level of importance on one's credibility.

“someone harms you and you ultimately forgive them, with some saying I can forgive but I can never forget.” With such a position, the credibility of that person who has been forgiven has not been, and likely can never be restored to its original state. The dynamic has forever changed.

Yet when we look at the totality of a person's “resume”, do we factor in everything?

This is how we look at a person...how do we look at Adonai?

How do we define His credibility?

Depending on what you believe is ultimately how you will define His credibility.

In some cases people define the credibility not by what He does or has done, but by what has happened in their life.

More times than not, Adonai is blamed for what transpires in a person's life, ultimately, leading them to conclude He is not trustworthy because “he allowed something bad in my life to happen” Yet, He is being blamed for something He never promised. In other words an uncorroborated false accusation.

Who is

**Exo 20:2** ⚡ "I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery.

**Exo 20:3** ⚡ "You are to have no other gods before me.

**Exo 20:4** You are not to make for yourselves a carved image or any kind of representation of anything in heaven above, on the earth beneath or in the water below the shoreline.

**Exo 20:5** You are not to bow down to them or serve them; for I, Adonai your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

**Exo 20:6** but displaying grace to the thousandth generation of those who love me and obey my mitzvot.

**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."

Based on what He has revealed about Himself I would use the following words to describe Adonai...

Holy – set apart.

Righteous - morally right or justifiable; virtuous

Adonai is set apart because there is no one who is His equal. There is no one who can be compared to Him.

Adonai is righteous because He in essence defines what morality actually is. We as humans place our own definitions on what we deem to be moral through deeming something to be legal by society's standards. Relative Humanism has ultimately concluded that if something is legal, it is therefore moral. We are living in a time where things are being redefined such as morals, gender and relationships.

The common factor?

All of these things are being redefined to appease the human ego.

So, what are some of the things Adonai does promises...

Moshe conveys the following to Israel as his time for leading them has come to an end and they are preparing to enter the land...

**Deu 31:6** Be strong, be bold, don't be afraid or frightened of them, for Adonai your God is going with you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

and is reiterated by the writer of Hebrews...

**Heb 13:5** Keep your lives free from the love of money; and be satisfied with what you have; for God himself has said, "I will never fail you or abandon you."

The promise initially made to Avraham is the core and foundation for all promises to follow:

**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."

Through this promise, the core and foundation, Adonai has built a dwelling of promises that continue to this day, and beyond...

**Isa 41:8** "But you, Isra'el, my servant; Ya`akov, whom I have chosen, descendants of Avraham my friend,

**Isa 41:9** I have taken you from the ends of the earth, summoned you from its most distant parts and said to you, 'You are my servant' — I have chosen you, not rejected you.

**Isa 41:10** Don't be afraid, for I am with you; don't be distressed, for I am your God. I give you strength, I give you help, I support you with my victorious right hand.

**Mat 28:18** Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

**Mat 28:19** Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh,

**Mat 28:20** and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age."

Yet, as reassuring as these promises are, there are somethings Adonai did not promise...

**Joh 16:33** "I have said these things to you so that, united with me, you may have shalom. In the world, you have tsuris (troubles). But be brave! I have conquered the world!"

He did not promise a perfect life or a life without pain, suffering and troubles. These things do happen, even to Adonai's own, yet it is the promise associated with this reality that is important to embrace...

"But be brave! I have conquered the world!"

On our own this exhortation would seem to be near impossible, in that there are so many things to overcome. For this Yeshua conveys some insight when talking about the birds of the air and the wild irises of the field...

**Mat 6:30** If this is how God clothes grass in the field — which is here today and gone tomorrow, thrown in an oven — won't he much more clothe you? What little trust you have!

**Mat 6:31** "So don't be anxious, asking, 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or 'How will we be clothed?'

**Mat 6:32** For it is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

Adonai knows your needs, so don't worry, but provides this important conclusion...

**Mat 6:33** But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Mat 6:34** Don't worry about tomorrow — tomorrow will worry about itself! Today has enough tsuris (troubles) already!

And in so doing, what did Adonai do?

But to equip you with power from above. A power that will guide you, comfort you and fellowship with you.

After Yeshua's resurrection, He instructs His talmidim as follows:

**Act 1:4** At one of these gatherings, he instructed them not to leave Yerushalayim but to "wait for what the Father promised, which you heard about from me.

What did the Father promise?

**Luk 3:16** so Yochanan answered them all, "I am immersing you in water, but he who is coming is more powerful than I — I'm not worthy to untie his sandals! He will immerse you in the Ruach HaKodesh and in fire.

Through the one who had the spirit of Eliyahu in Him, for Adonai speaks through His Prophets...promised the Ruach HaKodesh.

So, what happened?

**Act 2:1** The festival of Shavu`ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place.

**Act 2:2** Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**Act 2:3** Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them.

**Act 2:4** They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Just one of many promises kept.

Credible---No?

So, if Adonai is faithful in keeping the promises documented throughout His Word, has He given us any reason to believe what He has already done, he won't continue to do.

There are promises that are still waiting to be fulfilled.

It is during this time of Sukkot that we continue to look forward to the promises of Sukkot.

The promise of Adonai residing with us, not temporarily, but permanently...in other words till the end of time commences and Eternity begins again.

A time when all nations will come and worship our King.

**Jer 46:18** "As I live," says the king, whose name is Adonai-Tzva'ot, "when he comes, he will be *[as mighty]* as Tavor among the mountains, as Karmel next to the sea.

**Zec 14:16** Finally, everyone remaining from all the nations that came to attack Yerushalayim will go up every year to worship the king, Adonai-Tzva'ot, and to keep the festival of Sukkot.

**Zec 8:20** "Adonai-Tzva'ot says, 'In the future, peoples and inhabitants of many cities will come;

**Zec 8:21** the inhabitants of one city will travel to another and say, "We must go to ask Adonai's favor and consult Adonai-Tzva'ot. I'll go too."

**Zec 8:22** Yes, many peoples and powerful nations will come to consult Adonai-Tzva'ot in Yerushalayim and to ask Adonai's favor.'

**Zec 8:23** Adonai-Tzva'ot says, 'When that time comes, ten men will take hold — speaking all the languages of the nations — will grab hold of the cloak of a Jew and say, "We want to go with you, because we have heard that God is with you." ' ' "

**Rev 19:11** Next I saw heaven opened, and there before me was a white horse. Sitting on it was the one called Faithful and True, and it is in righteousness that he passes judgment and goes to battle.

**Rev 19:12** His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on his head were many royal crowns. And he had a name written which no one knew but himself.

**Rev 19:13** He was wearing a robe that had been soaked in blood, and the name by which he is called is, "THE WORD OF GOD."

**Rev 19:14** The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

**Rev 19:15** And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations — "He will rule them with a staff of iron." It is he who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of Adonai, God of heaven's armies.

**Rev 19:16** And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

**Psa 24:1** [*By David. A psalm.*] The earth is Adonai's, with all that is in it, the world and those who live there;

**Psa 24:2** for he set its foundations on the seas and established it on the rivers.

**Psa 24:3** Who may go up to the mountain of Adonai? Who can stand in his holy place?

**Psa 24:4** Those with clean hands and pure hearts, who don't make vanities the purpose of their lives or swear oaths just to deceive.

**Psa 24:5** They will receive a blessing from Adonai and justice from God, who saves them.

**Psa 24:6** Such is the character of those who seek him, of Ya`akov, who seeks your face. (Selah)

**Psa 24:7** Lift up your heads, you gates! Lift them up, everlasting doors, so that the glorious king can enter!

**Psa 24:8** Who is he, this glorious king? Adonai, strong and mighty, Adonai, mighty in battle.

**Psa 24:9** Lift up your heads, you gates! Lift them up, everlasting doors, so that the glorious king can enter!

**Psa 24:10** Who is he, this glorious king? Adonai-Tzva'ot - he is the glorious king. (Selah)

I would say, I am not going out on a limb when I say that if Adonai has already made promises and kept them, then to say the promises that are still out there will ultimately be promises kept is not a stretch at all.

Ultimately, Adonai's credibility should be unquestioned by all, in that He has done nothing to impune His character, His reputation. We can't define His credibility by the same standards we assess people's credibility.

Yet, we, the ones who do believe in the character of our God, are the ones who are ultimately the ones who are responsible for conveying His credibility to the world...

**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.

**Luk 24:48** You are witnesses of these things.