

Notes: June 27, 2020

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Jeri - Drash
8. Praise and Worship Songs
9. Message
10. Aaronic Blessing
11. Kiddush
12. 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: Summer of Faith

Would you say that you have been experiencing sensory overload lately? What about information overload?

Since Memorial Day weekend, our already overstressed systems had been dealing with the stress, anxiety and fears of Covid-19 are now expected to contend with protests and its byproducts being labelled as social unrest, systemic racism

Back on June 11th, six blocks of Seattle were taken by protesters, establishing a new sovereign nation known as CHAZ (Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone).

When asked how she was going to respond to what was known as CHAZ (Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone) (now CHOP – Capital Hill Occupation Protest) when referring to it as having a “block party” like atmosphere

Chris Cuomo: How long do you think Seattle in those few blocks looks like this?

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan (D): I don't know. We could have the summer of love!

<https://thepostmillennial.com/seattle-mayor-summer-of-love>

After three shootings with two of them being teenagers, the mayor has now walked back her comments claiming they were said in jest and probably shouldn't have been said to begin with...

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/seattle-mayor-dismantle-chaz>

I believe she got part of it right in that there were most certainly drugs there. However, the flowers were replaced

with guns.

Now, the groups behind the anarchy and chaos wanting to tear down statues providing historical perspective for our nation both good and bad have gone beyond confederate statues. Now included in this litany of statues are those belonging to what has been identified as “white Jesus”

Social justice activist Shaun King has appeared at the center of a hot-button controversy yet again, this time for comments he made on Twitter, saying that statues of Jesus Christ that portray him as a "white European" should be torn down.

"Yes, I think the statues of the white European they claim is Jesus should also come down," he said earlier this week. "They are a form of white supremacy. Always have been. In the Bible, when the family of Jesus wanted to hide, and blend in, guess where they went? EGYPT! Not Denmark. Tear them down."

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/shaun-king-controversies>

Once a Pastor, King resigned from the Courageous Church, citing personal stress and disillusionment. We do not know specifically what he was disillusioned about, causing him to resign from the church he established, however if his most recent comment is any indication we might have an idea.

One might call Shaun King more Activist than Pastor although there is a flock that is following him and hearing his voice, but it is not intended to preach the Gospel. Quite the contrary. Don't be surprised if at some point you hear of another group rearing their ugly heads regarding this matter – that being the Black Hebrew Israelites.

So, I give you a sampling of what has been transpiring.

Why did I do this?

Ultimately, it was to provide you with context, not to stress you out any further than you may already be. But to bring you to a place where we can move forward.

Part of what I am about to share was influenced by the Seattle Mayor's comments about a “Summer of Love”.

Friday, I was in bed contemplating what I was going to share with you today. At this point nothing had really sprung forth. That was until these words appeared in my mind...

“Summer of Faith”

My first thoughts were – What does this mean? What does this look like?

I had immediately correlated it to Mayor Durken's “summer of love” comment.

The first verse that came to my mind was 2 Corinthians 5:7...

2Co 5:7 for we live by trust, not by what we see.

This verse is the end of a passage, offering a conclusion, a statement regarding how we are to live. Here is the full context of the passage

2Co 5:4 Yes, while we are in this body, we groan with the sense of being oppressed: it is not so much that we want to take something off, but rather to put something on over it; so that what must die may be swallowed up by the Life.

2Co 5:5 Moreover, it is God who has prepared us for this very thing, and as a pledge he has given us his Spirit.

2Co 5:6 So we are always confident — we know that so long as we are at home in the body, we are away from our

home with the Lord;
2Co 5:7 for we live by trust, not by what we see.

In its full context Sha'ul is conveying to the Corinthians while we are in this current body, not our incorruptible bodies we are to remain confident in Yeshua. We are to take hold of His words and not let go...no matter what is going on around us.

When Sha'ul wrote this letter to the congregation at Corinth, they were also dealing with sensory overload. You had the dark pagan influences of the culture and the oppressive Roman empire lording over them. Believers were not highly favored in these cultures.

Here is an excerpt from the Complete Jewish Study Bible commentary...

In 1 Corinthians, Sha'ul (Paul) wondered whether the community divided by controversies sided with him, or with other leaders and factions bent on marginalizing him. Would the Corinthians hear him out and invoke needed discipline? By the time he wrote this second letter to the congregation at Corinth in late 56 c.e., matters seem to have been resolved in his favor. Sha'ul was pleased to learn that they had accepted his correction, were remedying deficient situations accordingly, and were again kindly disposed toward him.

The questions that plagued Sha'ul bother all congregational leaders. Leaders are forever disconcerted by contention, abandonment, and incessant critiques. But they are also greeted by offsetting expressions of affection, appreciation, and acceptance. In 2 Corinthians, it is clear that Sha'ul has learned that the Corinthians accept him. But one key question remains: Will they accept the responsibility to stand behind Jewish followers of Yeshua in Isra'el?

A concern that was prominent then but not so much today. A concern so foundational when you read Sha'ul's writings that one must wonder, where and when did it all change. This is a sermon for another day and a topic I have addressed many times.

So in this world we are not to walk by site, even though that is a basic requirement when going from place to place. It is how we navigate, how we assess. Here, Sha'ul is conveying to the reader don't assess your position with Yeshua with that which is going on around you.

Yes, there is chaos going on around us today.

Yes, there is ultimately an attack of our faith that has been further intensified.

How do you avoid your head from spinning and getting dizzy from everything going on today?

Have you ever wondered why when figure skaters spin they don't get dizzy?

Here is an excerpt from an article in Scientific America I want to share with you...

When we spin—on an amusement park ride or the dance floor—we often become disoriented, even dizzy. So how do professional athletes, particularly figure skaters who spin at incredible speeds, avoid losing their balance?

The short answer is training, but to really grasp why figure skaters can twirl without getting dizzy requires an understanding of the vestibular system, the apparatus in our inner ear that helps to keep us upright. This system contains special sensory nerve cells that can detect the speed and direction at which our head moves. These sensors are tightly coupled with our eye movements and with our perception of our body's position and motion through space. For instance, if we rotate our head to the right while our eyes remain focused on an object straight ahead, our eyes naturally move to the left at the same speed. This involuntary response allows us to stay focused on a stationary object.

Spinning is more complicated. When we move our head during a spin, our eyes start to move in the opposite direction but reach their limit before our head completes a full 360-degree turn. So our eyes flick back to a new starting position midspin, and the motion repeats as we rotate. When our head rotation triggers this automatic, repetitive eye movement, called nystagmus, we get dizzy.

Skaters suppress the dizziness by learning how to counteract nystagmus with another type of eye movement, called optokinetic nystagmus. Optokinetic nystagmus occurs in the opposite direction of the nystagmus and allows us to track a moving object—such as a train whizzing by—with our eyes while our head remains in place. As the first few cars of the train move out of view, our eyes jump back to their initial position to follow the next few, and the motion repeats. Skaters can train themselves to engage this opposing eye movement when they rotate to offset the nystagmus and keep the world from spinning.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-don-t-figure-skaters-get-dizzy-when-they-spin/>

Interesting... the vestibular system, the apparatus in our inner ear. Balance is attained through this system in the inner ear. It is contained within our hearing apparatus. So, the dizziness from all that is going on around us can also be traced back to our hearing system.

Just as a figure skater is to train their focus and counter their dizziness, we too will counter the dizzying events of this time with a way for you to focus on the immovable, that being Yeshua.

Call it Spiritual Optokinetic nystagmus

In Yochanan 14, Yeshua makes this statement...

Joh 14:1 "Don't let yourselves be disturbed. Trust in God and trust in me.

Why does He make such a statement? If this is truly sequential, at the end of Chapter 13, In preparation for Passover and with all His talmidim, Yeshua tells Kefa he will deny Him three times. Yeshua is in essence countering Kefa's future action with a seed of faith, planted then to take root, grow and flourish later. That is when light, Yeshua's light will cause it to grow, flourish and produce much fruit.

Yeshua then goes on further, ultimately establishing not just a connection but a union of Echad, complex unity.

Joh 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way — and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

The wordplay of the Rabbi is unmistakable here, yet many miss it. Yet, apparently some missed this connection, namely Phillip when he asked...

Joh 14:8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it will be enough for us."

Joh 14:9 Yeshua replied to him, "Have I been with you so long without your knowing me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Joh 14:10 Don't you believe that I am united with the Father, and the Father united with me? What I am telling you, I am not saying on my own initiative; the Father living in me is doing his own works.

If even His talmidim need further understanding of Yeshua, even in the midst of the many miracles and teaching He had done for the last three years, we ourselves can most certainly benefit from more as well.

The world is known to devour its inhabitants. Today is no different.

Hebrews chapter 10 begins with the following...

Heb 10:1 For the Torah has in it a shadow of the good things to come, but not the actual manifestation of the

originals. Therefore, it can never, by means of the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, bring to the goal those who approach the Holy Place to offer them.

Having concluded chapter 9 and the reality that Yeshua is the ultimate atoning sacrifice, not merely covering but rather absolving us from the wages of sin...death. The writer is expanding on the significance of Yeshua's sacrifice and its relation to Torah. In other words, there is no other sacrifice available. This is it. Don't waste it. Don't neglect it. Don't ignore it. The writer is preparing a context for what the reader is about to convey later on...

I want to share this entire passage from Hebrews.

Heb 10:26 For if we deliberately continue to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Heb 10:27 but only the terrifying prospect of Judgment, of raging fire that will consume the enemies.

Heb 10:28 Someone who disregards the Torah of Moshe is put to death without mercy on the word of two or three witnesses.

Heb 10:29 Think how much worse will be the punishment deserved by someone who has trampled underfoot the Son of God; who has treated as something common the blood of the covenant which made him holy; and who has insulted the Spirit, giver of God's grace!

Heb 10:30 For the One we know is the One who said, "Vengeance is my responsibility; I will repay," and then said, "Adonai will judge his people."

Heb 10:31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!

Heb 10:32 But remember the earlier days, when, after you had received the light, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings.

Heb 10:33 Sometimes you were publicly disgraced and persecuted, while at other times you stood loyally by those who were treated this way.

Heb 10:34 For you shared the sufferings of those who had been put in prison. Also when your possessions were seized, you accepted it gladly; since you knew that what you possessed was better and would last forever.

Heb 10:35 So don't throw away that courage of yours, which carries with it such a great reward.

Heb 10:36 For you need to hold out; so that, by having done what God wills, you may receive what he has promised.

Heb 10:37 For "There is so, so little time! The One coming will indeed come, he will not delay.

Heb 10:38 But the person who is righteous will live his life by trusting, and if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

Heb 10:39 However, we are not the kind who shrink back and are destroyed; on the contrary, we keep trusting and thus preserve our lives!

Our prospects will likely get worse rather than better. The world hates Yeshua and by association hates us also. And yet the writer of Hebrews is telling us don't throw away what you have been given, succumbing to the pressure of the world, when the promise given you is so much greater. Two weeks ago I talked about enduring until the end. This week I am encouraging you to continue to preserve.

How will we preserve?

Just as when bands tour they have a name for their tour, identifying it, thus potentially making it iconic. That is why today, I am introducing...

Kehilah Portland's "Summer of Faith Tour"

On this tour, we will pick up where Hebrews 10:38 leaves off...that being Hebrews 11

Heb 11:1 Trusting is being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.

Heb 11:2 It was for this that Scripture attested the merit of the people of old.

We will tour those past stalwarts of faith. Adonai's Mount Rushmore of Trust. And we won't even have to leave the

gym to do so.

Now, more than ever, you need to delve deep into the canyon of faith, immersing yourself in the rich history of Adonai's people, their struggles but most importantly their failures and triumphs.

This is not a congregation that cancels history, but embraces it.

No need to pack your bags, but rather pack your Bibles because our tour will wind through it.

My desire is that by the end of our tour we reach our destination of immovable faith, absent of doubt and fear. Transcending the climate of our nation and this world with the encouragement as conveyed by the writer of Hebrews...

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