

Notes: July 4, 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 Tour - An Introduction

This Shabbat we begin our Summer of Faith Tour with an introduction as to what to expect. What will this journey look like?

What will we encounter?

Who will we encounter?

Last week was the announcement, This Shabbat it begins with preparing for our journey. Just as you would prepare in advance for any trip, so to, is preparation for this journey.

Faith or Trust is defined by the writer of Hebrews...

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

The very foundation of faith according to the writer of Hebrews who was inspired by Adonai thus making these characteristics Adonai's definition.

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

Faith / Trust requires confidence.

In order to believe with faith and to trust you must be confident.

Confidence eliminates doubt and uncertainty and thus enables the power of faith. At its optimal level, faith can do

what we consider to be the impossible. It can move mountains, it can heal, it can redeem, turning a death sentence into a life sentence.

Right now, given the climate of culture today, doubt and uncertainty have infiltrated the body of Messiah in general. I believe we as a congregation have been infected as well. Adonai's creation of the mind for us can be a blessing but it can also be a curse. Through the mind we have the power to understand the Word of Adonai, to pursue His wisdom, yet we also have the ability to reason whereby we can justify our thoughts and actions...sometimes good, sometimes not so good.

Many that I have talked with are struggling with their confidence. Doubt has been introduced and is establishing uncertainty within us as believers.

Can I Endure?

What if I can't endure?

Hebrews 11:1 conveying of confidence is very specific because the writer is establishing a connection. What is that connection, what are we to be confident in?

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

“...what we hope for”

Hebrews 11:1 is not a new thought but is based on the verses prior...what do we hope for...

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!

Ultimately we hope for the one to come. That is Yeshua, whom the writer of Hebrews has been making the case to the Jewish people in general that there is no other Messiah, Yeshua is the promise of the Prophets. The writer of Hebrews is also encouraging Messianic Jews to be steadfast in their trust, do not cower or “shrink back” to the old system you had faith in. Do not turn away from what has been revealed to you. Do not reason away what Adonai, through His Ruach has revealed to you.

In order for you to have this faith...

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

You must be convinced. (past tense – meaning that you already are)

That is you are completely certain. If you are completely certain what is absent...doubt.

Doubt has no place where faith / trust resides.

“I don't know?” and “I'm not certain.” have no place in the vocabulary of believers in Messiah.

Several of you have come to me expressing concerns of your faith in the face of the cultural dynamics that are appearing today and in light of what Yeshua has expressed of the culture prior to his return....Matthew 24

Mat 24:4 Yeshua replied: "Watch out! Don't let anyone fool you!

Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' and they will lead many astray.

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.'

Mat 24:9 At that time you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and put to death, and all peoples will hate you because of me.

Mat 24:10 At that time many will be trapped into betraying and hating each other,

Mat 24:11 many false prophets will appear and fool many people;

Mat 24:12 and many people's love will grow cold because of increased distance from Torah.

Mat 24:13 But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered.

A revelation of what is to come. At times this revelation of the events to come appear to not only be daunting but overwhelming.

We have to know who the false messiahs are, so we won't be led astray.

We will have to endure not only war but the aspect of war – consider the threats in just the last four years – North Korea, China, Russia, Iran. Constant speculation. Now consider Isra'el's plight...constant rumors that one nation or another will attack. Constant missile launches whereby in just about any other scenario would constitute an act of war. When you fire lethal weapons on someone, this would demand a response. Yet Isra'el has used restraint in their response with targeted responses. Iran has been provoking America and Isra'el with offensive attacks on drones, taking hostages in order to invoke a response.

Yeshua's revelation about wars and rumors of war are just as true today as when He spoke of them. Rome would come to attack Y'hudah beginning in 66 CE and a war / rebellion would last 8 years concluding in 73 CE.

From nation against nation to people against people. This will ultimately lead to betrayal.

There will be false prophets, that is false teachers who will deceive.

Lawlessness, that is abandonment from Adonai's Torah will continue to proliferate.

We are seeing all of these things today. I have spent weeks including examples in past sermons for a reason. That reason was for you to see the climate of our culture today in the context of Scripture.

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

Yet we trust and therefore have been convinced “about things we do not see?”

In coming to accept Yeshua you have been convinced of that which you did not see.

You did not see Him put to death.

You did not see Him appear after His resurrection.

You did not see Him ascend with the promise to return.

Yet you were convinced that He did all these things and have therefore been redeemed.

Your eyes did not see any of this and yet you are convinced (past tense) to follow Him.

So, what has changed now?

Some termole, some tribulation? Scripture is not lax in representing the life by which those who follow Adonai

would live. The world, the nations, many people are against us. It is the narrow path, the narrow gate.

Mat 7:13 "Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it;

Mat 7:14 but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Yet, what you are seeing is introducing doubt where faith cannot reside.

You have become more convinced by what you see and are therefore troubled by the dynamic that has been revealed through culture than you are of what you don't see. Because, what you don't see is what brought you to faith in the first place. It was through your eyes being opened Spiritually and seeing the truth of Adonai, that the only path / gate was that which Yeshua was on...the narrow one. It was through the power of the Ruach ha Kodesh that your Spirit saw, that which you could not physically see. Your redemption.

The descendants of Korach understood this aspect of faith...

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

Psa 42:1 *[For the leader. A maskil of the descendants of Korach:]* Just as a deer longs for running streams, God, I long for you.

Psa 42:2 I am thirsty for God, for the living God! When can I come and appear before God?

Psa 42:3 My tears are my food, day and night, while all day people ask me, "Where is your God?"

Psa 42:4 I recall, as my feelings well up within me, how I'd go with the crowd to the house of God, with sounds of joy and praise from the throngs observing the festival.

Psa 42:5 My soul, why are you so downcast? Why are you groaning inside me? Hope in God, since I will praise him again for the salvation that comes from his presence.

Psa 42:6 My God, when I feel so downcast, I remind myself of you from the land of Yarden, from the peaks of Hermon, from the hill Mizar.

Psa 42:7 Deep is calling to deep at the thunder of your waterfalls; all your surging rapids and waves are sweeping over me.

Psa 42:8 By day Adonai commands his grace, and at night his song is with me as a prayer to the God of my life.

Psa 42:9 I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, under pressure by the enemy?"

Psa 42:10 My adversaries' taunts make me feel as if my bones were crushed, as they ask me all day long, 'Where is your God?' "

Psa 42:11 My soul, why are you so downcast? Why are you groaning inside me? Hope in God, since I will praise him again for being my Savior and God.

Why are you downcast...Hope in God.

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

Has anyone ever seen Adonai and lived?

Joh 1:18 No one has ever seen God; but the only and unique Son, who is identical with God and is at the Father's side — he has made him known.

Deu 4:12 Then Adonai spoke to you out of the fire! You heard the sound of words but saw no shape, there was only a voice.

Ultimately our faith is revealed through the framework of culture. We do not truly know what we can endure unless it is tested.

Yeshua was tested.

Avraham was tested

Moshe was tested.

It is tested by the time and the culture we reside in. Faith is not required in a vacuum absent of trials and tribulation. Faith flourishes when tested. You don't know what the true capacity of your faith is until it is tested to its limits.

Consider a basketball player. In practice, unchallenged can hit 9 out of 10 shots from the three point line. This would be the vacuum. Outside of the vacuum you bring in elements that test their ability. An opponent pressing him with a hand in his face, the pressure of the element of time and other players on the team needing him to execute the shot. Many challenges introduced into his culture whereby pressure, stress not to mention many emotions that further influence our ability are now prominent. A much different scenario than the first.

This can be said about our faith. Until other elements are brought in, we don't truly know the potential of our faith or the limits by which it can be stretched.

Already convinced about Yeshua...here is your first test of faith as revealed by the writer of Hebrews...

Heb 11:3 By trusting, we understand that the universe was created through a spoken word of God, so that what is seen did not come into being out of existing phenomena.

Not everyone is convinced of this simple and yet foundational truth. For this reason, we have Creationism vs. Evolution.

You have been convinced by the Word of Adonai through the power of His Ruach that B'midbar (Genesis) 1 – 2 happened as is conveyed even though you did not see it happen.

And yet, Adonai reveals in His Word, through those He has inspired, confirming this to be true.

Rom 1:20 For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities — both his eternal power and his divine nature — have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made. Therefore, they have no excuse;

Rom 1:21 because, although they know who God is, they do not glorify him as God or thank him. On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened.

One witness alone is not sufficient for anything, whether a trial or a testimony...

Deu 19:15 "One witness alone will not be sufficient to convict a person of any offense or sin of any kind; the matter will be established only if there are two or three witnesses testifying against him.

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

It is for this reason that we will spend the summer exploring “the people of old” for the writer of Hebrews conveys this about them...

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,

Doubt can not coexist with Faith. You cannot trust with reservation.