

Notes: July 13, 2019

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. 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: That First Step of Faith

Faith / Trusting is a foundational aspect of our what we believe. I would call it the building block that we are to place right beside the chief cornerstone that is Yeshua.

The **cornerstone** (or **foundation stone** or **setting stone**) is the first stone set in the construction of a [masonry foundation](#), important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire [structure](#).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornerstone>

Eph 2:20 You have been built on the foundation of the emissaries and the prophets, with the cornerstone being Yeshua the Messiah himself.

This building block of faith is significant in that without it there is no structure and with it only, there is no structural support.

Jas 2:17 Thus, faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is dead.

The next building block that should be placed right next to it is action.

Jas 2:20 But, foolish fellow, do you want to be shown that such "faith" apart from actions is barren?

Jas 2:21 Wasn't Avraham avinu declared righteous because of actions when he offered up his son Yitz'chak on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that his faith worked with his actions; by the actions the faith was made complete;

Jas 2:23 and the passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled which says, "Avraham had faith in God, and it was credited to his account as righteousness." He was even called God's friend.

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

And with all this, we must take that first step of faith. Whether that first step is in becoming a believer or an initial step at a time or during a season of your walk I with Messiah, it is required.

Today, I want to look at three instances where Adonai required a first step be taken in order for Him to move.

There are many examples in Scripture of people taking that initial step of faith after receiving instruction from Adonai. We could look at...

- Avram's first step when Adonai instructs him leave his country and that of his kinsmen and go to the land Adonai will show him (Genesis 12:1)
- Ya'akov took that first step of faith in reconciling with Esav. He didn't know what would happen after 20 years of separation in that Ya'akov did not leave his brother on the best of terms. (Genesis 33:1 - 4)

Gen 33:3 Then he himself passed on ahead of them and prostrated himself on the ground seven times before approaching his brother.

Gen 33:4 `Esav ran to meet him, hugged him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him; and they wept.

There are not a deficiency of examples.

Keeping in mind that each step we take is a step of faith, but that we must always be willing to take that first step of faith, in order to walk into the Promise.

Let's go back to Exodus.

Adonai had proclaimed to Moshe and Moshe would proclaim to Pharaoh, to let the children of Israel go. They were no longer to be the slaves for Egypt's vast kingdom. No More!!!

In revealing His power and authority to Egypt and Israel, Adonai brings this world power to its knees in submission, ultimately breaking their will. Adonai had prepared the way for Israel to take their first step of faith...

Exo 12:30 Pharaoh got up in the night, he, all his servants and all the Egyptians; and there was horrendous wailing in Egypt; for there wasn't a single house without someone dead in it.

Exo 12:31 He summoned Moshe and Aharon by night and said, "Up and leave my people, both you and the people of Isra'el; and go, serve Adonai as you said.

Exo 12:32 Take both your flocks and your herds, as you said; and get out of here! But bless me, too."

Exo 12:33 The Egyptians pressed to send the people out of the land quickly, because they said, "Otherwise we'll all be dead!"

Exo 12:34 The people took their dough before it had become leavened and wrapped their kneading bowls in their clothes on their shoulders.

Exo 12:35 The people of Isra'el had done what Moshe had said — they had asked the Egyptians to give them silver and gold jewelry and clothing;

Exo 12:36 and Adonai had made the Egyptians so favorably disposed toward the people that they had let them have whatever they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

The chains had been broken from Israel. They were free. Yet in order to truly become free, they had to take that first step on Faith and leave.

They were to leave the only way of life they had known. This new way of life, freedom from human oppression would be challenging and the struggles to live in freedom would directly confront them. Israel had been under the control of others for so long, they had no concept of what it meant to be free. They had no concept of Adonai and the mercy He provides.

Today, a vast number of people throughout the world do not live in freedom, they do not have liberty. Keeping in mind liberty does not mean you can do anything you want. There are boundaries, just as Adonai would set boundaries for Israel at Sinai. Yet these boundaries were set for the purpose of maintaining that liberty,

not to suppress it.

And we further read...

Exo 12:37 The people of Isra'el traveled from Ra`amses to Sukkot, some six hundred thousand men on foot, not counting children.

Exo 12:50 All the people of Isra'el did just as Adonai had ordered Moshe and Aharon.

Exo 12:51 On that very day, Adonai brought the people of Isra'el out of the land of Egypt by their divisions.

That initial step of faith – accomplished.

There were steps of faith required by Adonai prior to Israel leaving Egypt, but it was that first step whereby they left Egypt that they would truly experience freedom through action, not just freedom through faith. Israel was actually free when Adonai proclaimed...

Exo 6:6 "Therefore, say to the people of Isra'el: 'I am Adonai. I will free you from the forced labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their oppression, and redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

Exo 6:7 I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am Adonai your God, who freed you from the forced labor of the Egyptians.

This was done according to Adonai, yet not realised at least from the perspective of Israel until they would take that first step of faith whereby they truly believed they were free and confirming the Word of Adonai to be true.

When Adonai says...

We are to respond. He is waiting for us to respond to Him. Once we respond to Him...His Word...mighty things happen.

Upon leaving Egypt, Adonai leads Israel away from Egypt.

Exo 14:1 Adonai said to Moshe,

Exo 14:2 "Tell the people of Isra'el to turn around and set up camp in front of Pi-Hachiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Ba`al-Tz'fon; camp opposite

it, by the sea.

Exo 14:3 Then Pharaoh will say that the people of Isra'el are wandering aimlessly in the countryside, the desert has closed in on them.

Exo 14:4 I will make Pharaoh so hardhearted that he will pursue them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will realize at last that I am Adonai." The people did as ordered.

The children of Israel had just experienced the power of Adonai, through the Passover, resulting in the Exodus from Egypt. What more could He possibly do?

Notice, Adonai spoke...His Word, The Word, to Moshe, who conveyed it to the people.

They set up camp, ultimately waiting for Egypt to encounter them.

Exo 14:10 As Pharaoh approached, the people of Isra'el looked up and saw the Egyptians right there, coming after them. In great fear the people of Isra'el cried out to Adonai

Exo 14:11 and said to Moshe, "Was it because there weren't enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out to die in the desert? Why have you done this to us, bringing us out of Egypt?"

Exo 14:12 Didn't we tell you in Egypt to let us alone, we'll just go on being slaves for the Egyptians? It would be better for us to be the Egyptians' slaves than to die in the desert!"

Upon seeing them (Egypt), the reality set in for the people.

Faith and fear cannot reside together. Fear ultimately undermines faith as it was doing here.

Exo 14:13 Moshe answered the people, "Stop being so fearful! Remain steady, and you will see how Adonai is going to save you. He will do it today — today you have seen the Egyptians, but you will never see them again!

Exo 14:14 Adonai will do battle for you. Just calm yourselves down!"

Exo 14:15 Adonai asked Moshe, "Why are you crying to me? Tell the people of Isra'el to go forward!"

Moshe had to calm them down, reassure them, prior to taking that next first step of faith in this situation.

Israel was truly free, yet their oppressor still continued to pursue them. Can

anyone relate to such a situation...maybe the Adversary?

Adonai required the people to move forward, in this case towards the Red Sea, not to the left or the right. Not towards the Egyptians, which would constitute going back, but to move forward in what would appear to be a dead end.

As they moved forward...

Exo 14:16 Lift your staff, reach out with your hand over the sea, and divide it in two. The people of Isra'el will advance into the sea on dry ground.

In order for this to happen, Adonai required the people to take that first step of faith. Could he have done it without them moving forward...yes, yet we go back to the writer of Hebrews...

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

They lacked confidence yet hoped for escape, which at the moment they did not see.

How is this possible? What is Adonai going to do? The sea is in front of them and Egypt is behind them.

Are we all going to swim?

Notice the order again....

Exo 14:15 Adonai asked Moshe, "Why are you crying to me? Tell the people of Isra'el to go forward!"

Adonai wanted them to take that first step of faith, in order for them to build their trust further in Him.

Notice what that first step of faith did...

Exo 14:17 As for me, I will make the Egyptians hardhearted; and they will march in after them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, chariots and cavalry.

Exo 14:18 Then the Egyptians will realize that I am Adonai, when I have won myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots and his cavalry."

Exo 14:19 Next, the angel of God, who was going ahead of the camp of

Isra'el, moved away and went behind them; and the column of cloud moved away from in front of them and stood behind them.

Exo 14:20 It stationed itself between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Isra'el — there was cloud and darkness here, but light by night there; so that the one did not come near the other all night long.

Adonai provided protection all night long for Israel as they took that first step in moving towards the water, as Adonai had instructed.

Exo 14:21 Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and Adonai caused the sea to go back before a strong east wind all night. He made the sea become dry land, and its water was divided in two.

Exo 14:22 Then the people of Isra'el went into the sea on the dry ground, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left.

Again, could Adonai have done this without that first step of faith...yes. Yet, if Adonai was to do everything for you, without any required action on your part, how faithful would you truly be? It is through our action that we build our faith. It is through action that we learn. This action also includes seeing.

Ultimately, the battle is Adonai's and yet He wants you to be an active participant. Active so you can rejoice in His victory, in His glory.

The third example I want to share with you is similar to this one, yet not exactly the same.

Jos 3:1 Y'hoshua got up early in the morning, and they left Sheetim and came to the Yarden, he with all the people of Isra'el; they camped there before crossing.

Jos 3:2 After three days, the officials circulated through the camp

Jos 3:3 and gave the people these orders: "When you see the ark for the covenant of Adonai your God and the cohanim, who are L'vi'im, carrying it, you are to leave your position and follow it.

Jos 3:4 But keep a distance between yourselves and it of about a thousand yards — don't come any closer, so that you will understand which way to go, because you haven't gone this way before."

Here is the first step of faith that Adonai is requiring of the people...a new generation that the vast majority present did not experience the parting of the Red Sea some forty years prior.

Another camping trip by the water.

Forty years of wandering through the desert and Adonai is conveying to Joshua that they will be taking a new path, one they have never travelled before.

Jos 3:5 Y'hoshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, because tomorrow Adonai is going to work wonders among you."

These are the words conveyed by Adonai to Joshua...

Jos 3:8 Now you are to order the cohanim carrying the ark for the covenant as follows: 'When you come to the edge of the Yarden River, you are to stop in the Yarden itself.' "

And what Joshua conveyed to the people of Israel...

Jos 3:9 Y'hoshua said to the people of Isra'el, "Come here, and listen to the words of Adonai your God."

Jos 3:10 Then Y'hoshua said, "Here is how you will know that the living God is here with you and that, without fail, he will drive out from before you the Kena`ani, the Hitti, the Hivi, the P'rizi, the Girgashi, the Emori and the Y'vusi:

Jos 3:11 the ark for the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going on ahead of you across the Yarden.

Jos 3:12 Now choose yourselves twelve men out of the tribes of Isra'el, one man for each tribe.

Jos 3:13 As soon as the cohanim carrying the ark of Adonai, the Lord of all the earth, put the soles of their feet in the water of the Yarden, the water of the Yarden will be cut off upstream and stand piled up like an embankment."

Jos 3:14 So the people left their tents to cross the Yarden, with the cohanim carrying the ark for the covenant ahead of the people.

What happened?

Jos 3:17 The cohanim carrying the ark for the covenant of Adonai stood fast on dry ground in the middle of the Yarden, while all Isra'el crossed on dry ground, until the entire nation had finished crossing the Yarden.

You have multiple first steps of faith occurring here.

The step of faith of the people to get up and approach the Jordan.

Then you have the first step of faith of the Cohanim that when they actually stepped in the water, the flow of the Jordan ceased and just as had occurred forty years prior, Israel crossed another body of water on dry ground.

In all these examples, Adonai could have done what He was going to do, but He didn't. He wanted our participation. It was through our participation that we took these initial steps of faith and in doing so, Adonai responded.

Faith is not something you acquire and then don't have to do anything further once you have it. Faith is like a muscle. It requires a continuous workout in order to first, become strengthened and then, maintaining that strength.

Let's look at Kefa for a minute...

Mat 14:25 Around four o'clock in the morning, he came toward them, walking on the lake!

Mat 14:26 When the talmidim saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said and screamed with fear.

Mat 14:27 But at once Yeshua spoke to them. "Courage," he said, "it is I. Stop being afraid."

Mat 14:28 Then Kefa called to him, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

Mat 14:29 "Come!" he said. So Kefa got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Yeshua.

Kefa took that first step of faith. Going towards Yeshua, walking on water as his Lord was doing.

Mat 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he became afraid; and as he began to sink, he yelled, "Lord! Save me!"

Mat 14:31 Yeshua immediately stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "Such little trust! Why did you doubt?"

Mat 14:32 As they went up into the boat, the wind ceased.

Mat 14:33 The men in the boat fell down before him and exclaimed, "You really are God's son!"

Just when you think your faith has reached full maturity, it is tested, whereby you find out your faith isn't as strong as you thought it was. Yet, it is through that testing, our faith is strengthened. So, when that test comes, and believe me it will. Whether Adonai is stretching you to grow and is preparing you for the next phase in your journey or the Adversary is trying to defeat you, know that this is an

endurance race, not a sprint. Think big picture, think long term.

Remember what drew you to accept Yeshua in the first place, then build upon that. The promise is the same today as it was then. Adonai did not change when you first came to trust.

The challenges for the body of Messiah are only getting harder...

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.

Don't take your focus off the Word of Adonai and the promises they contain. Yeshua conveyed this warning to His talmidim. What was true then is still true today. Pay attention to and learn from the many examples of faith conveyed by Adonai throughout His Word that is with us today. I shared three with you.

Whoever trusts in Yeshua will endure through all these challenges. They will finish their race.