

Notes: March 6 2021

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: The Intolerance of Cancel Culture.

Last Shabbat I had framed Purim and the actions of Haman through the narrative of today...cancel culture. I had shared with you several definitions that you can go back and look at the notes posted on line to refresh your memories. For today, let me provide you with this definition.

Cancel culture (or **call-out culture**) is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles – whether it be online, on social media, or in person.

We saw this recently with a gentleman by the name of Chris Harrison.

Who is Chris Harrison you might ask?

Note: I have included several excerpts (in italics) from Kylee Zempel of the Federalist.

<https://thefederalist.com/2021/03/05/imagine-being-as-pathetic-as-the-bachelors-chris-harrison/>

Harrison, who has become synonymous with “The Bachelor” franchise after hosting every season of it and its spin-off shows since its inception nearly two decades ago.

He was recently interviewed by Rachel Lindsay, a former bachelorette and the franchise’s first black lead.

During the interview, she asked him about another Bachelor contestant Rachael Kirkconnell and Harrison was asked about Kirkconnell having dressed up at an antebellum era-inspired party.

*The **Antebellum South** (also known as the **antebellum era** or **plantation era**) was a period in the history of the [Southern United States](#) from the late 18th century until the start of the [American Civil War](#) in 1861.*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antebellum_South

Here is Mr. Harrison's response to the question...

Harrison replied that until we hear what Kirkconnell has to say — she has since apologized — “we all need to have a little grace, a little understanding, a little compassion” rather than letting the “woke police” do the “judge, jury, and executioner thing” online.

Harrison basically called out the cancel culture for their tactics of over reacting with few facts, limited information and no response from the people in question.

We have seen this rear view judgment of the past by the standards of today continues. Megyn Kelly simply asked this question in 2018:

Megyn Kelly Asks if Wearing Blackface on Halloween Is Racist: 'When I Was a Kid, That Was Okay'

<https://people.com/tv/megyn-kelly-asks-blackface-halloween-racist/>

She would ultimately lose her job due to the backlash for the question and her opinion.

We have seen this play out over the last few years when newly revealed photos of some prominent people dressed up in costume for a part including makeup to authenticate the costume.

- Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and son of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau did so on at least three occasions
- During the 2016 segment, Joy Behar, an outspoken liberal, displayed a 1970s-era photo of herself at a Halloween party when she was 29. She said that the hair was her own and that she had dressed as a "beautiful African woman."

At the time of the action, there was no outcry, in that it was not uncommon for people to dress in costume and use makeup to change the tone of their skin. Yet the outrage that ensues years after the fact has become nuclear

Thus the reaction to Harrison's comments And the reaction...

Of course, corporate entertainment media spun the whole 14-minute interview as if Harrison had said racism several years ago was A-OK, which is quite a gross representation of his sentiments.

What transpired as a result of Harrison's comments?

He issued an [apology](#) online that read like a hostage letter and stepped away from hosting, at least for the finale, but it seems he has no plans to give up his post. “I plan to be back, and I want to be back,” Harrison told Strahan. “There is much more work to be done, and I am excited to be part of that change.”

Yet, Harrison recently left his position as host due to the influence of social media pressure. Zempel writes the following:

His desperate desire to keep his job might explain why we saw Harrison, once a self-assured and respectable man, now lies prostrate at the feet of the “woke police” he warned about, begging for forgiveness, understanding, and employment. The transformation in Harrison’s persona between who we’ve seen on TV for

years, including in his interview with Lindsay, and his "Good Morning America" appearance is absolutely staggering.

In his allegedly racist interview with Lindsay, Harrison sounded like a natural and gracious guy handling a tough conversation as many normal people would, including representing many Americans' views on cancel culture and the online outrage mob.

- The threat of cancel culture is real.
- The actions of cancel culture can be devastating
- The bar by which one could be cancel is every changing while lowering at the same time. It doesn't take much, a past photo, an errant comment, support for a specific position

Thus there is no tolerance, should you be on the other side of any issue that is not supported by the vast woke cancel community. There is no grace, no mercy, no tolerance in this quick draw shoot first get answers later

It is a good thing for us that Adonai's bar never changes. We know His ways and standards do not change...

Num 23:19 "God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind. When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it.

Mal 3:6 "But because I, Adonai, do not change, you sons of Ya`akov will not be destroyed.

Isa 40:6 A voice says, "Proclaim!" And I answer, "What should I proclaim?" "All humanity is merely grass, all its kindness like wildflowers:

Isa 40:7 the grass dries up, the flower fades, when a wind from Adonai blows on it. Surely the people are grass!

Isa 40:8 The grass dries up, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever."

Psa 119:89 לָ (Lamed) Your word continues forever, Adonai, firmly fixed in heaven;

Psa 119:90 your faithfulness through all generations; you established the earth, and it stands.

Psa 102:24 I plead, "God, your years last through all generations; so don't take me away when my life is half over!

Psa 102:25 In the beginning, you laid the foundations of the earth; heaven is the work of your hands.

Psa 102:26 They will vanish, but you will remain; like clothing, they will all grow old; yes, you will change them like clothing, and they will pass away.

Psa 102:27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

Adonai does not change, nor do His mitzvot for they existed before time began, Eternal as is He, becoming made known within the confounds of time, establishing righteousness as the bar He desires His people to attain, thus leading to life. Continuing upon the completion of time and the return to Eternity, thus the fulfillment of life as being eternal. The same standard that was, is and is to come.

Rev 1:7 Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn him. Yes! Amen!

Rev 1:8 "I am the 'Aleph' and the 'Tav,' " says Adonai, God of heaven's armies, the One who is, who was and who is coming.

In other words, a term that has been used a lot lately in relation to the standards by which the pandemic is being managed does not apply to Adonai. "He does not move the goal posts" Meaning He does not change the standard of His Mitzvot thus causing His people to transgress due to changes in the rules, the goal post being moved meaning it is harder to attain the goal. His goal -posts are fixed so we never have to doubt the standards by which He desires we live by, His standards.

Consider this week's Parsha and the Golden Calf.

Adonai did not assume something or take something the people did out of context...viewing their actions of the past by the standards of the present. No, remember for Adonai, His view remains constant. It does not change with time or transform through an "enlightened human mind" No goal posts are moved, thus we have certainty.

Thus Adonai's response to His people for their actions are not based on social media influence but on the facts and just the facts relating to their own actions and evaluated base on His Mitzvot.

Exo 32:1 When the people saw that Moshe was taking a long time to come down from the mountain, they gathered around Aharon and said to him, "Get busy; and make us gods to go ahead of us; because this Moshe, the man that brought us up from the land of Egypt—we don't know what has become of him."

Fear was their excuse, because Moshe had been gone for so long and they believed they were abandoned in the desert to die alone. Thus the influences of Egypt still resided in the people as they thought the answer was to create a god...

Exo 32:2 Aharon said to them, "Have your wives, sons and daughters strip off their gold earrings; and bring them to me."

Exo 32:3 The people stripped off their gold earrings and brought them to Aharon.

Exo 32:4 He received what they gave him, melted it down, and made it into the shape of a calf. They said, "Isra'el! Here is your god, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

The chain of events have been set in motion for the true transgression has not fully occurred yet.

Exo 32:5 On seeing this, Aharon built an altar in front of it and proclaimed, "Tomorrow is to be a feast for Adonai."

Exo 32:6 Early the next morning they got up and offered burnt offerings and presented peace offerings. Afterwards, the people sat down to eat and drink; then they got up to indulge in revelry.

Now the line has been crossed. They built an altar, presented offerings on an altar to this image they identified as Adonai and had a celebration in the midst of this image.

The people's transgression was significant.

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.

The very first set of mitzvot the people were given they defiled.

To say Adonai was angry would be an understatement.

Exo 32:8 So quickly they have turned aside from the way I ordered them to follow! They have cast a metal statue of a calf, worshipped it, sacrificed to it and said, 'Isra'el! Here is your god, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!' "

Exo 32:9 Adonai continued speaking to Moshe: "I have been watching these people; and you can see how stiffnecked they are.

Exo 32:10 Now leave me alone, so that my anger can blaze against them, and I can put an end to them! I will make a great nation out of you instead."

His anger blazed and was ready to "cancel" the people for their actions, not of the past, but what was occurring in real time, while still at Sinai and in the presence of Adonai for He was with Moshe on the mountain above, within ear shot.

His desired actions were warranted. There was no speculation, no opinions attempting to judge their actions. He had the smoking altar not to mention the people caught in the act by Moshe.

Exo 32:19 But the moment Moshe got near the camp, when he saw the calf and the dancing, his own anger blazed up. He threw down the tablets he had been holding and shattered them at the base of the mountain.

Exo 32:20 Seizing the calf they had made, he melted it in the fire and ground it to powder, which he scattered on the water. Then he made the people of Isra'el drink it.

Moshe would advocate for the people on two occasions with Adonai. His intercession was to uncanceled that which Adonai was aptly justified to cancel. The first time is when Moshe urges Adonai not to destroy the people

Exo 32:11 Moshe pleaded with Adonai his God. He said, "Adonai, why must your anger blaze against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a strong hand?"

Exo 32:12 Why let the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intentions that he led them out, to slaughter them in the hills and wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger! Relent! Don't bring such disaster on your people!

Exo 32:13 Remember Avraham, Yitz'chak and Isra'el, your servants, to whom you swore by your very self. You promised them, 'I will make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky; and I will give all this land I have spoken about to your descendants; and they will possess it forever.' "

Exo 32:14 Adonai then changed his mind about the disaster he had planned for his people.

Adonai did not change His mind as we do but was reminded that what He was about to do, He could not do because of His Word.

And the second time is when Adonai reveals He will not go with the people, yet through Moshe's intercession causes Adonai to relent

Exo 33:12 Moshe said to Adonai , "Look, you say to me, 'Make these people move on!' But you haven't let me know whom you will be sending with me. Nevertheless you have said, 'I know you by name,' and also, 'You have found favor in my sight.'

Exo 33:13 Now, please, if it is really the case that I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways; so that I will understand you and continue finding favor in your sight. Moreover, keep on seeing this nation as your people."

Exo 33:14 He answered, "Set your mind at rest—my presence will go with you, after all."

I asked last week "Where are Esther and Mordechai today." Today the same question can be asked but in relation to Moshe. Where is Moshe today?

Associated with this week's parsha in the Brith Hadosah is Romans 7 & 8 whereby Sha'ul offers a reverent perspective of Torah, the place where we find Adonai's mitzvot. A reverence towards the Holiness of Adonai's Word and therefore Adonai Himself, because you truly cannot separate one from the other.

Rom 7:7 Therefore, what are we to say? That the Torah is sinful? Heaven forbid! Rather, the function of the Torah was that without it, I would not have known what sin is. For example, I would not have become conscious of what greed is if the Torah had not said, "Thou shalt not covet."

Rom 7:8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, worked in me all kinds of evil desires—for apart from Torah, sin is dead.

Rom 7:9 I was once alive outside the framework of Torah. But when the commandment really encountered me, sin sprang to life,

Rom 7:10 and I died. The commandment that was intended to bring me life was found to be bringing me death!

Rom 7:11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me; and through the commandment, sin killed me.

Rom 7:12 So the Torah is holy; that is, the commandment is holy, just and good.

Our standard by which we are to live does not change, the goal posts do not move and thus we can be reassured of what Adonai desires of people who call upon the Name of Adonai, the Name of the Lord, the Name of Yeshua our Lord and God.

Joh 20:27 Then he said to T'oma, "Put your finger here, look at my hands, take your hand and put it into my side. Don't be lacking in trust, but have trust!"

Joh 20:28 T'oma answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Yet, in this passage of Sha'ul's letter to believers in Rome, both Jew and Gentile, he offers a rather transparent moment.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the Torah is of the Spirit; but as for me, I am bound to the old nature, sold to sin as a slave.

Rom 7:15 I don't understand my own behavior—I don't do what I want to do; instead, I do the very thing I hate!

Rom 7:16 Now if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am agreeing that the Torah is good.

Rom 7:17 But now it is no longer "the real me" doing it, but the sin housed inside me.

It would appear that Sha'ul has his own struggles, just as we all do, present Rabbi included. Sha'ul does not elaborate on his struggles yet they are known to him because Adonai's Word and thus His mitzvot are known.

Sha'ul explores the frustration of everyone who has ever failed to live up to principles which he knows are right.

Anyone with a "bad habit" knows the truth of these verses only too well.

1Jn 1:8 If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

And Sha'ul having written just a four chapters previously...

Rom 3:21 But now, quite apart from Torah, God's way of making people righteous in his sight has been made clear—although the Torah and the Prophets give their witness to it as well—

Rom 3:22 and it is a righteousness that comes from God, through the faithfulness of Yeshua the Messiah, to all who continue trusting. For it makes no difference whether one is a Jew or a Gentile,

Rom 3:23 since all have sinned and come short of earning God's praise.

Thus Sha'ul is not conveying a woe is me narrative, but great is He, inspite of me.

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is no longer any condemnation awaiting those who are in union with the Messiah Yeshua.

Rom 8:2 Why? Because the Torah of the Spirit, which produces this life in union with Messiah Yeshua, has set me free from the "Torah" of sin and death.

Rom 8:3 For what the Torah could not do by itself, because it lacked the power to make the old nature cooperate, God did by sending his own Son as a human being with a nature like our own sinful one [*but without sin*]. God did this in order to deal with sin, and in so doing he executed the punishment against sin in human nature,

Rom 8:4 so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in us who do not run our lives according to what our old nature wants but according to what the Spirit wants.

There is an intolerance that exists today among people. We see it in society, on social media and even within the body of Messiah, whereby the standard has become...using a baseball analogy in that we are in the midst of spring training.

The standard today is one strike and you are out.

Not to mention, you don't know what the strike zone is because it changes all the time.

Judgment and cancellation are not the same. Judgment by Adonai offers a standard by which has been made know and is not subject to change, while cancellation offers a subjective standard by which changes on a regular basis...what may have been acceptable yesterday is not acceptable today.

Thus I want to leave with the Words Adonai inspired Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) to write...

Isa 40:28 Haven't you known, haven't you heard that the everlasting God, Adonai, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow tired or weary? His understanding cannot be fathomed.

Isa 40:29 He invigorates the exhausted, he gives strength to the powerless.

Isa 40:30 Young men may grow tired and weary, even the fittest may stumble and fall;

Isa 40:31 but those who hope in Adonai will renew their strength, they will soar aloft as with eagles' wings; when they are running they won't grow weary, when they are walking they won't get tired.