

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 Joy of Adonai

What is the Joy of the Adonai, the Joy of the Lord?

Where does it come from and how do you get it?

Joy in English is defined as...a feeling of great pleasure and happiness (a noun). It is something you have, even though you can't touch it or taste it but you can certainly feel it.

As a verb it is identified as to rejoice, there is action behind what you are feeling on the "inside"

Yet, I have shared with you that Joy, specifically the Joy of Adonai is technically not an emotion such as being happy, but is rather a state of being.

Emotions come and go but joy resides. I will explain as we go.

Deu 26:10 Therefore, as you see, I have now brought the firstfruits of the land which you, Adonai, have given me.' You are then to put the basket down before Adonai your God, prostrate yourself before Adonai your God,

Deu 26:11 and take joy in all the good that Adonai your God has given you, your household, the Levi and the foreigner living with you.

The word for joy here is simcha

שִׁמְחָה

śimchâh

sim-khaw'

From [H8056](#); *blithesomeness* or *glee*, (religious or festival): - X exceeding (-ly), gladness, joy (-fullness), mirth, pleasure, rejoice (-ing).

Adonai is prophesying a future joy Israel will experience when they actually come into the land promised, and actually partake in the first fruits of the land. It is here that they will truly know the promises of Adonai have been fulfilled in that they have experienced seasons resulting in harvest of the land.

In a somewhat similar experience, when we started as a congregation we actually had two wilderness experience transitions.

The first was moving from our home to the school.

The second was when we had actually purchased our Torah Scroll. A synagogue is not a synagogue until it has a Torah scroll. This was a truly joyous time, yet the joy did not leave once it had arrived, but continues...

Let me explain...through Nehemiah.

Neh 8:10 Then he said to them, "Go, eat rich food, drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those who can't provide for themselves; for today is consecrated to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy of Adonai is your strength."

Another way to express the Joy of Adonai, is the Joy that comes from Adonai. Meaning, He is the source. Just as the sun is our source of light and heat, so to Adonai is the source of our joy.

Has anyone ever experienced deep sorrow, such as grieving, yet at the same time you are grieving there is an unexplainable peace that is within you. To have such peace while emotionally distraught comes across to be an oxymoron...two extreme opposites existing at the same time.

What transpired prior to this verse where they were instructed eat and drink and to send portions to those who couldn't...

(8:1) When the seventh month arrived, after the people of Isra'el had resettled in their towns,

Neh 8:1 all the people gathered with one accord in the open space in front of the Water Gate and asked 'Ezra the Torah-teacher to bring the scroll of the Torah of Moshe, which Adonai had commanded Isra'el.

Neh 8:2 'Ezra the cohen brought the Torah before the assembly, which consisted of men, women and all children old enough to understand. It was the first day of the seventh month.

Neh 8:3 Facing the open space in front of the Water Gate, he read from it to the men, the women and the children who could understand from early morning until noon; and all the people listened attentively to the scroll of the Torah.

Neh 8:4 'Ezra the Torah-teacher stood on a wood platform which they had made for the purpose; beside him on his right stood Mattiyah, Shema, 'Anayah, Uriyah, Hilkiyah and Ma'aseiyah; while on his left were P'dayah, Misha'el, Malkiyah, Hashum, Hashbadanah, Z'kharyah and Meshulam.

Neh 8:5 'Ezra opened the scroll where all the people could see him, because he was higher than all the people; when he opened it, all the people rose to their feet.

Neh 8:6 'Ezra blessed Adonai, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted up their hands, bowed their heads and fell prostrate before Adonai with their faces to the ground.

Neh 8:7 The L've'im Yeshua, Bani, Sherevyah, Yamin, 'Akuv, Shabtai, Hodiyah, Ma'aseiyah, K'lita, 'Azaryah, Yozavad, Hanan and P'layah explained the Torah to the people, while the people remained in their places.

Neh 8:8 They read clearly from the scroll, in the Torah of God, translated it, and enabled them to understand the sense of what was being read.

Neh 8:9 Nechemyah the Tirshata, 'Ezra the cohen and Torah-teacher and the L've'im who taught the people said to all the people, "Today is consecrated to Adonai your God; don't be mournful, don't weep." For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the Torah.

What transformed their weeping was the same thing that exposed them to weeping. The Word of Adonai. It exposes and it heals. In other words, His Word is transformational. If you are the same as you were before you immersed yourself in it, then something is wrong. If you are not impacted by His Word. If your heart is not pierced. If there is not a transformation then there is a disconnect.

The people here were stung by the very Words of Adonai, because they did not follow His Words and were mournful because of it. In other words their hearts were convicted.

Yeshua further connects the Word of Adonai – Torah...

Joh 14:21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

This is after Yeshua conveys that He and the Father are one, therefore the Word of Adonai is the Word of Yeshua.

Joh 14:22 Y'hudah (not the one from K'riot) said to him, "What has happened, Lord, that you are about to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?"

Joh 14:23 Yeshua answered him, "If someone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Joh 14:24 Someone who doesn't love me doesn't keep my words — and the word you are hearing is not my own but that of the Father who sent me.

Joh 14:25 "I have told you these things while I am still with you.

Joh 14:26 But the Counselor, the Ruach HaKodesh, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything; that is, he will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Joh 14:27 "What I am leaving with you is shalom — I am giving you my shalom. I don't give the way the world gives. Don't let yourselves be upset or frightened.

And what is this shalom He is giving us and what is its impact on our lives?

Isa 61:10 I am so joyful in Adonai! My soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in salvation, dressed me with a robe of triumph, like a bridegroom wearing a festive turban, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

שׁוֹשָׁן

sûs sîyôs

soos, sece

A primitive root; to be bright, that is, cheerful: - be glad, X greatly, joy, make mirth, rejoice.

גַּלְּגָל

gîyl gûl

gheel, gool

A primitive root; properly to spin around (under the influence of any violent emotion), that is, usually rejoice, or (as cringing) fear: - be glad, joy, be joyful, rejoice.

Isa 61:11 For just as the earth brings forth its plants, or a garden makes its plants spring up, so Adonai, God, will cause victory and glory to spring up before all nations.

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,

Heb 12:2 looking away to the Initiator and Completer of that trusting, Yeshua — who, in exchange for obtaining the joy set before him, endured execution on a stake as a criminal, scorning the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The joy set before Him I believe Yeshua expressed in this prayer...

Yeshua as our cohen gadol (Heb 6:20) prays on our behalf to his Father. In this intercessory prayer we see deeply into the Messiah's heart-into the intimacy of the relationship between the Son and the Father

The ultimate of intercessors, Yeshua offers one of the most dynamic prayers recorded in Scripture.

Joh 17:1 After Yeshua had said these things, he looked up toward heaven and said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son may glorify you —

Joh 17:2 just as you gave him authority over all mankind, so that he might give eternal life to all those whom you have given him.

Joh 17:3 And eternal life is this: to know you, the one true God, and him whom you sent, Yeshua the Messiah.

Eternal life is to truly know the one who is Eternal.

Joh 17:4 "I glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

The Work to do...what is His work...

Mat 11:4 Yeshua answered, "Go and tell Yochanan what you are hearing and seeing —

Mat 11:5 the blind are seeing again, the lame are walking, people with tzara'at are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing, the dead are being raised, the Good News is being told to the poor —

Mat 11:6 and how blessed is anyone not offended by me!"

Joh 17:5 Now, Father, glorify me alongside yourself. Give me the same glory I had with you before the world existed.

Joh 17:6 "I made your name known to the people you gave me out of the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Joh 17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you,

Joh 17:8 because the words you gave me I have given to them, and they have received them. They have really come to know that I came from you, and they have come to trust that you sent me.

Joh 17:9 "I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given to me, because they are yours.

Joh 17:10 Indeed, all I have is yours, and all you have is mine, and in them I have been glorified.

Joh 17:11 Now I am no longer in the world. They are in the world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, guard them by the power of your name, which you have given to me, so that they may be one, just as we are.

Joh 17:12 When I was with them, I guarded them by the power of your name, which you have given to me; yes, I kept watch over them; and not one of them was destroyed (except the one meant for destruction, so that the Tanakh might be fulfilled).

Joh 17:13 But now, I am coming to you; and I say these things while I am still in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

Joh 17:14 "I have given them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world — just as I myself do not belong to the world.

Joh 17:15 I don't ask you to take them out of the world, but to protect them from the Evil One.

Joh 17:16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

Joh 17:17 Set them apart for holiness by means of the truth — your word is truth.

Joh 17:18 Just as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Joh 17:19 On their behalf I am setting myself apart for holiness, so that they too may be set apart for holiness by means of the truth.

Joh 17:20 "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will trust in me because of their word,

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one. Just as you, Father, are united with me and I with you, I pray that they may be

united with us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.

Joh 17:22 The glory which you have given to me, I have given to them; so that they may be one, just as we are one

Joh 17:23 I united with them and you with me, so that they may be completely one, and the world thus realize that you sent me, and that you have loved them just as you have loved me.

Joh 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am; so that they may see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Joh 17:25 Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these people have known that you sent me.

Joh 17:26 I made your name known to them, and I will continue to make it known; so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I myself may be united with them."

The Joy of Adonai is the Salvation of Adonai.