

Notes: January 17, 2015

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: The Mystery of the Relationship between Israel and Gentiles In the New Covenant

This message was influenced by Rabbi Asher Intrater at the recent IAMCS Rabbi's conference. Keep in mind influenced does not mean retransmitted word for word. This message has been expanded upon.

There is this teaching based on Ephesians 2:15

Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

Eph 2:15 by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom,

This teaching is of “one new man”

And conveys the following:

Denying any distinction between Jew and Gentile
Minimizing or eliminating identity and ethnicity and replacing it with uniformity

If there is no distinction then we don't need to do what we did as Jews.

We have a new identity in Yeshua, but we also have the identity we were created into.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Sha'ul's revelation isn't that Gentiles could be saved, that was Kefa

Kefa's revelation – Gentiles could be saved – Acts 10

Sha'ul's revelation, - creation of a much bigger body equal to Israel, working in conjunction with Israel

Equal to Israel offensive and hard to comprehend from a Jewish perspective.

Ephesians 2:11 – 22 – gentiles being saved. - becoming one new man.

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised —

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

Eph 2:13 But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

Eph 2:14 For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us

Eph 2:15 by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom,

Eph 2:16 and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

What is enmity?

“the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.”

This enmity between Jews and Gentiles had four components:

- (1) Gentile envy of the special status accorded by God to Israel in the *Torah*.
- (2) Jewish pride at being chosen.
- (3) Gentile resentment of that pride.
- (4) Mutual dislike of each other's customs. This is a common cause of friction between cultures, but in this instance, Jewish customs are different for a unique reason. They did not merely evolve; rather, they were the Jewish people's response to **the *Torah*, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances.**

This is why it is appropriate to say that **the enmity** (the hostility) between Jews and Gentiles was caused **by the *Torah***. It was caused by the Torah because in relation to verse 12, it was the absence of Torah from the nations that made them foreigners to the ways of God.

Thus, overcompensating for these elements would be to eliminate identity altogether.

However, when identity is eliminated, it changes our understanding of scripture, therefore leading to false teachings.

Throughout the New Covenant writings there is Jewish identity and Gentile identity.

Eph 2:17 Also, when he came, he announced as Good News shalom to you far off and shalom to those nearby,

Good News shalom “you far off” – Gentiles
Shalom “those nearby” – Jewish people

Eph 2:18 news that through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Eph 2:19 So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers. On the contrary, you are fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's family.

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

The same foundation that Israel has been built on.

Eph 2:21 In union with him the whole building is held together, and it is growing into a holy temple in union with the Lord.

Eph 2:22 **Yes, in union with him, you yourselves are being built together into a spiritual dwelling-place for God!**

So you have this dynamic of Jew and Gentile coming together...being built together into a spiritual dwelling-place for God.

What is the bigger picture message here?

Sha'ul was recognizing their former state, not remaining in it but transforming from it.

Sha'ul conveys this in the next chapter...

Eph 3:1 It is a consequence of this that I, Sha'ul, am a prisoner of the Messiah Yeshua on behalf of you Gentiles.

Eph 3:2 I assume that you have heard of the work God in his grace has given me to do for your benefit,

Eph 3:3 **and that it was by a revelation that this secret plan was made known to me. I have already written about it briefly,**

Eph 3:4 **and if you read what I have written, you will grasp how I understand this secret plan concerning the Messiah.**

Ephesians 3 – A one new man message

What is this secret plan?

It implies something hidden for a time and is now being revealed. There are scriptures that talk about this dynamic that I will share with you later.

Eph 3:5 In past generations it was not made known to mankind, as the Spirit is now revealing it to his emissaries and prophets,

Eph 3:6 that in union with the Messiah and through the Good News the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.

Eph 3:7 I became a servant of this Good News by God's gracious gift, which he gave me through the operation of his power.

Eph 3:8 To me, the least important of all God's holy people, was given this privilege of announcing to the Gentiles the Good News of the Messiah's unfathomable riches,

Eph 3:9 **and of letting everyone see how this secret plan is going to work out. This plan, kept hidden for ages by God, the Creator of everything,**

Eph 3:10 is for the rulers and authorities in heaven to learn, through the existence of the Messianic Community, how many-sided God's wisdom is.

Secret Plan / Mystery 3x = Partnership 3x

What is the Mystery?

It is partnership between Israel and gentiles (church).
“marriage between man and woman” example

2 different things become one – a mystery how this happens.

Romans 11 opposite of Ephesians 3 – parallel and opposite
Church needs to become humble from their pride

Romans 11 talks about the nature in which Gentiles come into Israel and what their impact will be upon Israel. However they are also warned not to be prideful of their new status, but rather to be humble.

Humility leads to revelation

Church is an equal partner – Ephesians 3:10 – leads to fullness of Gentiles

The gentiles are not a separate entity unto itself but has been called out of one thing and into another.

In relation to Romans 11 parallel and opposite

As we have a revelation of this international body, it leads to the fullness of the church,

When they have a revelation it leads to all Israel being saved.

So, how do we look at this term church...

It is usually meant to represent gentiles.

ekklesia – to call out – gentiles being called out and into a body of people, becoming equal partners with Kehilah

So, gentiles are being called out in order to come into something.

Kehilah – to bring together – not being called out of anything (called together) a community that is already established.

Jewish - We are not converting to anything new, but remaining in what we were already called to.
We are to bring together those who were once foreigners and strangers to the covenants - Gentiles.

What is the dynamic happening here?

The dynamic occurring here is the relationship between the older brother and younger brother.

The older brother is responsible for the younger brother.

The older brother becomes the head of the family

The older brother, taking place as the leader of the family

Who is the older brother of the family?

Could it be that Messianic Jews are the older brother of the family...

What is our role?

guide, protect, lead, nurture

The family of God will become the family of God when Messianic Jews take their place as head of the family.

Not in either pride or arrogance, but in humility.

When we look at the Gospels and Acts

Who is teaching?

Who is taking forth the message?

Who is calling gentiles out?

Where are they coming into?

Are we not seeing this dynamic again today?

Isa 49:5 So now Adonai says — he formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Ya`akov back to him, to have Isra'el gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the sight of Adonai, my God having become my strength —

Isa 49:6 he has said, "It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya`akov and restore the offspring of Isra'el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth."

Zec 8:21 the inhabitants of one city will travel to another and say, "We must go to ask Adonai's favor and consult Adonai-Tzva'ot. I'll go too."

Zec 8:22 Yes, many peoples and powerful nations will come to consult Adonai-Tzva'ot in Yerushalayim and to ask Adonai's favor.'

Zec 8:23 Adonai-Tzva'ot says, 'When that time comes, ten men will take hold — speaking all the languages of the nations — will grab hold of the cloak of a Jew and say, "We want to go with you, because we have heard that God is with you." ' ' "

Parallel to Romans 11, if church doesn't have revelation leading to Jewish people coming to Messiah.

Our revelation of the partnership will lead to coming into their fullness

Revelation 7:4 and 7:9

Rev 7:4 I heard how many were sealed — 144,000 from every tribe of the people of Isra'el:

Rev 7:9 After this, I looked; and there before me was a huge crowd, too large for anyone to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands;

Rev 7:10 and they shouted, "Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

sealed = protected

2 peoples, parallel in relation to end times – 1 distinct group Jewish only, one of all the nations

ethnic, cultural, linguistic, governmental

Identity still exists.

Equal and in partnership, yet separate.

Noah with all the nations, Abraham, afterwards, subset of Noah, and would bless the nations.

We are to be a blessing to the nations and when we do that we will be blessed.

When we look at the covenants God made with Noah and Abraham...in the signs we see the following:

Rainbow, heavenly, dynamic in color, representing many nations

Circumcision – called out and distinct.

When we look at the message of Ruth we see...

Ruth message – church is not to be Orpha, but like Ruth – the 99%, not the 1%

Boaz and Ruth, a coming together of Jew and Gentile, leading to the birth of Messiah

Through Jew and Gentile came the birth of Messiah.

This partnership has been present for centuries, and was once a mystery, but now has been revealed.

It is far from its fullness, in that the following must happen:

Messianic Judaism must take on the role of older brother

Gentiles must accept the partnership that God has created.

As Scripture says, you can't have two masters.

I mentioned a relationship that is happening in San Diego where a Messianic Synagogue is using a church for their Shabbat services. The Rabbi and Pastor have been developing a relationship as a result of their dealings from a congregational level. The Pastor came to him one day and said - "I should be learning from you" - the ways that scripture speak of.

Notice he didn't convey it the other way, but rather the younger brother (Gentile / Church) should be learning from its older brother – Messianic Jew.

Our role as a congregation has not changed.

Our vision as a congregation has not changed...

Vision:

Kehilah Portland, (The Congregation at Portland) a Messianic Jewish Synagogue is a manifestation of God's present day regeneration and restoring work in the House of Israel.

Kehilah Portland is a faith community where Jewish people can embrace their Jewish identity and heritage as believers in King Messiah, Yeshua.

Kehilah Portland encourages non-Jewish believers in Messiah Yeshua, who desire to embrace the Jewish heritage of their faith and come along side Jewish believers to serve and express their faith in worshiping the God of Israel.

Notice the wording of our vision...

Jewish people aren't required to convert to anything, but are to embrace what has already been given to them

While Gentiles are encouraged, not forced to pursue the heritage they have been adopted into.

Where would we be today if the older brother took up his mantle and the younger brother respected the older brothers position?