

Notes: January 11, 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: The Potter's Work

Last Shabbat I shared with you “I Am No Angel...” and that we were not created to be angels, but would certain attributes of some of the angels. We would serve as messengers for Adonai, when Yeshua conveyed to us...

**Luk 24:48** You are witnesses of these things.

And that we would be warriors, part of the army of Adonai-Tzva'ot when Sha'ul conveyed the following...

**Eph 6:10** Finally, grow powerful in union with the Lord, in union with his mighty strength!

**Eph 6:11** Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary.

**Eph 6:12** For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

The battle is ultimately His, yet we have become of His army in a similar manner to that of December 7, 1941, when the United States was brought into war having been attacked, we have been brought into this battle through our acceptance of Messiah and are therefore in the sights of the Adversary.

With this review of last week, I believe our reason to serve Adonai runs deeper than just accepting Yeshua. There is a greater intimacy that should cause every human being to come to Adonai. Unfortunately, not everyone has come to this reality and sadly, not everyone will come to this reality.

What I am talking about here can best be conveyed through the following passage...

**Jer 18:2** "Get up, and go down to the potter's house; there I will tell you more."

**Jer 18:3** So I went down to the house of the potter; and there he was, working at the wheels.

**Jer 18:4** Whenever a pot he made came out imperfect, the potter took the clay and made another pot with it, in whatever shape suited him.

**Jer 18:5** Then the word of Adonai came to me:

**Jer 18:6** "House of Isra'el, can't I deal with you as the potter deals with his clay? — says Adonai. Look! You, house of Isra'el, are the same in my hand as the clay in the potter's hand.

Does the potter not have the right to make its creation over if the potter isn't satisfied with how it turned out?

Does the potter not have control over what was created...

Only to a certain point. Once formed and dry, the clay is set. In order to reuse that piece of clay, it would have to be broken

**Jer 18:7** At one time, I may speak about uprooting, breaking down and destroying a nation or kingdom;

**Jer 18:8** but if that nation turns from their evil, which prompted me to speak against it, then I relent concerning the disaster I had planned to inflict on it.

**Jer 18:9** Similarly, at another time, I may speak about building and planting a nation or kingdom;

**Jer 18:10** but if it behaves wickedly from my perspective and doesn't listen to what I say, then I change my mind and don't do the good I said I would do that would have helped it.

**Jer 18:11** "So now, tell the people of Y'hudah and those living in Yerushalayim that this is what Adonai says: I am designing disaster for you, working out my plan against you. Turn, each of you, from his evil ways; improve your conduct and actions.'

Here we are talking about a nation and nations formed by Adonai. Yet, I talked about this being personal and more intimate.

We start in Genesis 2...the second account pertaining to creation...

**Gen 2:4** Here is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created. On the day when Adonai, God, made earth and heaven,

**Gen 2:5** there was as yet no wild bush on the earth, and no wild plant had as yet sprung up; for Adonai, God, had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no one to cultivate the ground.

What may seem to be a rather insignificant verse is anything but...

**Gen 2:6** Rather, a mist went up from the earth which watered the entire surface of the ground.

The idea of mist, rain...water is vital to all creation, plant, animal...human that without it, all would perish. However, when we view how we were created, we tend to focus on the next verse, ignoring the significance of verse 6...

**Gen 2:7** Then Adonai, God, formed a person [*Hebrew: adam*] from the dust of the ground [*Hebrew: adamah*] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living being.

Have you ever tried to form anything with dust that is dry? It has no binding properties. Yet when you combine the water to dust, you make mud. With certain types of dust, that mud becomes clay. Clay that may be used by a potter to make a vessel that retains water...

Hopefully you are picking up on the allusion I am giving you.

Adonai is the potter and we are the clay, having formed us from the dust of the ground and the water that came up from the ground we were created. Yet we are not just some arbitrary work of the Potter's hand. We are more than that...

The Potter – Adonai has created many things...

The heavens and the earth...in other words, He created the elements used to create us, and yet, what He would ultimately create was greater than all of His past creations. For this time, He was truly a potter. Taking His hands as a Potter does, He would form what I will call clay and as verse 7 conveys...

“formed us”

Consider the Hebrew word used here...

יצר

yâtsar

yaw-tsar'

probably identical with [H3334](#) (through the *squeezing* into shape); to *mould* into a form; especially as a *potter*; figuratively to *determine* (that is, form a resolution): - X earthen, fashion, form, frame, make (-r), potter, purpose.

He shaped us, formed us with intent.

What did Adonai do...

**Gen 1:26** Then God said, "**Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves**; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over all the earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the earth."

Adonai created a self portrait. He formed us in the appearance of Himself to where we were made in His image.

צלם

tselem

tseh'-lem

From an unused root meaning to *shade*; *resemblance*; hence a representative *figure*

...and Likeness...

דמות

d<sup>o</sup>mûth

dem-ooth'

From [H1819](#); *resemblance*; concretely *model*, *shape*; adverbially *like*: - fashion, like (-ness, as), manner, similitude.

So, we have been created in the image and likeness of Adonai, thus we can say we were created with His characteristics. This doesn't mean we are Him, WE ARE NOT GOD. Just as the pot is not the potter. Yet have been formed in the image controlled by the potter. In this case the Potter, Adonai, chose to use His own image and likeness as the basis by which we, the clay have been formed.

He would ultimately define His Pot, His creation...

**Gen 1:27** So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.

There would be male and female pots. Two distinct kinds of pots.

Then he enabled His creation to reproduce itself.

Have you ever seen two pots come together and have little pots? Not on their own, but with the help of the potter. He would have to fashion pots.

Interestingly, Adonai, the Potter is involved in

**Psa 139:13** For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**Psa 139:14** I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well.

**Psa 139:15** My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**Psa 139:16** Your eyes could see me as an embryo, but in your book all my days were already written; my days had been shaped before any of them existed.

Through the power of the Potter, He brings forth more of His creation. Still representing His image and His likeness.

He continues to form us, not from the dust of the ground but in the secret of the mother's womb. Planning the path of our lives, even before one day was lived.

If there is such great intricacy in our planning, how is it that there is so much devastation in our lives. Surely, this is not part of the lives that have been mapped out for us?

How many have heard the phrase... "Life Happens"

One interpretation of this phrase...

*Something is continuing despite all my grief and astonishment. So that's what "life happens" means... I hope Life will continue to **happen** for you in the most merciful, loving, and compassionate way possible.*

Consider what Yosef experienced throughout life.

There was an adversarial relationship between him and his brothers. In many ways Yosef's brothers despised him to the point that they faked his death and sold him. He would ultimately end up in the possession of the Egyptians having both trials and triumphs along the way. Here is what Yosef said to his brothers regarding their past deeds against him...

**Gen 50:20** You meant to do me harm, but God meant it for good — so that it would come about as it is today, with many people's lives being saved.

Just as Yosef had adversaries, intent of disrupting or should I say destroying the plans Adonai had established for us while we were still in the womb, so to, we have an Adversary that is intent on disrupting Adonai's plan that we should turn away from Him. Not content, the Adversary will not be satisfied until we have been destroyed.

We see the impact of this very scenario play throughout Scripture...

We see it with the nation of Israel.

His people not only created in His image and likeness, but brought into a nation where He would establish His name...

**Num 6:27** "In this way they are to put my name on the people of Isra'el, so that I will bless them."

And thus establish a relationship that is unique from any other nation...

**2Ch 7:13** If I shut up the sky, so that there is no rain; or if I order locusts to devour the land; or if I send an epidemic

of sickness among my people;

**2Ch 7:14** then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.

Out of all creation, Adonai calls Israel, His people. Yet in so doing, Adonai has also established a greater responsibility to His people.

**Isa 45:4** It is for the sake of Ya`akov my servant, yes, for Isra'el my elect, that I call you by your name and give you a title, although you don't know me.

**Isa 45:5** I am Adonai; there is no other; besides me there is no God. I am arming you, although you don't know me,  
**Isa 45:6** so that those from the east and those from the west will know that there is none besides me — I am Adonai; there is no other.

**Isa 45:7** I form light, I create darkness; I make well-being, I create woe; I, Adonai, do all these things.

**Isa 45:8** "Heavens above, rain down justice; let the clouds pour it down. Let the earth open, so that salvation springs up, and justice sprouts with it. I, Adonai, have created it."

**Isa 45:9** Woe to anyone who argues with his maker, like potsherd lying on the ground! Does the clay ask the potter, "What are you doing?" or, "What's this you're making, that has no hands?"

**Isa 45:10** Woe to him who asks a father, "Of what are you the father?" or who asks a woman, "To what are you giving birth?"

**Isa 45:11** Thus says Adonai, the Holy One of Isra'el, his Maker: "You ask for signs concerning my children? You give orders concerning the work of my hands?"

**Isa 45:12** I am the one who made the earth! I created human beings on it! I — my hands — stretched out the heavens, and directed all their number.

Here, through the Prophet Yeshayahu reiterates that the creation, the pot is not greater than the Creator, the Potter.

We must be reminded, reassured that Adonai had good plans for our lives, and if He did then, He still does today. We can't always look to others as the cause for our circumstances. We must truly look in the mirror and address the one that is facing us. Consider this next passage...

**Isa 29:13** Then Adonai said: "Because these people approach me with empty words, and the honor they bestow on me is mere lip-service; while in fact they have distanced their hearts from me, and their 'fear of me' is just a mitzvah of human origin —

**Isa 29:14** therefore, I will have to keep shocking these people with astounding and amazing things, until the 'wisdom' of their 'wise ones' vanishes, and the 'discernment' of their 'discerning ones' is hidden away."

**Isa 29:15** Woe to those who burrow down deep to hide their plans from Adonai! They work in the dark and say to themselves, "Nobody sees us, nobody knows us."

**Isa 29:16** How you turn things upside down! — Is the potter not better than the clay, Does something made say of its maker, "He didn't make me"? Does the product say of its producer, "He has no discernment"?

So what is Adonai saying to Isra'el, to us...

I believe Sha'ul, in his letter to Rome encourages us regardless of our current circumstances, our past for that we cannot change or whatever future crisis of faith or infirmity we may experience...

**Rom 8:22** We know that until now, the whole creation has been groaning as with the pains of childbirth;

**Rom 8:23** and not only it, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we continue waiting eagerly to be made sons — that is, to have our whole bodies redeemed and set free.

This groaning includes that of believers in Messiah. You have overcome, yet are still experiencing the pains of the world, the attacks of the Adversary. You are not immune, but have been given power to overcome.

**Rom 8:24** It was in this hope that we were saved. But if we see what we hope for, it isn't hope — after all, who hopes for what he already sees?

**Rom 8:25** But if we continue hoping for something we don't see, then we still wait eagerly for it, with perseverance.

Don't allow your current circumstance or your past to suppress your hope.

**Rom 8:26** Similarly, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we don't know how to pray the way we should. But the Spirit himself pleads on our behalf with groanings too deep for words;

**Rom 8:27** and the one who searches hearts knows exactly what the Spirit is thinking, because his pleadings for God's people accord with God's will.

The Ruach knows the Will of God. Imagine that.

**Rom 8:28** Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;

It isn't just about love, but to be aligned with Him and His purpose...

**Rom 8:29** because those whom he knew in advance, he also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers;

**Rom 8:30** and those whom he thus determined in advance, he also called; and those whom he called, he also caused to be considered righteous; and those whom he caused to be considered righteous he also glorified!

How far in advance did He know you? It was before the womb.

**Rom 8:31** What, then, are we to say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

This verse speaks for itself.

**Rom 8:32** He who did not spare even his own Son, but gave him up on behalf of us all — is it possible that, having given us his Son, he would not give us everything else too?

As I read further I want you to keep this in mind. If Adonai is not faithful in His promises to Isra'el, the Jewish people, then you can just go home. Because, if He is not faithful to the promises He has made, then He there is no reason for Him to remain faithful to you today.

Good thing that isn't the case...

**Rom 8:33** So who will bring a charge against God's chosen people? Certainly not God — he is the one who causes them to be considered righteous!

**Rom 8:34** Who punishes them? Certainly not the Messiah Yeshua, who died and — more than that — has been raised, is at the right hand of God and is actually pleading on our behalf!

**Rom 8:35** Who will separate us from the love of the Messiah? Trouble? Hardship? Persecution? Hunger? Poverty? Danger? War?

**Rom 8:36** As the Tanakh puts it, "For your sake we are being put to death all day long, we are considered sheep to be slaughtered." (Psalm 44:23 (22))

**Rom 8:37** No, in all these things we are superconquerors, through the one who has loved us.

**Rom 8:38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers, neither what exists nor what is coming,

**Rom 8:39** neither powers above nor powers below, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God which comes to us through the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.

Mat 6:33 But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Mat 6:34 Don't worry about tomorrow — tomorrow will worry about itself! Today has enough tsuris already!

Mat 11:28 "Come to me, all of you who are struggling and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Mat 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Joh 16:28 "I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and returning to the Father."

Joh 16:29 The talmidim said to him, "Look, you're talking plainly right now, you're not speaking indirectly at all.

Joh 16:30 Now we know that you know everything, and that you don't need to have people put their questions into words. This makes us believe that you came from God."

Joh 16:31 Yeshua answered, "Now you do believe.

Joh 16:32 But a time is coming — indeed it has come already — when you will be scattered, each one looking out for himself; and you will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone; because the Father is with me.

Joh 16:33 "I have said these things to you so that, united with me, you may have shalom. In the world, you have tsuris. But be brave! I have conquered the world!"

Do not fear.

Do not worry.

These are what you call negative mitzvot. Things you are not supposed to do.

Yeshua's own Words. The Words of Adonai Himself.

The question now is...are you doing this? If you are not, meaning that you are then you are ignoring the Word of Adonai.