

Notes: December 11, 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 Power of God's Word

Have you ever truly considered the power that resides in God's Word?

We are familiar with the prophetic aspect of His Word. We can look back at what God had said and we actually see it in His Word come to fruition.

Consider when Yoseph had his dreams

Gen 37:5 Yosef had a dream which he told his brothers, and that made them hate him all the more.

Gen 37:6 He said to them, "Listen while I tell you about this dream of mine.

Gen 37:7 We were tying up bundles of wheat in the field when suddenly my bundle got up by itself and stood upright; then your bundles came, gathered around mine and prostrated themselves before it."

He was the second youngest of all of Ya'akov's children and was constantly mocked by his brothers. Even when he shared this dream with them, they did not take him seriously but scoffed at him to the point that their hatred for him grew even more because of this dream he had shared.

Gen 37:8 His brothers retorted, "Yes, you will certainly be our king. You'll do a great job of bossing us around!" And they hated him still more for his dreams and for what he said.

Then there was Yoseph's second dream that he shared with his brothers yet again...

Gen 37:9 He had another dream which he told his brothers: "Here, I had another dream, and there were the sun, the moon and eleven stars prostrating themselves before me."

Gen 37:10 He told his father too, as well as his brothers, but his father rebuked him: "What is this dream you have had? Do you really expect me, your mother and your brothers to come and prostrate ourselves before you on the ground?"

His brothers attitude grew even more and the hatred was now infused with jealousy...

Gen 37:11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Jealous - feeling or showing envy of someone or their achievements and advantages

We would later see what this hatred and jealousy would result in...

Gen 37:18 They spotted him in the distance, and before he had arrived where they were, they had already plotted to kill him.

Gen 37:19 They said to each other, "Look, this dreamer is coming!

Gen 37:20 So come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these water cisterns here. Then we'll say some wild animal devoured him. We'll see then what becomes of his dreams!"

Yoseph's two dreams were seen by his brothers as the root of their hatred and jealousy of their younger brother, and became the motivation for the action that would ensue. The plot to kill him. We all know the rest of the story when R'euven intercedes and the brothers end up selling their brother who the ultimately ends up in Egypt and his journey that would reside there starting as a servant, becoming a prisoner and ultimately becoming the second most powerful person in all of Egypt, not because of his dreams but because of his ability to interpret other people's dreams.

Pharaoh would end up having two dreams that he did not understand nor could anyone interpret them for him...

Gen 41:1 At the end of two years, Pharaoh had a dream: he was standing beside the Nile River;

Gen 41:2 and there came up out of the river seven cows, sleek and fat; and they began feeding in swamp grass.

Gen 41:3 After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, miserable-looking and lean; and they stood by the other cows at the edge of the river.

Gen 41:4 Then the miserable-looking and lean cows ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. At this point Pharaoh woke up.

He awoke from his dream. Only to return back to sleep,

Gen 41:5 But he went to sleep again and dreamt a second time: seven full, ripe ears of grain grew out of a single stalk.

Gen 41:6 After them, seven ears, thin and blasted by the east wind, sprang up.

Gen 41:7 And the thin ears swallowed up the seven full, ripe ears. Then Pharaoh woke up and realized it had been a dream.

Realization that it had been a dream conveys that the dream was quite vivid. Have you experienced dreams that when you wake up are so vivid and clear while other times you know you dreamed about something yet the details were rather cloudy. These dreams that Pharaoh had were most certainly of the vivid kind because he remembered them and spoke of them to others. They were so vivid that he sought interpretation for them.

Gen 41:8 In the morning he found himself so upset that he summoned all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one there could interpret them for him.

No one could help him interpret his dreams until mention was made of a prisoner who had interpreted other dreams...

Gen 41:9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today reminds me of something wherein I am at fault:

Gen 41:10 Pharaoh was angry with his officials and put me in the prison of the house of the captain of the guard, me and the chief baker.

Gen 41:11 One night both I and he had dreams, and each man's dream had its own meaning.

Gen 41:12 There was with us a young man, a Hebrew, a servant of the captain of the guard; and we told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us—he interpreted each man's dream individually.

Gen 41:13 And it came about as he interpreted to us—I was restored to my office, and he was hanged."

Thus Pharaoh summoned Yoseph to interpret his dreams...

Gen 41:14 Then Pharaoh summoned Yosef, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon. He shaved himself, changed his clothes, and came in to Pharaoh.

Gen 41:15 Pharaoh said to Yosef, "I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it; but I've heard it said about you that when you hear a dream, you can interpret it."

Gen 41:16 Yosef answered Pharaoh, "It isn't in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer that will set his mind at peace."

Yosef convey the source of his ability to interpret dreams and who is actually providing the answer to Pharaoh, Rather ironic that Pharaoh would listen to Adonai when in the generations to come his successor would both ignore and reject the Words of Adonai spoken through another, Moshe.

Yet here, Yosef is brought to Pharaoh to interpret his dreams, and he does...

Gen 41:25 Yosef said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are the same: God has told Pharaoh what he is about to do.

Gen 41:26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears of grain are seven years—the dreams are the same.

Gen 41:27 Likewise the seven lean and miserable-looking cows that came up after them are seven years, and also the seven empty ears blasted by the east wind—there will be seven years of famine.

Gen 41:28 This is what I told Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

Gen 41:29 Here it is: there will be seven years of abundance throughout the whole land of Egypt;

Gen 41:30 but afterwards, there will come seven years of famine; and Egypt will forget all the abundance. The famine will consume the land,

Gen 41:31 and the abundance will not be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, because it will be truly terrible.

God speaking through Yosef reveals what is to come, not directly, yet through two dreams that required their understanding to be unlocked. Adonai used Yosef as the key to unlock what He had conveyed to Pharaoh. This would be instrumental in aligning everything that was required.

Yosef continues with what Adonai has given him to share with Pharaoh...

Gen 41:32 Why was the dream doubled for Pharaoh? Because the matter has been fixed by God, and God will shortly cause it to happen.

Gen 41:33 "Therefore, Pharaoh should look for a man both discreet and wise to put in charge of the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:34 Pharaoh should do this, and he should appoint supervisors over the land to receive a twenty percent tax on the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

Gen 41:35 They should gather all the food produced during these good years coming up and set aside grain under the supervision of Pharaoh to be used for food in the cities, and they should store it.

Gen 41:36 This will be the land's food supply for the seven years of famine that will come over the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish as a result of the famine."

Again Adonai speaking His Words through Yosef. In hearing all that Yosef had to say to him, how would he respond?

Gen 41:37 The proposal seemed good both to Pharaoh and to all his officials.

Gen 41:38 Pharaoh said to his officials, "Can we find anyone else like him? The Spirit of God lives in him!"

Gen 41:39 So Pharaoh said to Yosef, "Since God has shown you all this—there is no one as discerning and wise as you—

Gen 41:40 you will be in charge of my household; all my people will be ruled by what you say. Only when I rule from my throne will I be greater than you."

The ascension of Yosef to become the second most powerful man in Egypt has become a reality. One piece to the puzzle of his initial dreams shared with his brothers was established by Adonai, because it was Pharaoh who recognized the presence of Adonai residing in Him.

We know the rest of the story as recounted in B'reshet (Genesis) where a famine would not only hit the land of Egypt but all the lands that surrounded it. Egypt would become even more powerful through Yosef and his ability to increase the nations wealth. The famine would also be the catalyst for bringing another piece of Yosef's two dreams to fruition as well.

To make a long story short because we know what has transpired and have been reading about it in the Parshah and will be concluding B'reshet next week, I will jump to the end...

Gen 42:5 The sons of Isra'el came to buy along with the others that came, since the famine extended to the land of Kena'an.

Gen 42:6 Yosef was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. Now when Yosef's brothers came and prostrated themselves before him on the ground,

Gen 42:7 Yosef saw his brothers and recognized them; but he acted toward them as if he were a stranger and spoke harshly with them. He asked them, "Where are you from?" They answered, "From the land of Kena'an to buy food."

Prostrate - lying stretched out on the ground with one's face downward.

Is this not the fullest extent of bowing? Lying face down on the ground at one's feet.

The fulfillment of dreams supplied by Adonai, one might say these too are His Words came to fruition thus God's Words confirm God's Words.

We can also say that God's Actions in bringing all of this to fruition confirm God's Actions.

Which ultimately means God's Words confirm God's actions.

Thus only God can confirm what He says and only He can confirm what He does.

When it comes to the prophetic aspect of God's Word, once He says something, once He puts it in writing, there is nothing anyone can do to stop it and thus prevent it, delay it from happening, or change what He intends to happen.

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.

I have heard it taught that we can hasten His return for which I would reject, simply because He has established the when not to mention the signs that are to occur in preparing His people, the olive tree, Jew and Gentile who are one in Messiah will be made aware of His pending return.

His return will not occur one moment sooner or one moment later than His designated time of arrival. Airlines, in order to convey a favorable "on time arrival record" pad their flight time, usually by an additional 20 minutes. Adonai will not be "padding" anything but will arrive on the time He has set. Consider Yeshua on the execution stake...

Joh 19:28 After this, knowing that all things had accomplished their purpose, Yeshua, in order to fulfill the words of the Tanakh, said, "I'm thirsty."

Joh 19:29 A jar full of cheap sour wine was there; so they soaked a sponge in the wine, coated it with oregano leaves and held it up to his mouth.

Joh 19:30 After Yeshua had taken the wine, he said, "It is accomplished!" And, letting his head droop, he delivered up his spirit.

Everything had to be accomplished. Everything that Adonai had set forth in order for the record to be fulfilled that had already been established through the Word of Adonai, Torah, The Prophets and the Writings, the Tanakh. In other words, Yeshua had a to do list that only He knew what was required. It is at this point that Yeshua's first "to do" list was complete. Not one item remained undone and thus it was the appointed time that was set in advance that could not be altered or even stopped from happening.

We see here that God's Words confirm God's actions.

Thus returning to Yosef after the death of Ya'akov, his brothers start speculating as to their future now that their father is no longer alive to keep Yosef "in check".

Gen 50:15 Realizing that their father was dead, Yosef's brothers said, "Yosef may hate us now and pay us back in full for all the suffering we caused him."

Gen 50:16 So they sent a message to Yosef which said, "Your father gave this order before he died:

Gen 50:17 'Say to Yosef, "I beg you now, please forgive your brothers' crime and wickedness in doing you harm." ' So now, we beg of you, forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Yosef wept when they spoke to him;

Gen 50:18 and his brothers too came, prostrated themselves before him and said, "Here, we are your slaves."

Gen 50:19 But Yosef said to them, "Don't be afraid! Am I in the place of God?"

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.

Gen 50:21 So don't be afraid—I will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he comforted them, speaking kindly to them.

The creator of the world, the creator of us has enormous impact over what is to transpire. He has had enormous impact on what has already transpired, would one think the today that His impact has diminished? Some have, some have placed Adonai in the non-relevant bin, while others have justified, that was then, it isn't for today. It was true with Yosef, it is true today. Just look what has happened in the last 100 years. A mere drop in the bucket of time.

We have seen a people returning to a land that had laid dormant from their presence for some 1900 years.

Isa 66:8 Who ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Is a country born in one day? Is a nation brought forth all at once? For as soon as Tziyon went into labor, she brought forth her children.

She is bringing forth her children...

Deu 30:1 "When the time arrives that all these things have come upon you, both the blessing and the curse which I have presented to you; and you are there among the nations to which Adonai your God has driven you; then, at last, you will start thinking about what has happened to you;

Deu 30:2 and you will return to Adonai your God and pay attention to what he has said, which will be exactly what I am ordering you to do today—you and your children, with all your heart and all your being.

Deu 30:3 At that point, Adonai your God will reverse your exile and show you mercy; he will return and gather you from all the peoples to which Adonai your God scattered you.

Deu 30:4 If one of yours was scattered to the far end of the sky, Adonai your God will gather you even from there; he will go there and get you.

Deu 30:5 Adonai your God will bring you back into the land your ancestors possessed, and you will possess it; he will make you prosper there, and you will become even more numerous than your ancestors.

Not a moment sooner, not a moment later... "When the time arrives"

God's Actions confirm God's Word.

Yet what is just as miraculous, if not more is a people whose identity was sustained while in the midst of being scattered throughout the earth.

Exo 4:22 Then you are to tell Pharaoh: 'Adonai says, "Isra'el is my firstborn son.

Deu 7:6 For you are a people set apart as holy for Adonai your God. Adonai your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his own unique treasure.

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

Our identity was sustained and protected for only one reason Adonai.

God's Word confirm God's Action.

Thus know and understand just how powerful God's Word truly is. Consider that His actions confirm what He has said and what He has said is confirmed by what He does. No one can change that, so if you are to take anything away from this is reassurance, comfort, understanding and joy. When you embrace this rather basic

reality, you will not be tossed to and fro by the waves of the world, the waves of speculation, the waves of doubt, the waves of uncertainty, the waves of prediction.

Whatever the seas are, in your boat, the sea is calm.