

Notes: April 28, 2018

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Shabbat Shalom – Service Begins
2. God Bless America: *Prayer for America and it's Leadership*
3. Children's Song:
4. Children's Lesson:
5. Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Class
6. Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer
7. Matovu
8. Drash –
9. Name of God For the Week:
10. Liturgy
11. Prayer
12. Worship in Music and Dance
13. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *To Test or Not To Test*
14. Kiddush

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: To Test or Not To Test

When we boil our lives down they seem to be comprised of trials, tribulations, tests and temptations.

Psa 11:1 [*For the leader. By David:*] In Adonai I find refuge. So how can you say to me, "Flee like a bird to the mountains!"

Psa 11:2 See how the wicked are drawing their bows and setting their arrows on the string, to shoot from the shadows at honest men.

Psa 11:3 If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Psa 11:4 Adonai is in his holy temple. Adonai, his throne is in heaven. His eyes see and test humankind.

Psa 11:5 Adonai tests the righteous; but he hates the wicked and the lover of violence.

Psa 11:6 He will rain hot coals down on the wicked, fire, sulfur and scorching wind will be what they get to drink.

Psa 11:7 For Adonai is righteous; he loves righteousness; the upright will see his face.

Tested Avraham.

Most of know the experience Avraham had when Adonai asked him to sacrifice his only son. It is the Torah reading on Yom T'ruah, Rosh Hashanah every year.

Gen 22:1 After these things, God tested Avraham. He said to him, "Avraham!" and he answered, "Here I am."

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Yitz'chak; and go to the land of Moriyah. There you are to offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will point out to you."

There is no subtle reasoning...God tested Avraham.

Ultimately, Adonai's test was to determine where Avraham's heart was towards Adonai.

Gen 22:12 He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy! Don't do anything to him! For now I know that you are a man who fears God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Tested Job

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of `Utz whose name was Iyov. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

Job 1:8 Adonai asked the Adversary, "Did you notice my servant Iyov, that there's no one like him on earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and shuns evil?"

Job 1:9 The Adversary answered Adonai, "Is it for nothing that Iyov fears God?"

Job 1:10 You've put a protective hedge around him, his house and everything he has. You've prospered his work, and his livestock are spread out all over the land.

Job 1:11 But if you reach out your hand and touch whatever he has, without doubt he'll curse you to your face!"

Job 1:12 Adonai said to the Adversary, "Here! Everything he has is in your hands, except that you are not to lay a finger on his person." Then the Adversary went out from the presence of Adonai.

Job will experience great loss and receive a great deal of advice along the way as to his circumstances. His agnst is immense and his suffering great, yet he ultimately resists the advice to turn away from Adonai.

Elihu shares the following with Iyov...

Job 36:15 "God, with his affliction, delivers the afflicted; and he gets their attention by pressing on them.

Job 36:16 Indeed [*Iyov*], he is drawing you away from distress to an untroubled open place, with rich food on your table.

Who does this ultimately sound like?

From Chapter 38 on, you see Adonai respond to Iyov.

Job 38:1 Then Adonai answered Iyov out of the storm:

Job 38:2 "Who is this, darkening my plans with his ignorant words?"

Job 38:3 Stand up like a man, and brace yourself; I will ask questions; and you, give the answers!

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I founded the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.

and Adonai goes on, continuing to educate Iyov in His ways.

Tested Moshe and Israel in the desert 40 years...

Exo 16:4 Adonai said to Moshe, "Here, I will cause bread to rain down from heaven for you. The people are to go out and gather a day's ration every day. By this I will test whether they will observe my Torah or not.

Deu 8:2 You are to remember everything of the way in which Adonai led you these forty years in the desert, humbling and testing you in order to know what was in your heart - whether you would obey his mitzvot or not.

Does anyone remember the Manna test

Testing does not mean that Adonai is provoking you to transgress His Word, His Commands, His Mitzvot.

Quite the contrary, He is testing you to see if you will keep them. If you will follow Him.

Jas 1:13 No one being tempted should say, "I am being tempted by God." For God cannot be tempted by evil, and God himself tempts no one.

Adversary tempted Adam and Eve in the garden...the first temptation of man by the adversary...

What was his intent...

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any wild animal which Adonai, God, had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You are not to eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Ultimately, it was to separate man from woman and thwart Adonai's plan for dealing with this issue of sin, and its originator...the Adversary, it's impacting Adonai's creation thus requiring atonement by Adonai.

Gen 3:14 Adonai, God, said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all livestock and wild animals. You will crawl on your belly and eat dust as long as you live.

Gen 3:15 I will put animosity between you and the woman, and between your descendant and her descendant; he will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel."

What was true then regarding the Adversary's tactics of temptation through deception, is true now, and will be true at the end...

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison

Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore;

Rev 20:9 and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

Rev 20:10 The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Yeshua tempted by Adversary, yet also tested by Adonai...

Mat 4:1 Then the Spirit led Yeshua up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Adversary.

Mat 4:2 After Yeshua had fasted forty days and nights, he was hungry.

Mat 4:3 The Tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, order these stones to become bread."

Mat 4:4 But he answered, "The Tanakh says, 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of Adonai' " (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Mat 4:5 Then the Adversary took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the Temple.

Mat 4:6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "jump! For the Tanakh says, 'He will order his angels to be responsible for you. . . . They will support you with their hands, so that you will not hurt your feet on the stones.' " (Psalm 91:11 -12)

Mat 4:7 Yeshua replied to him, "But it also says, 'Do not put Adonai your God to the test.' " (Deuteronomy 6:16)

Mat 4:8 Once more, the Adversary took him up to the summit of a very high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their glory,

Mat 4:9 and said to him, "All this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me."

Mat 4:10 "Away with you, Satan!" Yeshua told him, "For the Tanakh says, 'Worship Adonai your God, and serve only him.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Mat 4:11 Then the Adversary let him alone, and angels came and took care of him.

Interestingly, all responses by Yeshua are from Parshah Tzav.

The three temptations by the adversary towards Yeshua were intended to draw Him away from Adonai.

- "turn this stone in to bread" - following the adversary's command over that of Adonai...
- "jump and your angels will save you" - revealing Yeshua's true power in advance of His appointed time to do so. Again, following the command of the adversary, not Adonai.
- "I will give you the kingdoms of the earth" - in essence a bribe to serve the adversary.

Yet the adversary did not have the power or authority to do so...

Rev 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his shofar; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and his Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever!"

that is the power of deception, making other believe the words you are saying.

Temptation is powered by deception. Why do you think there are warnings against being deceived...

2Pe 2:1 But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses they will introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and thus bring on themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, the true Way will be maligned.

2Pe 2:3 In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their punishment, decreed long ago, is not idle; their destruction is not asleep!

Jas 1:1 From: Ya`akov, a slave of God and of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah To: The Twelve Tribes in the Diaspora: Shalom!

Jas 1:2 Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations;

Jas 1:3 for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance.

Jas 1:4 But let perseverance do its complete work; so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

Jas 1:5 Now if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all generously and without reproach; and it will be given to him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in trust, doubting nothing; for the doubter is like a wave in the sea being tossed and driven by the wind.

Jas 1:7 Indeed that person should not think that he will receive anything from the Lord,

Jas 1:8 because he is double-minded, unstable in all his ways.

Jas 1:9 Let the brother in humble circumstances boast about his high position.

Jas 1:10 But let the rich brother boast about his being humbled; since, like a wildflower, he will pass away.

Jas 1:11 For just as the sun rises with the sharav and dries up the plant, so that its flower falls off and its beauty is destroyed, so too the rich person going about his business will wither away.

Jas 1:12 How blessed is the man who perseveres through temptation! For after he has passed the test, he will receive as his crown the Life which God has promised to those who love him.

Jas 1:13 No one being tempted should say, "I am being tempted by God." For God cannot be tempted by evil, and God himself tempts no one.

Jas 1:14 Rather, each person is being tempted whenever he is being dragged off and enticed by the bait of his own desire.

Jas 1:15 Then, having conceived, the desire gives birth to sin; and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

Jas 1:16 Don't delude yourselves, my dear brothers.

Jas 2:17 Thus, faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is dead.

Jas 2:18 But someone will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions!

Jas 2:19 You believe that "God is one"? Good for you! The demons believe it too — the thought makes them shudder with fear!

Jas 2:20 But, foolish fellow, do you want to be shown that such "faith" apart from actions is barren?

Jas 2:21 Wasn't Avraham avinu declared righteous because of actions when he offered up his son Yitz'chak on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that his faith worked with his actions; by the actions the faith was made complete;

Jas 2:23 and the passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled which says, "Avraham had faith in God, and it was credited to his account as righteousness." He was even called God's friend.

Jas 2:24 You see that a person is declared righteous because of actions and not because of faith alone.

Jas 2:25 Likewise, wasn't Rachav the prostitute also declared righteous because of actions when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another route?

Jas 2:26 Indeed, just as the body without a spirit is dead, so too faith without actions is dead.