

Notes: October 14, 2017 – Simchat Torah

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: Simchat Torah Message – Torah Under Attack

Today we are celebrating Simchat Torah...today we are rejoicing in Torah. The Scroll Adonai compiled,

- Adonai instructed Moshe to write it:

Deu 31:24 Moshe kept writing the words of this Torah in a book until he was done. When he had finished,

Deu 31:25 Moshe gave these orders to the L'vi'im who carried the ark with the covenant of Adonai:

Deu 31:26 "Take this book of the Torah and put it next to the ark with the covenant of Adonai your God, so that it can be there to witness against you.

- Adonai calls Torah an inheritance:

Deu 33:3 He truly loves the peoples - all his holy ones are in your hand; sitting at your feet, they receive your instruction,

Deu 33:4 the Torah Moshe commanded us as an inheritance for the community of Ya`akov.

- Adonai instructed Joshua to follow it:

Jos 1:7 Only be strong and very bold in taking care to follow all the Torah which Moshe my servant ordered you to follow; do not turn from it either to the right or to the left; then you will succeed wherever you go.

- It was to be read to a new generation every seventh year on Sukkot

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.

- It is foundational in Yeshua's ministry

Mat 5:17 "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete.

Mat 5:18 Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a yud (ך) or a stroke will pass from the Torah — not until everything that must happen has happened.

Mat 5:19 So whoever disobeys the least of these mitzvot and teaches others to do so will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever obeys them and so teaches will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mat 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness is far greater than that of the Torah-teachers and P'rushim, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Today, we are rejoicing in Adonai's Torah, given to Israel as a blue print for righteously living our lives according to what Adonai has deemed appropriate.

Yet, Today, Torah is under attack.

The New Covenant as is under attack.

Both are under attack, not from outside, but from within. From within the body of Messiah..believers who profess Yeshua to be their savior are attacking not the author and finisher of their faith, but the foundation for which their faith in Yeshua is constructed. The means by which righteousness is determined...

Luk 1:5 In the days of Herod, King of Y'hudah, there was a cohen named Z'kharyah who belonged to the Aviyah division. His wife was a descendant of Aharon, and her name was Elisheva.

Luk 1:6 Both of them were righteous before God, observing all the mitzvot and ordinances of Adonai blamelessly.

1. Who said these things...

We are to live by the Holy Spirit, not by a list of rules.

Christ is intended to simplify our lives, not load us down with a list of rules

Who said these – Joyce Meyer

What Gospel is She preaching?

Diminishing Adonai's Mitzvot as being a list of rules and the Ruach Ha Kodesh being unrelated to Torah.

Does not the Ruach ha Kodesh guide us in the commands of Adonai in that they are all one.

2. Who said these things...

His sermon series entitled Spiritual Blindness, whereby in part 3 he states...

“go home and try to live by the law, that means no more pork, throw them ribs away...you can't do that anymore if you are living under the law.”

“You and your relationship with pig is over”

“I guess we won't see you Saturday, because you can't come out – because its the law.”

“Who can do that”?

“The Law was too perfect to keep for a human”

Covenant of the Law vs. Covenant of Grace.

Who said these – Creflo Dollar

What Gospel is He preaching?

The sheer mocking of Torah is being by those whose understanding of the New Covenant has been subverted, yet they don't know it.

Is there not grace in Torah and the promise of the New Covenant found throughout the Tanakh.

This month's Charisma magazine cover page asks the question...”Do We Need Another Reformation?”

The article, written by RT Kendall, author of “Whatever Happened To The Gospel?” provides an historical account in the article that comprises Martin Luther and the Reformation he birthed through challenging the Catholic church with 95 theses.

RT Kendall then draws this observation, applying the Reformation to today...

“I believe that much of what we are hearing in many pulpits and seeing on religious television focuses on almost everything but the gospel.

“For example, we have the “prosperity gospel,” the “health and wealth gospel,” the “name it claim it gospel,” the “God will make you prosperous if you support a specific ministry gospel,” hypergrace teaching, the “ God wants everybody healed gospel,” the “political gospel,” and the “feel good gospel.”

RT Kendall continues...

citing Galatians 1:6 – 7

Gal 1:6 I am astounded that you are so quick to remove yourselves from me, the one who called you by the Messiah's grace, and turn to some other supposedly "Good News,"

Gal 1:7 which is not good news at all! What is really happening is that certain people are pestering you and trying to pervert the genuine Good News of the Messiah.

Further expanding on his observation, he writes...

“Are we guilty of preaching “a different gospel” today? The prosperity gospel has eclipsed the gospel of Jesus Christ in many religious television networks. The emphasis on worship and singing has done virtually the same thing when you consider how little time is given to preaching in some places – not to mention the shallow content of so many songs being written today.”

“Hypergrace teachings – the notion that believers do not need to confess their sins to God – has elbowed its way into many churches. It has divided the people of God in many parts of the world and in some cases even ruined marriages. The “political gospel,” whether it is called that or not, relegates the gospel to one side in order to stress how crucial it is that you vote for a particular party or candidate.

“Furthermore, many people in charismatic churches flock to hear a rhema word – a word of knowledge or personal prophecy, but sometimes show no interest in the real reason God sent His Son to die. “Name it claim it” teaching suggests you can have anything you ask for – just name what you want and claim that God will give it to you. The “health and wealth gospel” purports that God wants everybody healed and well off financially. If one is not healed it is due to one's lack of faith.”

As if that were not enough to concern us, there has been an ever growing acceptance of universalism in the church today – the view that all will be saved and none will be lost. This teaching renders the gospel useless. Why preach if all will be saved?

Robert Tillman Kendall (born July 13, 1935) is a Christian writer, speaker, and teacher who pastored [Westminster Chapel](#) of London England for 25 years. He is author of more than 50 books.

This is a man who has been in the church and is conveying a question to the church...

The question RT Kendall is asking is – Which gospel is being preached?

As I have conveyed in the past, the Gospel message of Adonai is extremely simple...

Luk 24:44 Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

The other thing that I have told you about the Gospel is that it is the Passover.

Everything Yeshua did and stated, was part of the Passover.

To where on Yom Kippur we reconciled the Passover Lamb to the two goats, with all pointing to Yeshua.

So, why is there such an attack going on?

These Words of Yeshua first hit me...

Luk 23:33 When they came to the place called The Skull, they nailed him to a stake; and they nailed the criminals to stakes, one on the right and one on the left.

Luk 23:34 Yeshua said, "Father, forgive them; they don't understand what they are doing." They divided up his clothes by throwing dice.

Ultimately, speaking of the Roman soldiers who were following orders. It is also conveyed that these verses are speaking to the Jewish leaders who in essence rejected Him.

But can we really say this about believers today? People who espouse their faith in Jesus, Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah, the Savior of the world. People who read the exact same Scriptures we do?

The first thing to consider is those who teach.

I gave you just two examples, yet there are thousands who convey these same things from pulpits every week, typically on a Sunday.

So, you have to go up the ladder further to the seminaries who train ministers. Yet, can you truly find the origin of these teachings in seminary. Yet, there is no real source in seminary whereby we can identify this understanding of the New Covenant being void of its Jewish foundation as being "ground zero." It seems like it has always been there, and in the case of today's seminaries, it probably has been there all along.

So, it didn't start with the teachers and preachers. It didn't start with the seminary. I believe we must now look back in time and the litany of church history. History is ultimately the method by which we can unlock mysteries and answer questions.

Where did this disdain, ner I say sheer hatred for Torah originate? I don't know if we can isolate it to any one person, but rather people. Here are a few examples...

Justin Martyr - Dialogue with Trypho (Between 138A.D. and 161 A.D.)

We too, would observe your circumcision of the flesh, your Sabbath days, and in a word, all you festivals, if we were not aware of the reason why they were imposed upon you, namely, because of your sins and the hardness of heart.

Origen of Alexandria (185-254 A.D.) – A ecclesiastical writer and teacher who contributed to the early formation of Christian doctrines.

We may thus assert in utter confidence that the Jews will not return to their earlier situation, for they have committed the most abominable of crimes, in forming this conspiracy against the Savior of the human race...hence the city where Jesus suffered was necessarily destroyed, the Jewish nation was driven from its country, and another people was called by God to the blessed election.

St. Augustine (c. 354-430 A.D.), Confessions, 12.14

How hateful to me are the enemies of your Scripture! How I wish that you would slay them (the Jews) with your two-edged sword, so that there should be none to oppose your word! Gladly would I have them die to themselves and live to you!

Source - <http://www.yashanet.com/library/fathers.htm>

Many of these leaders, dating back centuries certainly have their part in this attack. Yet, it wasn't too long ago from their time in history that they would have read or heard about someone like Kefa and what he said during the feast of Shavuot...

Act 2:22 "Men of Isra'el! Listen to this! Yeshua from Natzeret was a man demonstrated to you to have been from God by the powerful works, miracles and signs that God performed through him in your presence. You yourselves know this.

Act 2:23 This man was arrested in accordance with God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and, through the agency of persons not bound by the Torah, you nailed him up on a stake and killed him!

Act 2:24 "But God has raised him up and freed him from the suffering of death; it was impossible that death could keep its hold on him.

Act 2:35 'Adonai said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." '

Act 2:36 Therefore, let the whole house of Isra'el know beyond doubt that God has made him both Lord and Messiah — this Yeshua, whom you executed on a stake!"

Act 2:37 On hearing this, they were stung in their hearts; and they said to Kefa and the other emissaries, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Act 2:38 Kefa answered them, "Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh!

The message of Yeshua is clear. The message conveyed by Kefa, as well as the rest of Yeshua's talmadim. Yet, unfortunately, this message became subverted, undermined, along the way. Ultimately we do know the source...

The adversary...

Joh 8:43 Why don't you understand what I'm saying? Because you can't bear to listen to my message.

Joh 8:44 You belong to your father, Satan, and you want to carry out your father's desires. From the start he was a murderer, and he has never stood by the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is speaking in character; because he is a liar — indeed, the inventor of the lie!

Joh 8:45 But as for me, because I tell the truth you don't believe me.

Joh 8:46 Which one of you can show me where I'm wrong? If I'm telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

Joh 8:47 Whoever belongs to God listens to what God says; the reason you don't listen is that you don't belong to God."

The one who lies, deceives many.

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!

Interestingly, we (being Messianic Jews and Messianic Gentiles) are labeled as the ones who are deceived, under the law, legalistic, yet in their preaching and teaching of others, the Word of Adonai is being butchered beyond recognition.

Ultimately, it is the Ruach ha Kodesh who can transform these butchered and unrecognizable gospels being conveyed by many today and transform them back into the message of Messiah.

Back to my previous question...

But can we really say this about believers today?

To which I reiterate the words of Yeshua...

"Father, forgive them; they don't understand what they are doing."

Adonai has revealed these things to you and it is your responsibility to be that light that extinguishes the darkness of these deceptions.

And you are to love Adonai your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources. These words, which I am ordering you today, are to be on your heart; and you are to teach them carefully to your children.

You are to talk about them when you sit at home, when you are traveling on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them on your hand as a sign, put them at the front of a headband around your forehead, and write them on the door-frames of your house and on your gates. These words, which form the beginning of the *Ve'ahavta* prayer, teach us that love of God and learning are closely related.

This consecration marks the beginning of another year of Torah study. It is fitting to anoint you with oil at Simchat Torah, as it means 'joy or celebration of the Torah.' The word "consecrate" in religious circles means an association with something holy, and throughout our tradition Jewish learning is considered a sacred task.

A textual basis for Consecration's placement on this day might come from a custom of calling all in the community to hear the Torah on Sukkot, which is itself based on Deuteronomy 31:12.

Deu 31:12 Assemble the people — the men, the women, the little ones and the foreigners you have in your towns — so that they can hear, learn, fear Adonai your God and take care to obey all the words of this Torah;

Deu 31:13 and so that their children, who have not known, can hear and learn to fear Adonai your God, for as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Yarden to possess."

The text reads as God's instructions to Moshe: Gather the people — men, women, children, and the strangers in your communities — that they may hear and so learn to revere Adonai your God and to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching."

Consecration, like so many other rituals in our tradition, is about coming together as a community and as a family. On Simchat Torah, let us reaffirm our commitment and dedication to study. May we renew our hope, spirit, and passion for Torah.

For the Jewish people, the study of Torah never ends. Each year, as we read the sacred text again, it can be as if we are reading it for the first time. Oh how being grafted in to the Olive Tree brings this treasure, this inheritance to you.

For it is through the studying of Torah, the Haftarah and Brith Hadoshah, that Romans 12:1 – 3 is possible...

Rom 12:1 I exhort you, therefore, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer yourselves as a sacrifice, living and set apart for God. This will please him; it is the logical "Temple worship" for you.

Rom 12:2 In other words, do not let yourselves be conformed to the standards of the `olam hazeh. Instead, keep letting yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds; so that you will know what God wants and will agree that what he wants is good, satisfying and able to succeed.

Rom 12:3 For I am telling every single one of you, through the grace that has been given to me, not to have exaggerated ideas about your own importance. Instead, develop a sober estimate of yourself based on the standard which God has given to each of you, namely, trust.