

Notes: October 9, 2021

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tov
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: Where Do We Go From Here?

I have been so focused for nearly four months on Torah that the thoughts and ideas for each sermon basically wrote themselves. They were effortless for I firmly believe the Ruach Ha Kodesh was guiding me to a point where we culminated with Simchat Torah, Rejoicing in Torah. With such intended focus, I had not consider what was next. In other words,

“Where Do We Go From Here?”

What's next for you in the congregation as it pertains to our direction, our focus.

The first thing to remember is that our focus has not changed, that being our vision, singular, yet complex in its presentation which states:

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.

Our vision is clear and inclusive to whether you are Jewish or not.

Our purpose as a congregation is equally as clear:

Kehilah Portland is a Messianic Jewish Synagogue with the purpose to proclaim the redemptive power and purpose of God through His servant, our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). This proclamation is to all people, with the express desire to connect them with the God of Israel through prayer, worship and community.

To equip people to serve, to grow to maturity and to inspire believers everywhere to recognize the irrevocable calling of God upon the Jewish people, encouraging the nations (Gentiles) to fulfill their biblical mandate to come alongside Israel as co-heirs to the covenants of promise.

Genesis 12:1 – 3; Isaiah 49:5 - 6, 49:22 – 23; Romans 11; Romans 16:25 – 27; Ephesians 2:11 – 22

As is our Mission as a congregation clearly defined:

Kehilah Portland is established with the purpose of restoring the people of Israel, in the state of Maine, to their God, and ultimately to their biblical calling. We will set forth to do this in the following manner:

- **Be committed to and grow in a lifestyle of faith called Biblical Judaism**
- **Reveal first to the Jewish people of Maine, and also to the non-Jewish people of Maine the true identity and heritage of King Messiah Yeshua**
- **Support Israel and the Jewish people in opposing all acts of hatred (anti-semitism) brought against them.**
- **Call all people in the body of Messiah to the proper understanding of God's covenant promises to Israel and their restoration.**

So, we don't need to look at these aspects any further to answer the question "Where Do We Go From Here?"

In this week's Parshah Noach we read of many people coming together...

Gen 11:1 The whole earth used the same language, the same words.

Gen 11:2 It came about that as they traveled from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shin`ar and lived there.

The people were one and thus acted and functioned as one for they communicated in one language so there was no division in this aspect.

The people desired to make a name for themselves...

Gen 11:3 They said to one another, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them in the fire." So they had bricks for building-stone and clay for mortar.

Gen 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city with a tower that has its top reaching up into heaven, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth."

Make a name for themselves so they would not be scattered throughout the earth. It is like they were functioning with one mind, one purpose. However, Adonai would go down to see what was happening...

Gen 11:5 Adonai came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

Gen 11:6 Adonai said, "Look, the people are united, they all have a single language, and see what they're

starting to do! At this rate, nothing they set out to accomplish will be impossible for them!

Gen 11:7 Come, let's go down and confuse their language, so that they won't understand each other's speech."

One may ask, what could this have looked like.

I see this as the people were about their business of making a name for themselves, communicating, everyone with a single language, then all of a sudden Adonai changes what comes out of their mouths, changing their language to where confusion and chaos occurred. Not able to communicate directly as everyone was doing, there was a concerted effort to seek out someone who spoke the same language, someone they could understand. As people found others who spoke their language, they would gather together. In gathering together and being able to communicate they in essence established their own community. Thus ultimately what the people did not want to do, actually happened.

Gen 11:8 So from there Adonai scattered them all over the earth, and they stopped building the city.

Where did they go from here?

As is defined in Genesis 10, each community, each nation went their own way and established the foundation of what we have today. Though there are far more than 70 nations today, this is the origin of where we are today. Some nations such as Mitzrayim (Egypt) (B'resheet (Genesis) 10:6) are mentioned directly while many others, through attrition or conquest simply do not exist on today's map anymore. Today there are approximately 195 countries, and I say approximately because the United Nations definition I consider to be flawed. In one aspect Taiwan is not considered its own nation while the State of Palestine is included. This isn't the place to have this discussion, but thought it should at least be made known so to defuse any later comments.

<https://www.worldometers.info/geography/how-many-countries-are-there-in-the-world/>

Where they went was to a land and settled, established their country's location.

We read in B'midbar of the wanderings of a nation not represented in B'resheet (Genesis) 10. A nation that did not exist but was established through a covenant Adonai made with a single individual Avram. You should know the verses well, B'resheet (Genesis) 12:1 – 3 so I am not going to reiterate them.

This nation was promised a land, just like all the other nations. Yet unlike all the other nations Adonai would establish a distinct relationship between these people and the land that is promised to them. Adonai had established a specific piece of the earth that He had created for a people that would bear His name, His Word and ultimately His presence. He conveyed this to Avram...

Gen 15:13 Adonai said to Avram, "Know this for certain: your descendants will be foreigners in a land that is not theirs. They will be slaves and held in oppression there four hundred years.

Gen 15:14 But I will also judge that nation, the one that makes them slaves. Afterwards, they will leave with many possessions.

Gen 15:15 As for you, you will join your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.

Gen 15:16 Only in the fourth generation will your descendants come back here, because only then will the Emori be ripe for punishment."

Thus a people who would come under the authority of a nation Mitzrayim (Egypt) would be enslaved until Adonai would hear the cry of His people.

Exo 2:23 Sometime during those many years the king of Egypt died, but the people of Isra'el still groaned under the yoke of slavery, and they cried out, and their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.

Exo 2:24 God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov.

Exo 2:25 God saw the people of Isra'el, and God acknowledged them.

Adonai would act on behalf of the people, providing a deliverer who would lead them out of oppression and into freedom with the destination being a land promised them.

Upon freedom, their first stop was to a mountain and an encounter with their God. Unlike the gods of the land they had just left, this God spoke and His presence was noticeable, unlike the silent, lifeless statues that populated the land of Mitzrayim (Egypt). An encounter that would establish a relationship between Adonai and Israel, one that the people did not know, yet Adonai did not forget the Patriarchs. A nation that would come to bear His Name and His reputation.

Unfortunately, we as humans do not always rise up to the expectation placed upon us. Whereby even when something is divinely established, we ultimately are the authors of our own self-inflicted sabotage. In this case, the nation, destined to inhabit the land promised did just that. Their sabotage was not trusting Adonai.

Num 14:32 But you, your carcasses will fall in this desert;

Num 14:33 and your children will wander about in the desert for forty years bearing the consequences of your prostitutions until the desert eats up your carcasses.

Num 14:34 It will be a year for every day you spent reconnoitering the land that you will bear the consequences of your offenses—forty days, forty years. Then you will know what it means to oppose me!

Where did they go from the mountain? One might say they went nowhere. They went nowhere specific, yet they went many specific places, yet none of them were their intended destination. This wandering as conveyed would last 40 years.

Where did they go after the 40 years had concluded...Their intended destination.

Residing in the land for centuries now, establishing a presence, the nation of Israel had an obligation for residing in the land and that was to follow Adonai's mitzvot.

Deu 28:9 "Adonai will establish you as a people separated out for himself, as he has sworn to you—if you will observe the mitzvot of Adonai your God and follow his ways.

Deu 28:10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that Adonai's name, his presence, is with you; so that they will be afraid of you.

For Adonai had revealed that should they not do so,

Deu 28:15 "But if you refuse to pay attention to what Adonai your God says, and do not observe and obey all his mitzvot and regulations which I am giving you today, then all the following curses will be yours in abundance:

Including expulsion from the land...

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;

What happened? They were removed from the land by their enemies, defeated and brought under the authority of a king not their own. Adonai removed His protection because of a nation's transgression towards Him. You have likely heard this saying before, "Where much is given, much more is required." This is an understatement when it comes to the relationship Adonai established with Israel.

Where did they go from here? They went into captivity, their unintended destination. Though unintended, it became a reality.

Jer 29:4 "Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says to all those in exile, whom I have caused to be carried off captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel:

Jer 29:5 'Build yourselves houses, and live in them. Plant gardens, and eat what they produce.

Jer 29:6 Choose women to marry, and have sons and daughters. Choose wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage to men, so that they can have sons and daughters—increase your numbers there, don't decrease.

Jer 29:7 Seek the welfare of the city to which I have caused you to go in exile, and pray to Adonai on its behalf; for your welfare is bound up in its welfare.'

Where did they go from here? Nowhere.

They would not go until Adonai caused them to go.

Jer 29:8 For this is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says: 'Don't let your prophets who are living among you and your diviners deceive you, and don't pay attention to the dreams you urge them to dream.

Jer 29:9 For they are prophesying falsely in my name; I have not sent them,' says Adonai.

Jer 29:10 "For here is what Adonai says: 'After Bavel's seventy years are over, I will remember you and fulfill my good promise to you by bringing you back to this place.

Jer 29:11 For I know what plans I have in mind for you,' says Adonai,'plans for well-being, not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future.

Jer 29:12 When you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 When you seek me, you will find me, provided you seek for me wholeheartedly;

Jer 29:14 and I will let you find me,' says Adonai. 'Then I will reverse your exile. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have driven you,' says Adonai, 'and bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.'

Not a day, hour or minute before.

Where did they go from here? (when it was time). Back to their home.

Regardless of your circumstances, you are always direction bound. The question to ask yourself...

Is the direction you are heading yours or Adonai's?

I have shared with you examples of both. When it is Adonai's direction, there is no prevention of it occurring when He is truly leading. We have seen what happens when we get in the way and our direction gets diverted. Yet when that direction is diverted, we see Adonai's faithfulness to His people and ultimately enables them to succeed in reaching their destination. Yet we have to be willing to submit to Him in order to succeed.

One final example to share with you.

Where did they go from here?

Mat 27:45 From noon until three o'clock in the afternoon, all the Land was covered with darkness.

Mat 27:46 At about three, Yeshua uttered a loud cry, "Eli! Eli! L'mah sh'vaktani? (My God! My God! Why have you deserted me?)"

Mat 27:47 On hearing this, some of the bystanders said, "He's calling for Eliyahu."

Mat 27:48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, soaked it in vinegar, put it on a stick and gave it to him to drink.

Mat 27:49 The rest said, "Wait! Let's see if Eliyahu comes and rescues him."

Mat 27:50 But Yeshua, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

Where did those who followed Yeshua for over 3 years go?

At first, they went here...

Joh 20:19 In the evening that same day, the first day of the week, when the talmidim were gathered together behind locked doors out of fear of the Judeans,...

That is until Yeshua appeared and...

Yeshua came, stood in the middle and said, "Shalom aleikhem!"

Joh 20:20 Having greeted them, he showed them his hands and his side. The talmidim were overjoyed to see the Lord.

Joh 20:21 "Shalom aleikhem!" Yeshua repeated. "Just as the Father sent me, I myself am also sending you."

Joh 20:22 Having said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Ruach HaKodesh!

Joh 20:23 If you forgive someone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you hold them, they are held."

Now...Where did they go from here? The locked room, hiding out in fear? They were now empowered with the Spirit of God and would become further prepared...

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.

Luk 24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

And would go forth.

Where did they go from here?

Mat 28:18 Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Mat 28:19 Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh,

Mat 28:20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age."

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

I believe the last 18 weeks were intended to establish a foundation for you, based on Torah and Yeshua. In reality, that is God's reality, they are one and the same.

So, Where are we to go from here as a congregation?

We are to build upon the foundation for our "Starter Kit" is set. We have been given a foundation and a cornerstone. Now we are to build upon it.

I am not certain what Adonai will share specifically as we go from here, but I am confident He will reveal more to us.

Where do we go from here?

Next week we begin our six week study entitled "Be Disciples" Here it will not be about making you disciples for you already are. You are being taught as His disciple. The challenge is to be a disciple, to live like a disciple. The Bangles sang a song "Walk Like an Egyptian" Here, you ware going to walk, talk and live like a Disciple.

Example – Dollar Tree encounter.