

Notes: February 8, 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: Where There is a Mission, There Is A Message – Part 2 (Message of the Prophets)

Last Shabbat, I continued on a theme that started the new year. A theme that has been progressive in nature, first identifying who we are, how and why we have been created. We are warriors and messengers created by the hand of the Potter, in that we are His work.

Then the second part of this theme has been looking at the mission we have been created for. As believers who have accepted the call of the Kingdom, having been enlisted in Adonai's army, He has a mission for us. A Kingdom army comprised of Jewish and Gentile warriors. An army equipped not with a physical sword but a Spiritual sword that is the Word Of God.

The third aspect for which we are now exploring is the message of the mission. Last week we looked at Sha'ul's first comprehensive endeavor, having been called and thus sent. He went to Perga and proclaimed the Word of Adonai in the synagogue.

Act 13:13 Having set sail from Paphos, Sha'ul and his companions arrived at Perga in Pamphylia. There Yochanan left them and returned to Yerushalayim,

Act 13:14 but the others went on from Perga to Pisidian Antioch, and on Shabbat they went into the synagogue and sat down.

Act 13:15 After the reading from the Torah and from the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent them a message, "Brothers, if any of you has a word of exhortation for the people, speak!"

As we looked at this first comprehensive mission of Sha'ul, two things stood out that Sha'ul had shared...

1. The message of the Prophets
2. Forgiveness of sins

This Shabbat, I want to delve into the first part, the message of the Prophets.

Act 13:26 "Brothers! — sons of Avraham and those among you who are 'God-fearers'! It is to us that the message of this deliverance has been sent!

Act 13:27 For the people living in Yerushalayim and their leaders did not recognize who Yeshua was or understand the message of the Prophets read every Shabbat, so they fulfilled that message by condemning him.

Just, what is the message of the Prophets? Sha'ul is conveying what appears to be universal in grouping the Prophets together.

The role of a Prophet of Adonai is to convey His words to the people of the nation. Adonai conveys how He speaks to Prophets...

Num 12:6 He said, "Listen to what I say: when there is a prophet among you, I, Adonai, make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream.

Speaking with them in dreams and visions, some of the messages were prophetic in that they would provide guidance for the future. The book of Daniel is based on several visions. Esekiel is asked many times “what do you see”

This is how Adonai communicated with them. Consistent with what He conveyed to Aharon and Miryam.

Of those messages, many were focused towards Messiah, the coming King of Israel. Identified as both a servant and a King, these were not two separate messages for messengers, but were one. The challenge, both then and today, is in understanding these prophecies in context.

Based on this challenging aspect is the reason why Sha'ul was proclaiming the Word of Adonai in the synagogue even though the Word of Adonai was already in the synagogue. Torah and the Prophets are read every Shabbat, so their presence was not the issue. Sha'ul, a messenger sent by Adonai, whose mission was in essence to connect the dots between what is written and what had happened in relation to Yeshua. We will explore more of that in the coming weeks.

The majority of those messages from the Prophets were warnings to the people who were straying from Adonai. Here is what Adonai says to Yechezk'el (Ezekiel)

Eze 2:1 He said to me, "Human being! Stand up! I want to speak with you!"

Eze 2:2 As he spoke to me, a spirit entered me and put me on my feet, and I heard him who was speaking to me.

Eze 2:3 He said, "Human being! I am sending you to the people of Isra'el, that nation of rebels who have rebelled against me — they and their ancestors have been transgressing against me to this very day.

Eze 2:4 Because they are defiant, hardhearted children, I am sending you; and you are to tell them, 'Here is what Adonai Elohim says.'

Eze 2:5 Whether they listen or not, this rebellious house will still know that a prophet has been among them!

Eze 2:6 "As for you, human being, don't be afraid of them or their words, even if briars and thorns surround you, and you sit among scorpions. Don't be afraid of their words or be upset by their looks, for they are a rebellious house.

Eze 2:7 You are to speak my words to them, whether they listen or not, for they are very rebellious.

What is his mission?

To go to the people of Isra'el and you are to speak “My Words” to them.

Now let's look at another Prophet – Yesha'yahu (Isaiah)...

Isa 1:1 This is the vision of Yesha`yahu the son of Amotz, which he saw concerning Y'hudah and Yerushalayim during the days of `Uziyahu, Yotam, Achaz and Y'chizkiyahu, kings of Y'hudah:

Isa 1:2 "Hear, heaven! Listen, earth! For Adonai is speaking. "I raised and brought up children, but they rebelled against me.

Isa 1:3 An ox knows its owner and a donkey its master's stall, but Isra'el does not know, my people do not reflect.

Isa 1:4 "Oh, sinful nation, a people weighed down by iniquity, descendants of evildoers, immoral children! They have abandoned Adonai, spurned the Holy One of Isra'el, turned their backs on him!

Isa 1:5 "Where should I strike you next, as you persist in rebelling? The whole head is sick, the whole heart diseased.

This passage of Yesha'yahu is known as the Chazon...”The Vision” Here Yesha'yahu is given the vision of what he is to do and what he will convey to the nation of Adonai that is rebelling.

These are two of Adonai's messengers who have been tasked to speak to a nation that is in rebellion. What is their message, and that of the other Prophets to this nation?

Eze 14:6 "Therefore say to the house of Isra'el that Adonai Elohim says, 'Repent! Turn yourselves away from your idols, turn your faces away from all your disgusting practices!

Eze 14:7 For everyone, whether from the house of Isra'el or a foreigner living in Isra'el, who separates himself from me and takes his idols into his heart, thus setting in front of himself the stumbling block that leads to sin, and then comes to the prophet, asking him to consult me for him, I myself, Adonai, will answer him.

Notice who is being called to repent.

The people of Isra'el and the foreigner living in Isra'el. Could this be a remez (a hint) of what is to come. That this message of repentance is not just for Adonai's nation, but for the nations as well?

Consider the consistency of the message...

Eze 18:26 When the righteous person turns away from his righteousness and commits wickedness, he will die for it — for the wickedness he commits he will die.

Eze 18:27 And when the wicked person turns away from all the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he will save his life.

Eze 18:28 Because he thinks it over and repents of all the transgressions he committed, he will certainly live, not die.

Eze 18:29 Yet the house of Isra'el says, 'Adonai's way isn't fair.' House of Isra'el, is it my ways that are unfair, or your ways that are unfair?

Eze 18:30 Therefore, house of Isra'el, I will judge each of you according to his ways," says Adonai Elohim. "Repent, and turn yourselves away from all your transgressions, so that they will not be a stumbling block that brings guilt upon you.

Eze 18:31 Throw far away from yourselves all your crimes that you committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit; for why should you die, house of Isra'el?

Eze 18:32 I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," says Adonai Elohim, "so turn yourselves around, and live!

Consider this part of the message – a compare and contrast between a righteous person and an unrighteous (wicked) person.

Then Ezekiel pivots directly to the nation, identifying them as the unrighteous / wicked person of the scenario. And yet, it wasn't truly a message of hopelessness, but one of encouragement and possibility.

This message of repentance is one that brings life because Adonai conveys through Ezekiel, He takes no pleasure in judgment and the consequences of it, but would rather see the wicked repent and turn to Adonai with the promise of life.

We see this throughout the Prophets...

Jer 3:18 In those days, the house of Y'hudah will live together with the house of Isra'el; they will come together from the lands in the north to the land I gave your ancestors as their heritage."

Jer 3:19 "I thought that I would like to put you among the sons [*with inheritance rights*] and give you a pleasant land, the best heritage of all the nations. I thought that you would call me 'My father' and never stop following me.

Jer 3:20 But like a faithless woman who betrays her husband, you, house of Isra'el, have betrayed me," says Adonai.

Jer 3:21 A sound is heard on the heights, the house of Isra'el crying, pleading for mercy, because they have perverted their way and forgotten Adonai their God.

Jer 3:22 "Return, backsliding children, and I will heal your backsliding." "Here we are, we are coming to you, for you are Adonai our God.

Joe 2:11 Adonai shouts orders to his forces — his army is immense, mighty, and it does what he says. For great is the Day of Adonai, fearsome, terrifying! Who can endure it?

Joe 2:12 "Yet even now," says Adonai, "turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting."

Joe 2:13 Tear your heart, not your garments; and turn to Adonai your God. For he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace, and willing to change his mind about disaster.

Zec 1:1 In the eighth month of the second year of Daryavesh, the following message from Adonai came to Z'kharyah the son of Berekhyah, the son of `Iddo, the prophet:

Zec 1:2 "Adonai was extremely angry with your ancestors.

Zec 1:3 Therefore, tell them that Adonai-Tzva'ot says this: ' "Return to me," says Adonai-Tzva'ot, "and I will return to you," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Zec 1:4 "Don't be like your ancestors. The earlier prophets proclaimed to them, 'Adonai-Tzva'ot says to turn back now from your evil ways and deeds'; but they didn't listen or pay attention to me," says Adonai.

Zec 1:5 "Your ancestors, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?

Zec 1:6 But my words and my laws, which I ordered my servants the prophets, overtook your ancestors, didn't they? Then they turned and said, 'Adonai has dealt with us according to our ways and deeds, just as he intended to do.' "

Isa 55:3 Open your ears, and come to me; listen well, and you will live — I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the grace I assured David.

Isa 55:4 I have given him as a witness to the peoples, a leader and lawgiver for the peoples.

Isa 55:5 You will summon a nation you do not know, and a nation that doesn't know you will run to you, for the sake of Adonai your God, the Holy One of Isra'el, who will glorify you."

Isa 55:6 Seek Adonai while he is available, call on him while he is still nearby.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked person abandon his way and the evil person his thoughts; let him return to Adonai, and he will have mercy on him; let him return to our God, for he will freely forgive.

Isa 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways," says Adonai.

Isa 55:9 "As high as the sky is above the earth are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Neh 1:8 Remember, please, the word you gave through your servant Moshe, 'If you break faith, I will scatter you among the peoples;

Neh 1:9 but if you return to me, observe my mitzvot and obey them, then, even if your scattered ones are in the most distant part of heaven, nevertheless, I will collect them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen for bearing my name.'

This message goes all the way back to Moshe, the greatest prophet of Isra'el. Great in that he is referenced to this

very day.

Adonai spoke with him directly...

Num 12:7 But it isn't that way with my servant Moshe. He is the only one who is faithful in my entire household.

Num 12:8 With him I speak face to face and clearly, not in riddles; he sees the image of Adonai. So why weren't you afraid to criticize my servant Moshe?"

He would be the likeness by which Yeshua would appear...

Deu 18:15 "Adonai will raise up for you a prophet like me from among yourselves, from your own kinsmen. You are to pay attention to him,

Deu 18:16 just as when you were assembled at Horev and requested Adonai your God, 'Don't let me hear the voice of Adonai my God any more, or let me see this great fire ever again; if I do, I will die!'

Deu 18:17 On that occasion Adonai said to me, 'They are right in what they are saying.

Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I order him.

Deu 18:19 Whoever doesn't listen to my words, which he will speak in my name, will have to account for himself to me.

And Moshe would prophecy to the people even before they were a nation, in the land promised to them. Moshe would convey from Adonai their future...

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.

Using the words from the writer of Hebrews...

Heb 12:1 So then, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us, too, put aside every impediment — that is, the sin which easily hampers our forward movement — and keep running with endurance in the contest set before us,

Next Shabbat we will look at the results of T'shuvah – repentance.

Other Related Prophecy - Repent and Return:

Mal 3:1 "Look! I am sending my messenger to clear the way before me; and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple. Yes, the messenger of the covenant, in whom you take such delight — look! Here he comes," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Mal 3:2 But who can endure the day when he comes? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like the soapmaker's lye.

Mal 3:3 He will sit, testing and purifying the silver; he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold and silver,

so that they can bring offerings to Adonai uprightly.

Mal 3:4 Then the offering of Y'hudah and Yerushalayim will be pleasing to Adonai, as it was in the days of old, as in years gone by.

Mal 3:5 "Then I will approach you for judgment; and I will be quick to witness against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers; against those who take advantage of wage-earners, widows and orphans; against those who rob the foreigner of his rights and don't fear me," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Mal 3:6 "But because I, Adonai, do not change, you sons of Ya`akov will not be destroyed.

Mal 3:7 Since the days of your forefathers you have turned from my laws and have not kept them. **Return to me,** and I will return to you," says Adonai-Tzva'ot. "But you ask, 'In respect to what are we supposed to return?'

Jer 3:12 Go and proclaim these words toward the north: "Return, backsliding Isra'el," says Adonai. "I will not frown on you, for I am merciful," says Adonai. "I will not bear a grudge forever.

Jer 3:13 Only acknowledge your guilt, that you have committed crimes against Adonai your God, that you were promiscuous with strangers under every green tree, and that you have not paid attention to my voice," says Adonai.

Jer 3:14 "Return, backsliding children," says Adonai; "for I am your master. I will take you, one from a city, two from a family, and bring you to Tziyon.

Jer 3:15 I will give you shepherds after my own heart, and they will feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Jer 3:16 "And," says Adonai, "in those days, when your numbers have increased in the land, people will no longer talk about the ark for the covenant of Adonai — they won't think about it, they won't miss it, and they won't make another one.

Jer 4:1 "Isra'el, **if you will return,**" says Adonai, **"yes, return to me;** and if you will banish your abominations from my presence without wandering astray again;

Jer 4:2 and if you will swear, 'As Adonai lives,' in truth, justice and righteousness; then the nations will bless themselves by him, and in him will they glory."

Jer 24:5 "Here is what Adonai the God of Isra'el says: 'I will regard the exiles from Y'hudah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Kasdim, as good, just as I do these good figs.

Jer 24:6 " 'I will look after them for their good, I will bring them back to this land; I will build them up and not tear them down, plant them and not pull them up.

Jer 24:7 I will give them a heart to know me that I am Adonai. They will be my people, and I will be their God; for they will return to me with all their heart.'

Isa 31:4 For here is what Adonai says to me: "As a lion or lion cub growls at its prey and isn't frightened away by the shouts of hordes of shepherds called out against him — their voices do not upset him — so likewise Adonai-Tzva'ot will descend to fight on Mount Tziyon, on its hill.

Isa 31:5 Like hovering birds, Adonai-Tzva'ot will protect Yerushalayim. In protecting it, he will rescue it; in sparing it, he will save it.

Isa 31:6 People of Isra'el! Return to him to whom you have been so deeply disloyal!

Isa 31:7 For on that day everyone will discard his idols of silver and idols of gold, which you made for yourselves with your own sinful hands.

Hos 14:1 (14:2) Return, Isra'el, to Adonai your God, for your guilt has made you stumble.

Hos 14:2 (14:3) Take words with you, and return to Adonai; say to him, "Forgive all guilt, and accept what is good; we will pay instead of bulls [*the offerings of*] our lips.

Hos 14:3 (14:4) Ashur will not save us, we will not ride on horses, and we will no longer call what we made with our hands our gods. For it is only in you that the fatherless can find mercy."

Hos 14:4 (14:5) "I will heal their disloyalty, I will love them freely; for my anger has turned from him.