

Notes: October 10, 2015

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: Why Do We Do This?

As we begin our Parashah cycle again with Bereshit, I want to remind you of the impact that Torah can have on you.

For those of you who may be new to this, the Parashah is Torah broken down into 54 portions and studied either on an annual basis or a tri-annual basis (three years).

Why do we do this?

Why do we continue to do this? Study the same passages each year...

For starters it is a manner in which the Jewish people are able to connect. It is a way that when you, as a community are spread out over the face of the earth, can actually connect with the rest of the community. The notion is that, no matter where you are, as a community, you are coming together and studying the same Scriptures as if you were in the same room.

The second is based on Israel's relationship with Adonai.

Both aspects can be supported by Deuteronomy 4:8 – 9:

Deu 4:8 What great nation is there that has laws and rulings as just as this entire Torah which I am setting before you today?

Deu 4:9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves diligently as long as you live, so that you won't forget what you saw with your own eyes, so that these things won't vanish from your hearts. Rather, make them known to your children and grandchildren -

Be careful...

Watch yourselves diligently...

As long as you live...

So you won't forget...

All are instructions given by Adonai in order to provide continuity for the nation, not to mention maintaining a proper relationship with Adonai as is instructed.

And will ultimately be exemplified by the next generation as we are to make known to them what Adonai did for our ancestors and the instructions He gave them to live by as a nation established by Adonai.

Deu 17:10 You will then act according to what they have told you there in that place which Adonai will choose; you are to take care to act according to all their instructions.

Deu 17:11 In accordance with the Torah they teach you, you are to carry out the judgment they render, not turning aside to the right or the left from the verdict they declare to you.

Deu 17:12 Anyone presumptuous enough not to pay attention to the cohen appointed there to serve Adonai your God or to the judge - that person must die. Thus you will exterminate such wickedness from Isra'el —

Deu 17:13 all the people will hear about it and be afraid to continue acting presumptuously.

How can you do this if you don't know what Torah is.

The instruction in verse 11 “In accordance with the Torah they teach you” The you who are teaching are the Levites, whom have been given this authority and responsibility.

It is they who are to convey the principles found in Torah in order for the people to live by them. Ultimately, they are not only teacher but judge as well.

Any disputes, any transgression will be brought to them and they will judge according to their understanding of Torah.

Torah is both black and white and grey. Meaning, that there are portions of Torah that are extremely clear and require no additional interpretation. While there are other aspects of Torah that are not crystal clear. It is these grey areas that require more understanding.

Before the mass distribution of Bibles

Before the synagogue that contained scrolls of Scriptures

Before the Parshah was ever established.

You had this instruction given by Adonai to Moshe...

Deu 31:10 Moshe gave them these orders: "At the end of every seven years, during the festival of Sukkot in the year of sh'mittah,

Deu 31:11 when all Isra'el have come to appear in the presence of Adonai at the place he will choose, you are to read this Torah before all Isra'el, so that they can hear it.

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."

Israel was to gather on Sukkot, and every seven years, known as the sh'mittah and hear the words of the Torah, conveyed orally.

It would be at this time that those who had never heard the Words of Adonai would hear them, and be made known to them, His ways in totality. Upon this reading, the Levites would build upon this foundation as they continued to teach the people in the tribe they resided.

This was to be the manner by which Israel as a nation would live. To the point that associated with Adonai's instructions were given to Israel, blessings and curses.

Blessings associated with living according to the Words of Adonai and curses for ignoring the Words of Adonai.

To the point, these words of encouragement were given to Israel...

Deu 30:9 Then Adonai your God will give you more than enough in everything you set out to do - the fruit of your body, the fruit of your livestock, and the fruit of your land will all do well; for Adonai will once again rejoice to see you do well, just as he rejoiced in your ancestors.

Deu 30:10 "However, all this will happen only if you pay attention to what Adonai your God says, so that you obey his mitzvot and regulations which are written in this book of the Torah, if you turn to Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being.

Deu 30:11 For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach.

Deu 30:12 It isn't in the sky, so that you need to ask, 'Who will go up into the sky for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:13 Likewise, it isn't beyond the sea, so that you need to ask, 'Who will cross the sea for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

Deu 30:14 On the contrary, the word is very close to you - in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

Deu 30:15 "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil -

Deu 30:16 in that I am ordering you today to love Adonai your God, to follow his ways, and to obey his mitzvot, regulations and rulings ; for if you do, you will live and increase your numbers; and Adonai your God will bless you in the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.

In today's world of believers in Yeshua, this notion has been taught, that it was impossible for anyone to keep the entire Torah and that because of that we needed a Savior.

In other words, Adonai set up Israel to fail.

Yet the words of Adonai speak to the contrary...

Deu 30:14 On the contrary, the word is very close to you - in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

To the point that even Yeshua, whom if you connect the dots starting with John 1:1...

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

That the Word of Adonai as given to Israel is the same Word as conveyed in this verse, then when Yeshua conveyed...

Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Mat 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

That easy yoke is found in Torah.

Judaism speaks of the "yoke of Heaven," the commitment any Jew must make to trust in God, and the "yoke of the Torah," the commitment an observant Jew makes to keep both the generalities and details of *halakhah*. Yeshua speaks of his own easy yoke and light burden.

The easy yoke consists in a total commitment to godliness through the power of the Holy Spirit. It at once requires both no effort and maximum effort:

- No effort, in that the necessary moment-to-moment faith can not be worked up from within but is a gift of God ([Eph 2:8-9](#))
- Maximal effort, in that there is no predeterminable level of holiness and obedience sufficient to satisfy God and let us rest on our laurels.

So, Torah is Israel's foundation in maintaining a relationship with Adonai and is therefore ultimately the foundation for all believers in Yeshua and that same relationship.

Notice I said foundation.

It is foundational in that as with Israel, Adonai revealed who He is and what He required of them as a nation that was to be in a Covenant relationship with them.

Likewise, believers are in a Covenant relationship with Adonai through Yeshua our Cohen ha Gadol.

We see similar messages given by Adonai, first to Joshua when he is preparing to lead Israel into battle...

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.

Jos 1:8 Yes, keep this book of the Torah on your lips, and meditate on it day and night, so that you will take care to act according to everything written in it. Then your undertakings will prosper, and you will succeed.

And to believers with the message of Messiah...

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."

In both cases, the people were being sent forth on behalf of Adonai, conveying His message.

Israel by taking possession of the land promised to Abraham, thus conveying to the nations the sovereignty of Adonai.

And believers, commissioned to go out and convey the message of Adonai's salvation to the nations has come through Yeshua.

There is an eternal connection that no matter what theology is taught can not be destroyed.

Adonai's truth can not be destroyed. Likewise the foundation found in Yeshua cannot be hidden either.

We see throughout Scripture the warning of the Prophets to Israel regarding their casting aside of Adonai. One such example is Jeremiah...

Jer 9:12 (9:11) Who is wise enough to understand this? To whom has the mouth of Adonai spoken, so that he can proclaim it? Why has the land perished and been laid waste like a desert, so that no one passes through?

Jer 9:13 (9:12) Adonai answers: "Because they abandoned my Torah, which I set before them, and neither listened to what I said nor lived accordingly,

Jer 9:14 (9:13) but have lived by their own hearts' stubbornness and by the ba`alim, as their ancestors taught them

Jer 9:15 (9:14) therefore," says Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el: "I will feed this people bitter wormwood and give them poisonous water to drink.

Jer 9:16 (9:15) I will scatter them among nations that neither they nor their ancestors have known. I will send the sword after them until I have wiped them out."

Read any of the Prophets and you will realize a theme of their message to the nation.

As believers, have you been taught to cast aside Torah, ultimately abandoning it?

The very Torah that Yeshua says that He is not destroying...

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.

Yet there is an enormous wealth found in Torah with the treasure being Adonai.

Not just treasure, but there is power in the 5 books of Moshe.

When read, as Sha'ul conveys in Romans 7...

Rom 7:7 Therefore, what are we to say? That the Torah is sinful? Heaven forbid! Rather, the function of the Torah was that without it, I would not have known what sin is. For example, I would not have become conscious of what greed is if the Torah had not said, "Thou shalt not covet."

To the point that we see this very aspect throughout Scripture...

2Ki 22:8 Hilkiyahu the cohen hagadol said to Shafan the secretary, "I have found the scroll of the Torah in the house of Adonai." Hilkiyahu gave the scroll to Shafan, who read it.

2Ki 22:9 Then Shafan the secretary went back to the king and gave the king this report: "Your servants have poured out the money found in the house and handed it over to the people supervising the work in the house of Adonai."

2Ki 22:10 Shafan the secretary also told the king, "Hilkiyah the cohen hagadol gave me a scroll." Then Shafan read it aloud before the king.

2Ki 22:11 After the king had heard what was written in the scroll of the Torah, he tore his clothes.

2Ki 23:22 For Pesach had not been so observed since the days when the judges ruled Isra'el — not during the times of any of the kings of Isra'el or of the kings of Y'hudah.

2Ki 23:23 But in the eighteenth year of King Yoshiyahu this Pesach was observed to Adonai in Yerushalayim.

2Ki 23:24 Yoshiyahu got rid of the mediums and the people using spirit guides, as well as the household gods, the

idols and all the disgusting things spotted anywhere in Y'hudah and Yerushalayim. He did this in order to establish the words of the Torah written in the scroll Hilkiyahu the cohen had found in the house of Adonai.

2Ki 23:25 No previous king was like him; because he turned to Adonai with all his heart, with all his being and with all his power, in accordance with all the Torah of Moshe; nor did any king like him arise afterwards.

Or how about what Nehemiah experienced...

Neh 8:1 all the people gathered with one accord in the open space in front of the Water Gate and asked `Ezra the Torah-teacher to bring the scroll of the Torah of Moshe, which Adonai had commanded Isra'el.

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 8:8 They read clearly from the scroll, in the Torah of God, translated it, and enabled them to understand the sense of what was being read.

Neh 8:9 Nechemyah the Tirshata, `Ezra the cohen and Torah-teacher and the L'vi'im who taught the people said to all the people, "Today is consecrated to Adonai your God; don't be mournful, don't weep." For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the Torah.

There is power in the Words of Torah.

Consider the alternative...

2Ch 12:1 But in time, after Rechav`am had consolidated his rulership and had become strong, he, and with him all Isra'el, abandoned the Torah of Adonai.

Nehemiah provides a history lesson to the people...

Neh 9:26 "Yet they disobeyed and rebelled against you, throwing your Torah behind their backs. They killed your prophets for warning them that they should return to you and committed other gross provocations.

Neh 9:27 So you handed them over to the power of their adversaries, who oppressed them. Yet in the time of their trouble, when they cried out to you, you heard from heaven, and in keeping with your great compassion, you gave them saviors to save them from the power of their adversaries.

Neh 9:28 But as soon as they had gotten some relief, they went back to do evil before you. So you left them in the power of their enemies, who came down hard on them. Yet when they returned and cried out to you, you heard from heaven many times and saved them, according to your compassion.

Neh 9:29 You warned them, in order to bring them back to your Torah; yet they were arrogant. They paid no attention to your mitzvot, but sinned against your rulings, which, if a person does them, he will have life through them. However, they stubbornly turned their shoulders, stiffened their necks and refused to hear.

There is life found in Torah, in that it is the way of Adonai and not contradicted by Yeshua, but in essence affirmed by Him.

Here are some interesting things for you to take with you...

Torah is mentioned 25 times in Psalm 119, while it is not mentioned at all in the Book of Judges. This may help you to understand the times of the Judges better.

Then there is the notion of people misapplying the teachings of Torah, because they have not been properly taught. These people tend to gravitate to a more literal meaning of Torah. For instance, I have had people tell me that because circumcision is required to keep Passover, therefore circumcision is required for non-Jewish believers.

They tend to apply all the mitzvot to everyone, when as you have heard me say on many occasions, not all Torah applies to all people.

The teaching of Torah is not to be taken lightly, nor is it to be misapplied.

It would be like going on the internet to one of the medical web sites and self diagnosing yourself based on specific symptoms. The mere reading of medical information does not make you a doctor. Likewise merely reading Torah does not make you a Torah teacher.

I have conveyed all this information to you today, as we start our Parshah cycle again so that you will be in the right frame of mind as you begin your studies.

We did the "book" of Jude this past Tuesday and I wanted to convey with you one point that we covered in verse 11:

Jud 1:11 Woe to them, in that they have walked the road of Kayin, they have given themselves over for money to the error of Bil'am, they have been destroyed in the rebellion of Korach.

The rebellious road of Kayin took him "out from the presence of Adonai" ([Gen 4:16](#)) because he refused to accept God's advice and did not take advantage of any of the five or six opportunities God gave him to repent ([Gen 4:1-16](#)). Cain's road led him to murder his brother Abel, but murder was not the road itself.

Are you on the road that leads you to the presence of Adonai, or are you on the rebellious road that takes you out of the presence of Adonai?

Torah is vitally important to believers, consider the following:

Act 18:27 When he made plans to cross over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote the talmidim there to welcome him. On arrival, he greatly helped those who through grace had come to trust;

Act 18:28 for he powerfully and conclusively refuted the unbelieving Jews in public, demonstrating by the Tanakh that Yeshua is the Messiah.

How can you truly demonstrate the truth of Yeshua if you do not have a solid understanding of the Tanakh in general and Torah specifically...Yeshua started in Torah...

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."

Here are some additional Scriptures that convey a dynamic of Torah that goes beyond anything you have typically been taught...

Pro 6:23 For the mitzvah is a lamp, Torah is light, and reproofs that discipline are the way to life.

It is no coincidence that Yeshua is identified as the light of the world

Pro 28:4 Those who abandon Torah praise the wicked, but those who keep Torah fight them.

By abandoning Torah you are in essence abandoning Adonai and have therefore placed yourself with the wicked, while in keeping Torah, you are in essence standing for Adonai, which is contrary to the ways of the wicked.

Pro 28:9 If a person will not listen to Torah, even his prayer is an abomination.

Pro 29:18 Without a prophetic vision, the people throw off all restraint; but he who keeps Torah is happy.

Torah is the restraint of Adonai, our loving Father whom we find happiness.

Psa 37:31 The Torah of his God is in his heart; his footsteps do not falter.

And finally, how can you know if you are truly doing the will of Adonai...

Psa 40:8 Doing your will, my God, is my joy; your Torah is in my inmost being.

In Mishna 5 of chapter 4, Rabbi Ishmael, the son of Rabbi Baroka said...

“He who learns in order to teach will be granted by heaven the means both to learn and to teach; but he that learns in order to practice, heaven will grant him the opportunity to learn and to teach, to observe and to perform.”

Studying is not just for the sake of accumulating knowledge, but that the knowledge one acquires might lead to proper action.

As we begin our Parshah cycle, let me close with these words from Sha'ul as written to Timothy...

2Ti 2:11 Here is a statement you can trust: If we have died with him, we will also live with him.

2Ti 2:12 If we persevere, we will also rule with him If we disown him, he will also disown us.

2Ti 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

2Ti 2:14 Keep reminding people of this, and charge them solemnly before the Lord not to engage in word-battles. They accomplish nothing useful and are a catastrophe for the hearers!

2Ti 2:15 Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.

How important is it for us know?

More now than ever, given the unrest in Israel and the unrest we are experiencing in America that we need to be firmly planted and securely residing in the Word of Adonai.