

Notes: July 16, 2016

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: Without Israel, The Story Is Incomplete

Without Israel, the story is incomplete.

I spend a lot of time talking about the significance of Israel as a people and nation because it is important. Adonai has tied everything to Israel and the Jewish people.

All of His promises are tied to the Covenants He has made with Israel and the Jewish people including Yeshua, yet many believers and non-believers either don't know them, don't understand them or have reassigned the meaning of them. An interesting point considering from a legal perspective the one who establishes the Covenant is the only one who can modify it. If it is a bilateral covenant, then both parties would have to agree to the modifications. Needless to say, we do not have this authority.

The first time we hear of the name Israel is when Ya'akov wrestles with Adonai in Genesis 32:

Gen 32:28 (32:29) Then the man said, "From now on, you will no longer be called Ya`akov, but Isra'el; because you have shown your strength to both God and men and have prevailed."

Gen 32:29 (32:30) Ya`akov asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he answered, "Why are you asking about my name?" and blessed him there.

Gen 32:30 (32:31) Ya`akov called the place P'ni-El [*face of God*], "Because I have seen God face to face, yet my life is spared."

This would be the beginning of where we begin to see the promise made to Avraham and affirmed through Yitz'chak begin to take form and materialize into something much larger. The children, offspring of Ya'akov would forever become known as the children of Israel.

The next significant time we hear of Israel is in Genesis 35:

Gen 35:10 God said to him, "Your name is Ya`akov, but you will be called Ya`akov no longer; your name will be Isra'el." Thus he named him Isra'el.

Gen 35:11 God further said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed a group of nations, will come from you; kings will be descended from you.

Gen 35:12 Moreover, the land which I gave to Avraham and Yitz'chak I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you."

Adonai is in essence confirming the Covenant He made with Avraham and reaffirming it with Yitz'chak thus extending it to the next generation, thus a generational covenant.

So, if Adonai is reaffirming His promises to Ya'akov, now known as Israel it must be important.

Israel mentioned 2510 times in the Tanakh

Israel mentioned an additional 82 times in the Brith Hadoshah

One would think that because Israel is mentioned so frequently in Scripture, people would understand Adonai's relationship with them and His purpose for the nation.

Yet, it is through Scripture we see that Israel has its enemies as well. Their intent is to eliminate this nation from the face of the earth.

You could insert what I am saying now into today's narrative. Yet, this enmity, animosity and just sheer hatred has been around for centuries, if not millenia.

We read in the megillah of Esther, Haman's hatred for Mordekhai and his people...

Est 3:6 However, on learning what people Mordekhai belonged to, it seemed to him a waste to lay hands on Mordekhai alone. Rather, he decided to destroy all of Mordekhai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole of Achashverosh's kingdom.

Est 3:7 In the first month, the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of Achashverosh, they began throwing pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman every day and every month until the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

Est 3:8 Then Haman said to Achashverosh, "There is a particular people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people; moreover, they don't observe the king's laws. It doesn't befit the king to tolerate them.

Est 3:9 If it please the king, have a decree written for their destruction; and I will hand over 330 tons of silver to the officials in charge of the king's affairs to deposit in the royal treasury."

Est 3:10 The king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the son of Hamdata the Agagi, the enemy of the Jews.

Haman's intent is to destroy them completely.

Haman's thinking is not unique to him, but has been witnessed throughout history and will continue until the end of time, because there is one who truly knows the significance and importance of Israel and the Jewish people and will

not stop until he succeeds in attempting from removing them from the face of the earth. Ultimately, his life depends upon it.

He has been at this for a very long time. His influence has been felt upon other nations as we read in Psalm 83:

Psa 83:1 *[A song. A psalm of Asaf:]* God, don't remain silent! Don't stay quiet, God, or still;

Psa 83:2 because here are your enemies, causing an uproar; those who hate you are raising their heads,

Psa 83:3 craftily conspiring against your people, consulting together against those you treasure.

Psa 83:4 They say, "Come, let's wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Isra'el be remembered no more!"

Psa 83:5 With one mind they plot their schemes; the covenant they have made is against you -

Psa 83:6 the tents of Edom and the Yishma`elim, Mo'av and the Hagrim,

Psa 83:7 G'val, `Amon and `Amalek, P'leshet with those living in Tzor; (Selah)

Psa 83:8 Ashur too is allied with them, to reinforce the descendants of Lot.

There is most certainly a plot against Israel. So long as they are a people and a nation, the Adversary will not and cannot succeed.

Today, these nations comprise geographically, parts of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt. Yet, the inclusion of Yishma'elim in verse 6, descendants of Yishmael makes this not just geographical, but genetic and ideological.

Even more so, this is a Spiritual battle.

Israel's enemies are far reaching, to the point that Adonai conveys through Zechariah:

Zec 12:1 A prophecy, the word of Adonai concerning Isra'el — here is the message from Adonai, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth and formed the spirit inside human beings:

Zec 12:2 "I will make Yerushalayim a cup that will stagger the surrounding peoples. Even Y'hudah will be caught up in the siege against Yerushalayim.

Zec 12:3 When that day comes, I will make Yerushalayim a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who try to lift it will hurt themselves, **and all the earth's nations will be massed against her.**

Some will tell you that this siege against Yerushalayim was the crusades whereby Yerushalayim was the prize that caused both the Christians and Muslims to engage in battle, yet Y'hudah was not even in existence at the time.

There is a time, still yet to come when this prophecy told to Zechariah will become a reality. I believe it possibly occur in our life times.

A time when all nations will come against Israel.

Israel, for centuries has been the target of removal from the narrative.

Whether it be physical elimination from the face of the earth or a spiritual "blotting out of the Book" through Replacement theology there is an enormous target on Israel and the Jewish people.

Attempt upon attempt to eliminate or remove Israel would in essence make this story incomplete. Yet it does not prevent those from trying to do so.

Israel and the Jewish people are the target, both spiritually and physically. Ultimately, an attack against them is an

attack against Adonai, yet, how many believers truly know this?

You have the BDS movement, whose origins began with the Palestinians and whose intent is to starve Israel financially into submission, if not to ultimately eliminate them altogether, has now made its way into various Church organization such as Presbyterian Church (USA), Universalist Unitarian and the World Church Council, comprising various denominations including certain Methodist churches. Not to mention the following Jewish organization – Jewish Voice for Peace, whose mission includes:

“JVP seeks an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians; a just solution for Palestinian refugees based on principles established in international law; an end to violence against civilians; and peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East.”

<https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/mission/>

The world is coming against Israel.

Upon conveying to Jeremiah a promise of a New Covenant with the house of Isra'el and the house of Y'hudah, Adonai makes the following statement:

Jer 31:35 (31:34) This is what Adonai says, who gives the sun as light for the day, who ordained the laws for the moon and stars to provide light for the night, who stirs up the sea until its waves roar — Adonai-Tzva'ot is his name:

Jer 31:36 (31:35) "If these laws leave my presence," says Adonai, "then the offspring of Isra'el will stop being a nation in my presence forever."

This is a statement that seems to be ignored.

Only Adonai can change this story and Scripture says that He doesn't change His mind.

Ultimately, God's Covenants trump man's intentions.

Be mindful of this and don't allow anyone to deceive you of Israel's place within this story. This story that is unfolding before your very eyes.