

Notes: Shabbat – January 9, 2021

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and greet
2. Introduction
3. Announcements
4. Liturgy – Ma to vu, Sh'ma, Avenu
5. Music
6. Message
7. Time of prayer
8. Aaronic Blessing
9. Kiddush
10. Oneg

Title: Words

Such a simple title. Words are vital to our existence. We need words to communicate with others. Adonai had at one time confused that communications because of the evil that resides in our heart. Their desire to make a name for themselves and be like God. It was the confusion of words that thwarted man's plan in B'resheet 11. Today we are inundated by words.

We as a nation, We the People have been through a lot this past week. The intensity of words, emotion, rhetoric, hypocrisy and the response on a scale of 1 – 10 was a 20. This powder keg of combustibility was stoked two months ago when an election failed to provide clarity, immediately following, whereby speculation ensued.

There were enormous amounts of irregularities (*at the time*) having transpired that fueled this powder keg even further, from delayed results, to eyewitness accounts of poll observer obstruction, to video tape exposing hidden additional ballots being processed when poll workers were dismissed for the evening and statistical anomalies such as data updates where one candidate received over 138,000 votes while the other received zero, would become the fodder for the events of this past week. The statistical probability of such a date update occurring in a country that is so evenly divided down the middle is astronomical. In other words it defied explanation. No one offered any words of explanation but simply ignored it.

Post Sermon Note: Further information regarding this irregularity is addressed through the following links:

<https://thefederalistpapers.org/us/michigan-announces-surprise-stack-138000-ballots-not-single-one-trump>

<https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/11/fact-check-biden-did-not-go-up-138k-votes-in-michigan-with-no-change-to-trump.html>

I don't believe it would have mattered had the results for president gone the other way, I firmly believe you would have had an equally intense week at some time after the election had the results been different. We had a preview over the summer when cities like Portland had 156 consecutive days of protesting and rioting, cities embraced “defund the police” while the narrative was of lawful protesting. On one side you saw justification from one cable news network where the words of their on-air personality would justify the chaos:

“Now too many see the protests as the problem. No, the problem is what forced your fellow citizens to take to the streets: persistent, poisonous inequities and injustice. And please, show me where it says protesters are supposed to be polite and peaceful. Because I can show you that outraged citizens are what made the country what she is and led to any major milestone. To be honest, this is not a tranquil time... Police are the ones required to be peaceful, to deescalate, to remain calm.” 'June 2 – Chris Cuomo

This quote was from June 2nd at the beginning of the unrest and rioting as a result of the death of George Floyd and in the midst of the pandemic. Tensions were already high then and were thus ignited by Mr. Floyd's death. If anything, seven months later the powder keg from the summer has only become larger and more explosive.

For the record, it is written in the first amendment of the constitution:

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; **or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.***

There it is in writing, so in case someone else is equally uninformed you know the source.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/chris-cuomo-show-me-where-it-says-that-protests-are-supposed-to-be-polite-and-peaceful>

There was plenty of fuel on both sides that would have caused a similar response as to what transpired on January 6th. Prior to the election, businesses were boarding their windows in anticipation of a volatile response to the re-election of President Trump. So, there was an anticipated fuse expected to be lit.

Emotions have been running high long before the election of November 3rd and the drip, drip, drip processing of the results. To say that many people's emotions were hanging by a thin thread is not an understatement.

So, what would happen this week?

Words matter. In how they are spoken and even in how they are transmitted. The first amendment protects the people from any laws legislated by the government from prohibiting such restrictions.

Consider Yeshua's Words to those who were listening to Him at the time and have been preserved for all eyes to see and all ears to hear.

Mat 12:36 Moreover, I tell you this: on the Day of Judgment people will have to give account for every careless word they have spoken;

Mat 12:37 for by your own words you will be acquitted, and by your own words you will be condemned."

What was the context of Yeshua's Words here, warning that on the Day of Judgment you will held to account for your words and deeds by Adonai. I believe all of this will be in relation to our deeds and words based on Adonai's standards, not man's...

Rom 2:12 All who have sinned outside the framework of Torah will die outside the framework of Torah; and all who have sinned within the framework of Torah will be judged by Torah.

Rom 2:13 For it is not merely the hearers of Torah whom God considers righteous; rather, it is the doers of what Torah says who will be made righteous in God's sight.

Rom 2:14 For whenever Gentiles, who have no Torah, do naturally what the Torah requires, then these, even though they don't have Torah, for themselves are Torah!

Rom 2:15 For their lives show that the conduct the Torah dictates is written in their hearts. Their consciences also bear witness to this, for their conflicting thoughts sometimes accuse them and sometimes defend them

Rom 2:16 on a day when God passes judgment on people's inmost secrets. (According to the Good News as I proclaim it, he does this through the Messiah Yeshua.)

What is missing here today?

For starters, the most foundational of instructions Adonai gives...

Lev 19:18 Don't take vengeance on or bear a grudge against any of your people; rather, love your neighbor as yourself; I am Adonai.

and Yeshua teaches...

Mat 22:36 "Rabbi, which of the mitzvot in the Torah is the most important?"

Mat 22:37 He told him, " 'You are to love Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'

Mat 22:38 This is the greatest and most important mitzvah.

Mat 22:39 And a second is similar to it, 'You are to love your neighbor as yourself.'

Mat 22:40 All of the Torah and the Prophets are dependent on these two mitzvot."

Yet, we as a nation have done anything BUT love our neighbors. We can and need to do better.

For this leads up to what is conveyed in Revelation

Rev 20:11 Next I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

The books that contain a record of your words and deeds are recorded. It isn't big brother who is watching but Adonai who is watching. His intent is not to "gather dirt" on you but seeing if you are worthy of His Kingdom. For starters no one is worthy, yet through Yeshua a path has been made. He has set the bar for us to attain.

Consider the context of Yeshua's statement pertaining to your words and judgment:

Mat 12:33 "If you make a tree good, its fruit will be good; and if you make a tree bad, its fruit will be bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

Mat 12:34 You snakes! How can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what overflows from the heart.

Mat 12:35 The good person brings forth good things from his store of good, and the evil person brings forth evil things from his store of evil.

The good tree and the bad tree. Each produce fruit respective of that tree.

Which tree are you?

Much has been said and will continue to be said. I am not lacking examples of people in prominent positions whose words have demonstrated just because you have the ability to speak or even write in that words are also and in some ways better transmitted in writing, doesn't mean you should. Though the challenge with the written word is conveying context and emotion. It is hard to share a joke in writing because it lacks the emotional nuance that some jokes require. The written word at times lack the nuance of a person's emotion. We, at times have to interpret the persons intent from a tweet or post. Yet, a recording of words provides us with greater understanding as to one's intention.

The week started off with the swearing in of the 117th Congress. Part of that swearing in was the prayer over Congress. Congressman Emanuel Clever of the 5th District of Missouri invoked a modified version of the Priestly Blessing of B'midbar (Numbers 6:22 – 24)

<https://duckduckgo.com/?q=emanuel+clever+prayer&t=newext&atb=v235-1&iax=videos&ia=videos&iai=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DtDBJPvI92as>

Representative and Reverend Clever offered two devastating sets of words through his prayer in commencing the 117th Congress. Both occurred in his closing:

Note that Clever was the pastor at the St. James United Methodist Church in [Kansas City, Missouri](#) from March 1972 until June 2009.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emanuel_Clever

First – Reverend Clever started off well but then came the conclusion of his prayer when he asks "*in the name of the monotheistic god brahama and the god known by many different names and many different faiths*"

The monotheistic god brahama?

***Brahma**, one of the major gods of [Hinduism](#) from about 500 bce to 500 ce, who was gradually eclipsed by [Vishnu](#), [Shiva](#), and the great Goddess (in her multiple aspects). Associated with the Vedic creator god [Prajapati](#), whose identity he assumed, Brahma was born from a golden egg and created the earth and all things on it. Later [myths](#) describe him as having come forth from a lotus that issued from Vishnu's navel.*

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Brahma-Hindu-god>

A Methodist pastor of over 30 years praying to Adonai **by a Name other than Yeshua (Jesus)** most certainly generated a number of responses from the church world. Consider Representative Clever's attempt to clarify...

Representative Clever has explicitly said this himself; he [clarified to TMZ on 4 January 2021](#) that his use of the phrase "amen and awoman" was simply a "light-hearted pun" and that he made it "in recognition of the record number of women who will be representing the American people in Congress during this term as well as in recognition of the first female Chaplain of the House of Representatives."

<https://talesoftimesforgotten.com/2021/01/04/in-defense-of-representative-emanuel-clevers-prayer/>

A time of prayer is not meant to be "light-hearted" Personally, I don't believe his explanation.

Consider one of the first acts of business for the 117th Congress was an edit of the English language when it comes to use of pronouns within written legislation:

Here is an example of what the rules for the 117th Congress now are...

(e) GENDER-INCLUSIVELANGUAGE.— 15(1) In clause 1(c)(9) of rule X, strike “seamen” 16and insert “seafarers”. 17(2) In clause 4(a)(1)(B) of rule X, strike 18“Chairman” and insert “Chair”. 19(3) In clause 8(c) (3) of rule XXIII, strike “father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, step-mother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, step-sister, half brother, half sister, grandson, or grand- 1daughter” **and insert** “parent, child, sibling, parent’s 2sibling, first cousin, sibling’s child, spouse, parent- 3in-law, child-in-law, sibling-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, stepsibling, half-sibling, or grandchild”. 5(4) In clause 10(b) of rule XXIII— 6(A) strike “submit his or her resignation” 7and insert “resign”; 8(B) strike “he or she

serves” and insert 9“such Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner serves”; and

it goes on...

<https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-117hresPIH-hres5.pdf>

What is their goal, but a genderless society. How is it possible to honor gender when one eliminates the very distinction of gender. There are two genders, not one or many depending on how the narrative is framed. How do you honor the male and female gender when you are prohibited from saying he or she; him or her; mother or father? The ploy is not to honor gender but to remove gender identity from this nation. We are talking about a genderless society when Adonai specifically created us male and female. There is no denying this no matter how much you try to change the laws of this nation. Title IX was intended to provide women the opportunity to compete in sports understanding there is a distinction in physical attributes between men and women. Now the law that once secured a competitive structure for women is now being impeded by gender identity. Men identifying as women have been allowed to compete in women's sports thus creating a mockery of women's sports.

What are they hoping to accomplish? In my opinion the move towards socialism and ultimately communism is making the people of this country 100% dependent upon the government. No liberty, no individual rights. Everything is to be controlled by the government. You have heard of Mother Russia, well if things continue, be prepared for Mother America.

Get ready for more of this because Congress will not be the only ones controlling what can be said.

Just last night as I was in the process of preparing this sermon Twitter permanently banned the President of the United States personal Twitter account.

Before and after the election Twitter has been selectively administering its policy. You may have read these notices:

This Tweet is no longer available because it violated the [Twitter Rules](#).

This claim of (fill in the blank) has been disputed

Selective fact checking, selective editing of content from an industry that has immunity from prosecution because of their claim that they are not a publisher and thus are not subject to liable laws. Yet they edit selectively the words of certain accounts that lean to the right. That when you have the leader of Iran tweeting death to Israel and death to America, there is no violation against the rules of inciting violence.

Google-owned YouTube will ban all videos shedding light on voter fraud in the United States' most recent election starting Thursday.

Google has also banned from its app store "Google Play" Twitter's competitor Parler. Apple has also threatened to do the same for their store should Parler not act in a similar manner that Twitter does.

Both Facebook and Twitter have placed their thumb on the scale of suppression.

If corporations can control, dictate and censor speech on their platforms can control the speech of the President of the United States what will prevent them from controlling anyone's speech that they either don't agree with, doesn't align with their policies or has been fact checked and thus tagged with a disclaimer.

Two weeks ago I had shared with you potential areas by which the Government could impede upon the body of Messiah and this congregation. Today I have shared with you how those elected by the people and a select few

both wield the power to control speech and impose their beliefs on We The People.

Ask yourselves this...what was life like before Facebook and Twitter?

Both social platforms have provided the means by which you can connect with people, both old acquaintances and new, family and business colleagues. At the same time these platforms have made us more connected they have equally made us more disconnected.

How you might ask?

In some ways the only interaction that you have with many of your friends on line is through these platforms. As we have witnessed during this pandemic, there is a void in much needed social interaction that is simply not attainable through a computer screen.

What happens when they come for your account, maybe because of someone you have friended. These platforms are currently targeting people associated with President Trump. I am reminded of the following that I had shared back in May to area churches...

A work composed in in 1946 by the German [Lutheran](#) pastor [Martin Niemöller](#) (1892–1984)

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me

In my opinion what we are seeing having occurred last night is the beginning of the equivalent of the Nazi book burnings of the 1930s and 40s. Then you had people dancing and rejoicing as the words of people and the Words of Adonai were burned to ash. Today you had people calling for the banning of people from these social media platforms. Now that it is happening, they are rejoicing and doing the virtual dance of joy.

What happens when they come for the body of Messiah because His message, the message we transmit is "fact checked" as being offensive or even worse hate speech?

Did Yeshua need Facebook or Twitter to transmit the Gospel to the ends of the earth?

Is this the only means by which we as a people can truly function and communicate?

Ecc 5:1 Don't speak impulsively—don't be in a hurry to give voice to your words before God. For God is in heaven, and you are on earth; so let your words be few.

Ecc 5:2 For nightmares come from worrying too much; and a fool, when he speaks, chatters too much.

Ecc 5:3 If you make a vow to God, don't delay in discharging it. For God takes no pleasure in fools, so discharge your vow!

Your vow to Adonai was when you accepted Yeshua, His son as Messiah and were thusly instructed to share His Good News.

Words matter...His Words matter even more.

1Pe 4:10 As each one has received some spiritual gift, he should use it to serve others, like good managers of God's many-sided grace—

1Pe 4:11 if someone speaks, let him speak God's words; if someone serves, let him do so out of strength that God supplies; so that in everything God may be glorified through Yeshua the Messiah—to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

The Kingdom is more than just words as Sha'ul conveys to believers at Corinth...

1Co 4:20 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of words but of power.

1Co 4:21 Which do you prefer—should I come to you with a stick? or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

The challenges will be ahead of us but consider Sha'ul's words to Timothy...

1Ti 4:15 Be diligent about this work, throw yourself into it, so that your progress may be clear to everyone.

1Ti 4:16 Pay attention to yourself and to the teaching, continue in it, for by so doing you will deliver both yourself and those who hear you.

Sha'ul functioned in an oppressive time and under an oppressive regime and look what he was able to do through the power of the Ruach Ha Kodesh. The light is exposing that which had remained in the shadows for many months though was suspected. We are now seeing what transpires when one holds all the keys of authority for this nation.

Eph 4:26 Be angry, but don't sin—don't let the sun go down before you have dealt with the cause of your anger;

Eph 4:27 otherwise you leave room for the Adversary.

Eph 4:28 The thief must stop stealing; instead, he should make an honest living by his own efforts. This way he will be able to share with those in need.

Eph 4:29 Let no harmful language come from your mouth, only good words that are helpful in meeting the need, words that will benefit those who hear them.

Eph 4:30 Don't cause grief to God's Ruach HaKodesh, for he has stamped you as his property until the day of final redemption.

Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, violent assertiveness and slander, along with all spitefulness.

Eph 4:32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted; and forgive each other, just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you.

Good thing they don't hold the Key to Adonai's Kingdom, yet WE, HIS PEOPLE DO!!!