

Notes: April 14, 2018

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Shabbat Shalom – Service Begins
2. God Bless America: *Prayer for America and it's Leadership*
3. Children's Song:
4. Children's Lesson:
5. Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Class
6. Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer
7. Matovu
8. Drash – Susan MacMullen – Habbakuk 3:17 - 19
9. Name of God For the Week: *Adonai Doe-dee*
10. Liturgy
11. Prayer
12. Worship in Music and Dance
13. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *Heritage vs. Roots*
14. Kiddush

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: Yom Hashoah – Never Again, Never Forget

This past week marked the observance of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance. One of the most tragic moments in world history. A day set aside to remember the nearly 6 million Jewish people whose lives were taken at the hands of a truly evil regime. Some atrocities at the hands of other regimes may have been greater in number, but none of greater impact on a specific people. Nearly 80% of the Jewish population in Europe was wiped off the face of the earth.

Rather than go through the history of the Shoah again, I have provide links in my notes from past sermons you can view.

The history is the history.

Rather today, for our Yom Hashoah remembrance, I want to focus on the impact this had on the Jewish people.

I want you to understand what they felt. How it impacted them and the generations that would follow those who did survive.

Back in 2014, Rabbi Frank Lowinger, my mentor gave an interview to Elizabeth Ames, A senior at Liberty University. Her Thesis was titled – Messianic Jewish Liturgical Practices.

Within this interview, she obtained background information pertaining to the influences of the lives of those she interviewed, including Rabbi Frank. What I am about to read to you is a reality Rabbi Frank has shared many times in the 18 months Jeri and I were attending his congregation.

I have heard similar testimonies from others who lost family in the holocaust.

Well, uh, it was a practicing Jewish home. I preface it by saying 'well' simply because uh my father of blessed memory was a Holocaust survivor. My father lost everybody. His entire family perished at Auschwitz. As far as my father was concerned, God also died at Auschwitz. In his words to me more than once, "If there is a God and if we are the chosen people, then where is my family?"

To be the child of a Holocaust survivor isn't easy. Today they have a medical term for it. "Post Traumatic Stress"

You were expected to move on with your life after the war, after the concentration camps. Yet to say this tragedy didn't impact people who survived is an understatement.

Rabbi Frank's father's life as a Jew had forever changed forever...

"If there is a God and if we are the chosen people, then where is my family?"

Rabbi Frank continues in the interview about his mother...

On the other hand, my mom of blessed memory, her family came to the United States right from the pogroms in Russia in a scene right out of Fiddler on the Roof. Uh, they lived in a little village of Sokolivka, which today is part of Ukraine. It used to be part of Russia, and now soon is probably going to be Russia all over again. They were forced out of Sokolivka and made their way to the United States. My mom's family, they were Orthodox, but my mother's orthodoxy went by the wayside when she married my father.

Two parents, two very real experiences impacted by the globally spreading plague of anti-semitism.

The pogroms are known as organized massacre of Jews in Russia or eastern Europe. They were large-scale, targeted, and repeated anti-Jewish rioting that first began in the 19th century. Pogroms began occurring after the [Russian Empire](#), which previously had very few Jews, acquired territories with large Jewish populations from the [Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) during 1791–1835. These territories were designated "the [Pale of Settlement](#)" by the Imperial Russian government, within which Jews were reluctantly permitted to live, and it was within them that the pogroms largely took place. Most Jews were forbidden from moving to other parts of the Empire, unless they converted to the [Russian Orthodox state religion](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Jewish_pogroms_in_the_Russian_Empire

Rabbi Frank's mother's family continued as Orthodox Jews, even after their real experience of life in the Russian empire. Yet, Rabbi Frank's father wanted nothing to do with his heritage.

Rabbi Frank continues...

But my father was very determined that my siblings and I continued in the synagogue, not just through bar and bat mitzvah but right through the age of eighteen and confirmation. And every time I would fight with my father, you know, “Why do you send us to the synagogue? Every week, twice a week, Hebrew school, Sunday school, services, but you never go to the synagogue?” And his answer to us was always the same, especially to me, “I want you to know who you are and who your people are.”

In spite of the scars that would impact His faith in Adonai, it was important to Frank's father that his children know who they are.

So I was basically secular, but my dad compelled us because to him being a Jew was important and identity was important. And I have found that this upbringing proved to be very valuable in the days that would come ahead when I would come to find the Messiah of Israel and to see that living one's life as a Jew is a good thing and it's just part of the vision that we carried into this congregation when we planted it.

The desire of Frank's father for Frank to know who he is, was necessary and key to the plan Adonai had for Frank's life.

Psa 102:1 [*Prayer of a sufferer overcome by weakness and pouring out his complaint before Adonai:*] Adonai, hear my prayer! Let my cry for help reach you!

Psa 102:2 Don't hide your face from me when I am in such distress! Turn your ear toward me; when I call, be quick to reply!

God's people crying out for help...this was not an uncommon moment within the concentration camps

Psa 102:3 For my days are vanishing like smoke, my bones are burning like a furnace.

Psa 102:4 I am stricken and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food.

Psa 102:5 Because of my loud groaning, I am just skin and bones.

Psa 102:6 I am like a great owl in the desert, I've become like an owl in the ruins.

Psa 102:7 I lie awake and become like a bird alone on the roof.

Psa 102:8 My enemies taunt me all day long; mad with rage, they make my name a curse.

Psa 102:9 For I have been eating ashes like bread and mingling tears with my drink

Psa 102:10 because of your furious anger, since you picked me up just to toss me aside.

Psa 102:11 My days decline like an evening shadow; I am drying up like grass.

Psa 102:12 But you, Adonai, are enthroned forever; your renown will endure through all generations.

Psa 102:13 You will arise and take pity on Tziyon, for the time has come to have mercy on her; the time determined has come.

Psa 102:14 For your servants love her very stones; they take pity even on her dust.

Psa 102:15 The nations will fear the name of Adonai and all the kings on earth your glory,

Psa 102:16 when Adonai has rebuilt Tziyon, and shows himself in his glory,

Psa 102:17 when he has heeded the plea of the poor and not despised their prayer.

Psa 102:18 May this be put on record for a future generation; may a people yet to be created praise Adonai.

Psa 102:19 For he has looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven Adonai surveys the earth

Psa 102:20 to listen to the sighing of the prisoner, to set free those who are sentenced to death,

Psa 102:21 to proclaim the name of Adonai in Tziyon and his praise in Yerushalayim

Psa 102:22 when peoples and kingdoms have been gathered together to serve Adonai.

Psa 102:23 He has broken my strength in midcourse, he has cut short my days.

Psa 102:24 I plead, "God, your years last through all generations; so don't take me away when my life is half over!

Psa 102:25 In the beginning, you laid the foundations of the earth; heaven is the work of your hands.

Psa 102:26 They will vanish, but you will remain; like clothing, they will all grow old; yes, you will change them like clothing, and they will pass away.

Psa 102:27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

Psa 102:28 The children of your servants will live securely and their descendants be established in your presence."

Out of this tragedy...

Israel became a nation, declaring their independence and recognized that day by the United States, thus making this Scripture real...

Isa 66:8 Who ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Is a country born in one day? Is a nation brought forth all at once? For as soon as Tziyon went into labor, she brought forth her children.

The answer to the Prophet's questions are – Yes, Yes and Amain.

Out of this tragedy, the fig tree began to bring forth its leaves...

Mat 24:32 "Now let the fig tree teach you its lesson: when its branches begin to sprout and leaves appear, you know that summer is approaching.

Mat 24:33 In the same way, when you see all these things, you are to know that the time is near, right at the door.

Mat 24:34 Yes! I tell you that this people will certainly not pass away before all these things happen.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Mat 24:36 "But when that day and hour will come, no one knows – not the angels in heaven, not the Son, only the Father.

What many people miss when they apply an understanding to these verses, specifically verse 34, conveying, “this people will certainly not pass away” is that Yeshua is not speaking of the people He is currently talking with, but rather considering the allusion of the fig tree, is talking about the Jewish people.

How do we know this is the Jewish people?

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."

The fig tree, Israel is tied directly to the return of Yeshua.

Out of this tragedy came a flourishing aspect of Judaism not seen for centuries.

The rise of Messianic Judaism. Even though it is a modern term and not used in Scripture, it is the concept that was present nearly 2000 years ago. Jewish people accepting their Jewish Messiah. As I shared with you a few weeks ago and have included the article in my notes, out of approximately 40 million evangelicals in the United States, it is estimated that there are 871,000 having at least one Jewish parent or grandparent.

Finally, out of this tragedy, Frank's father and mother also became believers in their Jewish Messiah Yeshua before they passed.