

Notes: Shabbat – April 28, 2014 – Yom Hashoah – Gathering at the Square

Start: 12 noon

Introduction: Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance – Why Are We Here Today?

Isa 62:1 For Tziyon's sake I will not be silent, for Yerushalayim's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out brightly and her salvation like a blazing torch.

Isa 62:2 The nations will see your vindication and all kings your glory. Then you will be called by a new name which Adonai himself will pronounce.

These are words given to Isaiah by Adonai, conveying the promises He has made to the Jewish people.

Today is Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance. In order to understand why we are here today, we must first understand the journey in how we got here.

Background – How Did Yom Hashoah Originate

Became a day of remembrance in in 1953 on the 27th day of Nissan. Originally intended to be on the 14th day of Nissan (Passover). However, many in the orthodox community wanted it to be held in a different month than Nissan, because Passover is a time of Joy, not a time of mourning.

- The initial date was derived from the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943.

Background – Why Did It Originate

After the Jewish people were expelled from the land they called home in the first century of the common era, they would disperse and reside in many countries.

The Jewish people have constantly been the world's black sheep. (recent history)

- 1096 - Primary victims of the 1st Crusades
- 1100 - Expelled from Germany (approximate date)
- 1215 - First ordered to wear yellow star of David
- 1290 - Expelled from England
- 1306 - Expelled from France
- 1492 - Expelled from Spain
- 1497 - Expelled from Portugal
- 1555 - Creation of first Ghettos (Think of Goshen)

One tragedy after another, yet we as a people still survived, even without our own land.

There was a glimmer of hope:

- 1789 – 1799 Progress with the French Revolution – Napoleon gave Jewish people full citizenship in exchange for not returning to the land of Israel. No more ghettos, provided education.

For a time, Jews were able to rest from persecution. Unfortunately, that would not last long...

Tide turns with publication of “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” published in Russia in 1903, fuels the next wave of anti-semitism in Europe. The premise of the book is a plot of Jewish conspiracy to take over the world. Material in the book is fraudulent.

- Henry Ford funded publication of 500,000 copies
- Influential in developing Hitler's hatred towards the Jewish people
- Upon Hitler's rise to power, was taught as fact in German classrooms

During this time there would be the Dreyfus affair – trial of a Jewish officer Alfred Dreyfus in France, accused of selling secrets to the German government. Originally convicted of treason, later set free. This event would divide France from the time of its beginning in 1894 until its resolution in 1906.

Needless to say the rise of anti-semitism in Europe was beginning to proliferate and spread.

A people that today comprise less than 0.002% of the world population are reviled and hated. Enemies of many for the sole reason of merely existing.

Some can't even express why they don't like Jewish people.

This negative response to the Jewish people is not without precedence...

When we look at the book of Ester, we see this same perspective...

Est 3:5 Haman was furious when he saw that Mordekhai was not kneeling and bowing down to him.

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 3:8 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 3:13 Letters were sent by courier to all the royal provinces "to destroy, kill and exterminate all Jews, from young to old, including small children and women, on a specific day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to seize their goods as plunder."

Est 4:3 In every province reached by the king's order and decree, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing, as many lay down on sackcloth and ashes.

Anyone familiar with the book of Ester knows the outcome. We are here today because this decree was never carried out.

As we have seen from the previous examples, this isn't an isolated incident, the Holocaust was the largest plot of intentional extermination of a people ever devised. It is estimated that between 40 - 45% of the entire worldwide Jewish population (78% of the Jewish population in Europe at the time) were killed.

You have heard the total before – nearly 6 million Jewish people

In Israel today, sirens sounded in commemoration of Yom Hashoah in which there was 2 minutes of silence. A brief moment in the midst of a busy schedule to remember the many who were killed, exterminated because they didn't fit the mold, or simply because they were Jewish.

We remember not only the nearly 6 million Jews, but also many others who did not fit the mold. On the banner behind me are colored triangles that were used to identify people by classification.

Yellow Badges: *Jews*
 Red Badges: *Political Prisoners*
 Green Badges: *Criminals*
 Black Badges: *Anti-Socials*
 Pink Badges: *Homosexuals/Sex Offenders*
 Blue Badges: *Emigrants*
 Purple Badges: *Jehovah's Witnesses*

In addition to the nearly 6 million Jews, there were other victims who did not meet the ideal German race...

Victims	Killed	Source
Jews	5.9 million	
Soviet POWs	2–3 million	According to Michael Berenbaum , between two and three million Soviet prisoners-of-war—or around 57 percent of all Soviet POWs—died of starvation, mistreatment, or executions between June 1941 and May 1945. About 500,000 Jews served in the Soviet Army during World War II.
Ethnic Poles	1.8–2 million	German planners had in November 1939 called for "the complete destruction" of all Poles . "All Poles", Heinrich Himmler swore, "will disappear from the world" The actions taken against ethnic Poles were not on the scale of the genocide of the Jews. Most Polish Jews (perhaps 90% of their pre-war population) perished during the Holocaust, while most Christian Poles survived the brutal German occupation.
Romani	220,000–1,500,000	Romani are widely known among Anglophonic people by the exonym "Gypsies" The treatment of the Romani was not consistent in the different areas that Nazi Germany conquered. In some areas (e.g. Luxembourg and the Baltic countries), the Nazis killed virtually the entire Romani population. In other areas (e.g. Denmark, Greece), there is no record of Romanis being subjected to mass killings.
Disabled	200,000–250,000	<i>Action T4</i> was a program established in 1939 to maintain the genetic "purity" of the German population by killing or sterilizing citizens who were judged to be disabled or suffering from mental disorder . Between 1939 and 1941, 80,000 to 100,000 mentally ill adults in institutions were killed
Freemasons	80,000–200,000	In Mein Kampf , Hitler wrote that Freemasonry had "succumbed" to the Jews: "The general pacifistic paralysis of the national instinct of self-preservation begun by Freemasonry is then transmitted to the masses of society by the Jewish press."
Slovenes	20,000–25,000	exterminating, expelling, or enslaving most or all Slavs from their native lands so as to make living space for German settlers, something that would be carried out over a period of 20–30 years.[
Homosexuals	5,000–15,000	Between 5,000 and 15,000 homosexuals of German nationality are estimated to have been sent to concentration camps
Jehovah's Witnesses	2,500–5,000	Refusing to pledge allegiance to the Nazi party or to serve in the military, roughly 12,000 Jehovah's Witnesses were forced to wear a purple triangle and were placed in camps where they were given the option of renouncing their faith and submitting to the state's authority. Between 2,500 and 5,000 were killed.

Spanish Republicans

7000

After losing the [Spanish Civil War](#) many republicans fled to France. With the subsequent fall of France, many were sent to concentration camps, particularly the [Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp](#), where about 7000 died.

Hitler claimed that communism was a Jewish ideology which the Nazis termed "[Judeo-Bolshevism](#)"

(source - Wikipedia)

After the shofar sounds, we will commemorate this tragedy with 2 minutes of silence, followed by the recitation of the Mourner's Kadeesh in English.

Mourner's Kadeesh

The Kadeesh, an Aramaic prayer from the second Temple period in which it offers high praise with the great Messianic hope and promise.

Over time, the Kadeesh became known as a mourner's prayer influenced by Iyov 1:20 - 21

When Iyov learned of the death of his children...

Job 1:20 Iyov got up, tore his coat, shaved his head, fell down on the ground and worshipped;

Job 1:21 he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return there. Adonai gave; Adonai took; blessed be the name of Adonai."

The Kaddesh is not a prayer for the dead, but a prayer in remembrance of them with an emphasis on where our hope lays. From Iyov we learn that in every situation in life we are to praise Adonai.

Magnified and sanctified be His great name in the world which He has created according to His will. May His kingdom reign and may His Salvation sprout. And may His anointed Messiah draw near during your life and during your days, and during the life of the whole house of Israel, even swiftly and soon, and say amen.

Let His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed, praised, and glorified, exalted, extolled and honored, magnified and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed is He, though He be high above all the blessings and songs, praises, and consolations which are uttered in the world, and say amen.

May He Who makes peace in His high places make peace upon us and upon all Israel, and say amen.

Psa 22:1 *[For the leader. Set to "Sunrise." A psalm of David:]* My God! My God! Why have you abandoned me? Why so far from helping me, so far from my anguished cries?

Psa 22:2 My God, by day I call to you, but you don't answer; likewise at night, but I get no relief.

Psa 22:3 Nevertheless, you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Isra'el.

Psa 22:4 In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted, and you rescued them.

Psa 22:5 They cried to you and escaped; they trusted in you and were not disappointed.

Psa 22:6 But I am a worm, not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

Psa 22:7 All who see me jeer at me; they sneer and shake their heads:

Psa 22:8 "He committed himself to Adonai, so let him rescue him! Let him set him free if he takes such delight in him!"

Psa 22:9 But you are the one who took me from the womb, you made me trust when I was on my mother's breasts.

Psa 22:10 Since my birth I've been thrown on you; you are my God from my mother's womb.

Psa 22:11 Don't stay far from me, for trouble is near; and there is no one to help.

Psa 22:12 Many bulls surround me, wild bulls of Bashan close in on me.

Psa 22:13 They open their mouths wide against me, like ravening, roaring lions.

Psa 22:14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart has become like wax - it melts inside me;

Psa 22:15 my mouth is as dry as a fragment of a pot, my tongue sticks to my palate; you lay me down in the dust of death.

Psa 22:16 Dogs are all around me, a pack of villains closes in on me like a lion *[at]* my hands and feet. *[Or: "They pierced my hands and feet."]*

Psa 22:17 I can count every one of my bones, while they gaze at me and gloat.

Psa 22:18 They divide my garments among themselves; for my clothing they throw dice.

Psa 22:19 But you, Adonai, don't stay far away! My strength, come quickly to help me!

Psa 22:20 Rescue me from the sword, my life from the power of the dogs.

Psa 22:21 Save me from the lion's mouth! You have answered me from the wild bulls' horns.

Psa 22:22 I will proclaim your name to my kinsmen; right there in the assembly I will praise you:

Psa 22:23 "You who fear Adonai, praise him! All descendants of Ya`akov, glorify him! All descendants of Isra'el, stand in awe of him!"

Psa 22:24 For he has not despised or abhorred the poverty of the poor; he did not hide his face from him but listened to his cry."

Psa 22:25 Because of you I give praise in the great assembly; I will fulfill my vows in the sight of those who fear him.

Psa 22:26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek Adonai will praise him; Your hearts will enjoy life

forever.

Psa 22:27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to Adonai; all the clans of the nations will worship in your presence.

Psa 22:28 For the kingdom belongs to Adonai, and he rules the nations.

Psa 22:29 All who prosper on the earth will eat and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him, including him who can't keep himself alive.

Psa 22:30 A descendant will serve him; the next generation will be told of Adonai.

Psa 22:31 They will come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he is the one who did it.

Psa 23:1 *[A psalm of David:]* Adonai is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

Psa 23:2 He has me lie down in grassy pastures, he leads me by quiet water,

Psa 23:3 he restores my inner person. He guides me in right paths for the sake of his own name.

Psa 23:4 Even if I pass through death-dark ravines, I will fear no disaster; for you are with me; your rod and staff reassure me.

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table for me, even as my enemies watch; you anoint my head with oil from an overflowing cup.

Psa 23:6 Goodness and grace will pursue me every day of my life; and I will live in the house of Adonai for years and years to come.

Psa 24:1 *[By David. A psalm:]* The earth is Adonai's, with all that is in it, the world and those who live there;

Psa 24:2 for he set its foundations on the seas and established it on the rivers.

Psa 24:3 Who may go up to the mountain of Adonai? Who can stand in his holy place?

Psa 24:4 Those with clean hands and pure hearts, who don't make vanities the purpose of their lives or swear oaths just to deceive.

Psa 24:5 They will receive a blessing from Adonai and justice from God, who saves them.

Psa 24:6 Such is the character of those who seek him, of Ya`akov, who seeks your face. (Selah)

Psa 24:7 Lift up your heads, you gates! Lift them up, everlasting doors, so that the glorious king can enter!

Psa 24:8 Who is he, this glorious king? Adonai, strong and mighty, Adonai, mighty in battle.

Psa 24:9 Lift up your heads, you gates! Lift them up, everlasting doors, so that the glorious king can enter!

Psa 24:10 Who is he, this glorious king? Adonai-Tzva'ot - he is the glorious king. (Selah)

We recently commemorated Passover with our annual seder, remembering a similar time, when out of great tragedy, Adonai appeared to His people, led them out by the hand to a land that would be their home.

It is not a coincidence that some wanted Yom Hashoah to be on Passover in that there are significant similarities.

Out of this tragedy the home that was given to Israel over 3000 years ago was revived and restored. The desert was made to bloom again.

So, today we remember those taken from us and tomorrow we will continue on with the Lord as our Shepherd, trusting in Him.