

Notes: May 7 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. 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: Yom Hashoah 2016

As we honor the memory of those who fell victim to an evil plan that intended for the total annihilation of a people from the face of the earth, I am reminded of this verse that I believe to be relevant and appropriate.

Rom 8:28 Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;

How can this tragedy in any way shape or form offer anything good?

How can the death of 6 million Jews, with the intent of eliminating the entire Jewish population from the face of the earth in any way offer any good that would come from it.

It is believed that many Jews rejected God during this time. “How can there truly be a God if this is happening to us?”

I can't speak to the people and their hearts because I didn't know them, but I firmly believe...

Joe 2:32 (3:5) At that time, whoever calls on the name of Adonai will be saved. For in Mount Tziyon and Yerushalayim there will be those who escape, as Adonai has promised; among the survivors will be those whom Adonai has called.

A verse that Sha'ul references in Romans 10:13.

I believe there were those who called upon the name of the Lord and were delivered. Maybe not from the tragedy that befell them, but from a greater tragedy that would forever separate them from the love of God.

Let's look at the second part of this verse from Joel...

“For in Mount Tziyon and Yerushalayim there will be those who escape, as Adonai has promised; among the survivors will be those whom Adonai has called.”

Let's talk for a moment about the survivors of this great tragedy.

It would be these survivors whom would be instrumental in bringing forth God's plan that will usher in the return of Yeshua. Yet not something that was fully understood then and to some degree not fully understood today.

The first domino that we are talking about here is the reestablishment of Israel as a nation.

There are many verses that convey Israel's reestablishment as a nation, yet until it happened were not truly understood.

Some in the church had taken these verses to mean that God had established Israel and it was the church. Conveyed in more of a “spiritual sense” than a literal sense.

Yet, even though today some still espouse this position, the literal reality forever changed in 1948 – May 14th to be exact, when the movement of Adonai, according to His plan and purpose manifested in a mighty way, resulting in the reestablishment of Israel as a nation.

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.

Just as when Israel was instructed by Moshe and later by Joshua, to take the land, so to at this time there was a battle for the land, by which the Zionists would successfully establish Israel as a nation.

What tends to get overlooked at the re-establishment of Israel as a nation, is that it aligns with many Scriptures that promised the existence of Israel as a nation.

That the reestablishment of Israel as a nation is imperative and instrumental in Adonai's plan.

When we look further at the second part Isaiah 66:8 and apply it...

“For in Mount Tziyon and Yerushalayim there will be those who escape, as Adonai has promised; among the survivors will be those whom Adonai has called.”

I can speak specifically to “those who escaped” and “among the survivors will be those whom Adonai has called”

I was impacted by one who escaped, yet I never met him.

I was impacted by a survivor whom Adonai called.

The father of Rabbi Lowinger was a Holocaust survivor. His life was greatly impacted by his experiences. If I recall correctly, Rabbi Lowinger would tell stories that included his father's insistence of him attending synagogue, yet his father would not be involved. He was aware of the importance for his children, yet the scars from his experiences caused him to question God.

Ultimately, it would be the son of a survivor who would be called. That calling began to manifest itself in the person of a young Frank Lowinger, when in 1974 after reading Matthew (and more specifically Matthew 1 and the genealogy of Yeshua), through this simple prayer:

“God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob, if you are who you say you are, then show me.

It would be from this point on that Rabbi Lowinger would ultimately pursue the calling that Adonai had placed upon him, when he would pursue full time ministry at New Covenant. It would be in 1982 that the formation of Brith Hadoshah would happen and by 1987 they would establish themselves as an independent congregation.

And through the calling of His son, Many years later, Rabbi Lowinger's father would come to accept Yeshua as Messiah.

Yet it would be the calling of Rabbi Lowinger that would impact me. Having never crossed paths, our paths would meet in 2004, when as a still young believer I was made aware of a Messianic Jewish Synagogue for the first time. It would be over three years that I would ultimately pursue Rabbi Lowinger with a similar tenacity as the woman with the issue of blood pursued Yeshua. By the end of 2007, after nearly a year at Lockport Wesleyan Church, we had seen the writing on the wall and knew that our path would ultimately lead to starting a congregation. The congregation would be based on the Jewishness of Messiah, yet I knew I needed a refresher in being Jewish, in that it had been many years since I had last stepped foot in a synagogue. It was then that we made arrangements to have dinner with Rabbi Lowinger and his wife, and convey our needs and offer to apprentice for a period of time. Three months later we would take on the task of transitioning to Brith Hadoshah.

Through our own experiences, which were separate from Rabbi Lowinger, this path would ultimately appear and converge by where Messianic Judaism was the way by which our journey would continue.

Even though I never met Rabbi Lowinger's father, a holocaust survivor, I was greatly impacted by him.

Likewise, the connection and impact that would resonate through his son, by whom Rabbi Lowinger has impacted the lives of thousands of people is a direct result of surviving this great tragedy.

As I had mentioned earlier, it would be out of this great tragedy that we would see the nation of Israel come into existence again.

Here are some of the many Scriptures that relate to Adonai's promise of the Jewish people's connection to the land of Israel...

Deu 30:5 Adonai your God will bring you back into the land your ancestors possessed, and you will possess it; he will make you prosper there, and you will become even more numerous than your ancestors.

Isa 54:1 "Sing, barren woman who has never had a child! Burst into song, shout for joy, you who have never been in labor! For the deserted wife will have more children than the woman who is living with her husband," says Adonai.

Isa 54:2 Enlarge the space for your tent, extend the curtains of your dwelling; do not hold back, lengthen your cords, make your tent pegs firm.

Isa 54:3 For you will spread out to the right and the left, your descendants will possess the nations and inhabit the desolated cities.

Isa 54:4 Don't be afraid, for you won't be ashamed; don't be discouraged, for you won't be disgraced. You will forget the shame of your youth, no longer remember the dishonor of being widowed.

Isa 54:5 For your husband is your Maker, Adonai-Tzva'ot is his name. The Holy One of Isra'el is your Redeemer. He will be called the God of all the earth.

Isa 54:6 For Adonai has called you back like a wife abandoned and grief-stricken; "A wife married in her youth cannot be rejected," says your God.

Eze 37:1 With the hand of Adonai upon me, Adonai carried me out by his Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley, and it was full of bones.

Eze 37:2 He had me pass by all around them — there were so many bones lying in the valley, and they were so dry!

Eze 37:3 He asked me, "Human being, can these bones live?" I answered, "Adonai Elohim! Only you know that!"

Eze 37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones! Say to them, 'Dry bones! Hear what Adonai has to say!'"

Eze 37:5 To these bones Adonai Elohim says, "I will make breath enter you, and you will live.

Eze 37:6 I will attach ligaments to you, make flesh grow on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you. You will live, and you will know that I am Adonai." "

Eze 37:7 So I prophesied as ordered; and while I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound; it was the bones coming together, each bone in its proper place.

Eze 37:8 As I watched, ligaments grew on them, flesh appeared and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Eze 37:9 Next he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath! Prophecy, human being! Say to the breath that Adonai

Elohim says, 'Come from the four winds, breath; and breathe on these slain, so that they can live.' "

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as ordered, and the breath came into them, and they were alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army!

Eze 37:11 Then he said to me, "Human being! These bones are the whole house of Isra'el; and they are saying, 'Our bones have dried up, our hope is gone, and we are completely cut off.'

Eze 37:12 Therefore prophesy; say to them that Adonai Elohim says, 'My people! I will open your graves and make you get up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Isra'el.

Eze 37:13 Then you will know that I am Adonai — when I have opened your graves and made you get up out of your graves, my people!

Eze 37:14 I will put my Spirit in you; and you will be alive. Then I will place you in your own land; and you will know that I, Adonai, have spoken, and that I have done it,' says Adonai."

Yet with these promises to bring the Jewish people back to the land, ultimately reestablishing Israel as a nation, these are not empty or one dimensional promises. It is not a promise without significance and power. It is not just to bring them back into the land, but it is to reestablish a relationship...

Deu 30:6 Then Adonai your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your children, so that you will love Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being, and thus you will live.

Isa 54:7 "Briefly I abandoned you, but with great compassion I am taking you back.

Isa 54:8 I was angry for a moment and hid my face from you; but with everlasting grace I will have compassion on you," says Adonai your Redeemer.

Isa 54:9 "For me this is like Noach's flood. Just as I swore that no flood like Noach's would ever again cover the earth, so now I swear that never again will I be angry with you or rebuke you.

Isa 54:10 For the mountains may leave and the hills be removed, but my grace will never leave you, and my covenant of peace will not be removed," says Adonai, who has compassion on you.

Isa 54:11 "Storm-ravaged [*city*], unconsolated, I will set your stones in the finest way, lay your foundations with sapphires,

Isa 54:12 make your windows shine with rubies, your gates with garnet, your walls with gemstones.

Isa 54:13 All your children will be taught by Adonai; your children will have great peace.

Isa 54:14 In righteousness you will be established, far from oppression, with nothing to fear; far from ruin, for it will not come near you.

Eze 37:15 The word of Adonai came to me:

Eze 37:16 "You, human being, take one stick and write on it, 'For Y'udah and those joined with him [*among*] the people of Isra'el.' Next, take another stick and write on it, 'For Yosef, the stick of Efrayim, and all the house of Isra'el who are joined with him.'

Eze 37:17 Finally, bring them together into a single stick, so that they become one in your hand.

Eze 37:18 When your people ask you what all this means,

Eze 37:19 tell them that Adonai Elohim says this: 'I will take the stick of Yosef, which is in the hand of Efrayim, together with the tribes of Isra'el who are joined with him, and put them together with the stick of Y'udah and make them a single stick, so that they become one in my hand.'

Eze 37:20 The sticks on which you write are to be in your hand as they watch.

Eze 37:21 Then say to them that Adonai Elohim says: 'I will take the people of Isra'el from among the nations where they have gone and gather them from every side and bring them back to their own land.

Eze 37:22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Isra'el; and one king will be king for all of them. They will no longer be two nations, and they will never again be divided into two kingdoms.

Eze 37:23 " "They will never again defile themselves with their idols, their detestable things, or any of their transgressions; but I will save them from all the places where they have been living and sinning; and I will cleanse them, so that they will be my people, and I will be their God.

Eze 37:24 My servant David will be king over them, and all of them will have one shepherd; they will live by my rulings and keep and observe my regulations.

Eze 37:25 They will live in the land I gave to Ya`akov my servant, where your ancestors lived; they will live there — they, their children, and their grandchildren, forever; and David my servant will be their leader forever.

Eze 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them, an everlasting covenant. I will give to them, increase their

numbers, and set my sanctuary among them forever.

Eze 37:27 My home will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Eze 37:28 The nations will know that I am Adonai, who sets Isra'el apart as holy, when my sanctuary is with them forever.' "

Instrumental in all this is the Jewish Messiah and the New Covenant. It would be through this better Covenant, that builds upon the previous Covenants, not making them void, but rather further establishing their foundation, by which a more powerful Cohen and a more powerful sacrifice will bring forth a more powerful result, thus making for a more powerful relationship.

Eze 36:22 "Therefore tell the house of Isra'el that Adonai Elohim says this: 'I am not going to do this for your sake, house of Isra'el, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have been profaning among the nations where you went.

Eze 36:23 I will set apart my great name to be regarded as holy, since it has been profaned in the nations — you profaned it among them. The nations will know that I am Adonai,' says Adonai Elohim, 'when, before their eyes, I am set apart through you to be regarded as holy.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you from all the countries, and return you to your own soil.

Eze 36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you; I will take the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 I will put my Spirit inside you and cause you to live by my laws, respect my rulings and obey them.

Eze 36:28 You will live in the land I gave to your ancestors. You will be my people, and I will be your God.

Eze 36:29 I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will summon the grain and increase it, and not send famine against you.

Eze 36:30 I will multiply the yield of fruit from the trees and increase production in the fields, so that you never again suffer the reproach of famine among the nations.

Eze 36:31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your actions that were not good; as you look at yourselves, you will loathe yourselves for your guilt and disgusting practices.

Eze 36:32 Understand,' says Adonai Elohim, 'that I am not doing this for your sake. Instead, be ashamed and dismayed for your ways, house of Isra'el.'

Eze 36:33 "Adonai Elohim says, 'When the day comes for me to cleanse you from all your guilt, I will cause the cities to be inhabited and the ruins to be rebuilt.

Eze 36:34 The land that was desolate will be tilled, whereas formerly it lay desolate for all passing by to see.

Eze 36:35 Then they will say, "The land that used to be desolate has become like Gan-`Eden, and the cities formerly ruined, abandoned and wasted have been fortified and are inhabited!"

Eze 36:36 Then the nations around you that remain will know that I, Adonai, have rebuilt the ruins and replanted what was abandoned. I, Adonai, have spoken; and I will do it.'

Eze 36:37 "Adonai Elohim says, 'In addition, I will let the house of Isra'el pray to me to do this for them: to increase their numbers like sheep —

Eze 36:38 like flocks of sheep for sacrifices, like the flocks of sheep in Yerushalayim at its designated times, in this degree will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am Adonai.' "

This tragedy that we remember has brought us to this place where we are today. A nation with as many residents as their were victims. A nation that is flourishing with new arrivals every day, calling Israel their home. A place that is safe from anti-semitism.

Yet a place that is not recognized by its surrounding neighbors. Neighbors who are looking to eradicate them from the land. Identified as an "occupation", and a mandate to purge them from the land, there is no place on the face of the earth that is safer for the Jewish people than eretz Israel. Safer because of the Covenants of Adonai.

Out of this tragedy, those that would survive, many would be called by Adonai, with the message of Messiah, the message of hope. A message of restoration and reconciliation.

Let us be reminded of the price that many who did not survive paid. The impact it would have on the survivors for years afterwards.

Message to GPCS Chapel – May 4, 2016

How many have smart phones? How many are on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc...

Information doubles every 18 months and I believe that time frame is shrinking.

There are over 1 billion web sites, with that number continuing to increase daily.

We live in a time when our news and information is available instantly.

With so much information, The challenge we run into is discerning the reality from the rhetoric and the fact from the fiction.

How reliable is Facebook's news feed and trending category, given the recent revelation that they may manipulate the news that trends, thus invoking an intended bias towards its 1.6 billion users? Can you consider this source to be reliable?

What about other sources on the internet? How reliable is the information they provide?

So, you are faced with this immense challenge, what do you take as fact and what is considered to be fiction. To this point there is a distinct possibility that some of you during your lifetime will be confronted with sources that will convey the Holocaust is a made up fabrication, a lie, a deception.

There are web sites that currently exist stating the Holocaust to be a total fabrication created by the Jewish people.

What will you do?

Your Hebrew word for the day...

“zâkar”

A primitive root; properly to *mark* (so as to be recognized), that is, to *remember*; by implication to *mention*;

used 126 times in the Tanakh...we are not just to remember, but to recognize by mentioning. Examples include...

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy

Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt.

Deu 8:2 You are to remember everything of the way in which Adonai led you these forty years in the desert, humbling and testing you in order to know what was in your heart - whether you would obey his mitzvot or not.

According to scripture, remembrance is important, in that it is how the next generation will learn of the things that God has done and commanded. It isn't simply bring something to the forefront of our memory, but to be audible and convey what we are instructed to remember.

Conveying what we remember continues a string of continuity of information that is meant to be retained, it is meant to be shared.

Deu 32:7 "Remember how the old days were; think of the years through all the ages. Ask your father — he will tell you; your leaders too — they will inform you.

Thus we are reminded throughout the *Tanakh*, Ya'akov's descendants are called the "house of Israel"; this means that the Jewish people are the people of God. As "God's chosen people" they are the object of his special concern and affection; they are called his "firstborn," his "son," his "beloved." But at the same time they are obligated by covenants to obey him in a unique way not required of other nations.

Whether this relationship is the cause of anti-semitism does not diminish that anti-semitism exists and has existed for centuries.

Believe it or not, Jews were not the only victims of the Holocaust...

Victims	Killed	Source
Jews	5.9 million	According to Michael Berenbaum , between two and three million Soviet prisoners-of-war—or around 57 percent of all Soviet POW's—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.
Soviet POW's	2–3 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"
Ethnic Poles	1.8–2 million	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 Anglo phonic 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 <i>Mein Kampf</i> , 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.

There is no place for anti-semitism in a Christian's life, let alone hatred towards anyone.

Just as you have heard of the millions that were killed for simply being who they are and not aligning with the ideal perception of what the human race should be, everyone of these people were created in the image and likeness of God.

To convey this type of hatred towards anyone flies directly in the face of Scripture.

Furthermore, anti-semitism has no place in a Christian's life for the simple reason that Yeshua is a Jew and His message to the world involves the Jewish people...

Joh 4:22 You people don't know what you are worshipping; we worship what we do know, because salvation comes from the Jews.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News, since it is God's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting, to the Jew especially, but equally to the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 For in it is revealed how God makes people righteous in his sight; and from beginning to end it is through trust — as the Tanakh puts it, "But the person who is righteous will live his life by trust."

You will become the voice of a generation that will no longer be able to speak for themselves. You will be the ones who convey this message to generations that are to follow.

What will you say?