

Notes: April 18 2015

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 Remarks...A Cloud of Witnesses

The writer of the book of Hebrews begins chapter 12 by recounting what was written in chapter 11 and identifying the individuals as a great cloud of witness...

**Heb 12:1** So then, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us, too, put aside every impediment — that is, the sin which easily hampers our forward movement — and keep running with endurance in the contest set before us,

Within the Messianic Jewish Movement, I can truly say we are blessed with devout men of Adonai, who have been doing this much longer than I have.

They have endured much while experiencing so much more.

As we recognize Yom Hashoah today, I want to share some profound thoughts from a few gentlemen, who by answering a call to serve Adonai, have made it possible for this congregation to be here today.

Think of it this way, you are going to hear from several guest speakers without having to travel to hear them.

We will begin with a 20 minute video...

The Mystery of the Jew - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6k1jHAYtbI&feature=youtu.be>

The movie ends with a question...

What is the secret of the Jew?

Why have they continued to exist, even while enduring such opposition?

Such odds against them – no land, no governmental protection

Whether it is persecution from the nations, or judgment against us for not living according to the ways of Adonai, one thing has remained constant for over 3300 years.

The covenants that Adonai made.

The covenant with Avraham:

**Gen 12:1** Now Adonai said to Avram, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.

**Gen 12:2** I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing.

**Gen 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

The eternal nature of this relationship...

**Gen 17:1** When Avram was 99 years old Adonai appeared to Avram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai [*God Almighty*]. Walk in my presence and be pure-hearted.

**Gen 17:2** I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will increase your numbers greatly."

**Gen 17:3** Avram fell on his face, and God continued speaking with him:

**Gen 17:4** "As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations.

**Gen 17:5** Your name will no longer be Avram [*exalted father*], but your name will be Avraham [*father of many*], because I have made you the father of many nations.

**Gen 17:6** I will cause you to be very fruitful. I will make nations of you, kings will descend from you.

**Gen 17:7** "I am establishing my covenant between me and you, along with your descendants after you, generation after generation, as an everlasting covenant, to be God for you and for your descendants after you.

**Gen 17:8** I will give you and your descendants after you the land in which you are now foreigners, all the land of Kena'an, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God."

**Gen 17:9** God said to Avraham, "As for you, you are to keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you, generation after generation.

Adonai talks about blessings and curses that will come from Him.

This is part of the covenant relationship

No other nation has ever received such instruction with such promises.

Follow me and you will be blessed – Ignore me and you will be cursed (consequences)

Powers have risen in this world for centuries. Powers have been defeated and supplanted by a conquering power, only to be conquered themselves.

Yet through disobedience, persecution, expulsion and extermination, one thing has remained constant. the Jew still exists. Even without a land they continued as a people.

What is the secret?

The covenants of Adonai.

**Num 6:27** "In this way they are to put my name on the people of Isra'el, so that I will bless them."

**Exo 19:5** Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant, then you will be my own treasure from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine;

**Exo 19:6** and you will be a kingdom of cohanim for me, a nation set apart.' These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el."

**Deu 14:1** "You are the people of Adonai your God. You are not to gash yourselves or shave the hair above your foreheads in mourning for the dead,

**Deu 14:2** because you are a people set apart as holy for Adonai your God. Adonai your God has chosen you to be his own unique treasure out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

**Deu 7:6** For you are a people set apart as holy for Adonai your God. Adonai your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his own unique treasure.

**Deu 7:7** Adonai didn't set his heart on you or choose you because you numbered more than any other people - on the contrary, you were the fewest of all peoples.

**Deu 7:8** Rather, it was because Adonai loved you, and because he wanted to keep the oath which he had sworn to your ancestors, that Adonai brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from a life of slavery under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

**Deu 7:9** From this you can know that Adonai your God is indeed God, the faithful God, who keeps his covenant and extends grace to those who love him and observe his mitzvot, to a thousand generations.

Should it be any wonder that Adonai, the one with no beginning and no end, the one who existed before time began, having established His covenants with Avraham and Moshe would uphold His promise?

The Rabbi's forum was active this week, for which there was some excellent information shared.

## **Messianic Rabbi Michael Stepakoff**

Yom HaShoah officially was yesterday, but of course, many worldwide continue to observe remembrance of the holocaust through the weekend. We are observing it tonight at Shabbat. I have a few thoughts I'd like to share here, and would encourage all to submit yours if you are speaking on the Shoah this weekend:

First, I have to say, in messianic synagogues, and in groups out there who are trying to copy us, it is the whole matter of the holocaust where we find out who really stands with Israel or not. For to "stand with Israel" is a popular slogan of our time, but what does it really mean? It can mean many things, but ultimately, it means nothing unless it means first and foremost to love the Jewish people. The atrocities and inhumanities that our people suffered in Europe are the worst of any generation in the history of the world. Anyone who doesn't sympathize with, contemplate, and seek to comprehend what happened in the holocaust, and why it happened, probably does not get the vision of Messianic Judaism. Sometimes it really bothers me that there are groups out there who claim, or even imply, that they are Israel. Where were they when Hitler and the Nazis were rounding up Jews in Europe? Were they asserting their Jewish descent at that time? I think not. I can't help wondering if the many people who walk with us in messianic synagogues would have stood with us during those days. Some clearly would. But most probably would not.

One thought that always comes to mind for me whenever I remember the holocaust, comes from the testimony of Rose Price, who was a very close friend, and a surrogate "bubbie" to my kids, but I have sadly lost contact with her due to her not being able to travel anymore. In spite of her faith in Yeshua and ministry of "forgiveness," nevertheless Rose always stressed one point that would never let us forget when we listened to her - that the holocaust was

essentially an embodiment and expression of christian anti-semitism. During her days of speaking and traveling, on every occasion Rose made it clear that during her time of persecution under the Nazis b/t age 11-15, including time spent in the death camps, and times she suffered the medical experimentation, she was constantly being told, "We are doing this to you because your people killed Christ."

Even people who remember the holocaust refuse to remember that part of it. For Jews, it is easy for us to sink into anger and isolationism over these things. We shouldn't do that, but at the same time, we must never forget not only the fact that it happened, but why it happened, and what entity was responsible. It reminds messianic Jews of our unique calling. We can't walk around in judgment of christians, but when we remember the Shoah, we know clearly that we are not Christians. God is doing a new thing in the earth, and that new thing is Israel.

Europe has already forgotten the holocaust for the most part. But, Europe is also in the process of forgetting Christianity. European Christianity was the culprit for the holocaust, and in this sense, instead of owning up to it, people in Europe seem to be disavowing the holocaust by disavowing Christianity. Which only gives place to Islam to take over. Which they are. In another 25 years Europe will be overrun by Muslims, and without any need to invade militarily.

In America, people seem to have this naive idea that Christianity is going to save America, and save the world. If only we put "Christian" leaders into office, this would solve our problems, or so evangelicals in the USA think. But the truth is, Christianity historically has never been the solution. It's part of the problem, and in Europe, it actually was the problem. It only is a "solution" to the extent that it is a check against Islam. Christianity protected Europe from Islam, but to what end? So there could be an Inquisition, Pogroms, and a Holocaust? Yes, Christians individually are our most loyal non-Jewish friends. But Christianity is largely disinterested in Messianic Judaism. The simple reality is that they think they will rule the earth. They don't see Jewish return to Israel as anything more than an advancement of their eschatological ideas. They hope for war in Israel, that their version of "Jesus" will return. Then, the Jews will be converted to Christianity at last. This is what they believe.

In the middle ages, it was the Muslims who were our friends - not the Christians. Not so since the rebirth of the Jewish State. We have to accept friendship from whomever we can get it, in whatever generation. Yet, Jews must always recognize that neither Christianity nor Islam is a true friend. Neither will ever bring peace on earth, in spite of the desires of BOTH to rule over it. God is the only true friend of the Jews. And the gentiles who truly love God, will love the Jews.

This is the day where God is raising the banner of the great solution for mankind, and the solution is not only from Israel, but the solution IS Israel. Messiah and Israel are one.

### **Messianic Rabbi Frank Lowinger response to Rabbi Stepakoff**

My father of blessed memory rarely spoke about his life in the camps, most of what I've learned came through his best friend Burt; a childhood friend who were on the same transports out of Hungary. The one thing for which my father did remind me, and he did so soon after I told him I believed in Jesus: "It was the Christians who pointed out the homes of the Jews."

In response to my new found faith he would offer me the following: "They (the Christians) used to come after us with a stick, now they're holding out a carrot." And..."Frank, if there is a God and we are the chosen people, where is my family?"

I so appreciated your mention of Rose Price, I miss her and God willing the next time I'm in Florida I'm going to visit her. I was in Poland with Rose as part of a team to document her story and yes I saw and heard her cries when we found the home and remains of the synagogue she grew up in. She had a great fear of Christianity and

understandably so. She wept as we stopped in front of a Catholic church in Skarscysko and she remembered being hit on the head by the priest.

### **Christian Anti-semitism in Germany, and its role in the holocaust. (Research provided by Rabbi Stepakoff)**

The amazing thing about the holocaust is that it came from the highest and most technologically advanced culture in the world, and most sophisticated society in all of Europe. Without the assistance of German professors, theologians, judges, scientists, engineers, doctors, etc. it never could have happened. Germany of course was the birthplace of Protestantism, and the writings of Luther were key in terms of inspiring the people against the Jews, as we all know. Evangelicals often bash Catholics, but the holocaust was birthed out of the birthplace of Protestantism.

The Jews in Germany were only a tiny 1% fragment of the population. The overwhelming majority of Jews murdered were from Poland (3 million) and from Russia (1.25 million). These Jews were mainly poor farmers who were uninvolved in Western European politics and had no idea what was going on in Germany, nor any opportunity to get out. See: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/killedtable.html>.

The most amazing statistic of all is this: Of 60 million Germans, nearly ALL of them were Christian. 40 million Protestant, and 20 million Catholic. This is not Iran or Afghanistan, where people are held in isolation from the world, women are basically slaves, and few if any people can even read. Germany was home to the great artists, musicians, scholars, and inventors of the time. It was the pinnacle of western civilization.

A tiny fragment of Nazis, led by Hitler, tried to introduce a new religion which they called "Positive Christianity," that sought to remove all traces of Judaism from christianity, and made Hitler out to be the Messiah. This was done out of Nazi paranoia that Germans might consider the church would compete for power over the Nazis. It was never necessary in Germany. For the most part, nobody paid attention to Hitler's new christianity, and those who did, just took it to mean that any christianity which recognizes Jewish elements is not a true christianity. Most of them had no problem with this. Hitler soon realized that preaching his positive christianity was superfluous and unnecessary. He rarely did it, and his propaganda advisors advised against it. Unfortunately, because of his non-christian views, many people have been deceived to believe that christianity had nothing to do with the holocaust. As if Germany was a nation of Barbarians that suddenly cast off 1500 years of Christianity. In fact, Germany was a seed bed of anti-semitic Christianity and Hitler walked into it at just the right time. Christianity in Germany had everything to do with the final solution, and all events leading up to it. This is the most important lesson we can learn, but it is often suppressed b/c it isn't nice to talk about. Even Jews don't like to because we don't want to offend our Christian supporters. There is wisdom in that, but the truth must be told, especially on Yom HaShoah. Talking about it is as much a lesson to gentiles as it is to Jews.

True, there were some righteous gentiles - Oliver Schindler, Corrie Ten Boom, etc. who risked all to help Jews. But they were rare. The number of these individuals was so rare by comparison to the massive population in Europe, that I am reticent to even mention it. I think there are more of them today, but let's don't be naive to think much has changed. The only thing that has change is that the State of Israel has arisen, and they are ready to kick butt if necessary. And probably will.

## Silence Isn't Golden – Rabbi Frank Lowinger

Prior to his death, the courageous German churchman Dietrich Bonhoeffer famously said: *“Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”*

To fortify the stranglehold of Germany's anti-Semitic laws, Nazi law called for the death penalty to those found protecting or giving aid to the Jewish people. Rev. Bonhoeffer chose the path of civil disobedience in resistance to these nefarious laws and was summarily hung for his act of bravery. His soul and conscience would give him no peace if he remained silent in the face of such injustice and atrocity.

At Purim we recall the defeat of an ambitious anti-Semite as he sought to perpetrate genocide only to see his designs foiled because one man (Mordecai) recognized the imminent danger and did not remain silent. On Passover again, we remember another great deliverance from a foe who also sought to destroy us, a foe whose level of evil is epitomized for his wanton slaughter of children two years and younger. Again, one man (Moses) did not remain silent but made his appeal to the most powerful monarch on earth *“Let my people go.”* In the aftermath of these great celebrations we come face to face with the grim realities of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance. I have an ominous sense that history is about to repeat itself in a most unkind way.

We find ourselves at a critical juncture of history where we are witnessing an increase in worldwide anti-Semitism while the nations through fear and intimidation seek to accommodate and kowtow to the wishes of rogue, radical Islamic states that sponsor terrorism. Where is the will and resolve of decent people to push back this evil?

As crazy and as convoluted as this will sound, amidst all the problems in the world, the ever so vigilant United Nations has just condemned Israel yet again for, get this; for their mistreatment of women. What of the much more serious mistreatment of women that takes place in Islamic or Communistic countries?

For all of the Yom Hashoah services I've either led, attended or participated in; for all of the great scholarly books, articles, documentaries and speeches that have been put forward; for all of the great museums that have been established; for all of the talk and all of the pronouncements of "Never Again;" unfortunately they're just empty words - pious sounding cliché's offered with little substance, just part of another tradition to make so-called humanistic, progressive minded individuals feel good about themselves.

Recently, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted an invitation to address the United States Congress. This the leader of the only free and democratic state in the Middle East and the only country in the region affording a right to vote to all - Jew and non-Jew, male and female. Yet an arrogant and prideful President Barack Obama, along with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry, chose to behave as spoiled children and boycott the speech.

Prime Minister Netanyahu was most gracious and respectful; even acknowledging and thanking those who were so rude and belligerent. His single most purpose was to address the highly dangerous threats to the world posed by the Iranian nuclear program. From the land that brought us the Purim narrative comes another regime dedicated to the annihilation and destruction of Israel and it appears that our country is on a path to enable them to achieve that stated purpose.

For nearly seven long decades Iran, Islam and bordering Arab states have made no secret of their intentions to perpetrate genocide against the Jewish people. Yet world bodies, led now by the United States, continue to coerce Israel into a faulty peace that seriously compromises her security. Have we not learned the lessons of history? Memo: THEY WANT TO KILL US!

To add insult to injury, President Obama worked feverishly to see the defeat of Prime Minister Netanyahu, setting a precedent by interfering with the elections of a free and democratic state. As bad as that was, it was even more disheartening to hear and read the incessant vitriol leveled against Prime Minister Netanyahu and Israeli's in general for voting in large numbers to retain Prime Minister Netanyahu. The deafening silence however extends beyond the church and the nations but also to the American Jewish community.

From two prominent Jewish writers comes this:

\*Joe Klein writes in Time Magazine:

*There will be many—in the Muslim world, in Europe—who will say that the results are no surprise, that Israel has become a harsh, bigoted tyrant state*

*For the sake of his own future, Benjamin Netanyahu has made dreadful Jewish history: he is the man who made anti-Arab bigotry an over factor in Israeli political life. This is beyond tragic. It is shameful and embarrassing.*

*He won because he ran as a bigot. This is a sad reality: a great many Jews have come to regard Arabs as the rest of the world traditionally regarded Jews.*

Or that coming from Harold Meyerson of The Washington Post:

*“Bibi [is] henceforth the Jewish George Wallace. His success in wooing the fearful and the bigoted to Likud was such that all the other far-right parties saw their results drop from their previous levels.*

Israel's existence hangs in the balance. Is there no concern for welfare and well-being of the Jewish state? When Mohammad Reza Naqdi, commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, declared: *“Erasing Israel off the map was non-negotiable,”* was anyone listening; does anyone with a sense of compassion and humanity care?

Where is the outcry against a foreign policy that's so irrational, insane and injudicious? For all of societies good intentions, for all our collective claims for peace and brotherhood, for all those who will clamor for environmental issues, condemn the military and law enforcement agencies, march for gay rights, get bent into a tizzy because Indiana desires to protect and defend our basic American virtue of freedom of religion - why then is there such silence in the face of an impending genocide against Israel? Is it nothing to you that the lives of multitudes hang in the balance?

Where is the outcry against President Obama, VP Biden and John Kerry? Why do they exert so much time and energy serving as apologists for Islam and why are they so slow of mind to not recognize who it is that poses the greatest threat to the civilized world? They make Neville Chamberlain look hawkish by comparison.

Is it more important to be thought of as “open-minded” to gain a politically correct approval or is it better to take a stand on the side of life and found supportive of the foundations of morality established in our sacred Writings? Someone has rightly said that if you want to get a conservative angry, lie to him; if you want to anger a progressive liberal, tell him the truth.

During the Nazi era of the 30's and 40's there was a deadly silence on the part of the church and the nations when the Jewish people were being rounded up for the slaughter. The world knew but did nothing to stop the Shoah. The world knew that Hitler was not to be trusted, yet nations cowered in fear, turned a blind eye and a deaf ear and hoping for the best. Why can't our administration or the media even find the courage to call a terrorist a terrorist? Why can't we find a voice and where and when will a bold leader emerge?

Israel's once greatest ally, the United States; led by President Obama is indifferent and uncaring concerning the fate of Israel. This immoral behavior on the part of our President sends a message to all Israel's enemies; "The U.S. doesn't care! Open season!" Silence isn't golden and those who remain silent at this hour cast their vote for the enemies who seek our destruction.

We're getting ever so close to that day when all of the nations will gather against Israel. People of good conscience and respect for life cannot remain silent. May the Keeper of Israel be with us and prosper us in all our labors.

Isa 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning.

Rabbi Frank Lowinger

### **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 worshiped;

**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.