

Notes: July 1, 2017

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: You Are My Witnesses

In Jeri's drash she asked you a question...what was it?

Who are you?

Not reading her drash until after I had written my sermon this morning, I laughed because she was struggling with it and wondering if it made sense. I laughed because Jeri was preparing you by asking you a question while my message is conveying who you already are.

In Acts 1:8, Yeshua says,

Act 1:8 But you will receive power when the Ruach HaKodesh comes upon you; you will be my witnesses both in Yerushalayim and in all Y'hudah and Shomron, indeed to the ends of the earth!"

A statement, that at the time is forward looking, prophetic, for which we can now say the following:

"You are my witnesses"

A **witness** is someone who has, who claims to have, or is thought, by someone with authority to compel testimony, to have knowledge relevant to an event or other matter of interest. In law a witness is someone who, either voluntarily or under compulsion, provides testimonial evidence, either oral or written, of what he or she knows or claims to know about the matter before some official authorized to take such testimony.

When we look at the New Covenant writings, based on this exhaustive definition, we first see oral testimonial, whether, it be moments like Kefa's sermons in Acts 2 & 3 or his interaction with Cornelius in Acts 10, these are moments that were oral, but were transcribed.

Then we have written testimonials such as Sha'ul's letters to the various communities. They weren't just Gospel tracts that we see today, but they were comprehensive testimonials wrapped into text of correction and exhortation.

So, in going back to Acts 1:8, a forward looking statement by Yeshua has become a present tense statement...

“You are my witnesses”

Then there are actually different types of witnesses...

A **percipient witness** or *eyewitness* is one who testifies what they perceived through his or her senses (e.g: seeing, hearing, smelling, touching).

A **hearsay witness** is one who testifies what someone else said or wrote. In most court proceedings there are many limitations on when hearsay evidence is admissible. Such limitations do not apply to grand jury investigations, many administrative proceedings, and may not apply to declarations used in support of an arrest or search warrant.

An **expert witness** is one who allegedly has specialized knowledge relevant to the matter of interest, which knowledge purportedly helps to either make sense of other evidence, including other testimony, documentary evidence or physical evidence.

A **reputation witness** is one who testifies about the reputation of a person or business entity, when reputation is material to the dispute at issue. They are a person who aids that because of a persons interactions and personality the defendant is guilty/innocent.

To whom Yeshua made this statement, I would convey that they, Yochanan, Kefa, Ya'akov and even Sha'ul, would comprise elements of all four witness categories.

They perceived through their senses what Yeshua had done. They saw many amazing things, water being turned into wine, dead coming to life, sick being healed, blind men seeing and even Yeshua's transfiguration in Matthew 17.

They were expert witnesses in that they were trained by Yeshua to be experts in the knowledge pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

They were reputation witnesses in that they were testifying to the reputation of Yeshua, not second or third hand, but for the Talmadim, first hand knowledge and experience.

They were hearsay witnesses in that they would testify to what Yeshua said, conveying to individuals what He said and through the testimony of their writings, The Gospels, Acts, the letters, Yeshua is quoted often.

The Talmadim were expert witnesses who specialized in God's Kingdom. They did not start off as specialists, but were most certainly trained to become specialist. But, that wasn't enough, to be trained. Consider the first part of Acts 1:8 again...

“ But you will receive power when the Ruach HaKodesh comes upon you”

Not until this happens will you become my witnesses.

Instilling all of this knowledge was needed. Simply stated, after the resurrection, I believe Yeshua's talmadim had many questions, to which Yeshua “set the record straight”...

Luk 24:44 Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.

It would be like having the best car money could buy, but the battery is missing. The battery not only powers everything in the vehicle, but is needed to get the car started.

The talmadim had the best, but lacked the power to get it started. To get the transmission of the Gospel started. Had they gone ahead in transmitting the Gospel, prior to receiving the Ruach Ha Kodesh, I believe they would have experienced a similar fate, had Israel, after the 10 representatives who came back with a negative testimony of the land, would have experienced.

Num 14:39 When Moshe told these things to all the people of Isra'el, the people felt great remorse.

Num 14:40 They arose early the next morning, came up to the top of the mountain and said, "Here we are, and we did sin, but now we'll go up to the place Adonai promised."

Num 14:41 Moshe answered, "Why are you opposing what Adonai said? You won't succeed!

Num 14:42 Don't go up there, because Adonai isn't with you. If you do, your enemies will defeat you.

Num 14:43 The `Amalekim and the Kena`anim are there ahead of you, and you will be struck down by the sword. The reason will be that you have turned away from following Adonai, so that Adonai won't be with you."

Num 14:44 But they were presumptuous and went on up toward the high parts of the hill-country, even though the ark for the covenant of Adonai — and Moshe — stayed in the camp.

Num 14:45 So the `Amalekim and the Kena`anim living in that hill-country descended, struck them down and beat them back all the way to Hormah.

Adonai was not with them and they suffered defeat.

In a similar manner, I believe had the Talmadim gone ahead without first receiving the Ruach ha Kodesh, would have led to a similar fate...defeat. Kefa would have still been in his indecisive and inconsistent state.

A nation in the midst of judgment and pending exile from the very land Adonai had brought them into, comes through the Prophet Isaiah the following...

Isa 43:1 But now this is what Adonai says, he who created you, Ya`akov, he who formed you, Isra'el: "Don't be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I am calling you by your name; you are mine.

Isa 43:2 When you pass through water, I will be with you; when you pass through rivers, they will not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire, you will not be scorched — the flame will not burn you.

Isa 43:3 For I am Adonai, your God, the Holy One of Isra'el, your Savior — I have given Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and S'va for you.

Isa 43:4 Because I regard you as valued and honored, and because I love you. For you I will give people, nations in exchange for your life.

Isa 43:5 Don't be afraid, for I am with you. I will bring your descendants from the east, and I will gather you from the west;

Isa 43:6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Don't hold them back! Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the ends of the earth,

Isa 43:7 everyone who bears my name, whom I created for my glory — I formed him, yes, I made him.' "

Isa 43:8 Bring forward the people who are blind but have eyes, also the deaf who have ears.

Isa 43:9 All the nations are gathered together, and the peoples are assembled. Who among them can proclaim this and reveal what happened in the past? Let them bring their witnesses to justify themselves, so that others, on hearing, can say, "That's true."

Isa 43:10 "You are my witnesses," says Adonai, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you can know and trust me and understand that I am he — no god was produced before me, nor will any be after me.

Isa 43:11 I, yes I, am Adonai; besides me there is no deliverer.

Isa 43:12 I have declared, saved and proclaimed — not some alien god among you. Therefore you are my witnesses," says Adonai. "I am God.

Last week I asked you, "How did Israel worship Adonai?"

Today I ask you, what did Israel witness?

They witnessed the power of Adonai, they witnessed the mercy of Adonai, they witnessed the faithfulness of Adonai.

As witnesses, they were to testify to who Adonai is. They were to be a composition of the four types of witnesses.

They were percipient witnesses, what they saw Adonai do. What they heard Adonai say...

They were hearsay, witnesses, again validating what Adonai said.

They were expert witnesses when conveying all that Adonai has done...

They were reputation witnesses, in that they could first hand speak to the reputation of Adonai.

Isa 42:1 "Here is my servant, whom I support, my chosen one, in whom I take pleasure. I have put my Spirit on him; he will bring justice to the Goyim.

Isa 49:1 Coastlands, listen to me; listen, you peoples far away: Adonai called me from the womb; before I was born, he had spoken my name.

Isa 49:2 He has made my mouth like a sharp sword while hiding me in the shadow of his hand; he has made me like a sharpened arrow while concealing me in his quiver.

Isa 49:3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Isra'el, through whom I will show my glory."

Isa 49:4 But I said, "I have toiled in vain, spent my strength for nothing, futility." Yet my cause is with Adonai, my reward is with my God.

Isa 49:5 So now Adonai says — he formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Ya`akov back to him, to have Isra'el gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the sight of Adonai, my God having become my strength —

Isa 49:6 he has said, "It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya`akov and restore the offspring of Isra'el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth."

Isa 49:7 Here is what Adonai, the Redeemer of Isra'el, his Holy One, says to the one despised, whom the nations detest, to the servant of tyrants: "When kings see you, they will stand up; princes too will prostrate themselves, because of Adonai, who is faithful, the Holy One of Isra'el, who has chosen you."

Isa 49:8 Here is what Adonai says: "At the time when I choose, I will answer you; on the day of salvation, I will help you. I have preserved you, and I have appointed you to be the covenant for a people, to restore the land and distribute again its ruined inheritances to their owners,

Isa 49:9 to say to the prisoners, 'Come out!' to those in darkness, 'Show yourselves!' They will feed along the paths, and all the high hills will be their pastures.

To be a light to Ya'akov and the nations, is in essence being a witness.

To you, today, I convey Yeshua's words - "You are to be His witnesses"

If you have professed to have accepted Yeshua as Messiah, Savior, you have been equipped with the power of the Ruach ha Kodesh.

Just as what Israel witnessed...

You have witnessed the power of Adonai, you have witnessed the mercy of Adonai, you have witnessed the faithfulness of Adonai.

Isa 43:10 "You are my witnesses," says Adonai, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you can know and trust me and understand that I am he — no god was produced before me, nor will any be after me.

Isa 43:11 I, yes I, am Adonai; besides me there is no deliverer.

Isa 43:12 I have declared, saved and proclaimed — not some alien god among you. Therefore you are my witnesses," says Adonai. "I am God.

You are witnesses to what Adonai has done in your life.

Over the years, I have seen people transformed in this congregation. I have heard miracles for healing, provision, redeemed friends and loved ones. I have been a witness to the power of Adonai transforming lives in this congregation.

But, it is not the congregation, but rather what this congregation represents.

On this July 4th weekend, the Pledge of Allegiance comes to mind...

"I **pledge allegiance** to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

It is not the flag that you are pledging to, but rather what it represents, that it is one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

It is not the congregation that you are attending that has enabled you to experience these things, but rather what, or who the congregation represents.

We represent the one who empowered you through His Ruach ha Kodesh.

We represent the one who brought forth salvation.

We represent the one whom conveyed all authority under Heaven and on earth be conveyed through the Name of Yeshua

The power is not from the congregation, but from the one who empowers the congregation.

You have sought to pursue Adonai through His Son, Yeshua, and I believe you have found Him here.

I also believe you have found a much deeper relationship with your God than ever before.

When people ask you about your relationship with Adonai, it isn't enough to know who He is, but rather, to KNOW WHO HE IS. In other words, you want to know everything about Him, His character, His passion, His pain, His Joy...and then apply all of Him to your life.

This congregation is a place where we want to see lives transformed. Where Adonai is to be worshipped because there is no other god.

Where the purpose of the Son is to glorify the Father.

Where the authority of the Son, given by the Father is empowered.

Where the power from above, is utilized to transform lives.