

Notes: Shabbat – January 14 2017

Start: 10 AM

**Order of service:**

1. Meet and greet
2. Introduction
3. Announcements
4. Liturgy – Ma to vu, Sh'ma, Avenu
5. Music
6. Message
7. Time of prayer
8. Aaronic Blessing
9. Kiddush
10. 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.*

Title: Ha Yom – Today is The Day!

Earlier in the week, I had an idea of what this sermon would be about, but had yet constructed what it would look like or what the Ruach ha Kodesh would instill or guide me towards. As I was printing out the material for today, in your bulletin, Jeri created an insert “How To Tell If You Are Wasting Your Life”. As I was reading it, one of the eight reasons struck me...

***You always have a reason not to take action.** Isn't it funny how some people say they want something, but never actually take ACTION to make it happen? Maybe it's saying they want to travel, or get a new job, or find a new boyfriend/girlfriend. But as soon as they say they want something, they sabotage their own plans by giving an endless list of excuses why it wouldn't work. Always remember that inaction gets you nowhere in life except to a place filled with regret.*

It was talking about taking action and inaction and the verse she used for this reason was Ezra 10:4:

**Ezra 10:4** - *Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and **do** it.*

Which got me thinking about the when of this dynamic.

When to take action?  
When is this in your hands?

Remember, I already knew what this sermon would be about, so in reading reason number six, I had my connection.

The answer to the previous questions is – TODAY!

By definition - Today - “on or in the course of this present day.”

Nowhere is this more prevalent than in Deuteronomy. Some call it the second law, while I would rather call it the scroll of Today.

“Today” does not have a direct corresponding Hebrew word associated with it. What you will see in Hebrew is ha yom – the day

In other words, Today is the day. Ha Yom!

65 times ha yom is used in Deuteronomy

**Deu 4:8** What great nation is there that has laws and rulings as just as this entire Torah which I am setting before you today?

Not some undetermined moment in the future, but now, today.

**Deu 6:4** "Sh'ma, Yisra'el! Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad [*Hear, Isra'el! Adonai our God, Adonai is one*];

**Deu 6:5** and you are to love Adonai your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources.

**Deu 6:6** These words, which I am ordering you today, are to be on your heart;...

Adonai is conveying through Moshe the components of the relationship they, Israel is to have with Adonai. It starts with the heart, expressed through action and is at hand, Today!

Not the excuse that some people make - “I'm not ready to come to God yet” I'm having too much fun” I'm too busy, I'll do it later.”

Adonai's response to Israel – ha yom – the day, today.

19 times ha yom and mitzvot are found together in the same verse in Deuteronomy

**Deu 4:37** Because he loved your ancestors, chose their descendants after them and brought you out of Egypt with his presence and great power,

**Deu 4:38** in order to drive out ahead of you nations greater and stronger than you, so that he could bring you in and give you their land as an inheritance, as is the case today;

**Deu 4:39** know today, and establish it in your heart, that Adonai is God in heaven above and on earth below - there is no other.

**Deu 4:40** Therefore, you are to keep his laws and mitzvot which I am giving you today, so that it will go well with you and with your children after you, and so that you will prolong your days in the land Adonai your God is giving you forever."

19 times, Moshe is conveying to a new generation of Israel, the promises of Adonai are at hand, today. Not at some point in the future that is yet to be determined, but Today!

19 times, Moshe stresses to the people the connection of Adonai and His mitzvot. This is what will differentiate you from the other nations of the world. This is what will make you my people.

**Deu 5:23 (5:20)** When you heard the voice coming out of the darkness, as the mountain blazed with fire, you came to me, all the heads of your tribes and your leaders,

**Deu 5:24 (5:21)** and said, 'Here, Adonai our God has shown us his glory and his greatness! We have heard his voice coming from the fire, and we have seen today that God does speak with human beings, and they stay alive.

**Deu 6:24** Adonai ordered us to observe all these laws, to fear Adonai our God, always for our own good, so that he might keep us alive, as we are today.

**Deu 6:25** It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to obey all these mitzvot before Adonai our God, just as he ordered us to do.' "

**Deu 8:1** "All the mitzvot I am giving you today you are to take care to obey, so that you will live, increase your numbers, enter and take possession of the land Adonai swore about to your ancestors.

**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.

**Deu 8:18** No, you are to remember Adonai your God, because it is he who is giving you the power to get wealth, in order to confirm his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as is happening even today.

**Deu 8:19** If you forget Adonai your God, follow other gods and serve and worship them, I am warning you in advance today that you will certainly perish.

**Deu 8:20** You will perish just like the nations that Adonai is causing to perish ahead of you, because you will not have heeded the voice of Adonai your God."

**Deu 10:12** "So now, Isra'el, all that Adonai your God asks from you is to fear Adonai your God, follow all his ways, love him and serve Adonai your God with all your heart and all your being;

**Deu 10:13** to obey, for your own good, the mitzvot and regulations of Adonai which I am giving you today.

**Deu 10:14** See, the sky, the heaven beyond the sky, the earth and everything on it all belong to Adonai your God.

**Deu 10:15** Only Adonai took enough pleasure in your ancestors to love them and choose their descendants after them — yourselves — above all peoples, as he still does today.

**Deu 10:16** Therefore, circumcise the foreskin of your heart; and don't be stiffnecked any longer!

**Deu 10:17** For Adonai your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty and awesome God, who has no favorites and accepts no bribes.

Last year we spent a great deal of time in Deuteronomy and Isaiah in that 8 of the 11 haftarah readings associated with Deuteronomy were from Isaiah. Including this example in Luke 4, whereby I had conveyed that the parashah cycle existed at the time of Yeshua and further established for us a time in which He was at His local synagogue in Natzeret and what had already transpired, starting on Tisha B'av, leading us to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

**Luk 4:16** Now when he went to Natzeret, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue as usual. He stood up to read,

**Luk 4:17** and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha`yahu. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

**Luk 4:18** "The Spirit of Adonai is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed,

**Luk 4:19** to proclaim a year of the favor of Adonai."

**Luk 4:20** After closing the scroll and returning it to the shammash, he sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Interestingly, Yeshua's response is rather striking.

**Luk 4:21** He started to speak to them: "Today, as you heard it read, this passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled!"

The very words – ha yom, stated 65 times in Deuteronomy, conveyed by Moshe to Israel emphasizing that it is now, not tomorrow, but now. Yeshua, too is emphasizing now.

Time to start thinking with a Jewish mind...

What Parashah is associated with the passage of Scripture in Isaiah 61:1 – 63:9

Parashah Nitzavim (Standing) Deuteronomy 29:10 – 30:20

So, prior to Yeshua's reading of Isaiah, in the synagogue, there would have been ready the parashah for Nitzavim...including these verses...

**Deu 30:15** "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil -

**Deu 30:16** in that I am ordering you today to love Adonai your God, to follow his ways, and to obey his mitzvot, regulations and rulings ; for if you do, you will live and increase your numbers; and Adonai your God will bless you in the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.

**Deu 30:17** But if your heart turns away, if you refuse to listen, if you are drawn away to prostrate yourselves before other gods and serve them;

**Deu 30:18** I am announcing to you today that you will certainly perish; you will not live long in the land you are crossing the Yarden to enter and possess.

**Deu 30:19** "I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, so that you will live, you and your descendants,

**Deu 30:20** loving Adonai your God, paying attention to what he says and clinging to him - for that is the purpose of your life! On this depends the length of time you will live in the land Adonai swore he would give to your ancestors Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov."

The message of the Prophet Isaiah to Israel, read by Yeshua, and the Word of Adonai from Torah, conveying the promise that is before them today...

**Luk 4:21** He started to speak to them: "Today, as you heard it read, this passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled!"

Today, much is happening and will continue to happen as each moment draws us closer to the return of Messiah.