

Notes: May 19, 2018

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Shabbat Shalom – Service Begins
2. Prayer for America and it's Leadership
3. Children's Song:
4. Children's Lesson:
5. Children's Blessing and Dismissal to Class
6. Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer
7. Matovu
8. Drash –
9. Name of God For the Week:
10. Liturgy
11. Prayer
12. Worship in Music and Dance
13. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *Convergence of God's Word and Spirit*
14. Kiddush

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: *Convergence of God's Word and Spirit*

As we approach Shavuot, being tomorrow, we are honoring this moad today.

Traditionally, we read from Torah, specifically, Exodus 19 and 20, Deuteronomy 16 and 17 and from the Haftarah, Ezekiel 1 and Habbakuk 3. Traditionally we stay up all night and study Torah. As much as the heart wants to the body is a limitation. I don't know about you, but I am 26 years removed from graduating from college and my days of all nighters are long behind me.

Yet, today, rather than looking at the Words Adonai instructed Israel to follow, I want to take a different perspective, that from the point of the impact of Adonai's Word. How it would impact people when confronted by Adonai's Word.

The title of this sermon is *Convergence of God's Word and Spirit*

What is convergence?

There are a few different definitions of this word. The one that most fits my purpose is...

“to come from different points, ultimately to meet”

Yet, this is really is not true about Adonai, His Word and Ruach, they are from one originating source. Yet, in relation to our experience with Adonai, we are the beneficiaries of when the power of His Ruach, coming together with His Word, in this world can do the extraordinary.

To say that Adonai's Word alone is without power, is incorrect.

Jonah...

Jon 3:1 The word of Adonai came to Yonah a second time:

Jon 3:2 "Set out for the great city of Ninveh, and proclaim to it the message I will give you."

What would that message be?

Jon 3:4 Yonah began his entry into the city and had finished only his first day of proclaiming, 'In forty days Ninveh will be overthrown,'

Jon 3:5 when the people of Ninveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

Ultimately, the message Yonah expressed would be the same message Israel would hear on a regular basis...t'shuvah.

In the case of Ninveh, it would be to turn to Adonai, not return as is the message to Israel. A nation absent of Adonai, as is expressed by Sha'ul to the Ephesians...

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised —

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

Yet, this message is in essence the message I shared with you last week when we unpacked the Gospel. A message of Adonai, to the Jew first, but also to the nations...

Yonah, was really ahead of his time, yet not ahead of Adonai. He would convey a message of repentance to a nation outside of Israel, hundreds of years before Yochanan the Immerser and Yeshua, who preached the same message...to the Jew first.

Jon 3:10 When God saw by their deeds that they had turned from their evil way, he relented and did not bring on them the punishment he had threatened.

2 Kings 22:

2Ki 22:8 Hilkiyahu the cohen hagadol said to Shafan the secretary, "I have found the scroll of the Torah in the house of Adonai." Hilkiyah gave the scroll to Shafan, who read it.

Living in the land, a discovery is made...Torah.

Torah found, where has it been?

In the same place many bibles are today..."on the shelf" ignored.

2Ki 22:11 After the king had heard what was written in the scroll of the Torah, he tore his clothes.

2Ki 22:12 Then the king issued this order to Hilkiyah the cohen, Achikam the son of Shafan, `Akhbor the son of Mikhayah, Shafan the secretary and `Asayah the king's servant:

2Ki 22:13 "Go; and consult Adonai for me, for the people and for all Y'hudah in regard to what is written in this scroll which has been found. For Adonai must be furious at us, since our ancestors did not listen to the words written in this scroll and didn't do everything written there that concerns us."

2Ki 22:15 She told them, "Adonai the God of Isra'el says to tell the man who sent you to me

2Ki 22:16 that Adonai says this: 'I am going to bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, every word in the scroll the king of Y'hudah has read;

2Ki 22:17 because they have abandoned me and offered to other gods, in order to provoke me with everything they do. Therefore my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.'

2Ki 22:18 But you are to tell the king of Y'hudah, who sent you to consult Adonai, that Adonai the God of Isra'el also says this: 'In regard to the words you have heard,

2Ki 22:19 because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before Adonai when you heard what I said against this place and its inhabitants — that they would become an object of astonishment and cursing — and have torn your clothes and cried before me, I have also heard you, says Adonai.

2Ki 22:20 Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, you will go to your grave in peace, and your eyes will not see all the calamity I am going to bring on this place.' " So they brought word back to the king.

Nehemiah 8:

Upon return from exile, Judah was getting "their house back in order" as they prepare to inhabit the land again. During this time a discovery was made

(8:1) When the seventh month arrived, after the people of Isra'el had resettled in their towns, **Neh 8:1** all the people gathered with one accord in the open space in front of the Water Gate and asked `Ezra the Torah-teacher to bring the scroll of the Torah of Moshe, which Adonai had commanded Isra'el.

Neh 8:2 `Ezra the cohen brought the Torah before the assembly, which consisted of men, women and all children old enough to understand. It was the first day of the seventh month.

Neh 8:3 Facing the open space in front of the Water Gate, he read from it to the men, the women and the children who could understand from early morning until noon; and all the people listened attentively to the scroll of the Torah.

Neh 8:5 `Ezra opened the scroll where all the people could see him, because he was higher than all the people; when he opened it, all the people rose to their feet.

Neh 8:6 `Ezra blessed Adonai, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted up their hands, bowed their heads and fell prostrate before Adonai with their faces to the ground.

Neh 8:8 They read clearly from the scroll, in the Torah of God, translated it, and enabled them to understand the sense of what was being read.

Neh 8:9 Nechemyah the Tirshata, `Ezra the cohen and Torah-teacher and the L'vi'im who taught the people said to all the people, "Today is consecrated to Adonai your God; don't be mournful, don't weep." For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the Torah.

Neh 8:17 The entire community of those who had returned from the exile made sukkot and lived in the sukkot, for the people of Isra'el had not done this since the days of Yeshua the son of Nun. So there was very great joy.

Neh 8:18 Also they read every day, from the first day until the last day, in the scroll of the Torah of God. They kept the feast for seven days; then on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

Spirit is willing but flesh is weak...

Luk 22:54 Having seized him, they led him away and brought him into the house of the cohen hagadol. Kefa followed at a distance;

Luk 22:55 but when they had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Kefa joined them.

Luk 22:56 One of the servant girls saw him sitting in the light of the fire, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him."

Luk 22:57 But he denied it: "Lady, I don't even know him."

Luk 22:58 A little later, someone else saw him and said, "You're one of them too"; but Kefa said, "Man, I am not!"

Luk 22:59 About an hour later, another man asserted emphatically, "There can be no doubt that this fellow was with him, because he too is from the Galil!"

Luk 22:60 But Kefa said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" And instantly, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

Luk 22:61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Kefa; and Kefa remembered what the Lord had said, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

Luk 22:62 And he went outside and cried bitterly.

Luk 22:33 Shim'on said to him, "Lord, I am prepared to go with you both to prison and to death!"

Luk 22:34 Yeshua replied, "I tell you, Kefa, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know me."

In many ways, we tend to celebrate Shavuot as if we are still waiting on the practice. Not in words, but in deeds.

Are we truly living in the authority of Yeshua as empowered by the Ruach ha Kodesh?

Why do I bring up Kefa's past?

To convey a stark contrast between the Kefa before Shavuot and the Kefa after Shavuot...

Acts 2

On Shavuot, after Adonai had poured out His Ruach upon all those in Yerushalayim

Act 2:14 Then Kefa stood up with the Eleven and raised his voice to address them: "You Judeans, and all of you staying here in Yerushalayim! Let me tell you what this means! Listen carefully to me!

Act 2:15 "These people aren't drunk, as you suppose — it's only nine in the morning.

Act 2:16 No, this is what was spoken about through the prophet Yo'el:

Act 2:17 'Adonai says: "In the Last Days, I will pour out from my Spirit upon everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Act 2:18 Even on my slaves, both men and women, will I pour out from my Spirit in those days; and they will prophesy.

Act 2:19 I will perform miracles in the sky above and signs on the earth below — blood, fire and thick smoke.

Act 2:20 The sun will become dark and the moon blood before the great and fearful Day of Adonai comes.

Act 2:21 And then, whoever calls on the name of Adonai will be saved." '

Act 2:22 "Men of Isra'el! Listen to this! Yeshua from Natzeret was a man demonstrated to you to have been from God by the powerful works, miracles and signs that God performed through him in your presence. You yourselves know this.

Kefa would then boldly proclaim the Gospel to the people who gathered for this appointed time.

Act 2:23 This man was arrested in accordance with God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and, through the agency of persons not bound by the Torah, you nailed him up on a stake and killed him!

Act 2:24 "But God has raised him up and freed him from the suffering of death; it was impossible that death could keep its hold on him.

There is only one greater than David in Jewish history (not including Yeshua)...Moshe, yet it is David's words Kefa conveys here...

Act 2:25 For David says this about him: 'I saw Adonai always before me, for he is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken.

Act 2:26 For this reason, my heart was glad; and my tongue rejoiced; and now my body too will live on in the certain hope

Act 2:27 that you will not abandon me to Sh'ol or let your Holy One see decay.

Act 2:28 You have made known to me the ways of life; you will fill me with joy by your presence.'

Act 2:29 "Brothers, I know I can say to you frankly that the patriarch David died and was buried — his tomb is with us to this day.

Act 2:30 Therefore, since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that one of his descendants would sit on his throne,

Act 2:31 he was speaking in advance about the resurrection of the Messiah, that it was he who was not abandoned in Sh'ol and whose flesh did not see decay.

To the Jewish people, David was renowned throughout history.

Act 2:32 God raised up this Yeshua! And we are all witnesses of it!

Act 2:33 "Moreover, he has been exalted to the right hand of God; has received from the Father what he promised, namely, the Ruach HaKodesh; and has poured out this gift, which you are both seeing and hearing.

Act 2:34 For David did not ascend into heaven. But he says,

Act 2:35 'Adonai said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."'

What are Kefa's concluding words, provoking action...

Act 2:36 Therefore, let the whole house of Isra'el know beyond doubt that God has made him both Lord and Messiah — this Yeshua, whom you executed on a stake!"

Act 2:37 On hearing this, they were stung in their hearts; and they said to Kefa and the other emissaries, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Does this not bring us back to our previous references – Yonah, Ezra the Torah teacher and King Hilkiyahu?

Their response was provoked by the Word of Adonai.

Yet, the Ruach is to be seen and heard. (2:33)

Act 2:38 Kefa answered them, "Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh!

Are you truly living by the power given you in accepting Yeshua?

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.

The Word of Adonai is to be heard as it has been even before Shavuot some 2000 years ago, but it is also to be seen through your lifestyle..."live by my laws, respect my rulings and obey them"

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands;

Joh 14:16 and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforting Counselor like me, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever.

Joh 14:17 The world cannot receive him, because it neither sees nor knows him. You know him, because he is staying with you and will be united with you.

The world neither sees nor knows Him...neither sees nor hears...a promise made through Ezekiel.