

Notes: August 8, 2020

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. Jeri - Drash
8. Praise and Worship Songs
9. Message
10. Aaronic Blessing
11. Kiddush
12. 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: Summer of Faith Tour - Shlomo and Hizkiyahu

I continue to share this perspective when talking about trust / faith last Shabbat...

“Our faith is revealed through the framework of culture. We do not truly know what we can endure unless it is tested. It is tested by the time and the culture we reside in. Faith is not required in a vacuum, absent of trials and tribulation. Faith flourishes when tested. You don't know what the true capacity of your faith is until it is tested to its limits.

Each Shabbat since we have started our tour I have reiterated our foundational verse with definitions for the the words of this verse.

This is from the Complete Jewish Study Bible translation...

Heb 11:1 Trusting is **being confident** of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.

Confident (translated as substance in KJV) is defined as...

state of feeling certain about the truth of something.

feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust.

Convinced (adjective) Not the verb to convince. (Translated as evidence in the KJV)

completely certain about something, firm in one's belief with regard to a particular cause or issue.

Today, as we continue our Summer of Faith Tour, I want to look at how important it is to finish the race, to endure until the end. In other words to finish strong.

I believe it is important to not only look at positive examples of those who came before us, but also to look at others who would struggle at some point in their lives. Both Avraham and Moshe had their challenges, yet were able to overcome their challenges. We read of Moshe and the end of his life...

Deu 34:5 So Moshe, the servant of Adonai, died there in the land of Mo'av, as Adonai had said.

Deu 34:6 He was buried in the valley across from Beit-P'or in the land of Mo'av, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

Deu 34:7 Moshe was 120 years old when he died, with eyes undimmed and vigor undiminished.

He died being identified as the servant of Adonai.

Torah also gives an account of Avraham's death as well.

Gen 25:7 This is how long Avraham lived: 175 years.

Gen 25:8 Then Avraham breathed his last, dying at a ripe old age, an old man full of years; and he was gathered to his people.

We know they finished their races and are acknowledged by the writer of Hebrews as two examples, two witnesses of faith...

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,

Yet, we can learn from those who did not finish their race strongly. Today, we are going to look at two kings who started well, but did not finish well. You can lead the most laps of a race, but unless you are leading the last lap, you ultimately did not succeed. Finishing well is emphasized by Yeshua as well.

Mat 10:22 Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever holds out till the end will be preserved from harm.

And Sha'ul...

2Ti 4:6 For as for me, I am already being poured out on the altar; yes, the time for my departure has arrived.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

We read of Shlomo, Solomon, the son of David and Bat Sheva anointed King of Israel in 1 Kings 1:28 – 53. He will ultimately take possession of the throne from his father David, thus continuing the line of David established by Adonai through a Covenant He would make with him.

2Sa 7:8 "Therefore say this to my servant David that this is what Adonai-Tzva'ot says: 'I took you from the sheep-yards, from following the sheep, to make you chief over my people, over Isra'el.

2Sa 7:9 I have been with you wherever you went; I have destroyed all your enemies ahead of you; and I am making your reputation great, like the reputations of the greatest people on earth.

2Sa 7:10 I will assign a place to my people Isra'el; I will plant them there, so that they can live in their own place without being disturbed any more. The wicked will no longer oppress them, as they did at the beginning,

2Sa 7:11 and as they did from the time I ordered judges to be over my people Isra'el; instead, I will give you rest from all your enemies. " Moreover, Adonai tells you that Adonai will make you a house.

2Sa 7:12 When your days come to an end and you sleep with your ancestors, I will establish one of your descendants to succeed you, one of your own flesh and blood; and I will set up his rulership.

2Sa 7:13 He will build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be a father for him, and he will be a son for me. If he does something wrong, I will punish him with a rod and blows, just as everyone gets punished;

2Sa 7:15 nevertheless, my grace will not leave him, as I took it away from Sha'ul, whom I removed from before you.

2Sa 7:16 Thus your house and your kingdom will be made secure forever before you; your throne will be set up forever.' "

2Sa 7:17 Natan told David all of these words and described this entire vision.

Aspects of this covenant include:

- David's line would have a kingdom.
- The **covenant** included David's whole dynasty.
- David's son is to be adopted as God's own.
- The **covenant** is unlimited in time and space.
- Jerusalem is the spiritual center of the world.
- The temple was the sign of the **Davidic covenant**.

So, Shlomo, the beneficiary of this Covenant succeeds his father David in sitting on the throne of Israel upon his father's death.

Prior to his death David instructed his son as follows:

1Ki 2:3 Observe the charge of Adonai your God to go in his ways and keep his regulations, mitzvot, rulings and instructions in accordance with what is written in the Torah of Moshe; so that you will succeed in all you do and wherever you go.

1Ki 2:4 If you do, Adonai will fulfill what he promised me when he said, 'If your children pay attention to how they live, conducting themselves before me honestly with all their heart and being, you will never lack a man on the throne of Isra'el.'

Ultimately, Adonai promises never to leave Shlomo. Then we have this account from 1 Kings chapter 3...

1Ki 3:3 Shlomo loved Adonai, living according to the regulations set forth by David his father; nevertheless, he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.

1Ki 3:4 One time the king went to Giv'on to sacrifice there, because that was the main high place. Shlomo offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar there.

1Ki 3:5 At Giv'on Adonai appeared to Shlomo in a dream at night; God said, "Tell me what I should give you."

1Ki 3:6 Shlomo said, "You showed your servant David my father much grace, as he lived before you honestly and righteously, having an upright heart with you. You preserved this great grace for him by giving him a son to sit on his throne, as is the case today.

1Ki 3:7 So now, Adonai my God, you have made your servant king in the place of David my father; but I am a mere child—I don't know how to lead!

1Ki 3:8 Moreover your servant is among your people, whom you chose, a great people so numerous that they cannot be counted.

1Ki 3:9 Therefore, give your servant an understanding heart able to administer justice to your people, so that I can discern between good and bad—for who is equal to judging this great people of yours?"

1Ki 3:10 What Shlomo had said in making this request pleased Adonai.

1Ki 3:11 God said to him, "Because you have made this request instead of asking long life or riches for yourself, or your enemies' death, but rather asked for yourself understanding to discern justice;

1Ki 3:12 I am doing what you requested. I am giving you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you, nor will there ever again be anyone like you.

1Ki 3:13 I am also giving you what you didn't ask for, riches and honor greater than that of any other king throughout your life.

1Ki 3:14 More than that, if you will live according to my ways, obeying my laws and mitzvot like your father David, I will give you a long life."

1Ki 3:15 Shlomo awoke and found it had been a dream. But he went to Yerushalayim, stood before the ark for the covenant of Adonai and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings. He also made a feast for all his servants.

Solomon's reign was a time of peace, prosperity and power. During his reign, the Temple and other structures would be built, leaders from other nations would come to him. Relationships with the nations of Tyre, Arabia and Egypt where he would come to marry Pharaoh's daughter. Many years of favor would frame the life of Shlomo. Unfortunately, with this vast amount of wealth and favor that was bestowed upon Shlomo, so did the trappings of the world. We see Shlomo's attention turn from Adonai, with the introduction of women who would take to be his wives from other nations

1Ki 11:1 King Shlomo loved many foreign women besides the daughter of Pharaoh. There were women from the Mo'avi, `Amoni, Edomi, Tzidoni and Hitti—

1Ki 11:2 nations about which Adonai had said to the people of Isra'el, "You are not to go among them or they among you, because they will turn your hearts away toward their gods." But Shlomo was deeply attached to them by his love.

1Ki 11:3 He had 700 wives, all princesses, and 300 concubines; and his wives turned his heart away.

1Ki 11:4 For when Shlomo became old, his wives turned his heart away toward other gods; so that he was not wholehearted with Adonai his God, as David his father had been.

1Ki 11:5 For Shlomo followed `Ashtoret the goddess of the Tzidoni and Milkom the abomination of the `Amoni.

1Ki 11:6 Thus Shlomo **did what was evil** in Adonai's view and did not fully follow Adonai, as David his father had done.

1Ki 11:7 Shlomo built a high place for K'mosh the abomination of Mo'av on the hill in front of Yerushalayim, and another for Molekh the abomination of the people of `Amon.

1Ki 11:8 This is what he did for all his foreign wives, who then offered and sacrificed to their gods.

Shlomo would ultimately ignore the very wisdom bestowed upon him by Adonai and his father's final instructions. He did what was evil, a phrase that is found 23 times in 1 Kings and 2 Kings. A term that has been specifically applied to the Kings of Israel and their relationship to Adonai. We see Shlomo being the first one, the first domino of a line of kings that would lead to a divided kingdom and thus further perpetuation of such actions.

Adonai did not stay silent...

Ki 11:9 So Adonai grew angry with Shlomo, because his heart had turned away from Adonai the God of Isra'el, who had appeared to him twice

1Ki 11:10 and given him orders concerning this matter that he should not follow other gods. But he didn't obey Adonai's orders.

1Ki 11:11 So Adonai said to Shlomo, "Since this is what has been in your mind, and you haven't kept my covenant and my regulations which I ordered you to obey, I will tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant.

1Ki 11:12 However, for David your father's sake I won't do it while you are alive, but I will tear it away from your son.

1Ki 11:13 Even then, I won't tear away all the kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Yerushalayim, which I have chosen."

Through his actions, his unfaithfulness, Shlomo brought forth a civil war leading to a divided kingdom that remains divided to this day. It will be the one from the line of David and Shlomo, Yeshua who will ultimately reunite the Kingdom upon His return.

Shlomo had it all, including the favor and wisdom of Adonai. He most certainly didn't finish the way he started.

Next I want to briefly look at another king that being Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah). He was the son of Achaz a king who did not do what was right from Adonai's perspective. Remember, 23 times that reference was made whereby one of them involved King Achaz. In contrast, we read of Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah)...

Ki 18:1 It was in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Isra'el, that Hizkiyahu the son of Achaz, king of Y'hudah, began his reign.

2Ki 18:2 He was twenty-five years old when he began his reign, and he ruled for twenty-nine years in Yerushalayim. His mother's name was Avi the daughter of Z'kharyah.

2Ki 18:3 **He did what was right from Adonai's perspective**, following the example of everything David his ancestor had done.

Interestingly, this phrase is only found 7 times in 1 Kings and 2 Kings.

So, Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) had much to overcome, the first being the reputation of his father when he would come to reign over Y'hudah. His father having done much that was evil from Adonai's perspective would be Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) initial task to undo...

2Ki 18:4 He removed the high places, smashed the standing-stones, cut down the asherah and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moshe had made; because in those days the people of Isra'el were making offerings to it, calling it N'chushtan.*

2Ki 18:5 He put his trust in Adonai the God of Isra'el; after him there was no one like him among all the kings of Y'hudah, nor had there been among those before him.

2Ki 18:6 For he clung to Adonai and did not leave off following him, but obeyed his mitzvot, which Adonai had given Moshe.

2Ki 18:7 So Adonai was with him. Wherever he went out to battle, he did well. He rebelled against the king of Ashur and refused to be his vassal.

2Ki 18:8 He drove the P'lishtim back to `Azah and laid waste to their territory from the watchtower to the fortified city.

Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) would come to be challenged Ashur (Assyria) and would ultimately be reassured by Yesh'yahu (Isaiah)...

2Ki 19:5 When King Hizkiyahu's servants came to Yesha`yahu,

2Ki 19:6 he said to them, "Tell your master that this is what Adonai says: 'Don't be afraid of the words you heard the servants of the king of Ashur use to insult me.

2Ki 19:7 I will put a spirit in him that will make him hear a rumor and return to his own land; then I will cause him to die by the sword in his own land.' "

His prayer regarding this matter is recorded for our benefit...

2Ki 19:14 Hizkiyahu took the letter from the messengers' hands and read it. Then Hizkiyahu went up to the house of Adonai and spread it out before Adonai.

2Ki 19:15 Hizkiyahu prayed as follows in the presence of Adonai: "Adonai God of Isra'el, who dwells above the k'ruvim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms on earth. You made heaven and earth.

2Ki 19:16 Turn your ear, Adonai, and hear! Open your eyes, Adonai, and see! Hear the words that Sancheriv sent to taunt the living God.

2Ki 19:17 It is true, Adonai, that the kings of Ashur have laid waste the nations and their lands

2Ki 19:18 and have thrown their gods into the fire. For those were non-gods, merely the product of people's hands, wood and stone; this is why they could destroy them.

2Ki 19:19 Now therefore, Adonai our God, please save us from his power—so that all the kingdoms on earth will know that you are Adonai, God—you only."

and thus ultimately triumph over their adversary through the power and favor of Adonai.

We now read of Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) becoming ill whereby Yesha'yahu instructs him that he will die.

2Ki 20:1 Around this time, Hizkiyahu became ill to the point of death. Yesha'yahu the prophet, the son of Amotz, came and said to him, "Here is what Adonai says: 'Put your house in order+, because you are going to die; you will not live.' "

Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) response to the news is to pray...

Ki 20:2 Hizkiyahu turned his face toward the wall and prayed to Adonai:

2Ki 20:3 "I plead with you, Adonai, remember now how I have lived before you truly and wholeheartedly, and how I have done what you see as good." And he cried bitter tears.

2Ki 20:5 "Go back, and tell Hizkiyahu the prince of my people, that this is what Adonai, the God of David your ancestor, says: 'I have heard your prayer and seen your tears, and I will heal you. On the third day, you are to go up to the house of Adonai.

2Ki 20:6 I will add fifteen years to your life. Also I will rescue you and this city from the power of the king of Ashur; I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David's sake.' "

One would look at this and praise Adonai, the healer who extends Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) life an additional 15 years. However, what do the next 15 years of Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) life look like...

Then we have the envoys for Bavel come to Y'hudah whereby Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) would provide them with an unfettered tour of all his treasures. For which Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) would respond...

Isa 39:5 Yesha'yahu said to Hizkiyahu, "Hear what Adonai-Tzva'ot says:

Isa 39:6 'The day will come when everything in your palace, along with everything your ancestors stored up until today, will be carried off to Bavel. Nothing will be left,' says Adonai.

Isa 39:7 'They will carry off some of your descendants, your own offspring; and they will be made eunuchs serving in the palace of the king of Bavel.' "

What was Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) response to the words of Yesha'yahu (Isaiah)?

Isa 39:8 Hizkiyahu said to Yesha`yahu, "The word of Adonai which you have just told me is good"; because he thought, "At least peace and truth will continue during my lifetime."

His words seemed rather prideful yet also that of being indfferent. It doesn't matter, it won't be in my life time. It seems as if it was a total disregard for the Kingdom he serves, not to mention his family future fate as well.

Two Kings who had done what was right in the sight of Adonai, did not finish as strongly as they started.

Our lives as believers in Yeshua do have an impact on those around us. Shlomo's actions led to a divided kingdom while Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah) indifference led to Bavel's ability to assess all that Israel had in advance of Adonai enabling them to execute His judgment upon His people.

Who knows who would have come after Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah)???

What will their loss be when they stand before Adonai? Only the end of time will tell.

We most certainly have our struggles along our journey of faith. Don't let the elements of the world distract you from the path that has been revealed to you and the destination that lies at the end of that path...Adonai's Kingdom.

Remain confident and convinced of what has been revealed to you both today and tomorrow. Utilize Adonai's reality to further guide you and sustain you as we draw closer to the day of Yeshua's return. Know that, for you have been warned, tribulation will only intensify, thus your faith must also intensify.

I want to close with these words from Kefa (Peter) speaking to those who he identifies as shepherds of others (congregations) he conveys the following:

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, you who are less experienced, submit to leaders. Further, all of you should clothe yourselves in humility toward one another, because God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace.

1Pe 5:6 Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the right time he may lift you up.

1Pe 5:7 Throw all your anxieties upon him, because he cares about you.

1Pe 5:8 Stay sober, stay alert! Your enemy, the Adversary, stalks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 Stand against him, firm in your trust, knowing that your brothers throughout the world are going through the same kinds of suffering.

1Pe 5:10 You will have to suffer only a little while; after that, God, who is full of grace, the one who called you to his eternal glory in union with the Messiah, will himself restore, establish and strengthen you and make you firm.

1Pe 5:11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

If this is good for the shepherd, it is also good for the sheep.