

August 10, 2024

For Everything There is a Season

A couple of days ago I had a different sermon in mind, but that changed when a connection of two separate moments from this past week struck me. It struck me so that I felt led to change direction and pursue this connection.

Last Shabbat during service we were informed of Cynthia's sister Janet passing. We changed course during the service then and recognized Janet's exit from this world to the next. A life soon not to be forgotten, yet its journey has concluded. Her book is complete.

Psa 139:13 For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psa 139:14 I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders—I know this very well.

Psa 139:15 My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Psa 139:16 Your eyes could see me as an embryo, but in your book all my days were already written; my days had been shaped before any of them existed.

No more added, no more subtracted.

Her life complete, whether she lived every aspect of the words in her book that were created even before she entered this world we will not know, because it is God's book and only He truly knows.

As I shared last Shabbat, I have never met Janet and all I know is through Cynthia, yet there was this deep moment when the realization of her passing hit. In a flash I thought of how the women of this congregation rallied around Cynthia to show our love for Janet. Our prayers were that she would be touched and encouraged by what she was receiving from women she had never met before yet displayed the love of Messiah to her. We did not lay down our lives for Janet, but the one we serve did...

Joh 15:10 If you keep my commands, you will stay in my love—just as I have kept my Father's commands and stay in his love.

Joh 15:11 I have said this to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy be complete.

Joh 15:12 "This is my command: that you keep on loving each other just as I have loved you.

Joh 15:13 No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his

friends.

Joh 15:14 You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

He expressed to us that we are to love one another as He has loved us.

He conveys these truths to us as it pertains to loving those whom we do not know...

First, the message of unity in the body of Messiah, a focus we have immersed ourselves in...

Joh 17:19 On their behalf I am setting myself apart for holiness, so that they too may be set apart for holiness by means of the truth.

Joh 17:20 "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will trust in me because of their word,

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one. Just as you, Father, are united with me and I with you, I pray that they may be united with us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.

Joh 17:22 The glory which you have given to me, I have given to them; so that they may be one, just as we are one—

Joh 17:23 I united with them and you with me, so that they may be completely one, and the world thus realize that you sent me, and that you have loved them just as you have loved me.

Joh 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am; so that they may see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

The second aspect is faith, that is trust...

T'oma was one who doubted that others had seen Yeshua alive. There testimony wasn't sufficient for them. He would not believe until he saw His Master with his own eyes.

Joh 20:24 Now T'oma (the name means "twin"), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Yeshua came.

Joh 20:25 When the other talmidim told him, "We have seen the Lord," he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger into the place where the nails were and put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe it."

Joh 20:26 A week later his talmidim were once more in the room, and this time T'oma was with them. Although the doors were locked, Yeshua came, stood among them and said, "Shalom aleikhem!"

Guess what?

Yeshua knew His sheep, and thus He knew Toma, because nothing escapes Him. Is Yeshua not the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the Aleph Tav?

Is He not the writer of our book and thus T'oma's book.

Are Yeshua and Adonai not one?

Then there should be no surprise that Yeshua would appear to His talmidim, behind locked doors and immediately gravitate towards T'oma...

Joh 20:27 Then he said to T'oma, "Put your finger here, look at my hands, take your hand and put it into my side. Don't be lacking in trust, but have trust!"

Joh 20:28 T'oma answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Joh 20:29 Yeshua said to him, "Have you trusted because you have seen me? How blessed are those who do not see, but trust anyway!"

We are to be unified and thus trusting Him as a body, a single body with many members, all unique in our creation. There is no other Janet and there won't be. Her book was a first edition original manuscript. There will not be another one like it, making its value priceless and thus irreplaceable. She will not be duplicated or imitated.

My prayer and my hope for Janet was that she experienced the love of Messiah in such a profound way, preparing her for an end to this journey in life, while entering the never ending journey of eternal life and the Kingdom.

As Janet's life was drawing to a close, a new life was about to enter the world. I had set in the back of my mind what was about to transpire this week so it didn't hit me until it hit me and that was Jeri sharing with me that Kiera was going to be induced and deliver her baby into this world.

A new book was being opened, starting at page one. The joyous entry into the world of Elise B. Yet we didn't know that there would be some immediate challenges for her life and thus each word Adonai has written is revealed in time and through time.

We would learn that Elise would need surgery to repair her intestine. We later learned that the procedure would take four hours so we prayed and sent out a prayer request to Kiera's mishpocha and Elise's new mishpocha.

Elise was being bathed in prayer two day's journey into her life as her book had just been opened when she took her first breath. The breath of life that comes from Adonai.

As the surgery was complete and appears to be successful in rearing her intestine, she experienced trouble breathing. To this point I don't know what has transpired or have any further update. Yet, we are trusting the Lord because her book has just been opened.

A prayer for Elise...

Psa 121:1 [*A song of ascents:*] If I raise my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?

Psa 121:2 My help comes from Adonai, the maker of heaven and earth.

Psa 121:3 He will not let your foot slip—your guardian is not asleep.

Psa 121:4 No, the guardian of Isra'el never slumbers or sleeps.

Psa 121:5 Adonai is your guardian; at your right hand Adonai provides you with shade—

Psa 121:6 the sun can't strike you during the day or even the moon at night.

Psa 121:7 Adonai will guard you against all harm; he will guard your life.

Psa 121:8 Adonai will guard your coming and going from now on and forever.

Her life is just beginning while Janet's has concluded. We believe Janet embraced Messiah and is with Him today in Paradise. What belongs to God returns to God and that which is from the earth returns to the earth...

Ecc 12:1 So remember your creator while you are young, before the evil days come, and the years approach when you will say, "They no longer give me pleasure";

Ecc 12:2 before the sun and the light grow dim, also the moon and the stars; before the clouds return after the rain;

Ecc 12:3 on the day when the guards of the house are trembling, and men of courage are bent over double; when the women stop grinding grain, because there are so few; when the women at the windows can no longer see out;

Ecc 12:4 when the doors to the streets are kept shut; when the noise from the grain-mill fades; when a person is startled by the chirp of a bird, yet their singing is hard to hear;

Ecc 12:5 when they will be afraid to go up a hill, and terrors will stalk the way, even though the almond tree is in bloom; when the locust can only drag itself along, and the caper berry has no [*aphrodisiac*] effect—because the person is headed for his eternal home, and the mourners are already gathering in the marketplace—

Ecc 12:6 before the silver cord is snapped the bowl of gold is cracked, the pitcher is shattered at the spring, the pulley is broken at the cistern,

Ecc 12:7 the dust returns to earth, as it was, and the spirit returns to God, who gave it!

We are to remember our creator for the Kohelet, Solomon concludes

This past week was a time of seasons as is often mentioned when one passes on...

Ecc 3:1 For everything there is a season, a right time for every intention under heaven—

Ecc 3:2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

Ecc 3:3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

Ecc 3:4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

Ecc 3:5 a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

Ecc 3:6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to discard,

Ecc 3:7 a time to tear and a time to sew, a time to keep silent and a time to speak,

Ecc 3:8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Hence the season of life. One has just ended while one has just begun, yet the conclusion the reality, the purpose of life can be summed up by the Kohelet in this manner.

Ecc 12:13 Here is the final conclusion, now that you have heard everything: fear God, and keep his mitzvot; this is what being human is all about.

Ecc 12:14 For God will bring to judgment everything we do, including every secret, whether good or bad. [*Here is the final conclusion, now that you have heard everything: fear God, and keep his mitzvot; this is what being human is all about.*]

Wheel of the World – Carrie Underwood.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-w-5J_TUD0