

July 20, 2024

Hine Ma Tov – Unity

There has been a great deal of unity mentioned this past week.

This word has been rather prominent the last two weeks for us in relation to the congregation, yet we are also seeing a call for it as a result of what transpired last Saturday. I am not going to go into the details or focus on it, yet when one is nearly assassinated, it provides a time to seek perspective and clarity.

There was a call for toning down the rhetoric and divisive speech. Yet that call didn't really last too long. Less than 48 hours.

With that said, we must rise above what others have called for yet have invested little effort to actually accomplish.

Scripture is dripping with verses talking about Unity and their purpose and benefit.

Our focus as a congregation is to promote this type of unity that is not transient but eternal. It is essential to the Kingdom, yet it is only seen in drips. Unity should flow like the Jordan River or the Red Sea.

For today, I want to focus on one Psalm, 133 and the song you heard earlier today Hine Ma Tov.

Psa 133:1 [*A song of ascents. By David:*] Oh, how good, how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in harmony.

There is a special presence when we come together and live without what is contrary to the Spirit...

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, then you are not in subjection to the system that results from perverting the Torah into legalism.

Gal 5:19 And it is perfectly evident what the old nature does. It expresses itself in sexual immorality, impurity and indecency;

Gal 5:20 involvement with the occult and with drugs; in feuding, fighting, becoming jealous and getting angry; in selfish ambition, factionalism, intrigue

Gal 5:21 and envy; in drunkenness, orgies and things like these. I warn you now as I have warned you before: those who do such things will have no share in the Kingdom of God!

This is not present in the Kingdom, the place where unity is a requirement, not optional.

For it is in the Kingdom that we have finished the race and overcome the old nature once and for all...

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 humility, self control. Nothing in the Torah stands against such things.

Gal 5:24 Moreover, those who belong to the Messiah Yeshua have put their old nature to death on the stake, along with its passions and desires.

Gal 5:25 Since it is through the Spirit that we have Life, let it also be through the Spirit that we order our lives day by day.

True unity looks like this. Adversary will rest with Adversary.

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of Adonai will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fearing Adonai—

Isa 11:3 he will be inspired by fearing Adonai. He will not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

Isa 11:4 but he will judge the impoverished justly; he will decide fairly for the humble of the land. He will strike the land with a rod from his mouth and slay the wicked with a breath from his lips.

Isa 11:5 Justice will be the belt around his waist, faithfulness the sash around his hips.

Isa 11:6 The wolf will live with the lamb; the leopard lie down with the kid; calf, young lion and fattened lamb together, with a little child to lead them.

Isa 11:7 Cow and bear will feed together, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

Isa 11:8 An infant will play on a cobra's hole, a toddler put his hand in a viper's nest.

Isa 11:9 They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be as full of the knowledge of Adonai as water covering the sea.

That is what true unity looks like.

What do we see today, factionalism, nation against nation, division within the body of Messiah. There is talk of unity, but there is little action taken.

Brother against brother...a divided Kingdom at the moment.

Isa 11:13 Efrayim's jealousy will cease—those who harass Y'hudah will be cut off, Efrayim will stop envying Y'hudah, and Y'hudah will stop provoking Efrayim.

Here is the challenge we all face in not reaching this goal of Adonai's...

1Jn 3:14 We, for our part, know that we have passed from death to life because we keep loving the brothers. The person who fails to keep on loving is still under the power of death.

1Jn 3:15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

1Jn 3:16 The way that we have come to know love is through his having laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers!

1Jn 3:17 If someone has worldly possessions and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how can he be loving God?

1Jn 3:18 Children, let us love not with words and talk, but with actions and in reality!

1Jn 3:19 Here is how we will know that we are from the truth and will set our hearts at rest in his presence.

And within this challenge are the steps to overcome such division.

Psa 133:2 It is like fragrant oil on the head that runs down over the beard, over the beard of Aharon, and flows down on the collar of his robes.

What is this unity where brother dwells with brother but it is a fragrant aroma to Adonai as are the sacrifices not associated with sin, but voluntary offering. Such as the Mincha (grain) offering.

Lev 2:1 " Anyone who brings a grain offering to Adonai is to make his offering of fine flour; he is to pour olive oil on it and put frankincense on it.

Lev 2:2 He is to bring it to the sons of Aharon, the cohanim. The cohen is to take a handful of fine flour from it, together with its olive oil and all its frankincense, and make this reminder portion go up in smoke on the altar as an offering made by fire, a fragrant aroma for Adonai.

There is a joy, a gladness that Adonai experiences when His people, Jew and Gentile come together as one, the promise Sha'ul conveys to the Ephesians...

Pro 27:9 Perfume and incense make the heart glad, [*also*] friendship sweet with advice from the heart.

The heart of Adonai rejoices when there is unity in the body of Messiah.

Eph 2:15 by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom,

Eph 2:16 and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

Unity brings forth reconciliation, that which was once divided is made whole.

This is the Kingdom and it will be seen in such a way with Israel...

In Ezekiel 37 we read of two very major moments that should not be lost on anyone.

The first is the valley of dry bones. Jeri had alluded to it during her drash...

Valley of Dry Bones: In Ezekiel 37, symbolizes spiritual deadness. God's breath brings life, illustrating His power to revive even the most hopeless situations.

Yet Adonai asks, can these dry bones live?

Can they be resurrected?

Eze 37:3 He asked me, "Human being, can these bones live?" I answered, "Adonai Elohim! Only you know that!"

The answer is Yes.

Eze 37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones! Say to them, 'Dry bones! Hear what Adonai has to say!'"

Eze 37:5 To these bones Adonai Elohim says, "I will make breath enter you, and you will live.

Eze 37:6 I will attach ligaments to you, make flesh grow on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you. You will live, and you will know that I am Adonai." ' "

Eze 37:7 So I prophesied as ordered; and while I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound; it was the bones coming together, each bone in its proper place.

Eze 37:8 As I watched, ligaments grew on them, flesh appeared and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Eze 37:9 Next he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath! Prophecy, human being! Say to the breath that Adonai Elohim says, 'Come from the four winds, breath; and breathe on these slain, so that they can live.' "

Who does He say this is?

Eze 37:11 Then he said to me, "Human being! These bones are the whole house of Isra'el; and they are saying, 'Our bones have dried up, our hope is gone, and we are completely cut off.'

The whole house. He started by gathering the people back into the land, first prophecying to the land and what the land would experience...

Eze 36:8 But you, mountains of Isra'el, you will sprout your branches and bear your fruit for my people Isra'el, who will soon return.

Eze 36:9 I am here for you, and I will turn toward you; then you will be tilled and sown;

Eze 36:10 and I will multiply your population, all the house of Isra'el, all of it. The cities will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

Then the final piece of this unification is bringing brothers back together.

Eze 37:15 The word of Adonai came to me:

Eze 37:16 "You, human being, take one stick and write on it, 'For Y'udah and those joined with him [*among*] the people of Isra'el.' Next, take another stick and write on it, 'For Yosef, the stick of Efrayim, and all the house of Isra'el who are joined with him.'

Eze 37:17 Finally, bring them together into a single stick, so that they become one in your hand.

And thus the promise of the New Covenant...

Jer 31:30 "Here, the days are coming," says Adonai, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra'el and with the house of Y'hudah.

Jer 31:31 It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for my part, was a husband to them," says Adonai.

Jer 31:32 "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days," says Adonai: "I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Where did Y'hudah go?

Nowhere because verse 32 is a reunified nation. A unified Kingdom where there is but one King, not two. There is one throne not two.

Eze 43:7 He said, "Human being, this is the place for my throne, the place for the soles of my feet, where I will live among the people of Isra'el forever. The house of Isra'el, both they and their kings, will never again defile my holy name by their prostitution, by [*burying*] the corpses of their kings [*on*] their high places,

and that which we will see...

Rev 22:1 Next the angel showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Rev 22:2 Between the main street and the river was the Tree of Life producing twelve kinds of fruit, a different kind every month; and the leaves of the tree were for healing the nations—

Rev 22:3 no longer will there be any curses. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him;

And finally,

Psa 133:3 It is like the dew of Hermon that settles on the mountains of Tziyon. For it was there that Adonai ordained the blessing of everlasting life.

The promise of this unity leads to everlasting life. Eternal. Thus summarizing the points of two recent sermons...

Joh 6:50 But the bread that comes down from heaven is such that a person may eat it and not die.

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread that has come down from heaven; if anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. Furthermore, the bread that I will give is my own flesh; and I will give it for the life of the world."

Joh 11:25 Yeshua said to her, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life! Whoever puts his trust in me will live, even if he dies;

Joh 11:26 and everyone living and trusting in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Joh 11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Living together in harmony is the dynamic of what the Kingdom will look like when the new heaven and new earth arrive.

Rev 21:2 Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Rev 21:3 I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "See! God's Sh'khinah is with mankind, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and he himself, God-with-them, will be their God.

Rev 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away."

Rev 21:5 Then the One sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new!" Also he said, "Write, 'These words are true and trustworthy!' "

Rev 21:6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the 'A' and the 'Z,' the Beginning and the End. To anyone who is thirsty I myself will give water free of charge from the Fountain of Life.

Rev 21:7 He who wins the victory will receive these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.

Yet we need to be about His business now. It isn't just about reaching the lost, it is about getting His House in Order.

We know our destination and our purpose, yet how do we get there in the mean time...

Eph 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner united with the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

Eph 4:2 Always be humble, gentle and patient, bearing with one another in love, **Eph 4:3** and making every effort to preserve the unity the Spirit gives through the binding power of shalom.

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as when you were called you were called to one hope.

Eph 4:5 And there is one Lord, one trust, one immersion,

Eph 4:6 and one God, the Father of all, who rules over all, works through all and is in all.

Php 2:1 Therefore, if you have any encouragement for me from your being in union with the Messiah, any comfort flowing from love, any fellowship with me in the Spirit, or any compassion and sympathy,

Php 2:2 then complete my joy by having a common purpose and a common love, by being one in heart and mind.

Php 2:3 Do nothing out of rivalry or vanity; but, in humility, regard each other as better than yourselves—

Php 2:4 look out for each other's interests and not just for your own.

Php 2:5 Let your attitude toward one another be governed by your being in union with the Messiah Yeshua:

This is the foundation for how we intend to move forward. We will not compromise our belief or who we are, but be more patient with others, asking the questions, allow Scripture to speak for itself and being available to help them serve Messiah.