

January 25, 2025

## **State of the Congregation**

**Pro 29:18** Without a prophetic vision, the people throw off all restraint; but he who keeps Torah is happy.

I will be sharing the state of the congregation and where we are headed in two parts. Today is about the direction we are heading and where we have come from in the last seven months since Messiah Conference and what was revealed to Jeri and myself.

The second part will occur when we have our Business meeting and share the financial element of the congregation.

Leadership is a necessity

Prioritize – we can not be all things to all people. We simply don't have the resources and thus would lose focus. We must utilize our resources effectively and efficiently

**Prayer** – it all starts with prayer.

The promise that was made to Solomon upon dedication of the Temple...

**2Ch 7:11** Thus Shlomo finished the house of Adonai and the royal palace. Everything that Shlomo had set his heart on making in the house of Adonai and in his own palace he accomplished successfully.

**2Ch 7:12 Adonai appeared to Shlomo by night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.**

**2Ch 7:13** If I shut up the sky, so that there is no rain; or if I order locusts to devour the land; or if I send an epidemic of sickness among my people;

**2Ch 7:14** then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.

**2Ch 7:15** Now my eyes will be open and my ears will pay attention to the prayer made in this place.

How did we get here?

Adonai's response all started with Shlomo's prayer...

Having finished...

**2Ch 7:1** When Shlomo had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of Adonai filled the house,

**2Ch 7:2** so that the cohanim could not enter the house of Adonai; because the glory of Adonai filled Adonai's house.

**2Ch 7:3** All the people of Isra'el saw when the fire came down, and the glory of Adonai was on the house; they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the flooring; prostrating themselves, they gave thanks to Adonai, "for he is good, for his grace continues forever."

God Came down...

What did Solomon prayer?

**2Ch 6:12** Then he stood before the altar of Adonai in the presence of the whole community of Isra'el, spread out his hands—

**2Ch 6:13** for Shlomo had made a bronze platform eight-and-three quarters feet long, eight-and-three-quarters feet wide and five-and-a-quarter feet high and had set it up in the middle of the courtyard. He stood on it, then got down on his knees before the whole community, spread out his hands toward heaven,

**2Ch 6:14** and said, "Adonai, God of Isra'el, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth. You keep covenant with your servants and show them grace, provided they live in your presence with all their heart.

**2Ch 6:15** You have kept your promise to your servant David, my father; you spoke with your mouth and fulfilled it with your hand; so it is today.

**2Ch 6:16** Now therefore, Adonai, God of Isra'el, keep what you promised to your servant David, my father, when you said, 'You will never lack a man in my presence to sit on the throne of Isra'el, if only your children are careful about what they do, so that they live by my Torah, just as you have lived in my presence.'

**2Ch 6:17** Now therefore, Adonai, God of Isra'el, please let your word, which you spoke to your servant David, my father, be confirmed.

**2Ch 6:18** "But can God actually live with human beings on the earth? Why, heaven itself, even the heaven of heavens, cannot contain you; so how much less this house I have built?

**2Ch 6:19** Even so, Adonai my God, pay attention to your servant's prayer and

plea, listen to the cry and prayer that your servant is praying before you,

**2Ch 6:20** that your eyes will be open toward this house day and night—toward the place where you said you would put your name—to listen to the prayer your servant will pray toward this place.

**2Ch 6:21** Yes, listen to the pleas of your servant, and also those of your people Isra'el when they pray toward this place. Hear from where you live, from heaven; and when you hear, forgive!

**2Ch 6:22** "If a person sins against a fellow member of the community, and he is made to swear under oath, and he comes and swears before your altar in this house;

**2Ch 6:23** then hear from heaven, act and judge your servants, paying back the wicked, so that his way of life devolves on his own head, and vindicating the one who is right, giving him what his righteousness deserves.

**2Ch 6:24** "If your people Isra'el sin against you and in consequence are defeated by an enemy; then if they turn back to you, acknowledge your name, and pray and make their plea to you in this house,

**2Ch 6:25** hear from heaven, forgive the sin of your people Isra'el, and bring them back to the land you gave to them and their ancestors.

**2Ch 6:26** "When they sin against you, and in consequence the sky is shut, so that there is no rain; then if they pray toward this place, acknowledge your name and turn from their sin when you have brought them low;

**2Ch 6:27** hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your servants and of your people Isra'el—since you keep teaching them the good way by which they should live—and send down rain on your land, which you have given your people as their inheritance.

**2Ch 6:28** "If there is famine in the land, or blight, windstorm, mildew, locusts or shearer-worms; or if their enemies besiege them in any of their cities—no matter what kind of plague or sickness it is;

**2Ch 6:29** then, regardless of what prayer or plea anyone among all your people Isra'el makes—for each individual will know his own plague and his own pain—and the person spreads out his hands toward this house;

**2Ch 6:30** then hear from heaven where you live, and forgive; also, since you know what is in each one's heart, give each person what his conduct deserves (because you, and only you, know human hearts),

**2Ch 6:31** so that they will fear you and therefore live according to your ways throughout the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors.

**2Ch 6:32** "Also the foreigner who does not belong to your people Isra'el—when he comes from a distant country because of your great reputation, your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when they come and pray toward this house;

**2Ch 6:33** then hear from heaven, from where you live; and act in accordance

with everything about which the foreigner is calling to you; so that all the peoples of the earth will know your name and fear you, as does your people Isra'el, and so that they will know that this house which I have built bears your name.

**2Ch 6:34** "If your people go out to fight their enemies, no matter by which way you send them, and they pray to you toward the city you chose and the house I built for your name;

**2Ch 6:35** then, from heaven, hear their prayer and plea, and uphold their cause.

**2Ch 6:36** "If they sin against you—for there is no one who doesn't sin—and you are angry with them and hand them over to the enemy, so that they carry them off captive to a land far away or nearby;

**2Ch 6:37** then, if they come to their senses in the land where they have been carried away captive, turn back and make their plea to you in the land where they are being held captive, saying, 'We sinned, we acted wrongly, we behaved wickedly,'

**2Ch 6:38** if, in the land where they were brought and are being held captive, they return to you with all their heart and being and pray to you toward their own land, which you gave to their ancestors, toward the city you chose and toward the house I have built for your name;

**2Ch 6:39** then, from heaven, from where you live, hear their prayer and pleas, uphold their cause, and forgive your people who have sinned against you.

**2Ch 6:40** "Now, my God, please, let your eyes be open, and let your ears pay attention to the prayer being made in this place.

**2Ch 6:41** "Now go up, Adonai, God, to your place of rest, you and the ark through which you give strength. "May your cohanim, Adonai, God, be clothed with salvation; may those loyal to you take joy in good.

**2Ch 6:42** "Adonai, God, don't turn away the face of your anointed one; remember the mercies of your servant David."

The two people groups we are called to reach out to:

The Jewish Community – April 24th -  
Am Israel Chai – Children of Israel Live!  
The Church – June 1<sup>st</sup> –  
Promises Made, Promises Kept!

Keep these dates in prayer as we take bolder steps into the community, living according to our congregation Vision, Mission and Purpose.

**Ministry:**

**Schools**

I have talked a great deal about teaching lately and will not spend much time on this but this is a generational necessity. Over the previous two Shabbats I talked about your teachers.

How we will move forward...

### **Prison - Ministry**

**Act 16:25** Around midnight, Sha'ul and Sila were praying and singing hymns to God, while the other prisoners listened attentively.

**Act 16:26** Suddenly there was a violent earthquake which shook the prison to its foundations. All the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose.

**Act 16:27** The jailer awoke, and when he saw the doors open he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, for he assumed that the prisoners had escaped.

**Act 16:28** But Sha'ul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We're all here!"

**Act 16:29** Calling for lights, the jailer ran in, began to tremble and fell down in front of Sha'ul and Sila.

**Act 16:30** Then, leading them outside, he said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?"

**Act 16:31** They said, "Trust in the Lord Yeshua, and you will be saved—you and your household!"

**Act 16:32** Whereupon they told him and everyone in his household the message about the Lord.

**Act 16:33** Then, even at that late hour of the night, the jailer took them and washed off their wounds; and without delay, he and all his people were immersed.

**Act 16:34** After that, he brought them up to his house and set food in front of them; and he and his entire household celebrated their having come to trust in God.

**Act 16:35** The next morning, the judges sent police officers with the order, "Release those men."

**Act 16:36** The jailer told Sha'ul, "The judges have sent word to release both of you. So come out, and go on your way in peace."

**Act 16:37** But Sha'ul said to the officers, "After flogging us in public when we hadn't been convicted of any crime and are Roman citizens, they threw us in prison. Now they want to get rid of us secretly? Oh, no! Let them come and escort us out themselves!"

**Act 16:38** The officers reported these words to the judges, who became frightened when they heard that Sha'ul and Sila were Roman citizens.

**Act 16:39** They came and apologized to them; then, after escorting them out, requested them to leave the city.

The challenge we are experiencing now. - email – denial of request to establish a ministry at the prison.

### **The Heart of David...**

**1Sa 17:26** David said to the men standing with him, "What reward will be given to the man who kills this P'lishti and removes this disgrace from Isra'el? Who is this uncircumcised P'lishti anyway, that he challenges the armies of the living God?"

**1Sa 17:34** David answered Sha'ul, "Your servant used to guard his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear would come and grab a lamb from the flock,

**1Sa 17:35** I would go after it, hit it, and snatch the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned on me, I would catch it by the jaw, smack it and kill it.

**1Sa 17:36** Your servant has defeated both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised P'lishti will be like one of them, because he has challenged the armies of the living God."

**1Sa 17:37** Then David said, "Adonai, who rescued me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will rescue me from the paw of this P'lishti!" Sha'ul said to David, "Go; may Adonai be with you."

**1Sa 17:43** The P'lishti said to David, "Am I a dog? Is that why you're coming at me with sticks?"—and the P'lishti cursed David by his god.

**1Sa 17:44** Then the P'lishti said to David, "Come here to me, so I can give your flesh to the birds in the air and the wild animals."

**1Sa 17:45** David answered the P'lishti, "You're coming at me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming at you in the name of Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of the armies of Isra'el, whom you have challenged.

**1Sa 17:46** Today Adonai will hand you over to me. I will attack you, lop your head off, and give the carcasses of the army of the P'lishtim to the birds in the air and the animals in the land. Then all the land will know that there is a God in Isra'el,

**1Sa 17:47** and everyone assembled here will know that Adonai does not save by sword or spear. For this is Adonai's battle, and he will hand you over to us."

It begins and ends with prayer for I will share more over the next two weeks.