

Thanksgiving 2020
The Power of Thanksgiving, Part 2
December 5, 2020



This Thursday evening, Dec. 10, Kislev כסלו 25, we will light the first Hanukkah candle.

[<https://imageproxy.themaven.net/https%3A%2F%2Fwww.history.com%2F.image%2FMTY5MTE2NjA5ODU0NTgwMDAx%2Fhanukkah-gettyimages-157389389.jpg>]

Wednesday night, Dec. 2, we had a community Zoom discussion on the synagogue policy relative to masks and distancing. Leadership wanted to hear your hearts and minds.

Act 15.6-9 The emissaries and the elders met to look into this matter. After lengthy debate, After much debate ... So we have decided unanimously ... For it seemed good to the Ruakh HaKodesh and to us

[We didn't decide unanimously, but ...]

Conclusion: was that there is great and passionate divergence, of opinion and as Teveye said, "You are also right." Obey the executive order on the one hand, or resist the over-reach. However, there is an underlying passionate principle:

[Greg nor I could discern the Holy Spirit's clear leading either way.]

Eph 4.2-4 Always be humble, gentle and patient, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to preserve the unity the Spirit gives through the binding power of shalom. There is one body and one Spirit, just as when you were called you were called to one hope at the feet of Yeshua

[Jews For Jesus on Jewish arguing Issues magazine 23-04 p 12-13]



Supreme Court of the United States

Besides, the detailed regulation of religious institutions may end shortly.

"Today's [Thursday, Dec. 3] ruling by the Supreme Court provides great relief for churches and places of worship. **The handwriting is now on the wall.** The final days of Governor Gavin Newsom's 'color-coded executive edicts' banning worship are numbered and coming to an end. It is past time to end these unconstitutional **restrictions on places of worship.**"

[<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2020/december/us-supreme-court-steps-in-after-months-of-california-discrimination-against-churches>]

So, if the regulation ends, will we have wounds of anger and bitterness to address?]



from Mary Ann Dixon

When my message was over last Shabbat, I had lots of material not covered. It happens. Then someone approached me with a confirmation. Then, the Ruakh just seemed to prompt me to spend another Shabbat on the subject of thankfulness blessings, and ingratitude.



Outline of this message

1. Why we give thanks and praise.
2. Meaning of the word "Jew."
3. Americana Thanksgiving
4. Exhortations

Why do we thank and praise Him?

^{1 Yn 4.19} We love him, because he first loved us.

[Reason we were created. He gave His life for us so we could have life, continues to

give us life!]

^{1 Thes. 5.17-18} Always be joyful. Pray regularly. In everything give thanks, for this is what God wants from you who are united with the Messiah Yeshua.

This = circumstances or attitude?

Ingratitude is the basis of ALL sin, starting in Gan Eden / the Garden of Eden.

- You can't have a heart of gratitude AND a heart of rebellion.
- You can't have a heart of gratitude AND raging lust, anger, pride, greed.

Ingratitude and sin genealogy in Romans:

Ro 1.20-21 For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities — both his eternal power and his divine nature — have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made. Therefore, they have no excuse; because, although they know who God is, **they do not glorify him as God or thank him.**

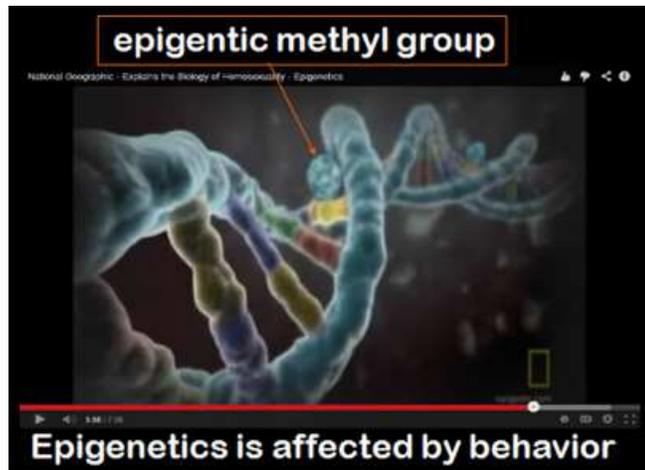
Instead of worship, praise, gratitude, the human race sunk into craving perversion.

Ro 1.21-24 On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened. Claiming to be wise, they have become fools! In fact, they have exchanged the glory of the immortal God for mere images ...This is why God has given them up to the vileness of their hearts' lusts, to the shameful misuse of each other's bodies. ^{Ro 1.26-27} This is why God has given them up to degrading passions; so that their women exchange natural sexual relations for unnatural; and likewise the men, giving up natural relations with the opposite sex, burn with passion for one another.

ANYONE could be gay. Result of [generational] lack of gratitude.

Three causes of same sex attraction.

- Indulgence without gratitude.
- Wrong response to abuse.
- Epigenetics:



In an attempt to cope with stress, sex, alcohol and drugs can be used as an escape. Once substance use commences, however, epigenetic alterations may further exacerbate the biological and behavioral changes associated with addiction.

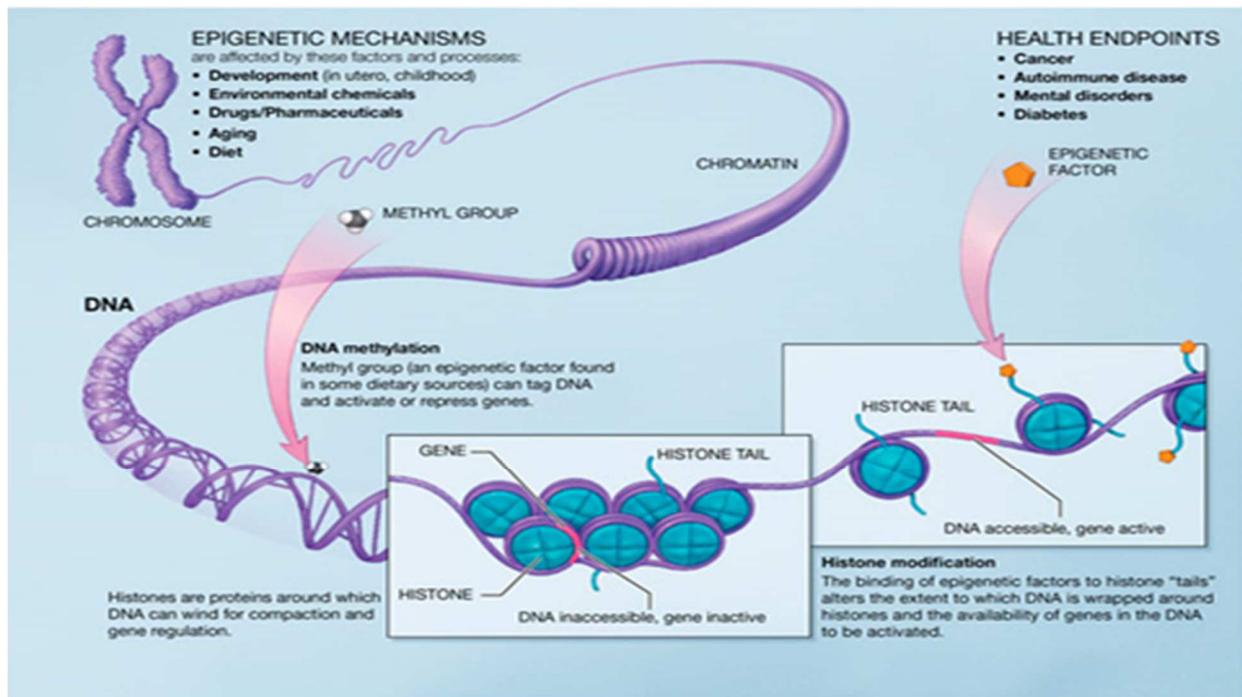
Even short-term substance use can produce long-lasting epigenetic changes in the brain of rodents, via DNA methylation and histone modification.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behavioral_epigenetics]

Epigenetics doesn't change the underlying guanine, cytosine, adenine, thiamine. But DOES affect expressions: on/off switch. Behavior of past generations affects your tendency to behave a certain way. TENDENCY.

[*No one is born gay. Some have tendency.*]

That is, some have an inherited tendency to a certain sin, but it's NOT in the DNA. It's in the mechanisms that are part of the DNA wrapping, that can be affected by behaviors, and similarly reversed by repentant behavior over 3 or 4 generations. This is exactly scriptural...



Shmot/Ex 34.6-7 Then Adoni passed before him, and proclaimed, “Adoni, Adoni, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth...bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.”

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Starting point of healthy prayer:

Mtt 6.9-10 “Therefore, pray in this way: ‘Our Father in heaven, May your Name be kept holy. May your kingdom come, your will be done ...

[Image of Fatherhood.

A thought experiment: Say “father” – what comes to mind? Should be: supportive, strong, loving, comforting.

Many of us are broken relative to this image of fatherhood. Me at Promise Keepers, they spoke about a plague of fatherlessness. “Why are these guys here?”]

First congregational praise: Ty and Shay (but you really need to see the recording of the livestream – this won’t do their presentation justice – their intro is SO funny!)

Shay: “We were asked to talk about what we’re thankful for and I have some things I’m very thankful for. And one of the biggest ones is that my husband has been able to be off medication for almost a year without any symptoms of his various medical issues – which has been wonderful! I’m thankful to HaShem for giving us that blessing. Back to you, Ty!”

Ty: "I'm thankful for my good health, my lovely wife and the mercy that G-d shows me every day. I appreciate the fact that we've been safe through all this disease-inflicted time and times of turmoil. I'm also grateful for a good job."

Shay: "That you can do from home."

Ty: "Yeah, that I can do from home. Now it's your turn."

Shay: "Well, actually, for COVID, but the reason I'm thankful is because it brought our family together. Ty was able to work from home. I was already working from home. So, we got all of this extra special togetherness time without all the regular interruptions of busy lives that we had led before. And it's just been wonderful! I just really enjoyed these last COVID months of just getting to know my husband again and rekindling our friendship and our playfulness and just paying attention to each other. I'm in heaven – I love it!"

Ty: "And I'm not grumpy."

Shay: "Yeah, oh yeah, he's way less grumpy because he doesn't have to drive to work."

Ty: "Yeah, well, OK, that's what we're thankful for. What are you thankful for today?"

Outline of this message

1. Why we give thanks and praise.
2. Meaning of the word "Jew."
3. Americana Thanksgiving
4. Exhortations

If you are Jewish, or have joined with the Jewish people in the Messianic awakening, **you have committed yourself to an identity of praise.**

Ro 2.28-29 **For the real Jew is not merely Jewish outwardly: true circumcision is not only external and physical. On the contrary, the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart, spiritual not literal; so that his praise comes not from other people but from God. [Pun here.]**

Ioudaios: Jewish, a Jew, Judea

Original Word: Ἰουδαῖος, αἰα, αῖον

Phonetic Spelling: (ee-oo-dah'-yos)

Greek misses the point.

glory, splendor majesty הוד יהודי Yehudi יהודי

[Above is the spiritual meaning of the word "Jew." There is also the covenantal ...]

Ro 3.1-2 **Then what advantage has the Jew? What is the value of being circumcised? Much in every way! In the first place, the Jews were entrusted with the very words of God.**

Second congregational praise:

**Mike &
Melody
Anne
Boatright**



Mike Boatright's "praise and thanksgiving"

"In an attitude of Praise and Thanksgiving, I wanted to thank the Ruakh/the Holy Spirit for allowing us as participants this year in the Drive-In Prayer Outreach initiative to members of the community, our neighbors and the total strangers that the Ruakh prompted to drive in and to share their Prayer Requests, their hurts, their frustrations, their concerns and their heartfelt requests for prayer and intercession from the Ruakh and most

assuredly from the Throne Room of G-d.

"As the Coordinator of these activities, aside from assigned moments of placing and removing the signs and a few other chores, many times my activity merely entailed 'getting out of the way' as the Ruakh positioned those whom He wanted to be in position to pray with those who drove in.



"Without fail, the Ruakh is the world's best 'Traffic Cop.' As was always the case, the person that our 'Guests' needed to pray with, was in position at the precise or near precise moment when the 'Guests' arrived.

"As was often the case time and again, many of the 'Guests' would make the same statement; 'The Holy Spirit told me to turn around and go back for prayer' as well as the occasional 'G-d told me to turn in!'

"The "Ladies with the umbrellas on 95th Street' became a weekend fixture in the eyes of our neighbors and many would stop in to visit, to see what we were up to, to find out who we are, what we believed, 'who' we prayed to; many people 'walking by' (even in Johnson County) would stop and pray with the ladies and guys of the prayer team wavers, if just to receive a prayer for their concerns and worries.

"On many an occasion, it would seem that those seeking prayer just needed prayer time with their 'grandma' or their 'aunt,' something that G-d had provided in this instance and their countenance and their spirit being refreshed or confronted in that moment.

"Throughout the summer heatwave conditions that plagued our efforts, the Ruakh would always provide a breeze at just the right moment, as we prayed with and were blessed in providing and receiving overwhelming examples of 'Lovingkindness' that was truly a gift from the Ruakh and the Throne Room of G-d.

"On a couple of Shabbats, people driving in would tell of a passage of scripture that G-d had placed in their hearts and their minds, and in several occasions the passage of scripture was the same as the people in the car before them, a gentle reminder of the Ruakh that He was truly at work in the lives and concerns of all who drove in.

"And there was that one afternoon, when two total strangers pulled in, got out of their car with the words, 'we need to be saved.' In all of my days, I never would have imagined, but in all of my days of standing in the blistering sun, on the parking lot in 105-degree heat, I wouldn't have missed this for the world and all its riches.

"There were many who drove in; the homeless, penniless, lost in the world and lost in their sins and knowing they needed the saving grace of their Messiah if they were ever to see heaven.

Those who had loved ones sick with COVID, sick in the hospital, those who had loved ones die and those who had loved ones who had ended their lives way to early, they all needed prayer and love that could only have come from G-d.

“This “Season of Outreach” took its toll on each of us who participated, but we were strengthened and refreshed, as G-d through the presence of the Ruakh led us and guided us and lifted us through these times.

“I look forward to the “Seasons of Outreach” in the summers to come. The sun will be hot, the challenges many, the enemy will have his hackles up and the attacks are coming, but as my grandmother would say, ‘if the enemy isn’t hittin’ you from all sides, then you must be sittin’ in the wrong pew.’

“I thank G-d for his blessing, grace, tender mercies and this Praise of Thanksgiving this year, would be coupled with the prayer, that we might be afforded the opportunity to do it all again, next year.

“See you on the Parking Lot!!!

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Thanksgiving Americana

In August 1619, a pirate ship, the White Lion, stopped at Jamestown and traded 20-some captive Africans for food. The Africans were treated as indentured servants and most were soon released.

Fifteen months later, in November 1620, an English ship blown off course on its way to Virginia ended up off the barren coast of Massachusetts. It landed more than 100 men, women and children. Those voyagers founded Plymouth Colony.

Which event mattered more? Last year, the New York Times declared that the arrival of the captives in Virginia was the “true beginning” of America — an America that the Times characterized as a “slavocracy.” The Times calls its campaign to promote this story The 1619 Project.

[\[https://nypost.com/2020/11/07/america-wasnt-founded-on-slavery-but-on-pilgrims-ideals/\]](https://nypost.com/2020/11/07/america-wasnt-founded-on-slavery-but-on-pilgrims-ideals/)

In this video, Wilfred Reilly, Associate Professor of Political Science at Kentucky State University, responds to The 1619 Project’s major claims.





(6-minute video at the following link: https://www.prageru.com/video/whats-wrong-with-the-1619-project/?utm_source=Main+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=19210dd225-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_09_06_29_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f90832343d-19210dd225-164356353)



Victor Glover, astronaut on the ISS, from Space X, 250 mi. up.

One of the astronauts that's currently on the International Space Station and was recently launched on Elon Musk's SpaceX. He's not only an African-American astronaut, but he's also a Believer. He was one of a four-member Space X crew mission. He brought with him a Bible and communion cups so he'll be worshipping online from the ISS with his home congregation. So, the next time you look up at the sky, just remember there's a Believer above you, practicing his

faith. That's what America is all about. It IS a land of opportunity. Hallelujah!

Third congregational praise:

Lori Wilson: "I'm thankful for Roy's rotator cuff tear and resulting shoulder surgery. Really! It happened January 31. My husband is an ambulance EMT for Kansas City Missouri Fire Department. His injury kept him off work during the uncertainty of COVID.

"I'm grateful for my job here as administrative assistant. It is humbling to know that your generosity and obedience to the law of tithing help provide for Roy and me. I try to be a good steward of your gifts. Oh, and I have a really great boss with a sense of humor.

"In a year of slowing down and staying in, I've learned to appreciate the sweetness of life. They were little things, like the colorful rose moss we grew on our porch, the birds we've fed, the finch couple that moved in to our geranium and raised their family, and the surprise of a hummingbird at the feeder. They'd catch my eye as I'd sit in the living room, reading my Bible in the morning. I also loved porch-sitting weather. A neighbor in his 20s walked by once and said,

“Your porch looks happy.” I’m glad he slowed down to notice and tell me. I’m glad it brought him joy.

“I’m also glad that the words “gratitude” and “attitude” rhyme. I think that’s a God-wink for us.

“Roy and I have spent more time with his nephew, who went through a heart-wrenching divorce, long after the marriage was over. He’s met an amazing woman and he and his three children are now full of joy.

“Roy and I began something new. We write down 3 things we’re grateful for every night.

“I’m happy that in writing this, I’ve just written my holiday letter to friends and family. Being efficient gives me shalom.

“I am blessed beyond measure by my good Abba Father. Yeshua left the glory of Heaven for my salvation and the Ruakh HaKodesh contends for my wayward heart every day.”

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“We need to turn thanksgiving into thanks-living. And yet in America all around we can find those who are grumbly hateful rather than humbly grateful.” Adrian Rogers

You do not come to service to praise the Lord. You are to bring your praise with you to service. You don't commence your praise here, you continue.

^{T'hillim/Ps 34.2} I will bless Adoni at all times. His praise is continually in my mouth.

^{T'hillim Ps 43} I will come to the altar of God, to G-d my exceeding joy,
I will bring the fruit of my lips

אָבוֹא אֶל מִזְבַּח אֱלֹהִים אֶל אֵל שְׂמֵחַת גִּילִי

Avo el mizbakh Elohim

el El simkhat gili

אֶקְרִיב פְּרִי שְׂפָתַי לְפָנֶיךָ

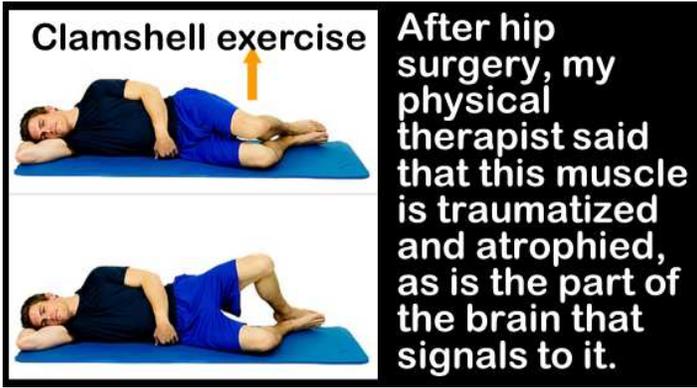
Akriv pri sfati lefaneikha

[Sarah Liberman]

When we praise and give thanks verbally to G-d, then He is being glorified. Significant cosmic victory just in the fruit of our lips.

^{1Tim.4.7-8} Train, exercise yourself in godliness. For physical exercise has some benefit; but godliness is beneficial for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the one to come.

We don't achieve godliness, but we grow in it or NOT!



So, he said, used what's left of your brain to communicate with what's left of your muscle to lift your leg. [!!]

Similarly, our praise "muscle" gets atrophied by lack of use, and by trauma.

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fillypt.com%2Fclamshell-exercise-for-knee-back-hip-ankle-pain%2F&psig=AOvVaw2Ak6MbtG2fE9i866K8kZo&ust=1607228258993000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCQjxooP-te0CFQAAAAAAdAAAAABAD]

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Come and rejoice and give Him glory

נְגִילָה וְנִשְׁמְחָה וְנִתֵּן לוֹ כָבוֹד
Nagila v' nis'mekha V'nitan lo kavod

Rejoicing and giving Yeshua praise, is warfare that glorifies G-d!

[But there are some people ... that always hurt. This is a powerful formula, although you may need help to invoke. "The Blood of Yeshua the Messiah."]

T'hillim/Ps 69.31-32 I will praise God's Name with a song, and magnify Him with praise. It will please Adonai better than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.

[G-d wants your praise even more than he wants your money!!]

T'hillim/Ps 141.2 May my prayer be set before You like incense. May the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

[We don't have such a stellar turn out at our Teerosh prayer. Beautiful anointed music, passionate insightful prayer leaders, easy access from Zoom or this beautiful sanctuary.]



4,100 participating

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Shaunti Feldhan: “Yep, it’s official. I was sick all last week and received my lab results back on Friday night with the news that I have COVID-19. It has been quite a journey, as I have been pretty sick for most of the past week and although slightly better now, it seems to be a lingering type of illness.

“But while this can be troublesome, I am also very aware that there is a command in scripture that says we are supposed to rejoice in our sufferings. We’re supposed to be thankful, even for our trials—and God really means that!

“So, I made a list of reasons why I’m thankful I have COVID-19. And I want to share it with you, to encourage you to also look for things to be thankful for when your Thanksgiving may not look the way you imagined:

- It is forcing me to slow down and have literal quiet time.
- I appreciate family and community so much more now and will do so even more when I am out of quarantine.
- Being sick makes me appreciate how much my body does for me during normal times. I will never take breathing for granted again!

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Luke 17:11-17 **Now one of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back, glorifying God with a loud voice. And he fell at Yeshua’s feet, facedown, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.**