

27 Tishrei, 5776 (10/10/15) **Rejoicing in the Torah For One More Cycle** J. M. Terrett

Bereshit **In The Beginning**

Torah: Gen. 1:1-6:8

Haftarah: Is. 42:5-43:10

Brit Chadashah: Rev. 22:6-21

(Jack pp. 111, 113) **Ps. 139** Jewish Hero: Esau

Simchat Torah Observed: Deut. 33, 34; Gen. 1:1-2:3; Matt. 5:17-20 (Lk. 1:1-4; Jn. 1:1-5; Heb. 1:1-4; Rev. 22:17-21 Hakafot NOSH Oct. 24 Quarterly Meeting after service with NOSH)

Order of Service: Observing Simchat Torah

Welcome/Shofar/Siddur

Worship/Prayer

Jewish Hero

Torah Service:

- (a) Meditation (Bereshit)
- (b) Rolling back the scroll (sevenfold rejoicing)
- (c) Readings
- (d) Hakafot (seven times)
- (e) Returning scroll to the ark
- (f) Kiddish (announcements)/blessing
- (g) Chocolate scramble/ nosh

(a) Meditation: Keeping First and Final Things First and Final for Another Cycle

Genesis 1:1-6:8

- (1) 2:3 He considered (contemplated) the purpose and joy of Shabbat
- (2) 2:24 The two shall be echad – similar, not identical
- (3) 3:15 The serpent crusher – final cosmic victory
- (4) 4:7 Crouching – choice is genetic, not sinfulness

(Ch. 5 the decline of the righteous core. 6:1-3 the clash of two worlds, 120 years of grace [while the ark was being built]. This clash and decline is what our Messiah meant by the return of the days of Noah and we are seeing it build momentum around the world)

Isaiah 42:5-43:10

- (5) 42:9 – First things are fulfilled, He announces (predicts) new things (regathering and redemption – arrival of the final cosmic victory over the evil one and sin)
- (6) 43:10 – Witnesses to both His actions and to His Word so that all mankind would know He alone is G-d – no god was formed before Him, no god will be formed after Him. He is both singular and echad. How good a witness of His love and His Word are you?

Revelation 22:6-21

(7) 22:12 - Behold I come quickly and my retribution is with Me to render to each according to his or her works. Quickly never means that He is in a hurry. It expresses our confidence in the final certainty which of His Word and of His coming Kingdom.

It does not so much matter what is going in the world around or even what leaks or intrudes into our lives, for a little while or for a painfully long time. What should matter is that which has always mattered and which will always matter: first and final things. If in our hearts we should focus both ways – on His wonder and the glory of His creation and on the coming Kingdom where everything shall be dealt with and made right and brand new. Then we can make sure that our hearts are right and that our lives follow the righteous path of His Word!

(b) Rolling back the scroll (sevenfold rejoicing)

As we examine the beginning of the Torah, we need to understand that one of principle purposes of the Torah Cycle is to bring order out of chaos in our lives. As we begin a new Torah cycle, we can rejoice in the Torah for at least seven things!

- (1) it teaches us about the **origin** of the universe and of life
- (2) it teaches us the **meaning and purpose** of life (to discover the Creator and to walk with Him in the light towards our final home in glory)
- (3) it warns us about the **uncertainty** (unreliability) of life
- (4) it teaches us about the **generational** nature of life
- (5) it calls us to seek and receive a **personal calling** for our lives
- (6) it shows us His reliable, **certain mercy** which gives us life and restores our lives
- (7) it teaches us the **lessons of life** (we are born to choose (to digest and integrate)

Friends come and go, troubles and trials and blessings come and go. We have to stay focused (centred and repaired), firm (and flexible) and always upward looking and outward reaching.

(c) Readings (He did a good job at Babel)

(d) Hakafot (Torah parade seven times around the sanctuary)

(e) Returning the scroll to the ark

(f) Kiddish/announcements/blessing

(g) Chocolate Scramble/NOSH