



## Parasha Bereshit

October 17, 2020

Torah: Genesis 1:1 - 6:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5 - 43:10

K'tuvim Notzrim *Meshichim*: Romans 5:12-21

*Shabbat Shalom mishpocha.* Can you believe that another year has passed and we are now in 5781? And, for you baseball fans, we have gone full *Torah* cycle, completed all 54 *parshiyot*, and are once again at the “Big Inning.” You know, “in the big inning, G-d created heaven and earth” *Bereshit bara Elohim et hashamayim ve'et ha'arets.*” But for us, this is much more than just a return to the beginning of the Bible. By being at this place in Scripture at this time of the year, it is evidence that we are Messianic Jews and Gentiles, followers of Yeshua who have been called to return to a more Hebraic way of understanding ADONAI’s truth. We are here today because we realize that through Yeshua, whether we are Jew or Gentile, we have been grafted into *Sha’ul*’s metaphorical Olive Tree, which actually is the Olive Tree of Judaism, a Jewish way of following ADONAI. Our belief system is a Judaism. And, each of us who is a part of Messianic Judaism is here because we have had a calling from the *Ruach HaKodesh* to be a part of this end time movement of ADONAI. But, we must point out that as individual followers of Yeshua and as participants of this movement, we are no more special than every other follower of His. Every follower of Yeshua, Jesus, is special. But, we are here today as members of the Messianic Jewish Movement because we have been called here for ADONAI’s purposes for this time, the last days.

One of those purposes is to be witnesses to Yeshua’s greater body about ADONAI’s special relationship with Israel in the flesh, the Jews of the world and then, to especially pray that their calling would soon be fulfilled. That calling is to be priests to the nations, priests called to reveal the G-d of Israel to the Gentiles of the world. And, they will soon become those priests at the time when they attain the salvation promised in Romans 11. We are also to be supporters of the present physical nation of Israel, the long awaited fulfillment of prophecy, which ADONAI will soon transform into a holy nation ruled by His Son, Messiah Yeshua. And, we are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 6 “*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem— ‘May those who love you be at peace’*” (Psalm 122:6 TLV)! This is David’s prayer for those who love Jerusalem, the one and only place on the earth where ADONAI has placed His name for eternity (Deuteronomy 12:5; 1Kings 9:3). Another very important reason for our being called to Messianic Judaism is to be witnesses to the larger Jewish body about their Kinsman Redeemer, Yeshua. And, not only to be witnesses, but also to be pray-ers for their salvation which ADONAI Himself will soon bring about as we have been told. (Romans 11:25-26).

Even though the Jewish people have been subjected to terrible atrocities throughout the centuries, antisemitism is again reaching a new peak. This is very evident in the politics of our nation and also in many nations around the world. This current release of hatred is because *HaSatan*, the Adversary, has been released from the abyss as we are shown in Revelation 20, verses 7-8. He had been bound there by Yeshua at the time of His death on the stake for a symbolic 1000 years (Revelation 20:2-3). And, he is now free and is actively deceiving the people of the nations.

But, even though we are called to be a part of Messianic Judaism for these very great purposes, we are not here without spiritual truth. And, it is through Messianic Judaism that we have learned the truth of ADONAI's Word, that Genesis through Revelation is still truth for today. We reject the antinomian notion that the "Old Testament" is no longer in effect and we affirm that ADONAI's *Torah*, that part of it which can be followed today, should be followed, at least by us. What others do is between them and ADONAI. We also completely understand that our following *Torah* can in no way save us. It is through Yeshua that our spirits must be joined with ADONAI's Spirit in order to have eternal life. The opposite possibility, being without His Spirit, is a sentence of eternal separation from Him.

ADONAI made this relationship possible for us by sending His Son Yeshua to become a sin sacrifice for us. Through Yeshua's bloody sacrifice on the stake, the authority of the Levitical priesthood was ended. The descendants of Aaron no longer have authority to offer sacrifices for sin, nor do they have a Temple in which to do it. At His death, Yeshua became the Mediator of the New Covenant which was prophesied by Jeremiah in chapter 31. He also became our High Priest after the order of *Malkitzedek* as prophesied by His ancestor David in Psalm 110. (affirmed in Hebrews 7:13-17). It is through Yeshua's priesthood and the sacrifice of His human life and body that we are able to obtain eternal redemption. Leviticus 17:11 tells us that "without the shedding of blood, there can be no remission of sin". If we repent of our sins and trust in Yeshua's death and blood as a sacrificial payment for them, we receive the promise of salvation. We receive the promise now and full payment, eternal life, when we die or when Yeshua returns for us, whichever comes first.

As followers of Messiah Yeshua, we also commit ourselves to be His disciples, disciples who walk in His ways and following His instructions. But, it is not our obedience to *Torah* which saves us. *Torah* is teaching and instruction, His direct guidance showing us the way in which we are to walk humbly before our G-d and our Messiah. After trusting Yeshua, it is our privilege as His *talmidim*, His disciples, to be obedient to His commands, those which can be kept today, and to be His witnesses.

When we re-rolled our *Torah* scroll last *Shabbat*, we began again the holy *Torah* cycle of *parshiyot* which reveal to us, one step at a time, ADONAI's complete plan for the people He created. On the sixth day of His creating, *Elohim*, G-d, created mankind, creating them male and female in His image. We are told that man was created first and then woman was created from a part of man's side. Up until the time that G-d took a part of man's side to create woman, this being was only referred to as *haAdam*, "the human." *Adam* is Hebrew for mankind or human being. At the time of *Adam*'s creation, there were no sexes. The first being created was just referred to as the human. After the female was created from *Adam*, G-d began to call them by a more specific name for their sex. *HaAdam*, the man, was referred to as *ish* and woman was referred to as *isha*, because she was taken out of *ish*, man. These words in Hebrew, *ish* and *isha*, mean man and woman. The word for woman, *isha*, is also the word for wife. And the word for man, *ish*, is also the word for husband.

It is not until Genesis chapter 3 that we find that G-d has specifically named the man Adam: *Ule-Adam amar.*; "To Adam He said." (Genesis 3:17a). In the earlier references, he was first referred to as *haAdam*, the human being, and then after woman was taken from him as *haAdam*, the man; same word. Now he is called Adam as a name, He is A-d-a-m without a "the" before it. Then Adam named his wife: *Vayikra ha'adam shem ishto Chavah ki hi hayetah em kol-chay.* 20 Now Adam named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living (Genesis 3:20 TLV). *Chavah* means living.

We also recognize from reading Genesis that Adam and Eve became a married couple, a couple joined together by none other than their Creator. *23 Then the man said, "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh from my flesh. This one is called woman, for from man was taken this one."* *24 This is why a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife; and they become one flesh* (Genesis 2:23-24 TLV). And, it is through this picture of human marriage that we are able to understand ADONAI's metaphoric picture of Himself as the *ish*, the husband of Israel, and us, His creation, Israel, as the *isha*, the wife.

In Jewish tradition, marriage usually takes place under a *chuppah*, a marriage canopy. This canopy is representative of ADONAI's sheltering love over us and also shows us that our human marriages are being conducted under His authority and by His direction. In Yeshua's day, marriage consisted of two parts. The first part was *kiddushin*, the betrothal, and it was a binding marriage contract. After this and during the period of *kiddushin*, the couple was considered legally married, even though they had not yet lived together or consummated their marriage, had intercourse, and they might not even begin to live together for a year or more. *Nissuin* was the second part of marriage, the ceremonial part which took place under the *chuppah*, after which, the couple began to live together.

In our modern Jewish weddings, we usually combine the two parts into one wedding ceremony. We have a document called the *ketubah*, the groom's written promises to the bride. During the *Nissuin* ceremony after the vows have been made, the groom reads the *ketubah* before the wedding party. This document contains the promises made by the groom to the bride, how he promises to take care of her. As human marriage promises, they are considered to be as binding as the *Torah* given by ADONAI to Israel, His betrothed, at Sinai. This means that marriage is a covenant which is not to be broken. And, we recognize *Torah* as also being a *ketubah*, ADONAI's marriage promises to us.

The marriage covenant between a man and a woman is supposed to be unbreakable. A couple who are being married should have circumcised hearts, hearts which have been committed to Yeshua. If they don't have this relationship, no amount of traditional and Scriptural role-playing will make the marriage last. It will only last when both parties both have and follow a deep and committed relationship with Yeshua and ADONAI.

Those of us who have trusted Yeshua and are following Him as our Messiah, our Bridegroom, are now in the *kiddushin* stage of our marriage to Him. We have been betrothed to Him. In metaphor, the whole body of Israel was betrothed to ADONAI at Mount Sinai and we who are living today, were individually betrothed to Him when we trusted Him and decided to follow Him. In this same way, the whole body of Messiah, Israel, is betrothed to Yeshua. We do understand that the *Torah* given by ADONAI with His covenant with Israel at Sinai was the *ketubah*, the marriage contract given to Israel. In actuality today, all of ADONAI's written *Word*, the entire Bible, is now *His ketubah* for us, the followers of Yeshua.

At this time in our betrothal relationship, we are waiting for our Bridegroom, our *Mashiach*, to come and claim us. His return is near. And, we are required to be faithful to Him as we wait. We are considered married and must remain faithful. We are not to seek or follow after other gods. But, because of the unfaithfulness of some individuals, those who are in spiritual adultery, there may be legal grounds for Yeshua to divorce some of His betrothed. When He returns He may issue a *get*, a bill of divorcement, to those who have grossly violated the terms of their betrothal, an action which will cause them to be eternally separated from G-d. This means that some who began the race as Yeshua's followers may not finish the race with Him. But, ADONAI is the only one who knows who they are, the only

one who knows who is eternally saved. We cannot judge and we do not judge which of our brothers and sisters are saved. But, we can and we should encourage and entreat anyone we know who has fallen away to return and to be faithful to the marriage contract which they originally made.

Yeshua will soon complete the marriage vow which He has made to us by coming for us, His bride, and taking us to His Father's house. When He returns in the clouds to draw us up, the righteous dead and His living followers, to meet Him in the air (1Thessalonians 4; 1Corinthians 15), He will be taking us to the home which He has prepared for us. There, as we are told in Revelation 19, verses 6 through 9, the wedding supper of the Lamb will take place. There is still much mystery here, but it is possible that the actual marriage will symbolically take place when we meet Him in the air. And then, as it says in 1Thessalonians 4:17b regarding our rising to meet Him: *17 ... "and so we shall always be with the Lord"* (TLV).

It is in *Parasha Bereshit* that we first meet *HaSatan*, the Adversary. By studying the Hebrew Bible and the writings of Yeshua's disciples, we are able to learn about him, a being who was created by ADONAI. We learn that at one time he was a high ranking *malach*, a messenger, a servant of ADONAI, but that he rebelled and then influenced about 1/3 of ADONAI's *malachim*, His heavenly messengers, to rebel along with him. Because of his rebellion, he was cast to earth where he now plays a role in fulfilling ADONAI's overall plan for mankind.

ADONAI didn't cause the Adversary to rebel, but once he did, allows him to tempt mankind. This is a situation somewhat similar to what happened with Judas. ADONAI didn't cause Judas to betray Yeshua, but when he did, ADONAI used his sin to bring about His plan, Yeshua's death on the stake through which salvation would come to mankind.

One of *HaSatan's* titles is "accuser of the brethren." He is a tempter who tries to influence men and women to follow him in rebellion against ADONAI and Yeshua. We are told in John 13 that "Satan entered into Judas." It was after that that he went to the High Priest and betrayed Yeshua. *Hasatan* can also try to enter into us, but we don't have to allow him to cause us to sin. Because ADONAI has given us free will, we are able to make a choice about our lives. We can choose to love G-d and follow Him or we are free to reject Him. But, we know that whether we choose Him or reject Him, He still loves us. *Yochanan* said in 1John: 19 "*We love, because He first loved us*" (1John 4:19 TLV). It is only through His love that we can love. The evil impulse from *HaSatan* is always near us tempting us to take the path which Adam and Eve took, rebellion against G-d's will. Just as *A-dam* and *Chava* were tempted and succumbed to the temptation of *HaSatan*, so also did Judas. Each of them accepted his temptation. Afterward, they were sorry, but the damage had been done. Adam and Eve's sin failure set mankind on a long, hard, road of life, a road which would many centuries later lead to redemption through Eve's descendant Yeshua. At the appointed time, Judas's sin of betrayal was the catalyst which took Yeshua to the stake and brought about redemption by the "seed of the woman" who had been cast out of Paradise. And, it will soon be through Yeshua's return to earth as *Melekh Mashaich*, King Messiah, that we will be able to return to *Gan Eden*, Paradise. When He returns, the earth will be renewed as it was in the Garden.

Because Adam and Eve disobeyed ADONAI, they fell from their position of privilege and were cast out of *Gan Eden*. From being in the actual presence of their Creator, they fell to a place of struggling to live on the earth and needing redemption, needing a way to regain right standing with ADONAI. But, redemption would not come quickly for their descendants. The

relationship was somewhat restored to Abraham's descendants through the Covenant at Sinai, but complete restoration of the relationship would not come for Adam and Eve's earthly descendants until their descendant Yeshua overcame *HaSatan*, the Adversary. ADONAI said to *HaSatan*: 15 *"I will put animosity between you and the woman— between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel"* (Genesis 3:15 TLV). Yeshua is the "he" who will crush, has crushed, "*HaSatan's*" head. He crushed his head through His own death as a sacrifice for sin which provided life for those of us who trust Him and call upon His name. And, He will ultimately be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where he will be tortured for eternity. (Revelation 20:19).

All of Adam's and Eve's children can receive eternal life through Yeshua, but *HaSatan* received only defeat and eternal torture, repayment for his rebellion. Before He died on the stake, Yeshua predicted *HaSatan's* defeat and also our salvation. He said: 31 *"Now is the judgment of this world! Now the prince of this world will be driven out! 32 And as I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself"* (John 12:31-32 TLV). *Sha'ul* elaborated on this: 15 *"After disarming the principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross"* (Colossians 2:15 TLV). He was referring to the evil principalities and powers, the totality of the evil forces of the universe, the evil ruling angels under the leadership of *HaSatan*, the ones against which we are currently in battle. *Sha'ul*, speaking to the Congregation at Ephesus about a time before they knew Yeshua said this: 2 *"At that time, you walked in the way of this world, in conformity to the ruler of the domain of the air—the ruler of the spirit who is now operating in the sons of disobedience"* (Ephesians 2:2 TLV). Ruler is *archon* in the Greek, meaning chief or ruler. *HaSatan* is the *archon* of the disobedient spirits, the angels who rebelled with him against G-d. By the same token, there are also good principalities and powers, ADONAI's faithful angelic leaders such as *Mikha'el* and *Gavri'el*, the only two messengers who are actually named in the Bible. There are obviously many others, but they are not named. We can expect and believe that Michael and Gabriel and the others are now actively battling the evil demonic principalities and powers which are working today.

Yeshua, the Son, is also the Bridegroom of the New Covenant. The New Covenant also has a *ketubah*. It is the original *Torah*, the parts of which are possible to follow today. These verses have been written on the hearts of each of us who has trusted Yeshua. Jeremiah 31 says: 32 *"But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days" —it is a declaration of Adonai— "I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart. I will be their God and they will be My people"* (Jeremiah 31:32 TLV). Today, as Yeshua's followers living outside the Land of Israel, we obey the *Torah* commands which are possible without a Temple and a priesthood. It is our great joy to do this because they have been written on our hearts. Yeshua's *ketubah*, His marriage contract with us His followers, also includes the *Ketuvim Sh'lichim*, the writings of His followers. The whole of the Holy Scriptures is our *ketubah*, our guidebook for life. But, obedience to it does not provide our salvation. Our salvation is by faith alone, faith, trust, and nothing else.

We, the Jews and Gentiles who have trusted and now follow Yeshua are the firstfruits. The next verse in Jeremiah says: 33 *"No longer will each teach his neighbor or each his brother, saying: 'Know Adonai,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest." it is a declaration of Adonai. "For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more"* (Jeremiah 31:33 TLV). This is ADONAI's promise to save all Israel, the rest of the *challah* loaf described by *Sha'ul*: 16 *"If the firstfruit (a small lump of dough) is holy, so is the whole batch of dough (whole challah loaf); and if the root (of the olive tree; the fathers) is holy, so are the*

*branches* (the sons, the Jews)” (Romans 11:16 TLV). The Hebrew word *challah* means “cake of bread,” and was that which was offered as firstfruits in the Tabernacle. A portion of this bread was given to the priests as is described in Numbers 15:18-21. If the firstfruit offering is holy, then so is the whole offering; all of Israel.

Then in Romans 11:26 *Sha’ul* begins: 26 ... “*and in this way all Israel will be saved,...*” (Romans 11:26a TLV) and then in verses 26b and 27 he quotes Isaiah: 20 “*But a Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those in Jacob who turn from transgression.*” It is a declaration of Adonai. 21 “*As for Me, this is My covenant with them,*” says Adonai: “*My Ruach who is on you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, or from the mouth of your offspring, or from the mouth of your children’s offspring,*” says Adonai, “*from now on and forever*” (Isaiah 59:20-21 TLV). 9 “*So by this will Jacob’s sin be atoned and this the full price to remove his sin:*” (Isaiah 27:9 TLV). All Israel will be saved and have *Torah* written on their hearts just as we, the firstfruits, have had it written.

*Parasha Bereshit* teaches us many things. Among them, today we have seen that ADONAI is the originator of human marriage and that it is between a man and a woman. We also saw pictured in it, Eve’s special descendant, Yeshua, who is the final victor over all of the evil brought into the world by *HaSatan*, the Adversary. *HaSatan* is already defeated. The victorious ending of the battle by Yeshua was shown at the time of the beginning, an end which we are rapidly approaching. The victory, the end result, was revealed *bereshit*, in the beginning, where we are shown that Yeshua will bruise *HaSatan*’s head. We have also seen the metaphor of marriage used to describe our relationship with ADONAI and Yeshua, the Son. Yeshua is the Bridegroom who has given us a *ketubah*, a marriage contract for us to follow. And, He has promised to return for us to finalize His marriage relationship with us, His betrothed.

One of the last three parables taught by Yeshua before His death on the stake was the parable of The Ten Virgins in Matthew 25. Each of these three parables had to do with His coming again, a final warning for us to be faithful in parable form. In this particular parable, Yeshua compared The Kingdom of Heaven, the Body of Messiah, all of His followers, with ten virgins invited to a wedding. The virgins in this parable representing Yeshua’s body are bridesmaids and are not the *kallah*, the bride. But, Yeshua uses their preparation or lack of preparation to emphasize the need for His body, in actuality, His bride, to be ready for His return.

Yeshua is the *chatan*, the bridegroom. He will come for His bride when we least expect it, so we must be ready. As His followers, we are to be like the five virgins who had enough oil to last the required time. Our oil is the oil of the Holy Spirit which enables us to have circumcised hearts and lives which are faithfully following His commandments. A question regarding this parable is “who are the five unfaithful bridesmaids?” Just by looking around us, we know that there are those who call them Yeshua’s followers, who are not. And, in this parable, Yeshua reminds us that we are not to be like them. But, we also need to pray for them, that they will repent and return to Him. Up until the bridegroom comes for His bride, there is still time. But, the day will come when we hear the last *shofar* sound. It will happen like “a thief breaking into your house in the middle of the night.” Just as there would be shock and surprise if you awoke to a robber standing in your bedroom, some will have that same surprise when Yeshua returns and they are not ready. We must be prepared because the hour in which we live is already far into the spiritual night. Regarding this parable, Yeshua said: 13 *Therefore stay alert, for you know neither the day nor the hour*” (Matthew

25:13 TLV). For us, if we are faithfully following Yeshua, the battle has already been won. The end was revealed in the beginning when ADONAI revealed that Yeshua, the seed of the woman, would defeat *HaSatan*. 5 Then one of the elders tells me, “*Stop weeping! Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed—*” (Revelation 5:5a TLV). Yeshua has already defeated the ancient serpent of *Bereshit*, *HaSatan*. Rejoice in it and be glad! *Shabbat shalom!*