



Parasha Bechukotai

May 28, 2022

Torah: Leviticus 26:3-27:34

Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

Ketuvim Shlichim: Romans 14:1-6

Shabbat Shalom Mishpocha! Our *parasha*, this week is *Bechukotai*, meaning “in or by my statutes.” ADONAI said: 3 “*If you walk in My statutes, keep My mitzvot and carry them out, 4 then I will..-* (Leviticus 26:3-4a TLV) and He goes on to make more than twenty statements concerning what He will do for Israel if, if, they keep His statutes and *mitzvot*. You heard these good things read during the *Torah* service this morning. Then ADONAI makes more than thirty statements of what He will do against Israel if they do not keep His *mitzvot*. It is very obvious that these particular blessings have not happened for Israel yet. ADONAI did not break His promise. No, it’s because Israel has never lived by His regulations and observed and obeyed His *mitzvot*. In fact, through the centuries, Israel has done the opposite. They have disobeyed ADONAI’s commands and are guilty of worshipping other “gods.” And, the many things of ADONAI’s chastisement has come upon Israel, more than once- because Israel has rejected ADONAI’s righteous obedience.

As Jonathan Cahn recently said in his movie, *The Harbingers Of Things To Come*, Jews today can worship many gods and still be considered Jews. They can be Buddhists or whatever they wish and remain respected in the Jewish community. But, those that do that are not respected by ADONAI. According to a large percentage of Jews today, the one G-d that they cannot worship is Yeshua, the Son of G-d, ADONAI in the flesh. If Jews worship Yeshua, they come under condemnation, derision and scorn by a large segment of the Jewish population and many times by their own families. Do ADONAI’s statements in Leviticus 26 also apply to nations claiming to be Christian? And, will those nations which do follow His commands be blessed?

A major point which Rabbi Cahn has made in his books and movie is that this country, the United States, was founded to serve G-d, ADONAI. You can read his books to verify this. That those who first came here were devout Christians seeking the liberty to practice their faith without government interference such as was going on in England at the time when the Pilgrims departed from there is very true. Many, but not all, coming to these shores came seeking religious freedom. I don’t disagree with Jonathan regarding the United States being founded on Christian principles, but to me, the larger point is, that whether or not the United States was founded to serve G-d, by and large, they did. A large majority of its early citizens did worship G-d and proved it by their worship practices with meeting houses filled each Sunday. This faithful worship continued for more than three-hundred fifty years, but now, in recent years, this nation has departed from it. The Pilgrims landed November 11, 1620, four hundred one years and six months ago. In approximately the last fifty years, church membership has declined markedly, divorce among Christians has exceeded non-Christian divorce, living together without marriage and giving birth out of wedlock has become mainstream and accepted, a large percentage of the 63 million babies aborted were by supposed Christians, four major Christian denominations have accepted homosexuality as

normative of Christian behavior and even seemingly dedicated Christians have forsaken assembling themselves together and gone into their hermit abodes. What can we expect of ADONAI?

Here is what we can expect: *18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. In unrighteousness they suppress the truth, 19 because what can be known about God is plain to them—for God has shown it to them. 20 His invisible attributes—His eternal power and His divine nature—have been clearly seen ever since the creation of the world, being understood through the things that have been made. So people are without excuse— 21 for even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. Instead, their thinking became futile, and their senseless hearts were made dark. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools. 23 They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for an image in the form of mortal man and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the evil desires of their hearts to impurity, to dishonor their bodies with one another. 25 They traded the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to shameful passions. Even their women exchanged natural relations for what is against nature. 27 Likewise the men abandoned natural relations with women and were burning with passion toward one another—men committing shameful acts with other men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to recognize God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what is not fitting. 29 They became filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents. 31 They are foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree—that those who practice such things deserve death—they not only do them but also approve of others who practice the same. (Romans 1:18-32 TLV). This is where our nation is today.*

The time period since the Pilgrims landing, 400 years in 2020, has been suggested as being a significant number. Israel was in slavery for 400 years and then received their liberty. It has been four hundred years since the Pilgrim's landing occurred in November of 2020. We are now into the four hundred second year. Have we exceeded our grace period? Did something change in November of 2020, 400 years after the Pilgrims landed? There may not have been an event which we can identify that happened then, but it seems that something happened. At that time, we were already well into Covid 19. Possibly something happened at that time in ADONAI's grace toward this nation, *28 And just as they did not see fit to recognize God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what is not fitting. (Romans 1:28 TLV).* Did our nation cross one of ADONAI's boundaries at 400 years? We don't know, but we do know that ungodly sexual practices, hatred, violence and murder have been unleashed upon this land, the result of our faithlessness nourished by *HaSatan*. Unless we repent as a people, I believe that we are under ADONAI's righteous judgment and things can and most certainly will, get worse. *7 Do not be deceived—God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he also shall reap. (Galatians 6:7 TLV).* That is where I believe we are today.

We are called to be faithful followers of ADONAI and His Son Yeshua. But, to be a faithful follower of Yeshua today, one of the most difficult challenges is understanding *Sha'ul* and then obeying once you really understand. Some may just throw their hands in the air and say forget it, I'll just do what everybody else is doing. But, we can't do that because we understand that we have been called to "rightfully divide the Scriptures" (2Timothy 2:15). We also understand that we are to be like the congregation of Jews at Berea who "searched

the Scriptures daily to see if these things were true” (Acts 17:11). We must be the faithful followers of Yeshua that we have been called to be. And, that is again our situation today as we begin to study Romans 14. There are some potentially confusing statements made by *Sha’ul*. Many attempt to understand the English translation using an antinomian mindset, the belief that Law has been done away with and interpret this chapter in that way. But, we know that’s not true. *Sha’ul* has made it very clear through his personal statements and through his teachings that he follows and is obedient to *Torah* and also teaches us to be. He is not schizophrenic and doesn’t have a split personality.

In this chapter, *Sha’ul* is not speaking about the *Shabbat* or kosher foods. We know from our past studies that he always upheld *Torah*. He made this very clear in his defense to the Roman Governor Festus: “8, *“I have committed no offense against the Torah of the Jewish people, or against the Temple, or against Caesar.”* (Acts 25:8b). No offense is no offense. *Sha’ul*’s explanations in Romans 14 do not have to do with following or not following *Torah* as you will see in a moment. This chapter in particular, epitomizes *Shimon Kefa*’s statement about *Sha’ul*: *16 He speaks about these matters in all of his letters. Some things in them are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist (as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures)—to their own destruction.* (2Peter 3:16 TLV). The last phrase, *to their own destruction*, may very well apply to many followers of Yeshua today as they twist what *Torah* really says.

1 *“Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of disputes about opinions.”* (Romans 14:1 TLV). Who is the one weak in faith? *Sha’ul* never visited the Roman congregation before writing this letter, but seems to know something about them. Most likely, he got his information about them from his co-laborers in Messiah, Priscilla and Aquilla, who once were a part of the Roman congregation. Priscilla and Aquilla were Jews who were expelled from Rome in the year 49 by the Emperor Claudius (reported by the Roman historian Suetonius). To understand whom *Sha’ul* refers to as the weak, we have to know the make-up of the congregation. We think of a congregation as being one group gathered together such as we are here, but the congregation at Rome is thought to be a number of different groups in the Rome area, groups made up of both Jews and Gentiles. *Sha’ul*’s letter would have been passed around and read in each of their groups. They most likely met in homes and in synagogues with many Gentiles in the groups. Romans chapter 2 shows us that there also were Jews in the congregation: 17 *“But if you call yourself Jewish and rely upon the Torah and boast in God.”*(Romans 2:17). The verses following, 18-25, lead us to believe that some of these Jewish persons might not have known Yeshua and we will proceed with the assumption that there were Jews in the congregation who did not know Yeshua.

It seems that there were four categories of people in the Roman congregation, Gentiles who trusted in Yeshua, Gentiles who attended, but had not yet trusted in Yeshua, Jews who trusted in Yeshua and Jews who attended, but had not yet trusted in Yeshua. Regarding Romans 14:1 and *the one who is weak in faith*, Mark Nanos suggests in his book, *The Mystery of Romans*, that they are Jewish attenders of the synagogue who had demonstrated a genuine faith in the God of Israel, but who were still in the process of being convinced that Yeshua was the promised Messiah. It is also likely that there were Gentiles in a similar situation. They were G-d Fearers who worshipped the G-d of Israel, but had not yet trusted in Yeshua. And, there were also Gentiles who had just come from paganism to trust Yeshua. And, there would have also been mature Jewish followers of Yeshua as well. 1 *“Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of disputes about opinions.”* (Romans 14:1 TLV). *Sha’ul* said to accept this person, which could have been either Jew or Gentile, but not for the

purpose of disputes about opinions. Another way to say this is accept them where they are and give them time to seek G-d without passing judgment on their position. In other words, accept this person into the congregation while they are seeking. While this person's faith with regard to Yeshua is weak, he or she may or may not have a genuine faith in ADONAI.

2 *"One person has faith to eat anything, but the weak eats only vegetables."* 3 *Don't let the one who eats disparage the one who does not eat, and don't let the one who does not eat judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.*" (Romans 14:2-3 TLV). Tim Hegg in his book, *Paul's Epistle to the Romans, Volume 2*, gives insight regarding these verses. Rather than a kosher versus non-kosher argument, this seems to be between vegetarianism and those who also eat meat. The problem with meat for some was whether or not it had been offered to idols and also possibly whether or not the animal had been slaughtered in the prescribed Jewish way and having its blood drained. In the Roman common meat market, meat was not slaughtered according to the Jewish kosher way. There was also meat slaughtered in the Jewish manner locally available if a person preferred. Regarding meat offered to idols, *Sha'ul* said: 13 *"For this reason, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I do not cause my brother to stumble."* (1Corinthians 8:13). His message in 1Corinthians 8, verses 1-13, was that it is all right to eat meat offered to idols, idols are nothing. But, don't eat it if it would cause your brother to stumble, if it would cause his faith to be affected. This "weak" one may have rejected meat in the Roman meat market because of the possibility that it may have been offered to idols or because it had not been slaughtered in the Jewish way. Because his faith was "weak" in this regard, this person ate only vegetables. The others, those who ate these meats, were not to judge whether a person was correct in his decision to not eat meat and to eat only vegetables. The point *Sha'ul* was making was for one group not to judge the other, not whether eating or not eating was correct.

5 *"One person esteems one day over another while another judges every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes that day does so to the Lord. The one who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and the one who abstains, abstains to the Lord, and he gives thanks to God."* (Romans 14:5-6 TLV). At first glance, this may appear to be a discussion about whether or not to observe the seventh day as the Sabbath. But, as we know, *Sha'ul* has made it clear that he follows *Torah* which includes the keeping of *Shabbat*. It has to be something else. The second verse gives the clue. The most likely possibility is that this discussion is related to fast days, something which was very much a part of Jewish faith in the 1st century. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* explains that "the close contextual association with eating suggests that Paul has in mind a special day set apart for observance as a time for feasting or as a time for fasting" (Everett Harrison, 1976, Vol. 10, p. 146). It is apparent that Paul wasn't discussing the Sabbath, but rather other days during which fasting or abstaining from certain foods was practiced. Here is Hegg's interpretation of these verses: 5 *"One person esteems one **(fast)** day over another **(fast)** day while another judges every **(fast)** day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes that **(fast)** day does so to the Lord. The one who eats **(does not fast)**, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and the one who abstains **(fasts)**, abstains **(fasts)** to the Lord, and he gives thanks to God."* (Romans 14:5-6). I believe that this is correct. The point in these verses is, don't judge each other regarding when or if you fast. It's a personal decision not based upon Scripture.

14 *"I know, and am persuaded in the Lord Yeshua, that nothing is unholy in itself; but it is unholy for the one who considers it unholy. 15 For if your brother is grieved on account of food, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy by your food the one for whom*

Messiah died.” (Romans 14:14-15 TLV). *Koinos*, the Greek word used here can mean unholy, common or unclean. The context in verse 15 shows that this is referring to food. This continues to be about “not causing your brother to stumble” with regard to what you eat or how you speak to another about what he eats. *Sha’ul* is saying here, “meat or other food which is clean according to *Torah* requirements is not unclean in itself, but if one considers it unclean, then to him it is. Don’t grieve your brother because of your liberty to eat food approved by *Torah* as you please. This would include meat offered to idols and other meat not slaughtered in the prescribed Jewish way. But, the food was not itself Scripturally unclean.

16 *“Therefore do not let what is good for you be spoken of as evil— 17 for the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking, but righteousness and shalom and joy in the Ruach ha-Kodesh.”* (Romans 14:16-17 TLV). According to *Sha’ul*, what a person eats or drinks is not the kingdom’s goal. The goal of being a part of the kingdom is be righteous and as a result have *shalom* and joy through the Holy Spirit. Writing to the Corinthians, he emphasized this point stating that eating or drinking should not cause offense to ADONAI’s community. *31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense either to Jewish or Greek people or to God’s community— 33 just as I also try to please everyone in everything, not seeking my own benefit but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.* (1Corinthians 10:31-33 TLV). *Sha’ul* is very strong on what the *Torah* teaches, but gives leeway in the sometimes petty, arguments. His overall goal is for as many salvations as possible.

20 *“Stop tearing down the work of God for the sake of food. Indeed all things are clean, but wrong for the man who by eating causes stumbling. 21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything by which your brother stumbles.”* (Romans 14:20-21 TLV). First, understand the definition of food. Food is what ADONAI says food is. Read Leviticus 11. Those 47 verses explain exactly what is food and what is not food. *Sha’ul* does not go against *Torah*. He is essentially saying here: “Don’t major in minor things! Don’t jeopardize ADONAI’s work by arguing about what is clean or unclean or whether one should only eat vegetables if surrounded by meat slaughtered by Gentiles. If eating this kind of meat causes a brother to stumble, then, it is wrong to eat it.” Today, we don’t have meat offered to idols, but we do have some of our Messianic brothers and sisters who only eat meat obtained from kosher Jewish sources. No one should try to convince them that it is ok to eat meat bought in a grocery store. Some don’t drink wine. No one should try and convince them that drinking wine is ok. This is one aspect of loving your neighbor as yourself by not making him stumble by nitpicking about food or drink.

22 *“The faith you have, keep it to yourself before God. How fortunate is the one who does not condemn himself for what he approves.”* (Romans 14:22 TLV). This is not about faith in Yeshua. One certainly should not keep that to himself. Faith here refers to our individual interpretations which go beyond the written Word. If in your personal faith you feel that it is necessary to order kosher meat through Jewish sources, do it, but keep it to yourself and don’t encourage others to do it. These sorts of thing are personal choices through which we can enjoy our personal freedom without having to express it to others.

23 *But the one who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because it is not of faith. And whatever is not of faith is sin.*” (Romans 14:23 TLV). An example would be a follower of Yeshua in today’s Messianic world who has reservations about eating grocery store meat, meat not purchased from a kosher Jewish source, but eats it because you have convinced

him to do so. He is only condemned in his mind, his own conscience. It is not of faith for him regarding his own personal choices which are within the bounds of *Torah* and his salvation is not affected. Regarding “*And whatever is not of faith is sin,*” could be understood to mean that in matters of personal *halachah*, that is, determining how to interpret the things which go beyond *Torah*, one must be convinced on the basis of his own conscience and if he acts contrary to this such as being convinced by you to do otherwise, he is sinning. He is sinning because he is acting not in his faith, but acting according to your faith regarding the eating of meat or drinking wine or dancing or playing cards or whatever it may be.

We close our study of Romans with these final verses from *Sha’ul*. *25 Now to the One who is able to strengthen you according to my Good News and the proclamation of Yeshua the Messiah, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages 26 but now is revealed and through the Writings of the Prophets has been made known to all the nations, according to the commandment of the eternal God to bring about obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God, through Yeshua the Messiah, to Him be the glory forever. Amen.* (Romans 16:25-27 TLV). First, the mystery.

What is the mystery? After teaching the parable of the sower, a parable which He did not explain to the crowds gathered around Him, Yeshua said to His disciples: *11 ... , “To you has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”* (Matthew 13:11b TLV). *Sha’ul* confirmed Yeshua’s words: *2 Surely you have heard about the plan of God’s grace given to me for you— 3 that the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote before briefly. 4 When you read this, you can understand my insight into the mystery of Messiah— 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations, as it has now been revealed by the Ruach to His holy emissaries and prophets.* (Ephesians 3:2-5 TLV). Ephesians is thought to have been written some five or more years after Romans and it is in Ephesians that *Sha’ul* develops and explains this mystery. But, he spoke of it in Romans some years before: *25... according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages 26 but now is revealed...* (Romans 16:25b-26a TLV). We don’t know when this mystery was revealed to *Sha’ul*, but possibly during his encounter with Yeshua on the Damascus Road.

Here is the “mystery.” *6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are joint heirs and fellow members of the same body and co-sharers of the promise in Messiah Yeshua through the Good News.* (Ephesians 3:6 TLV). This mystery was referred to by ADONAI when He said to Abraham: *18 “In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed—because you obeyed My voice.”* (Genesis 22:18 TLV). For about two thousand years, The Jews believed that seed was plural, that it was Israel, the Jewish people, who would bless the Gentiles. And, that is also true in the larger sense. But this mystery actually refers to seed, singular, Abraham’s descendant Yeshua. *Sha’ul* explains it in Galatians: *16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. It doesn’t say, “and to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “and to your seed,” who is the Messiah.* (Galatians 3:16 TLV).

6 Gentiles are joint heirs and fellow members of the same body... (Ephesians 3:6b TLV). What is this body to which *Sha’ul* referred? It is “the commonwealth of Israel” which he referred to in Ephesians 2:12. But, it is also the body depicted by the branches of the olive tree that we discussed in Romans 11. It is Yeshua’s body, the corporate body of Jews and Gentiles who have trusted in Yeshua, the Gentiles, the wild olive branches grafted in, and the Jews, the natural branches broken off for unbelief, but now grafted back in for faith in Yeshua. This specific body within the Commonwealth of Israel does not include non-believing

Jews. While they are in covenant with ADONAI through the Abrahamic Covenant, the covenant which promises them the Land of Israel, and are a part of the Commonwealth of Israel, they are not a part of the New Covenant, ADONAI's active covenant with Israel, the covenant cut through the bloody sacrificial death of Abraham's seed, Yeshua. This means that the Covenant given at Sinai is inactive. There is no covering of sin available through it. Non-believing Jews can become a part of the New Covenant by trusting in Yeshua. That will cause them to be grafted back into "the body," the body of Messiah, Yeshua's worldwide congregation of followers.

Sha'ul also said that Gentiles are: 6 ... *co-sharers of the promise in Messiah Yeshua through the Good News.* (Ephesians 3:6c TLV). What is "the promise?" *Sha'ul* referred to it the chapter before: 12 *At that time you were separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.* (Ephesians 2:12 TIV). Yeshua's death on the cross made the Gentiles who trusted in HIM co-heirs with Israel, the Jews, and it also gave them "the promise" of ADONAI's covenants.

There are five main covenants. The *Noachic* Covenant is a covenant of promise in which ADONAI promised never again to destroy the earth by flood. The *Avrahamic* Covenant is a covenant of promise in which ADONAI promised the Land of Israel to Abraham's descendants. The Mosaic Covenant, the covenant made at Sinai, is not considered a covenant of promise because it was based on obedience. ADONAI said "If you will obey me, I will be your G-d and you will be My people." The Davidic Covenant is a covenant of promise made to David that he would never lack a descendant on the throne of Israel. Finally, the *B'rit Chadasha*, the New Covenant, is a covenant of promise which ADONAI made with Israel, the Jews. ADONAI said: 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). In making the New Covenant with Israel, ADONAI took a part of the Mosaic Covenant, the *Torah*, and brought it into the New Covenant. He also changed the priesthood from the Levitical priesthood, the sons of Aaron, to the Priesthood of Yeshua, an everlasting priesthood (Hebrews 7:17). We Gentiles who have trusted Yeshua, are now covenant members of the New Covenant, co-heirs with Israel, the Jews who have trusted, as revealed through the "Mystery of the Gospel," the "Mystery of Messiah."

This has been a long, roundabout way to get back to Romans 16 and *Sha'ul's* closing words. But, it was for an important reason: 25 *Now to the One who is able to strengthen you according to my Good News and the proclamation of Yeshua the Messiah, (1) according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages 26 (2) but now is revealed and through the Writings of the Prophets has been made known to all the nations, according to the commandment of the eternal God to bring about obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God, through Yeshua the Messiah, to Him be the glory forever. Amen.* (Romans 16:25-27 TLV). There are two major points in *Sha'ul's* closing blessing. We have examined the "The mystery of the Gospel," ADONAI's blessing of Abraham, His plan to make Gentiles a part of Israel. *Sha'ul's* second point - *but now is revealed and through the writings of the Prophets has been made known to all the nations according to the commandment of the eternal God to bring about obedience of faith*, is related to the Mystery of the Gospel which has been revealed. The obedience spoken of here is not the obedience of saying "Yeshua, I trust in you, I believe for salvation." It is the obedience of faith to ADONAI's writing of His *Torah* on our hearts. In Jeremiah 31:32 He said: "I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart."

It is my firm belief that if a person has trusted Yeshua, His *Torah* has been written on their heart. Why do some people who follow Yeshua not recognize this and obey His commandments? It is for the same reason that while the Holy Spirit is drawing people to trust in Yeshua, yet they do not. It's because many are not listening to the *Ruach*, ADONAI's Spirit, speaking to their spirit. The obedience of faith which *Sha'ul* wrote about in his closing blessing is not trusting faith in Yeshua for salvation, but is the obedience to ADONAI which takes place after faith, after faith in Yeshua. The Complete Jewish Bible makes it even easier to understand: ²⁶ *but manifested now through prophetic writings, in keeping with the command of God the Eternal, and communicated to all the Gentiles to promote in them trust-grounded obedience* — (Romans 16:26 CJB). This essentially says that “the mystery of the Gospel has been communicated to all, to all the Gentiles.” For what reason? It is to promote in them “trust grounded obedience.” Trust grounded obedience is obedience to ADONAI's *Torah* through your faith, your belief, that that is what He requires of you. That is the bottom line of *Sha'ul's* Gospel of Romans. Not only is obedience of *Torah* for the Jews, the natural branches of the olive tree, but also for the Gentiles, the grafted in branches. The mystery of Messiah has been revealed to all the Gentiles to promote their obedience to *Torah*. That's what it really means.

Our study in Romans and Ephesians today fits perfectly with today's *parasha*, *parasha*, as Rabbi Jonathan says. ADONAI said: 3 “*If you walk in My statutes, keep My mitzvot and carry them out, 4 then I will....-* (Leviticus 26:3-4a TLV).). And, ADONAI goes on to tell His blessings for being obedient but also His curses for being disobedient. Are we in this nation in danger of ADONAI's judgment? Does the body of Messiah of the United States fit into this category of Yeshua: 16 “*So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.*” (Revelation 3:16 TLV). We can't call anyone else to righteousness unless we, ourselves, are walking in righteousness. Revival begins with you! *Shabbat shalom!*