



Parasha Balak

July 16, 2021

Torah: Numbers 22:2-25:9

Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8

Ketuvim Shlichim: 1Corinthians 1:20-31

Shabbat shalom! Our Torah portion today is *Balak*, the name of the king of Moab. It begins: *2 When Balak son of Zippor, realized all that Bnei-Yisrael had done to the Amorites, 3 Moab became terrified because there were so many people.* (Numbers 22:2-3 TLV). To lead up to where we are today, in last week's *parasha*, Israel arrived at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin where Miriam died and was buried. Frustrated with the unfaithfulness of the people, Moses brought forth water from the rock by striking it rather than speaking to it as ADONAI had commanded. The King of Edom denied Israel passage through their land and Israel had to take a long way around it to the east. When they arrived at Mount Hor, ADONAI directed that Aaron be gathered to his people and he died and was buried on the mountain. His garments were placed on his son Eleazar and he became High Priest. Israel was then attacked by the Canaanite king of Arad and ADONAI delivered him into Israel's hands. Next, Israel defeated and occupied the territories of Sihon, King of the Amorites and Og, the Amorite King of Bashan. This has always been a little confusing to me because both of those places are north of Moab where our *parasha* takes place today. But, this can be explained by understanding that in going around Edom, Israel also passed Moab to the east, and eventually arrived at the territories of the Amorites who immediately attacked them. Israel defended themselves and ADONAI gave them the victory. They were then north of their eventual entry point into Canaan near Jericho and to get back to it, they had to travel south. The last verse of last week's *parasha*, *Chukkat*, reads: *1 Then Bnei-Yisrael set out and camped in the plains of Moab alongside the Jordan across from Jericho.* (Numbers 22:1 TLV). They travelled south to get there.

That's where Israel was at the beginning of *Parasha Balak*, just west of Moab opposite Jericho. The main story of our *parasha*, the story of King Balak hiring Balaam to curse Israel contains significant prophecies of both the future of Israel and of Israel's Messiah, Yeshua. It also contains an ancient evil which has re-emerged numerous times through the ages and is present in our world today.

King Balak had heard how Israel defeated the Amorites and was terrified. What was he to do? He very quickly allied himself with the Midianites who lived in the territory to the south and east of Moab. Then he sent messengers, elders of Moab and Midian, with funds to summon Balaam, son of Beor, to come and curse Israel. Balaam, a prophet and soothsayer, one who could supposedly tell the future, lived at Pethor near the Euphrates River, a very long distance from Moab in the east. When the messengers arrived, it probably would have taken weeks, they asked Balaam to come and curse Israel, but he responded that he must ask G-d. While we wonder about his relationship with ADONAI, we do understand that ADONAI uses whomever He chooses in His dealings with men. G-d told him no, that Israel was a blessed people. The messengers returned to Balak and told him Balaam refused to come.

Balak sent other dignitaries with promises of rich rewards if Balaam would come and curse Israel. *18 But Balaam answered Balak's servants, "Even if Balak gave me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot cross beyond the mouth of Adonai my God, to do anything small or great!* (Numbers 22:18 TLV). He told the messengers that he would again consult ADONAI, who then told him that he could go with them, but only to do as he was directed. Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the messengers.

At a point in the journey, ADONAI became angry with Balaam because he was going. My interpretation of ADONAI's anger is that He knew that in Balaam's heart he wanted to go and the angel of ADONAI stood in the road opposing him. The donkey saw the angel and turned off the road into the field which caused Balaam to beat the donkey. Back on the road, the angel stood in a narrow path between two walls. Seeing the angel and not able to go around, the donkey pressed against the wall crushing Balaam's foot which caused him to again beat her. Again in a narrow place, the angel blocked their way which caused the donkey to lie down and Balaam again beat her. At that point, ADONAI opened the donkey's mouth and she asked Balaam why he had beaten her three times. Finally, ADONAI opened Balaam's eyes and he saw the angel with his drawn sword. He told Balaam to go with the men, but only to speak the word that he was told.

Arriving in Moab, Balaam was greeted by Balak and he immediately told him that he could only speak what G-d put in his mouth. Balak took him to a peak called Bamoth-baal where he saw some of the people of Israel and he offered sacrifices. Going to a separate peak, ADONAI gave him the words to speak. Balaam said: *7 ... "From Aram, Balak brought me, Moab's king from the mountains of the east: 'Come! Curse Jacob for me! 'Come! Denounce Israel!' 8 How can I curse one whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce one whom Adonai has not denounced? 9 From the rocky peaks I see him. From the heights I behold him. Look, he lives as a nation apart, and does not consider himself as being like the other nations. 10 Who can count Jacob's dust? Who can number a fourth of Israel? Let my soul die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!"* (Numbers 23:7b-10 TLV). Balak replied that rather than cursing Israel, Balaam has actually blessed them.

Balak then took him to Lookout Field on top of Mount Pisgah where he again made sacrifices. ADONAI met Balaam and put His message into his mouth. Balaam said to Balak: *18 ... "Rise, Balak! Hear me, son of Zippor! 19 God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes his mind! Does He speak and then not do it, or promise and not fulfill it? 20 Look, I received a command to bless. He has blessed—I cannot change it! 21 No misfortune is to be seen in Jacob, and no misery in Israel! Adonai their God is with them—the King's shout is among them! 22 God is bringing them from Egypt with the strong horns of the wild ox! 23 There is no sorcery effective against Jacob, nor any divination against Israel! Now it will be said of Jacob and Israel, 'See what God has done!' 24 The people rise like a lioness, like a lion who does not rest until he eats his prey and drinks his victim's blood!"* (Numbers 23:18a-24 TLV). Again Balak protested and Balaam again said that he could only say what ADONAI told him.

Balak took him to another place, the top of Peor, where he again offered sacrifices. When Balaam looked out and saw Israel, the *Ruach Elohim* came over him and he said: *3 ... "This is the oracle of Balaam son of Beor, and the oracle of a strong man whose eye has been opened, 4 the oracle of one hearing God's speech, one seeing Shaddai's vision, one fallen down, yet with open eyes: 5 How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, and your dwellings, O Israel!* You will recognize this verse as the opening of *Mah Tovv*, our *Shabbat* morning opening prayer. *Mah Tovv*, meaning "how lovely" is the only part of Israel's liturgy written by a non-Jew. *6*

Like valleys they are spread out, like gardens beside a river, like aloes planted by Adonai, like cedars beside the waters. 7 Water will flow from his buckets, his seed by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, his kingdom will be exalted. 8 God is bringing him out of Egypt. like the strong horns of a wild ox. He devours nations hostile to him. He will crush their bones. His arrows will pierce them. 9 He crouches like a lion or a lioness— who would rouse him? He who blesses you will be blessed, and he who curses you will be cursed.” Here, Balaam was inspired to quote ADONAI’s words to Abraham in Genesis 12:3. (Numbers 24:3b-9 TLV). When he said this, Balak became furious with him saying that rather than cursing them, he has blessed them three times and he sent him away.

Before leaving, Balaam uttered a final oracle, his oracle, not ADONAI’s: 15 ... *The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the strong man whose eye is opened, 16 the oracle of one hearing God’s speech, one experiencing Elyon’s knowledge, one seeing Shaddai’s vision, one fallen down, yet with open eyes: 17 ‘I see him, yet not at this moment. I behold him, yet not in this location. For a star will come from Jacob, a scepter will arise from Israel. This is a prophecy of King David, but also of Yeshua. *He will crush the foreheads of Moab and the skulls of all the sons of Seth. 18 Edom will be conquered— his enemies will conquer Seir, but Israel will triumph. 19 One from Jacob will rule and destroy the city’s survivors.” 20 Then he saw Amalek, so he uttered his oracle and said: “Amalek was the first of nations, but will come to ruin at last.” 21 Then he saw the Kenite, so he uttered his oracle and said, “Your dwelling is secure. Your nest is set in the rock. 22 Yet Kain will be destroyed, when Asshur captures you.” 23 Again he uttered his oracle and said, “O, who can live when God does this? 24 Ships will come from Kittim’s shore. They will afflict Asshur and Eber, but they too will come to destruction.”* (Numbers 24:15b-24 TLV). And, Balaam left.*

Balaam was a wicked and greedy man. Here is a question: “What was Balaam’s occupation?” He was a prophet for profit. ☺ As he was condemning other false teachers, Shimon Kefa also spoke about him: 15 *They have abandoned the straight way. They have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.* (2Peter 2:15 TLV). The wages of wickedness spoken of are a particular sin, one which occurred after Balaam left Moab. Balaam didn’t leave well enough alone, but returned and gave advice to the Moabites and was paid his wages of wickedness. Yeshua condemned this sin in His message to the congregation at Pergamum: 14 *“But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who was teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before Bnei-Yisrael, to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.”* (Revelation 2:14 TLV). Yeshua also brings out his tempting Israel to worship idols and commit sexual sins. In the last verses of today’s *parasha*, we read this: 1 *While Israel was staying in Shittim, the people began to have immoral sexual relations with women from Moab. 2 Then they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, so the people were eating, and bowing down before their gods. 3 When Israel became bound to Baal of Peor, the anger of Adonai grew hot against Israel.* (Numbers 25:1-3 TLV). Not only did the men of Israel sin sexually, but also bound themselves, made a covenant with the false god, Baal of Peor. We read later that this was the result of Balaam’s advice to Moab: 7 *They fought Midian just as Adonai had commanded Moses, and killed every male. 8 Among the slain they also killed the Midianite kings: Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba, the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.* (Numbers 31:7-8 TLV). And, it is also that way today. Some who claim to be a part of the body of Messiah are wolves in sheep’s clothing. *HaSatan* is always lurking near to all of us to tempt us to turn away from ADONAI and many who claim to follow Yeshua today have knowingly or unknowingly bound themselves to *HaSatan*

and his demons. It may have been through sexual sins, it may be unforgiveness in hearts or it may even be a complete turning away from Yeshua. But, it is prevalent in the body of Yeshua today.

What was the teaching of Balaam that Yeshua so strongly condemned in the congregation at Pergamum? Bringing in *Shimon Kefa's* words, it is people 15 ... *who loved the wages of wickedness.* (2Peter 2:15b TLV). This is the choice to promote evil for financial gain. Speaking of the ungodly, Yeshua's brother *Yehudah* said: *11 Woe to them! For they went the way of Cain; they were consumed for pay in Balaam's error; and in Korah's rebellion they have been destroyed.* (Jude 1:11 TLV). According to *Yehudah*, Balaam's "error" was his willingness to go along with pagan beliefs out of greed. Putting these ideas together, we begin to understand the doctrine of Balaam which Yeshua condemned. It is the belief that a person can act in the world's ways and still serve ADONAI. Balaam's actions taught compromise, that he could talk to and have a relationship with G-d, but also follow the world's ways. The teaching of Balaam is that being holy, separated for ADONAI's service, is not important. It makes followers of Yeshua indistinguishable from the unbelieving world.

Isn't this what we are seeing in the world today? There is no doubt that many who fight so strongly to permit abortion are members of Yeshua's body. There is also no doubt that some of those teaching that young children should have opportunity to choose their sex and to have operations to change it are a part of Yeshua's body. The sin of Balaam has repeated itself many times through the centuries, but today it is reaching its peak. The climax which will bring the wrath of the Lion of Judah upon a sinful world is near.

I, along with many others, have been speaking of a coming great revival for several years. This belief is based upon a spirit of prophecy which *Ruach ADONAI* has placed in our hearts coupled with supporting Scriptures. But, even as we see that coming, at the same time, all around us there is sin, sin such has never been seen before. Sexual perversion is accepted as normal. Human beings have become target practice. The life of a person created in G-d's image means nothing to those who will shoot you because they don't like the way you looked at them or spoke to them. But, we should not be surprised at the sin and violence going on today. Scripture tells us that this must happen first. It is not unexpected.

Shortly before His death, Yeshua warned His disciples: *10 "And then many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one other. 11 Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved."* (Matthew 24:10-13 TLV). Yeshua is speaking of those who once followed Him. There have been those who denied Yeshua and turned away through the ages, but perhaps not to the degree that we see today. Just recently a survey revealed that the percentage of those who believe in G-d in the United States has dropped to 40%, the lowest level ever recorded. Many false prophets have arisen over the years and many false messiahs, but today there are false prophets who claim to be a part of Yeshua's body and they have led and are continuing to lead people astray.

Lawlessness, civil lawlessness, is at an all-time high. Civil disobedience, including rioting and property destruction by mobs is at a level not seen before. According to the CDC, more people died from gun violence in 2020 than ever before with 2021 recording a slight increase over 2020. In 2021, excluding suicides, 20,726 died by some type of gun violence. The CDC reported that in 2020 65 died from suicide each day. At least nine of the country's major cities have broken previous homicide records in 2021. In 2021, there were 693 mass shootings, shootings described as four or more people shot. According to the Gun Violence

Archive, in 2022, there have already been 300 mass shootings. Sexual assaults, including rape, are up. Yeshua said that lawlessness would increase. And, the statistics don't lie. Civil lawlessness has increased.

But, what about spiritual lawlessness. Statistics are not available regarding the numbers who disobey ADONAI's laws, but if known, it would be horrendous. We do have a general idea and know the Yeshua's body in the United States has changed significantly. We know it because we see increasing divorce and declining church membership and attendance. We see the acceptance of homosexuality in the church with four major denominations having voted to accept it, even among their leadership. We see the widespread acceptance of fornication and living together without marriage in the church including having children outside of marriage. We know from all these things that a tremendous amount of lawlessness is present today in Yeshua's body. Yeshua said: *13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*" (Matthew 24:13 TLV). That's not the end of the world that He spoke of, but the end of each individual life. To be a follower of Yeshua, with benefits, eternal salvation, you must remain faithful. Many have fallen away who once were a part of His body. Yeshua alone is their judge, but I believe that many who have once said "yes, Jesus," will be disappointed when they stand before Him. Lawlessness, a disregard for Yeshua's and ADONAI's laws is rampant today within the group which calls upon His name. This is a major reason that we need this coming great revival. It is that those who have fallen away will have an opportunity to come back. There is no question that there has been a great falling away!

The great majority of Yeshua's followers in the United States see this great falling away in the future and through one Scripture, the words which *Sha'ul* wrote to the congregation at Thessalonica: *3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for the Day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the one destined to be destroyed.* (2Thessalonians 2:3 TLV). A large percentage within the church, including those who follow the doctrine of Dispensationalism, believe that "the man of lawlessness" is a physical person called the Anti-Christ who will rule the world. I don't believe that and don't teach it. We don't have to wait for a physical Anti-Christ to come and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. We don't have to wait until he allows offerings and then stops the daily offering. We are not waiting for that because it's never going to happen. This man will not cause the Great Tribulation because the Great Tribulation has already happened (Read Matthew 24:21). And, those who are expecting to fly away in the Rapture have a false hope. The "Great Tribulation" happened in the year 70 CE, but we do have a terrible amount of tribulation today and it is increasing. Millions of Christians are being persecuted around the world with thousands dying each year. Yeshua will return to meet us in the air, but we will all have to go through the tribulation of the end times before that happens. He said: *29 "But immediately after the trouble of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory.*" (Matthew 24:29-30 TLV). We are now very solidly in the "trouble of those days." That's why we see all this sin. How long will the trouble of these days last? We don't know, but we must keep the faith and endure until the end. Some of us will be alive when Yeshua returns, of that I am convinced.

How are we to understand what *Sha'ul* called "the man of lawlessness," that which many call the Anti-Christ? We have pointed out in the past that the word Anti-Christ can only be found four times in all of the Scriptures and all four are in 1st and 2nd John. 18

*Children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that the anti-messiah is coming, even now many anti-messiahs have come—by this we know that it is the last hour. (1John 2:18 TLV). John didn't say that "the anti-messiah is coming," he said: "you heard that anti-messiah is coming." Notice, there is no "the" before anti-messiah in my sentence. The TLV and other Bibles have added it to fit the common theology of "the Anti-Christ." Then John goes on to say that already many anti-messiahs have come. *22 Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Yeshua is the Messiah? This one is the anti-messiah—the one who denies the Father and the Son. (1John 2:22 TLV). In this verse, it does say "the."* The Greek word *ho*, meaning the, precedes the Greek *antichristos*. This means that anyone who "denies that Yeshua is the Messiah" is "the Anti-Christ." Today, there are millions of Anti-Christ in the world and you probably know some of them. *3 ..but every spirit that does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-messiah, which you have heard is coming and now is already in the world. (1John 4:3). The Anti-Christ is a spirit, an "it" and not a "him."* This spirit was already in the world during the time of John. It is a demon, a specific spirit of Anti-Christ, which does not acknowledge Yeshua and it inhabits those who deny Yeshua. *7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world—those who do not acknowledge Yeshua as Messiah coming in human flesh. This one is a deceiver and the anti-messiah. (2John 1:7 TLV). In the first sentence, the subject is the word "many" which is modified by the adjective, deceivers, *planoi* in Greek. The many who deceive are human beings who do not acknowledge Yeshua as Messiah who came in human flesh and it is stated again that this one is "the anti-messiah." There they are, the complete revelation of Scripture about the Anti-Christ. Can these four verses be used to explain *Sha'ul's* "man of lawlessness?" No, they can't. There is no connection either by inference or reference.**

Sha'ul began his statement to the Thessalonians by writing: *1 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, concerning the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and our gathering together to Him, 2 not to get shaken out of your mind or disturbed—either by a spirit or a word or a letter as if through us—as though the Day of the Lord has come. (2Thessalonians 2:1-2 TLV). "Concerning the coming of Yeshua and our gathering to him" is what he had written to them in his first letter : 14 For if we believe that Yeshua died and rose again, so with Him God will also bring those who have fallen asleep in Yeshua. 15 For this we tell you, by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God's shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air—and so we shall always be with the Lord. (1Thessalonians 4:14-17 TLV). He said, "don't get worried that this has already happened." Apparently, there was a rumor going around Thessalonica that "the day of the L-rd" had already happened and *Sha'ul* told them not to be disturbed about it. And, then he said: *3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for the Day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the one destined to be destroyed. (2Thessalonians 2:3 TLV). The "day" is when Yeshua returns for His bride, but the rebellion and the revealing of the man of lawlessness must come first. This absolutely must happen before Yeshua returns for us. But, there is no Scriptural evidence that the man of lawlessness is a physical man who will rule the world for seven years. That is only plausible in the light of the false Dispensational teaching that Daniel chapter 9, verse 27 is in the future. It says: 27 "Then he will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of abominations will come one who destroys, until the decreed annihilation is poured out on the one who destroys." (Daniel 9:27 TLV).**

Dispensational teaching says that “he” in this verse is the Anti-Christ who will restore the Temple offerings for three and one-half years, one-half a week of years, but then stop them and carry out the Great Tribulation during the second three and one-half year period. But, in this theology this one verse must also wait more than two thousand years to be fulfilled. This is false teaching and has been completely debunked by Daniel Bruce in his Book, *Daniel Unsealed*. Bruce has clearly shown that this verse happened exactly on time in the 1st century with the “he” being Yeshua who died on the stake in the middle of the week, thus stopping the effectiveness of animal sacrifice in the Temple. The one who brought abominations, the destroyer who was ultimately destroyed was the pagan Roman Army. It’s already happened!

So, what is the rebellion and who is “the man of lawlessness?” *3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for the Day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the one destined to be destroyed.* (2Thessalonians 2:3 TLV). I go to Reverend Ellis Skolfield for the answer. This is not the Reverend Skolfield of the Skolfield Bible, the chief promoter of Dispensationalism. Reverend Ellis Skolfield was a pastor who served primarily in Africa, but spent the later years of his life in the United States studying Daniel and Revelation. He wrote that the temple in this verse is not the Temple in Jerusalem, but our bodies. *Sha’ul* taught: *6 Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and that the Ruach Elohim dwells among you?* (1Corinthians 3:16 TLV). The “he” sitting as G-d in the temple is every human spirit which is joined to the spirit of Anti-Christ. They are their own god because they do not acknowledge ADONAI nor follow Him. The next verse says: *4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself that he is God.* (2Thessalonians 2:4 TLV). Those who deny ADONAI and Yeshua declare that they exalt themselves, their lives, their will, their desires, above G-d and in many cases declare that “there is no G-d.” They declare that they are the god of their lives, the earth’s highest authority. The “man of lawlessness” is symbolically the human beings who are led by a demon spirit and who oppose and deny the one true G-d. The lawless today are full of demons who fake the works of the Holy Spirit. This means that some of them claim to be a part of the body of Messiah. All of this is a satanic attack on not only the completely godless, but also on many of those who claim to trust and follow Yeshua.

Reverend Skolfield doesn’t comment on the next verses, but I will try to tie everything together and conclude. Verse 8 says: *8 Then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Yeshua will slay him with the breath of His mouth and wipe him out with the appearance of His coming.* (1Thessalonians 2:8 TLV). We go back to a Scripture which we read earlier. Matthew 24 says: *29 “But immediately after the trouble of those days, ... 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see ‘the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven’ with power and great glory.”* (Matthew 24:29a; 30 TLV). What we are experiencing now is “the trouble of those days.” It is the “rebellion” which *Sha’ul* said must come before Yeshua returns for us. After that time, Yeshua will return to claim us, His bride, and shortly after that will come to earth to destroy His enemies. Just before He does that, what is in this Scripture takes place: *16 Then the spirits gathered the kings to the place called in Hebrew Har-Megiddo.* (Revelation 16:16 TLV). The demon spirits controlling the kings and their armies caused them to go there. That is the place in central Israel called in English, Armageddon. Then we read this. John said: *11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The One riding on it is called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness.* (Revelation:19:11 TLV). *15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword—so that with it He may strike down the nations—and He shall rule them with an iron rod, and He treads the winepress of the furious wrath of Elohei-*

Tzva'ot. (Revelation 19:15 TLV). Note that which is underlined. We just read this: ⁸ *Then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Yeshua will slay him with the breath of His mouth and wipe him out with the appearance of His coming.* (1Thessalonians 2:8 TLV). As Revelation 19 says, Yeshua has a sharp sword in His mouth, His words. Yeshua will slay all the lawless with His voice. He will speak their death. I don't have a Scripture to show it, but I believe that in addition to those who are slain by His voice at Armageddon, all those who have not trusted Yeshua, worldwide, will lose their lives in the same way. This does not explain everything perfectly. Some things remain a mystery. But, this is where we are today. We are living in a lawless world in the midst of "the rebellion."

The significance of the "man of lawlessness" is that it reveals where we are in Yeshua's timetable. Of the almost 8 billion people in the world today, the faithful ones are but a very small remnant. And, this is why the coming revival is so important. There is still time for many that are lawless today to repent and turn to Yeshua. The teaching of Balaam which has been handed down through the centuries is the lawlessness within the body of Messiah. The "man of lawlessness" is the lawlessness in the world today, both in the body and outside it. We know how much Yeshua loves each one of us, both the lawless and the obedient. The words He spoke to Laodicea are His words to all of the lawless ones of today: ¹⁹ *"Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore, be zealous and repent."* (Revelation 3:19 TLV). Right now is the most important time ever for us as Yeshua's witnesses in the sinful world of the end times. We must be faithful and we must be bold! *Shabbat shalom!*