



Parasha Devarim

July 6, 2022

Torah: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27

Ketuvim Shlichim: Hebrews 3:7-4:11

Shabbat shalom Mishpacha! This *Shabbat* we begin a new book of the *Torah*, *Devarim*, Deuteronomy, the fifth and final book of *Torah*. *Devarim*, means words as it begins with Moses telling Israel what had happened since they left Mount Sinai. The central theme of this week is the sin of the spies, the ten who gave a bad report and influenced the people to rebel against Moses, really a rebellion against ADONAI.

The Hebrew date today is 9 Av 5782, in Hebrew, *Tisha B'Av*, the day called the saddest in the Jewish year. According to Hebrew tradition, the rebellion of the spies and the people in the wilderness occurred on this day. Amazingly, the destruction of both the first and second Temples also occurred on this same day. And, there were a number of other catastrophic events which happened to the Jews on this day. According to Chabad, eight events occurred on the 9th of *Av*: 1. The spies returned a bad report in the wilderness. 2. The first Temple was destroyed in 586 BCE. 3. The second Temple was destroyed in 70 CE. 4. The Jewish stronghold of Betar was destroyed by the Romans during the Second Jewish Revolt in 133 CE. 5. The Romans plowed over the Temple Mount in 135 CE. 6. The Jews were expelled from England in 1290 CE. 7. The Jews were banished from Spain in 1492. 8. Germany declared war on Russian in 1914, effectively beginning World War I which also effectively caused World War II.

The title of today's message is "Yeshua, Daniel and Revelation." We will examine Yeshua's words spoken to His disciples on the Mount of Olives as the events relate to Daniel and Revelation and other end-time events. They are a summary of events which would happen throughout history until His return. It is important that we know this. This information is important and is being emphasized even more now because of our present location in Biblical prophecy. But, even more important are words spoken about our relationship with Yeshua. If we don't follow His instructions, we are in danger of the sin of rebellion not unlike the sin of the spies in the wilderness.

Yeshua told the parable of two houses, one built on a foundation of sand and another built on rock. When the torrential rains came, they washed away the house built on sand. He said: *26 Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* (Matthew 7:26 TLV). Yeshua spoke about a number of things in Matthew chapter 7, but perhaps those who hear his words and don't act are most affected by this verse: *21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."* (Matthew 7:21 TLV). We are not to be foolish men and women. A wise person will find out what the Father's will is and do it.

There is even more said about foundations and houses in Scripture. Those of us who have trusted in Yeshua have a foundation built on Him: *11 For no one can lay any other foundation than what is already laid—which is Yeshua the Messiah.* (1Corinthians 3:11 TLV). We have that foundation, we must have it, but what about the house above resting on it? There once was a house in Jerusalem. It was known to Israel as *HaBayit*, “The House.” It was the house in which *Kefa* and the others were gathered on *Shavuot*. It was the place where the *Shekinah* fell, the holy Temple. That house was destroyed because of sin, one of the events of *Tisha B’Av*. But, if we have trusted Yeshua, we have mercifully been given another house, the house in which His *Ruach HaKodesh*, His Holy Spirit, now dwells: *19 Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Ruach ha-Kodesh who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?* (1Corinthians 6:19 TLV). We are not our own. We are His. Yeshua bought us with a price, His own blood. Our *guf ha’adam*, our human body, is now *Beit HaMikdash*, ADONAI’s temple, a temple built on the *even rosha*, the foundation stone and chief cornerstone, Yeshua the Messiah, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. A house which is built on a firm foundation will not wash away in a flood, but it can and will deteriorate if it is not properly maintained. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit: *18 And do not get drunk on wine, for that is recklessness. Instead, be filled with the Ruach,..* (Ephesians 5:18 TLV). Many years ago, I heard a speaker regarding the Holy Spirit say: “we leak.” We must continually be filled with the Spirit. It sometimes happens even when we are rightly related to ADONAI and Yeshua. How do we maintain our spiritual house? Here is a quote from a devotional shared with me by Lou: “The characteristic of a disciple is not that he does good things, but that he is good in motive because he has been made good by the supernatural grace of God. The only thing that exceeds right-*doing* is right-*being*. Jesus Christ came to put into any man who would let Him a new heredity which would exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus says- If you are My disciple you must be right not only in your living, but in your motives, in the recesses of your mind. You must be so pure in your motives that God Almighty can see nothing to censure.” (*My Utmost For His Highest*, (Disposition and Deeds) Oswald Chambers, 1924). There are some who seek cheap grace, grace which costs them relatively nothing. They want the assurance of eternal life, but are not concerned about right-being and right-doing. We cannot be like them. We must continually examine ourselves to see if we have allowed our *thinking* and our *being* to become less than right, thereby cheapening the wonderful grace which we have been given. We must constantly examine and repair our spiritual foundation and the house built upon it. Our reward is not on earth, but is in the *Olam Haba*, the world to come, which is coming soon!

Living in the urgency of these times, it is imperative that we do our best to understand what ADONAI says about these Last Days. Yeshua’s words spoken on the Mount of Olives reveal many things that are happening right now. His message is found in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 and we will also bring in Daniel and Revelation as appropriate.

Yeshua began by telling His disciples about the stones of the Temple. *1 Now when Yeshua went out and was going away from the Temple, His disciples came up to point out to Him the Temple buildings. 2 “Don’t you see all these?” He responded to them. “Amen, I tell you, not one stone will be left here on top of another—every one will be torn down!” 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen”* (Matthew 24:1-3a)? (also Mark 13:1-4a and Luke 21:5-7a). Leaving the Temple, Yeshua’s disciples commented on the buildings on the Temple Mount. He responded to them that they would all be completely destroyed, a prophecy of the coming destruction of the Temple. Their question was, “when will this happen?” Yeshua didn’t answer

right away because they immediately followed up with a second question. 3...*What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age*" (Matthew 24:3b TLV). (also Mark 12:4b; Luke 21:7b). Yeshua didn't immediately answer that question either, but began with other events which would happen first.

Then He said: 9 *"Then they will hand you over to persecution and will kill you. You will be hated by all the nations because of My name."* (Matthew 24:9 TLV). Yeshua's initial statement was spoken to His immediate disciples. They would be killed, but also many of His disciples through the ages and many today in many places around the world are being killed.

In His second statement, He was talking to them about what would happen to them as Jews, but also because they were His followers. 10 *"And then many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one other."* (Matthew 24:10 TLV). This again began as a near and immediate thing, something which happened during the siege of Jerusalem in the year 70 CE. The ancient rabbis place the responsibility for the destruction of both the first and second Temples upon the Jewish people. They say that it was caused by *sinat chinam*, baseless hatred, among the different Jewish groups and which they say is still present today. To be honest, we also have *sinat chinam* among the different Gentile groups of Yeshua's followers today, baseless hatred, because of differing beliefs.

11 *"Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray."* (Matthew 24:11 TLV). There have been false prophets and false messiahs among the non-messianic Jews as well as within Yeshua's Gentile followers. This began almost immediately. About 14 years later in the year 44, a man named Theudas led an uprising. The Pharisee Gamaliel spoke about it in Acts. 36 *For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody; and a number of men, maybe four hundred, joined up with him. He was killed, and all who followed him were scattered and came to nothing.* (Acts 5:36 TLV). The most famous false messiah was *Bar Kochba* who led the second Jewish revolt against Roman rule in 130 CE. He was proclaimed Messiah by Rabbi Akiva, a leading rabbi of that day. It all came to naught. The Romans killed him and strengthened their grip on the Land of Israel. There are always people who can be led astray. Jim Jones in 1978 and David Koresh in 1993 were two modern false messiah who caused many of their disciples to be killed. Yeshua said that we are to expect it. The age we are living in right now is the perfect kind of incubator in which to grow more false messiahs.

Yeshua continued. 12 *"Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold."* (Matthew 24:12 TLV). In my opinion, lawlessness has never been greater than it is right now. I believe that Yeshua was speaking not only of lawlessness against the *Torah*, but also lawlessness against the laws of governments. The great majority of Yeshua's Gentile followers reject the Five Books of Moses as being authoritative for today. And, lawlessness in our nation, especially, robbery, rape, murder and insurrection is rampant. There is a direct relationship between lawlessness and the love of G-d. As lawlessness increases, more people turn away from ADONAI.

13 *"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."* (Matthew 24:13 TLV). We can't buy fire insurance, insurance against the fires of Hell, by saying a magic prayer. When we trust Yeshua, it must be sincere and we must remain in right relationship with Him, serve Him, until our spirit leaves our body or Yeshua returns, whichever comes first. Yeshua knows who are His, those whose names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life. As He said in Matthew 7, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."*

14 *“This Good News of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”* (Matthew 24:14 TLV). (The events of Matthew 24:9-14 are also found in Mark 13:9-13 and Luke 21:12-19). Yeshua was referring to the end of the *Olam HaZeh*, the end of this present age. From the time when Yeshua spoke on the Mount of Olives until His return, the time period of “this age,” the Gospel would be proclaimed throughout the whole world. It has now been proclaimed throughout the whole world. What ADONAI’s plans are regarding that, we don’t know. Whether each person will hear the Gospel or have the opportunity to hear it, whether they choose to hear it or not, is unknown to us. Yeshua’s words relate to *Sha’ul’s* prophecy in Romans 11:25 that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles have come in. We are very close. During this long period of time, from 30 CE until Yeshua’s return, there would be persecutions, false prophets and lawlessness. The *Olam HaZeh*, this age, will end when Yeshua returns. And, it is His return as King Messiah which moves us into the next age, the *Olam HaBa*, the eternity of the world to come.

14 *“But when you see ‘the abomination of desolation’ standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. 15 The one on the roof must not go down, nor enter to take anything out of his house. 16 And the one in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!* (Mark 13:14-17 TLV).

Mark wrote specific information regarding the “abomination of desolation.” In verse 14, Yeshua let us know that the “abomination of desolation” is not the Anti-Christ. He said: *‘the abomination of desolation’ standing where it should not be.* An “it” is not a person. It is a thing; a something. The “abomination” is also spoken of in Matthew and is also not identified there as a person. Matthew wrote: 15 *“So when you see ‘the abomination of desolation,’ which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place”....* (Matthew 24:15a). “The Holy Place” lets us know that Yeshua was referring to the Temple. That’s where the abomination appeared, both in the 1st century and also earlier as related in the Book of Daniel. Luke wrote about these times, but didn’t mention the abomination. But, Luke added: 20 *“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.”* (Luke 21:20 TLV). The word “desolation” is found in all three Gospels. In saying “desolation,” Yeshua warned His disciples about a future event in Jerusalem during which the city would be surrounded by armies. He told those in Judea, the place where these things would soon happen, to get away from there when they saw them.

The abomination of desolation, the “it” which Yeshua spoke of in Mark 13 and to which He referred in Matthew 24 as being spoken about by Daniel the Prophet were one and the same abomination, an entity empowered by a demon. Daniel prophesied: 31 *“His forces will rise up and profane the fortified Temple; they will stop the daily offering and set up the abomination of desolation.”* (Daniel 11:31 TLV). That’s what Yeshua was referring to in Daniel. It happened in about 167 BCE, almost 200 years before His remarks on the Mount of Olives. At the time that Yeshua was speaking, that had been the only appearance of the “abomination of desolation” and it occurred during the time of the Maccabees. It was when the Syrian army invaded Jerusalem and desecrated the Temple in about 167 BCE. The abomination was a pagan symbol set up by the pagan Syrian army or perhaps themselves, all inhabited by demonic forces. The dictionary tells us that an abomination is a thing which causes disgust or hatred. Desolation is a state of complete emptiness or destruction. That was the abomination of desolation which appeared in Jerusalem 197 years earlier. The disgusting things which the Syrian army did in the Temple, possibly slaughtering a pig on

the altar as tradition tells us, was the abomination. The desolation was that the Syrian army's presence made the Temple desolate for the Jews. They couldn't go there. And, that was also what Yeshua told them to flee from in Jerusalem in their future, a hated thing, a thing which causes emptiness or destruction. Yeshua referred to it in the days of the Maccabees and also referred to it as happening again, future from His day.

What have we established so far? We have seen that the "abomination of desolation" is not a person. It is an "it," a thing. We have also seen that the abomination spoken of in Daniel had already appeared. And that the coming abomination of which Yeshua spoke is not an event future to our present day in which a human Anti-Christ will allow Temple sacrifices and then stop the daily offering and set up the abomination of desolation. That appearance of the abomination has occurred twice, in 167 BCE and in 70 CE and will not appear in our future.

The abomination which Yeshua was warning His disciples about was future from His time. From history, we know that abomination to be the Satan controlled pagan Roman army which destroyed the Temple in the year 70, about 40 years in the future. Yeshua told His disciples to pray that this would not happen in winter. *18 Pray that it will not happen in winter.* (Mark 13:18 TLV). On April 14, 70 CE, three days before Passover, the Roman General Titus's forces began besieging Jerusalem. On the 9th of Av, August 4th, they breached the walls and set fire to the Temple. In the next days, they slaughtered almost the entire population of Jerusalem.

Yeshua told his disciples that that coming time would be the worst that happened in Israel, ever, worse than what happened during the time of the Maccabees. He said: *21 "For there will be trouble then worse than there has ever been from the beginning of the world until now, and there will be nothing like it again!"* (Matthew 24:21 TLV). The English word trouble is translated from the Greek *thlipsis*, meaning, trouble, persecution, affliction, distress, or tribulation. The location of that "great tribulation" was in Jerusalem in the year 70 and will not occur throughout the whole world in our future. It happened in the year 70 in Jerusalem. That was the "Great Tribulation." It is not a future event which will be brought about by a human Anti-Christ ruling the world.

How bad was the "great tribulation?" It has been estimated that the population of Jerusalem in the year 70 was 600,000. But, because many pilgrims were there for Passover, the number of people in Jerusalem was much greater. Josephus, the Jewish historian, reported that as many as 1,100,000 were killed during the siege of Jerusalem and that 97,000 more Jews were taken away as slaves. That's a total of almost 1.2 million! How could that happen in a city of 600,000? The answer as we've already disclosed is that hundreds of thousands had come to Jerusalem for Passover and then were trapped there.

The Romans surrounded and blockaded the city. No one could get in or out. The multitude was trapped inside the city from April 14th to August 4th, about 113 days, from Passover to the 9th of Av when the Romans broke through and destroyed the Temple. That accounts for the greater number of dead, many of whom starved to death. Josephus also reports that within the blockaded city, some of the deaths were by murder and then cannibalism. Almost all of the Jews in Jerusalem were either killed, died of starvation or sold as slaves. There's no doubt that what happened is a great tribulation!! The *p'shat*, the plain meaning of Yeshua's words, were a reference to an event which would happen in Jerusalem about forty years later, not in the entire world some two thousand years in the future. Something worse than that terrible time would have to happen to Jerusalem today

for it to be a greater time of tribulation. But, that won't happen because Yeshua said it wouldn't. Regarding that time, He said: 19 *"For in those days there will be trouble such as has never happened, not since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will."* (Matthew 24:19 TLV). That was the "Great Tribulation." It's already happened.

Then Yeshua said: 20 *"And unless Adonai had cut short those days, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He cut short the days"* (Mark 13:20 TLV). The elect were those Jews who had trusted in Yeshua and had survived the Romans to carry on the ministry of the Kingdom. Some of them managed to get out and very likely, some of those carried off as slaves were Yeshua's followers, the elect.

Luke revealed a detail which was not found in either Matthew or Mark. Yeshua said: <30> 24 *"They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all the nations."* (Luke 21:24a TLV). Some would die and some would become slaves. How many elect were there? We know from the Book of Acts that there were tens of thousands of followers of Yeshua in Judea before the Temple was destroyed. Jacob and the elders told *Sha'ul*: 20 ..., *"You see, brother, how many myriads there are among the Jewish people who have believed—and they are all zealous for the Torah."* (Acts 21:20b TLV). Myriads means "tens of thousands." They would have been trapped in Jerusalem because they were also there for Passover. These tens of thousands of Yeshua's elect would have been a part of the million that were killed and almost three-quarters of a million that were sold as slaves. Yeshua preserved a remnant who would take the Gospel into all of the nations where they were taken as slaves. I have to believe that many of those Jewish slaves were Yeshua's disciples who took the Good News with them. They were scattered abroad in the year 70 CE and are now being physically regathered from all over the earth. As of today, over 9 million have been regathered to Israel with about 5 million remaining in the rest of the world.

Yeshua said: 24 *"They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all the nations." Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*" (Luke 21:24 TLV). The second part of this statement by Yeshua was about Jerusalem, a prophecy. He said that: "Jerusalem would be under the control of Gentile nations until that control came to an end." When Yeshua said this, Israel had been trampled by, had been under the control of the Romans, since 63 BCE. I think that most of you know that the Gentile control came to an end during the Six Day War in July of 1967 when the Israeli army recaptured and gained control of Jerusalem for the first time since Yeshua uttered these words. That Jerusalem is once again under Jewish control is a very good indicator that we are in the last of the last days. We will continue with Yeshua's end time message on the Mount of Olives next week.

The 9th of Av is also a warning to each of us who follow Yeshua. The writer of Hebrews said: 7 *Therefore, just as the Ruach ha-Kodesh says, "Today if you hear His voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness."* (Hebrews 3:7-8 TLV). Hard hearts will cause us to fail ADONAI's test. ADONAI allowed these terrible things to happen on *Tisha B'Av*, the same day, as a warning. The writer of Hebrews continues: 18 *And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest? Was it not to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter in because of lack of trust.* (Hebrews 3:18-19 TLV). The Israelites who came out of Egypt with Moses were sentenced to die in the desert by ADONAI because of their lack of trust, their lack of faith, in ADONAI's ability to deliver them. If there was ever a time that we need to trust in ADONAI, it is now. Who knows what we will face before Yeshua returns. We will face persecution, but not the Great Tribulation. It has already happened. We are the elect, Yeshua's remnant in this generation,

just as there was a righteous remnant spared from the Great Tribulation which was sent out with the Good News in 70 CE. The fields are white for harvest. *Shabbat shalom!*