



## **Parasha Re'eh**

August 27, 2022

*Parasha:* Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

*Haftarah:* Isaiah 54:11-55:5

*Ketuvim Shlichim:* 1Corinthians 2:11-16

*Shabbat shalom Mishpacha!* Our *parasha* today is *Re'eh*, meaning “See.” 26 “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse— 27 the blessing, if you listen to the mitzvot of Adonai your God that I am commanding you today, 28 but the curse, if you do not listen to the mitzvot of Adonai your God, but turn from the way I am commanding you today, to go after other gods you have not known.” (Deuteronomy 11:26-28 TLV). To illustrate the importance of covenant loyalty, loyalty to ADONAI who gave the covenant, He has made it simple for Israel. “You obey, you get blessed, but if you disobey, you get cursed.” There was no misunderstanding. Israel understood.

In our *parasha* today, Moses is continuing his review of that which happened during Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness. ADONAI has told him to tell the people about the blessing and the curse. The children of Abraham have had a long journey since *Avram* was called out of Ur of the Chaldees to go to a land that ADONAI would show him. Abraham obeyed and went to, and lived in the land of Canaan. There his son Isaac was born, Isaac's sons Jacob and Esau were born, and Jacob's twelve sons were born. ADONAI made a promise to each of them individually, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, that they would receive the land as an inheritance. But in order to receive it they had to be able to defeat the thousands of people living there, people who weren’t willing to give it up. This wasn’t something that a small family could do. Abraham's descendants had to increase in number, they had to increase as the stars of the sky and the sands of the sea, a promise ADONAI would make to them, in order to be able to possess this land. But, it would be many years. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would never see it.

To prepare Israel for entering the land, ADONAI put them in an incubator, a place where they could grow into a nation. He put them in Egypt for 430 years. They increased in number there until they were ready to leave and take possession of the Promised Land. When it was time, in an act of loving kindness, *chesed*, grace, ADONAI delivered Abraham's children from Egypt. They did nothing to deserve it. It was completely unmerited favor. He also extended His grace to others, and a large number of Gentiles came out of Egypt with them, men, women and children, some who possibly had been slaves themselves. This large group of people called a mixed multitude, Gentiles of different racial backgrounds, also experienced the *chesed* of ADONAI, His grace. Multitude is translated from the Hebrew word *rav*, meaning large or great and that group probably consisted of many thousands of people. When a census is taken later we find only Israelites as they are counted tribe by tribe. Where have the Gentiles gone? Have they disappeared? No, they are still there, but they were never individually counted. Many of them were still there as wood cutters and water drawers, but some had fully embraced the G-d of Israel and were assimilated into the tribes. How many we don’t know, but some became a part of Israel. Others were content to be wood cutters and water drawers living peacefully among the tribes.

In the Book of Numbers, we read about the twelve spies being sent out to reconnoiter the Land of Canaan. The man appointed to go from the Tribe of Judah was *Kalev*, Caleb.

When the twelve returned from their mission and the other ten gave an evil report, ADONAI said: 11 *“The men who came out of Egypt, from 20 years old and upward, will not see the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, for they have not followed after Me with a whole heart— 12 except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they were wholehearted after Adonai.”* (Numbers 32:11-12 TLV). This is confusing. The genealogy of Caleb, the man representing the Tribe of Judah, doesn't indicate that he is descended from Judah, but from a tribe of Gentiles. ADONAI said that he came out of Egypt, so possibly he was a part of the mixed multitude. We don't know when he joined Israel, but we know that his father was a Kenizzite, a member of a tribe living in Canaan during Abraham's time. (Genesis 15:18). There seems to be no mistake in Caleb's ancestry. That he is the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, is reported two more times; in Joshua 14:6 and 14:14. But, the Tribe of Kenizzites has vanished. This tribe which ADONAI said was living in Canaan at the time of Abraham is not found among the tribes of Canaan when Israel began their conquest. They are not mentioned again. But, Caleb, who once may have been an outsider, is now a member of the tribe of Judah. In the history of 1Chronicles hundreds of years later, Caleb is still called, son of Jephunneh, but his sons and his grandson are listed with the others of the Tribe of Judah. (1Chronicles 4:15).

After ADONAI saved Israel from Egypt, an act of His divine mercy and grace, He took them as His covenant people. He made a covenant with Abraham many years before, it was a covenant promising the Land of Canaan to his descendants. This covenant, the covenant which ADONAI made with Israel, Abraham's descendants, was different. When they reached Mount Sinai, He made an everlasting covenant with Israel. ADONAI loved Israel and chose them to be His priests to the nations. His covenant with Israel was a covenant of love, in a sense, a marriage. Moses told Israel: 6 *For you are a holy people to Adonai your God—from all the peoples on the face of the earth, Adonai your God has chosen you to be His treasured people. 7 “It is not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that Adonai set His love on you and chose you—for you are the least of all peoples. 8 Rather, because of His love for you and His keeping the oath He swore to your fathers, Adonai brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.* (Deuteronomy 7:6-8 TLV).

Jewish marriages have a special feature called a *ketubah*, the marriage contract. It is read to the bride by the groom describing how he will provide for her and protect her. The covenant ADONAI made with Israel at Mount Sinai was very much like a marriage and the provisions of it like a *ketubah*, a marriage contract stating what He would do as the Husband and what the people should do as the bride.

Some five hundred years earlier, the Amorite King Hammurobi wrote a law code. It had very strict guidelines, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth and it was very brutally carried out. Eyes were gouged out, teeth were knocked out and the hands of thieves were cut off. People sometimes confuse ADONAI's *Torah*, His teaching and instruction to Israel, with Hammurobi's Code, because similar phrases are used. But, the two were nothing alike. ADONAI's *ketubah* was completely different, a document of love and grace with a series of rules laid down by a parent, a loving Father, rules which if followed would protect the children from harm. And, it was fair. An eye for an eye in *Torah* meant that if you caused a person's ox to be lost, that you would pay him for the value of the animal's life, not that you would gouge out the person's eye.

What about the Gentile mixed multitude who were with Israel? Did this covenant apply to them? Yes, of course it did. ADONAI spoke in a number of places throughout the *Torah* that the same law would apply to both the native-born and the *Ger* (plural *Gerim*). *Ger* is a term applied to a Gentile who sojourns with Israel, lives among them. The *gerim* of the mixed

multitude were covenant people, people who had abandoned their false gods and turned to ADONAI. He prepared Israel for this even before the Exodus. Many Gentiles must have been taking refuge with Israel even early in the plagues because ADONAI made provision for them. He said: 49 *“The same Torah applies to the native as well as the outsider who dwells among you.”* (Exodus 12:49 TLV). (Also Leviticus 24:22 and others). Just before Israel entered the Land of Promise, Moses called them together on the east side of the Jordan River and said: 9 *“You are standing today, all of you, before Adonai your God—the heads of your tribes, your elders, your officials, all the men of Israel, 10 your children, your wives, and the outsider within your camp (from your woodchopper to your water carrier). 11 Each of you is to cross over into the covenant of Adonai your God that He is cutting with you today, and into His oath. 12 *“This is in order to confirm you today as His people. So He will be your God, just as He promised you and just as He swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.”* (Deuteronomy 29:9-12 TLV). The outsider crossed over into the covenant of ADONAI.*

In our *parasha* today, we find Israel having almost completed their 40 year journey through the wilderness. ADONAI presented them with the blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. If Israel will follow ADONAI’s *Torah* they will receive the blessings. If they disobey, they will receive the curses. ADONAI is a holy and righteous G-d and He must follow through with that which He promises. But, He is patient and forgiving and He gave Israel many opportunities to come back to Him before eventually driving them from the Land more than seven hundred years later. Because Israel broke His covenant so many times, they finally received the curses.

But, ADONAI has not forgotten His other promises and in His great mercy and love, He will redeem Israel. 30 *“When you are in distress and all these things have come on you, in the latter days you will return to Adonai your God and listen to His voice. 31 For Adonai your God is a merciful God. He will not abandon you or destroy you, or forget the covenant with your fathers that He swore to them.”* (Deuteronomy 4:30 TLV). *Sha’ul* prophesied it: 25 *For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be ignorant of this mystery—lest you be wise in your own eyes—that a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer shall come out of Zion. He shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. 27 And this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”* (Romans 11:25-27 TLV). The scales are beginning to fall off non-messianic Israel’s eyes, but as these verses seem to indicate, the final salvation of “all Israel” will be through another great outpouring of ADONAI’s grace, just as it happened in Egypt. And, all Israel shall be saved.

Israel is the apple of ADONAI’s eye: 10 *“He found him in the wilderness land, in the void of a howling waste. He surrounded him, cared for him, guarded him as the pupil of His eye.”* (Deuteronomy 32:10 TLV). 15 *Only on your fathers did Adonai set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them—you—from all the peoples, as is the case this day.* (Deuteronomy 10:15 TLV). And, this has not changed. Although He has disciplined and punished disobedient Israel, ADONAI’s love and calling of them has not changed. He said: 24 *“For I will take you from the nations, gather you out of all the countries and bring you back to your own land. 25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. 26 Moreover I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Ruach within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them. 28 Then you will live in the land that I gave to your fathers. You will be My people and I will be your God.”* (Ezekiel 36:24-28 TLV). ADONAI said to Abram: 3 *“My desire is to bless those who bless you, but whoever curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”* (Genesis 12:3 TLV). Those who are cursing Israel today

don't realize that they themselves are cursed. But all of those who bless Israel will be blessed and ADONAI is blessing now and will continue to bless all of the families of the earth through Abraham's descendants.

ADONAI has sent us His Son, Yeshua as Messiah, the Anointed One. That's the greatest of the blessings of Israel. When He was on the earth, He was the one whom the rabbis saw in the *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Scriptures, as "*Mashiach*, Son of Joseph," the "suffering servant Messiah." And, He was. In his suffering and sacrificial death He brought us redemption. All who call upon his name receive the promise of salvation and receive the promises of G-d.

But, the rabbis also saw another Messiah in the *Tanakh*. He is also Yeshua, "*Mashiach* son of David," the coming, conquering king. We are very near His glorious return from heaven when he will conquer Israel's enemies and bring peace to the earth. There is very little peace now. Violence and rebellion is upon the earth. We are seeing the things which Yeshua spoke of coming to pass. ADONAI is bringing to pass that which He promised to Israel and to those Gentiles who have joined themselves to Israel to serve Him. We serve Him so that we receive the blessings and not the curses.

Where today are we in ADONAI's timetable? Thirty-three hundred years ago, Israel was about to enter the Promised Land. The wilderness experience that Israel went through can be compared to the almost 2000 years of her existence since the giving of the New Covenant. In Egypt, ADONAI delivered Israel because of His mercy and grace. They did nothing to deserve it. It was totally grace. In the fullness of time in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, ADONAI inaugurated His New Covenant with Israel with the sacrificial death of His Son Yeshua. Just as He inaugurated the Covenant at Sinai with blood, He cut the covenant with us through Yeshua's bloody sacrificial death. Just as the Covenant at Sinai annually covered the sins of those under it, all who have trusted in Yeshua are eternally forgiven because of ADONAI's grace. The New Covenant is a better covenant. (Hebrews 8:6). In both cases, Egypt and the Covenant at Sinai and the New Covenant, ADONAI's grace was motivated by His great love.

In the wilderness after accepting the Covenant at Sinai, everyone had an equal opportunity; obedience or disobedience. Under the New Covenant, everyone had and has the same equal chance, the opportunity to trust Yeshua. When the salvation opportunity came in the wilderness, only two warriors were saved, Joshua and Caleb. While the rest of first generation Israel died in the wilderness, Joshua and Caleb entered the Promised Land. When the salvation opportunity came in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, only those who trusted in Yeshua were saved and it's been that way for the last 1,992 years. Just as Joshua and Caleb were saved by faith, faithfulness, in the wilderness, the Joshua's and Caleb's, the Jews and Gentiles, of the time since Yeshua's death on the stake have been saved by faith.

We don't know much about the actions of the Gentiles who sojourned with Israel in the Wilderness. Very little is said about them. Was it an accident that a man from the Gentile Kennizite Tribe was one of two who fully trusted in ADONAI in the wilderness? I don't believe it was an accident. I believe that it was ADONAI's way of showing His love for Israel, but also for the Gentiles of the world. *Sha'ul* said: *16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who trusts—to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* (Romans 1:16 TLV). This is the same relationship that we see shown with Joshua the Israelite, the Jew from the Tribe of Ephraim, and Caleb, the Gentile. Joshua was first, but also Caleb. It is a picture of ADONAI's love and grace toward those whom He called to be priests to the nations, the a Jews, who are listed first, but equally to the Gentiles.

Just as a Jew and Gentile were obedient in the wilderness, so have been Jew and Gentile in the last almost two thousand years. Righteous Jew and righteous Gentile now are both a part of the Commonwealth Nation of Israel (Ephesians 2:11-13). Joel Chernoff's song

captures it: “Jew and Gentile, one in Messiah, One in Yeshua, one in the olive tree. Jew and Gentile, one in Messiah, One in Yeshua's love.” Both Jew and Gentile have been grafted into the “Olive Tree” of Israel (Romans 11), the Jews as native branches grafted back after being broken off and the Gentiles as grafted in branches of a wild olive tree.

In our *parasha*, we read about the “blessings and the curses,” but also the kosher laws, the *Shemittah*, *Pesach*, *Shavuot* and *Sukkot*. Incidentally, this year, 2021-2022 is a *shemittah* (שמיטה) year which ends when the month of Elul, Elul 29, ends. In Israel, many farmers have let their land lie fallow during the past year. At the end of the seventh *shemittah*, forty-nine years, the *Yovel* (ויובל), the Jubilee, occurs. I believe that ADONAI has His own timetable of *shemittahs* and *yovels*. Yeshua's return to earth as King would be a wonderful fulfillment of the principle of Jubilee, the release. 9 “*Then on the tenth day of the seventh month, on Yom Kippur, you are to sound a shofar blast—you are to sound the shofar all throughout your land.* 10 *You are to make the fiftieth year holy, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It is to be a Jubilee to you, when each of you is to return to his own property and each of you is to return to his family.*” (Leviticus 25:9-10 TLV). The coming Jubilee will be ADONAI's Great Jubilee. Not only will Israelites return to their ancestral land, but the whole earth will be renewed, the new heaven and earth that ADONAI will bring.

.ADONAI commanded Israel to obey all these *mitzvot*, His commands throughout *Torah*. When He finished telling the about the blessings and the curses, He said: 31 “*For you are about to cross over the Jordan to go in to possess the land Adonai your God is giving you—you will possess it and dwell in it,* 32 *and you will take care to do all the statutes and ordinances that I am setting before you today.*” (Deuteronomy 11:31-32 TLV). ADONAI has not changed. He said: 6 “*For I am Adonai. I do not change, So you, children of Jacob, are not consumed.*” (Malachi 3:6 TLV). This means that Deuteronomy 11:31-32 and the other verses like it are still in effect. We must take care to observe all His statutes and ordinances. ADONAI has not changed, but something else has changed. What He has commanded to be observed has changed. In the grace of the giving of His Son, He has rendered the majority of the commands in *Torah* inactive. When the Temple was destroyed and the Levitical priesthood was dispersed, all those *mitzvot* requiring either of them are now inactive. However, under the Priesthood of Yeshua, we are still commanded to be obedient to those that remain.

Right now, not all of Israel is in a redemptive covenant with ADONAI, only those who are covenanted through the New Covenant. Non-messianic Israel is in covenant through the Covenant of Abraham, but not in a way that provides redemption. Those who have received ADONAI's redemption through Yeshua are a remnant. *Sha'ul* said: 1 *I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.* 2 *God has not rejected His people whom He knew beforehand. Or do you not know what the Scripture says about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?* 3 “*Adonai, they have killed your prophets, they have destroyed your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.*” 4 *But what is the divine response to him? “I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”* 5 *So in the same way also at this present time there has come to be a remnant according to God's gracious choice.*” (Romans 11:1-5 TLV). Remnant Israel is joined today by the remnant from the nations, the Gentiles. Yeshua said that not everyone who calls upon His name is saved. That's because not everyone who calls upon the name of Yeshua is in right standing with ADONAI. Yeshua said: 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.*” (7:21 TLV). Just because some have prophesied in His name, driven out demons in His name and performed miracles in His name, doesn't mean that He knows them and He tells them to get away from Him, calling them “workers of lawlessness.” (Matthew 7:22-23). Workers of lawlessness are those who violate ADONAI's

laws, His will. As *Sha'ul* said in regard to eating the bread and drinking the cup, "let a man examine himself." (1Corinthians 11:28). Not everyone who calls upon Yeshua's name is a part of the remnant. Each of us must examine ourselves to see if we are doing the will of our Father in Heaven. This is a very serious thing, especially at this time. As we see the people of our nation moving farther and farther from G-d, we must be certain that we are a part of ADONAI's remnant, those who have not bowed their knee in some way to Ba'al, Ashtoreth, Molech, Milcom, Kemosh and other principalities and powers and demons serving *HaSatan*.

In our *Torah* portion today, Israel has passed through the wilderness and is almost ready to enter the Promised Land. We, the Jew and Gentile covenant partners of the New Covenant have also been in the wilderness for a symbolic forty years, almost two thousand real years. Our eyes have been fixed on the Promised Land, Jubilee, Yeshua's return, and it is near. We will have to battle for it just as Israel did thirty-three hundred years ago. As long as we are in our corporeal bodies, we must resist temptation and bear witness for Yeshua. Referring to the Accuser, *HaSatan*, Revelation says: *11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even in the face of death.* (Revelation 12:11 TLV). After Yeshua comes on the clouds for us and we are in our resurrection bodies, we will be in the army of the Son of David, the conquering king. We will then have been joined by the rest of Israel, all Israel, whom ADONAI has redeemed and is now covenant partners with us in the New Covenant. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the salvation of all Israel. *Shabbat shalom!*