



Parasha Emor

May 18, 2024

Torah: Leviticus 21:1-24:3

Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31; Ruth 1:8-18

Ketuvim Sh'lichim: Ephesians 2: 11-13

Shabbat shalom Mishpacha! Our *parasha* today is *Emor*, meaning, “speak.” ADONAI told *Moshe* to speak to the *kohanim*, giving them His rules and clarification regarding sacrifices and offerings being brought to the Tabernacle. It includes Leviticus chapter 23, a very important chapter, one which details each of seven special *moadim*, festivals commanded by ADONAI, as well as the most important day, the weekly *Shabbat*. We have spoken on these things many times in the past and will take up a special subject today.

This past Tuesday, May 14, 1948, was the 76th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. It was a heart-stopping event, one which almost didn't happen. For the previous twenty-five years, the land which had come to be called Palestine had been under the British Mandate, the authority to rule it given to England by the League of Nations. Under this mandate, Britain was supposed to establish a national homeland for Jews, granted by the Balfour Declaration of 1917, alongside a homeland for the local Arabs. It happened 76 years ago, a lifetime for most. What were you doing on May 14, 1948? I was a sixth-grade student at Mound City, South Dakota. Of course, I did not hear about Israel becoming a nation. There was no television back then or radio stations reaching our small town. I don't remember when I first became aware of the state of Israel. When Israel was miraculously formed, it was just three years after the Second World War had ended, something which I do vividly remember.

On the day that the British Mandate was to expire, David Ben Gurion (David Gruen from Poland), who would soon be named the first Prime Minister, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had assured the Arabs in 1945 that the United States would not intervene without consulting both the Jews and the Arabs in that region. But, on May 14, 1948, eleven minutes after its creation, President Harry S. Truman became the first world leader to recognize the new State of Israel. The next day, May 15th, the armies of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria attacked, aided by all of Britain's arms, which they turned over to the Arabs. With ADONAI's help, the small nation defeated five much greater armies and in 1949, Israel officially won the war. The land was partitioned by the United Nations on November 29, 1947, into a Jewish state and an Arab state with Jerusalem under international supervision and it stayed that way until 1967 when Israel recaptured Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and other territories, after being attacked by forces from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.

May 14, 1948, was a very important time in Jewish history, but was 1948 the beginning of the final chapter of ADONAI's love affair with Abraham and his descendants? It may well have been. What is happening today seems to be the conclusion of the final chapter of an eternal plan made by ADONAI, one which He made before the foundation of the universe. It began with an Aramean man. Abram had been taken out of his birthplace, Ur of the Chaldeans, by his father Terah, initially to go to the Land of Canaan, but he decided to stop

in Haran, a village in what is now Turkey. Abram took his wife Sarai and nephew, Lot with him. ADONAI began by choosing Abram while he was in Haran. Scripture indicates that His choosing of Abram, who was 75 years old at the time, was completely according to His divine choice, an act of His grace, and Abram had nothing to do with it: *1 Then Adonai said to Abram, "Get going out from your land, and from your relatives, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you. 2 My heart's desire is to make you into a great nation, to bless you, to make your name great so that you may be a blessing."* (Genesis 12:1-2 TLV). It was about ten years later when Abram was about 85 years old and living in Canaan, that ADONAI cut His covenant with him, promising him and his descendants the land from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

It was a love affair. Years later, Moses told Israel: *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). Yes, ADONAI chose them because of His love for them: *1 But now, thus says Adonai—the One who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are Mine. 4 Since you are precious in My eyes, honored, because I love you, I will give a man in exchange for you, and other peoples for your life."* (Isaiah 43:1; 4a TLV). (Also Deuteronomy 7:6, Zechariah 2:8, Isaiah 54:10, Psalm 130:7, Jeremiah 31:3, Psalm 122:6). But, also wrapped up in ADONAI's eternal plan was His love for the Nations of the earth. When He called Abram in Haran, He had also said: *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). And, that is what happened. The families of the earth were blessed and are continuing to be blessed by Abraham's descendant, Yeshua (John 3:16), as well as by many different Jewish individuals. This latter part is borne out by Jewish individuals winning 22% of Nobel Prizes while being only .2% of the world's population. Called by ADONAI to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering, Abraham obediently placed his son on the altar and raised the knife to kill him, but the Angel of ADONAI stopped him. (Genesis 22). Because of his obedience, ADONAI promised great blessings to him and his descendants and also confirmed to him that through Him He would bless the nations of the earth: *18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed—because you obeyed My voice."* (Genesis 22:18 TLV). His seed is Yeshua, Jesus.

Fast forward to the 20th century following the Second World War and the Holocaust. Three significant events occurred during the next twenty years: the founding of the Nation of Israel, the recapture of Jerusalem, and the founding of Messianic Judaism. At almost exactly the same time that the "times of the Gentiles" ended when Israel recaptured Jerusalem in 1967, many young Jews were being saved in what came to be called "the Jesus Revolution." Regarding Jerusalem, Yeshua had prophesied: *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) and it happened June 7, 1967. Begun in California in the mid 1970's, the Jesus Movement swept across the United States. Martin (Marty) Chernoff, who lived in Cincinnati, was already a Messianic Jew, having trusted in Yeshua some years earlier. (Read this article in Charisma Magazine: <https://mycharisma.com/israeljewishroots/martin-chernoff-the-father-of-20th-century-messianic-judaism/>). He, along with his wife Yohanna, began a Bible study attended by their sons, Joel and David and other local Jewish youth. The Chernoffs moved to Philadelphia, where the movement gained momentum, leading to the formation of congregations.

A phenomenon that occurred along with the Messianic Jewish Movement was that many Gentiles were called by ADONAI to stand alongside and serve with the Jewish believers. This is not to take away from the fact that it was and is a Jewish thing. ADONAI called and recreated this movement, a movement very near in belief to that of Yeshua's 1st-century disciples. But, the truth is that Gentiles in the Jewish body was not a new thing. After coming out of Egypt when Israel was in the wilderness, ADONAI told Moses to send twelve spies into Canaan (Numbers 13:1-33) and ten of them brought back a bad report which caused rebellion among the people. The two spies giving a good report and recommending that Israel immediately enter Canaan were Joshua and Caleb. Joshua was from the Tribe of Ephraim, a tribe begun by Joseph and his Egyptian wife. However, all of the Tribes of Israel were founded by the sons of Jacob with Gentile wives. Caleb, though, was different. He was a member of the Tribe of Judah, but was not a descendant of Judah. Who was Caleb? *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). Caleb was 40 years old at the time. (Joshua 14:7 and Deuteronomy 2:14), so he must have come out of Egypt with the mixed multitude. (Exodus 12:38). We don't really know much about that group, except that it was a group of Egyptians and other nationalities who were living in Egypt. Whether Caleb had been living free in Egypt or was a slave himself, we don't know. We do know that his tribal origin was Kennizite. "Son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite," can mean that his father was a Kennizite and also that he, Caleb, was a Kenizzite. The Kennizites were a tribe living in the Land of Canaan when ADONAI cut His covenant with Abram. (Genesis 15:19). But, Caleb was not the only Gentile to become a part of Israel. Three Gentile women were ancestors of Yeshua, Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth. (Matthew 1:3, 5). Gentiles were an important part of ADONAI's plan, and you Gentiles being here is also a part of it. You were called and you responded and are in good company, that of Caleb, Tamar, Rahab and Ruth.

Jews and Gentiles are being called to be a part of Messianic Judaism today, but that is not to take away from the Church nor is it a replacement for the Church. Messianic Judaism is a G-d-called movement of the last days, one which He sent to present their Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, to the Jews and also to be a part of ushering in Messiah Yeshua at His second coming, along with the Church. All followers of *Yeshua* should ask G-d where He wants them to be. While some Gentiles are called to Messianic Judaism, some are not and are called to be a part of the Church. This message is for those whom *ADONAI* is calling to be a part of *Beit Shalom* or a part of any of the other Messianic Jewish congregations of the Movement. The question being asked of you is: "Are You a Ruth or a Boaz?" These terms are my characterization. Ruth's are both male and female Gentiles, and Boaz's are both male and female Jews, individuals whom ADONAI has called to Messianic Judaism. The answer to this question can be either a Boaz or a Ruth since both Jews and Gentiles are necessary for the success of ADONAI's plan for the Messianic Jewish Movement. But, the answer can also be neither if a person is called to be a part of the Church. The majority of the Gentile followers of *Yeshua* are called to the Church, but, each of us should want to be where G-d wants him or her to be. Leaders of congregations should seek to help their congregants find where G-d wants them and to stop being jealous of their sheep. As leaders, we should only want those sheep which ADONAI has intended for us. When we are guided by the Holy Spirit, we will leave behind the soulish possessiveness of our congregants. Since there are over two billion more Christians than the total of Jews and Gentiles in Messianic Judaism, the Church would not miss the relatively few who are in Messianic Judaism.

Right now as we grow closer to Yeshua's return, there is a real need for Gentiles to become a part of Messianic Judaism. Messianic Jews are a very small group and cannot do it alone. Because there are relatively few Jews who follow *Yeshua* today, ADONAI has called some Messianic Gentiles to be "Ruths." These individuals have joined themselves to the people of Israel, the Jews of today, with a very special bond. Not every Gentile is called to be a Ruth in this sense and not every Christian Jew is called to be a Messianic Jewish follower of *Yeshua* in Messianic Judaism. Most Gentile followers of *Yeshua* are called to the Church and some Jewish followers of *Yeshua* are also called to be a part of the Church. Understanding this should help followers of *Yeshua*, Jesus, to seek their individual calling through the guidance of the *Ruach HaKodesh*. Scripture teaches that every follower of *Yeshua* is called to be in a congregation under proper spiritual authority. That means either in the Church or in Messianic Judaism. It will then be through the organizational connectivity of these different expressions of Yeshua's body that ADONAI will eventually bring about the whole body being "without spot or wrinkle."

You don't have to have any Jewish DNA to be called to be a part of Messianic Judaism. And the majority of those in Messianic Judaism today are not Jewish. We are just a few of the Gentiles called by ADONAI into a Jewish ministry. The best example is *Yeshua's* Gentile ancestor Ruth. Ruth was a Moabite, but she followed the leading of *ADONAI's* Spirit and left her country to go to the Land of Israel. Her mother-in-law Naomi pleaded with her to return to her own country, but Ruth replied: 16, "*Do not plead with me to abandon you, to turn back from following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God*" (Ruth 1:16 TLV). Those words are the basis for our calling as Gentiles: *Your people will be my people, and your God my God*. While all Gentile followers of *Yeshua*, both those in the Church and those in Messianic Judaism, have said "your G-d will be my G-d," Messianic Gentiles have gone a step further. Messianic Gentiles have said "your people will be my people." The Gentiles in *Beit Shalom* understand this and relate to all of our Jewish brothers and sisters as *mishpacha*, family. This is a calling from *ADONAI*. Our congregation is mostly Gentile, primarily a congregation of Ruths, Gentiles who have heard *ADONAI's* voice and responded to it. And, being a Ruth in the Messianic Jewish Movement is an important calling. No one knows the exact percentage of Gentiles in the Messianic Jewish Movement, but we estimate that the worldwide Messianic Jewish Movement is 75-80% or more Gentile, probably more. The Gentiles in Messianic Judaism have been called by *ADONAI* to stand alongside and to minister with the ethnically Jewish followers of *Yeshua* in this end-time movement which He has re-established.

Since June 7, 1967, Jerusalem is no longer in the "times of the Gentiles" but is now "in the times of the Jews" because Jerusalem is under Jewish control and will have been for 57 years this June. After thousands of years of being dispersed among the nations, the descendants of Abraham are once again in control of the capital city of the nation of Israel, the nation which *ADONAI* promised to them. Jews now control the place where *ADONAI* has placed His name. He said to Solomon: 6 "*But I have chosen Jerusalem that My Name would abide there and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel*" (2Chronicles 6:6 TLV). The "times of the Gentiles" had to end in order for prophecy to be fulfilled. *Yeshua*, Son of David, will return to rule and reign in Jerusalem, a Jewish city. Under the present conditions, that is, Israel and Jerusalem under Jewish control, the final part of the blessing which *ADONAI* promised to the Nations through Abraham can also now be fulfilled. It is the return of *Yeshua* to Israel, returning not as "the suffering servant who died for our sins," but as the "the conquering and ruling king," who will conquer His enemies and bring eternal peace to the Nations. We don't know when this will happen and we are not setting dates. But, we know

beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are in the closing years of the *olam hazeh*, this present world, and are nearing the coming of the *olam habah*, the world to come, the time when *Yeshua* will return to rule and reign.

And, all of this has been done through the Jews for the benefit and blessing of the Gentiles, *ADONAI*'s plan from the beginning. It was our Creator's plan from before the earth's foundation to use Abraham's descendants to bring blessing to all the nations of the earth. We read in Genesis 12:3 that *ADONAI* said: "In you, all the families of the earth will be blessed." The major part of this blessing would eventually be shown to be the gift of eternal life through *Yeshua*, G-d's son and Abraham's son. This would come about through *ADONAI*'s chosen nation, Israel, from which our Messiah would be born. And, through our Messiah *Yeshua*, the two groups, Jew and Gentile, would become one.

Sha'ul devised a unique symbol to describe the joining of these two groups. It was the olive tree, something which *ADONAI* Himself, spoke about through the prophets to describe the Nation of Israel (Jeremiah 11, 16-17, Hosea 5:14-17). *Sha'ul* used the olive tree as a metaphor to describe the joining of the two groups of peoples into one. The branches of the tree represent people. Speaking to Gentiles, he said: *17 But if some of the branches were broken off and you—being a wild olive—were grafted in among them and became a partaker of the root of the olive tree with its richness...* (Romans 11:17a TLV). He used the natural branches to represent Israel in the flesh, the Jews. The natural branches on the tree, the Jews who did not accept *Yeshua*, were broken off for unbelief when they rejected a relationship with the Messiah of Israel. But, Gentiles, the branches of a wild olive tree, can, through *Yeshua*, be grafted into Israel. The same is true for Jews who have trusted *Yeshua*. They can be grafted back into their tree. We all need to understand that the olive tree is a Jewish tree. In *Sha'ul*'s metaphor, it is growing from the root of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the other fathers of Israel. But, *ADONAI*, Himself, is the gardener. He is the One who has tended this tree through the centuries; tended it to carry out His plan to bless all mankind through Abraham and his descendants.

Sha'ul's metaphor was about grafting, an unusual concept. We might ask, did he choose this metaphor on his own, or did he have some idea about it from other Scriptures? That is, did *ADONAI* imply "grafting" when He made the promise to bless the nations through Abraham? It is possible that He did. Here is a different slant on the phrase, "*and by you all the Nations of the earth will be blessed*" (Genesis 22:18 TLV). The word "blessed" in this phrase is the Hebrew word *v'nivrechu*. It is usually translated as blessed but also hints of something else. *V'nivrechu* is derived from the Hebrew infinitive *mavrich*, which means "to graft." So, while *ADONAI* intended to bless the Gentiles with salvation through Abraham's descendant *Yeshua*, it also becomes apparent that he planned to bless them by *grafting* them into His covenant nation, Israel, through *Yeshua*. Israel is the entity through which *ADONAI* works. All of His covenants, including the New Covenant, are with Israel. Gentiles who trust *Yeshua* become covenant members of the New Covenant and fellow citizens of the nation of Israel.

Today's Olive Tree of Israel is composed of native and wild olive branches. The native branches are the first fruits of the salvation of all Israel, Messianic Jews, Jews who have trusted *Yeshua*. The wild olive branches are all Gentiles who have trusted *Yeshua* in the Church and Messianic Judaism. And together, the followers of *Yeshua*, both native and wild branches of *Sha'ul*'s olive tree, *Yeshua*'s body, are a part of the Commonwealth of Israel. The third part is the traditional Jews who are in covenant with *ADONAI* through the Abrahamic

Covenant. *Sha'ul* spoke about this in his letter to the Ephesians. He said: *11 Therefore, keep in mind that once, you Gentiles in the flesh were called "uncircumcision" by those called "circumcision" (which is performed on flesh by hand). 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. 13 But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah* (Ephesians 2:11-13 TLV). All of us Gentiles who have trusted *Yeshua* are not only a part of His body but also citizens of the commonwealth of Israel. This is a spiritual commonwealth, not a physical one, and is not related to the current Nation of Israel in any way. The individuals of that physical nation, Israel, itself currently filled with both the righteous as well as those committing many sins against ADONAI's *Torah*, is the raw material from which "all Israel shall be saved" and become a part of ADONAI's New Covenant. The New Covenant community is presently made up of two groups of people, Jews and Gentiles. Regarding Gentiles, Ephesians 2:12 says: *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* (TLV). Gentiles who have entered the covenants of promise do not change into something else when they come to *Yeshua* and as a part of the New Covenant and the Commonwealth, we remain Gentiles. And Jews also remain Jews. Even though there are two groups, there is only one body. *Sha'ul* wrote: *4 There is one body and one Ruach, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one immersion; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all* (Ephesians 4:4-6 TLV). So, while Jews who trust *Yeshua* don't become Gentiles and Gentiles who trust *Yeshua* don't become Jews, we do become "one in Messiah." Speaking of Gentiles, *Sha'ul* said: *13 But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. 14 For He is our shalom, the One who made the two into one and broke down the middle wall of separation.* (Ephesians 2:13-14a TLV). While the TLV says "made the two into one," other versions say "created in Himself one new humanity" or "created one new man." All of these are ways of saying that *Yeshua*, through His death on the stake has made Jews and Gentiles into one spiritual body. And, that new spiritual body is neither the Church nor Messianic Judaism. It is the *Ecclesia*, a much more inclusive entity. The *Ecclesia* is the assembly, the body of *Yeshua's* "called out ones," corporate Israel, His congregation. The "one new man" is a way of referring to this unified spiritual body, a body unified in love and calling, but remaining individually as ADONAI originally made us and called us. And through His Spirit, we are "one."

But we must not be "one" in name only. G-d's desire is that all of us who are in His Commonwealth would be "one in His Spirit" and that the divisions which we now have would disappear. This is one of the greatest challenges to the Body of Messiah at this time. Think of the spiritual power that *Yeshua's* body will have when it becomes "one." There would be no evangelism problems; the unsaved would rush to seek the "G-d" that they would see in each of us.

In relation to equality and importance, it is also necessary to be aware of "spiritual pride." We must be careful not to believe that "our group is the most important." The Church has been around for almost 2000 years, and that could cause a sense of greater importance. The Messianic Jews were *Yeshua's* original disciples, which could cause greater importance. But neither group can have spiritual pride if we as a unified body are to be successful in carrying out G-d's plan. Even right now, there is some misunderstanding and distrust among us. Between Christian groups, it may relate to doctrinal differences. Between the Church and Messianic Judaism, it can also be because of doctrinal differences and also because of a lack of knowledge about the mission of Messianic Judaism. Gentiles who are called to walk

with Jews in Messianic Judaism are different in belief and practice from the Church. But we have not been called to place our vision and calling upon the Church. Each group, those within the Church and also Messianic Judaism, must seek G-d for their own way of understanding and carrying out Scripture.

Messianic Judaism is not seeking to impose its beliefs on the Church. Yeshua gave each group the authority to interpret Scripture. When Yeshua was in Caesarea Philippi with His disciples, He asked who people say the Son of Man is. *Shimon Kefa* gave the correct answer. He said: 16 ..., “*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*” 17 Yeshua said to him, “*Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven!*” 18 And I also tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My community; and the gates of Sheol will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will have been forbidden in heaven and what you permit on earth will have been permitted in heaven” (Matthew 16:16b-19 TLV).

“Forbidding and permitting” or “binding and loosing” is authority given by Yeshua to His followers, “the keys to the kingdom.” It was not a new concept, but something which Yeshua’s disciples would have understood. They understood it because it was a rabbinic principle used by the rabbis even before Yeshua’s day. The two leading Pharisaic schools of thought of about a generation before Yeshua were The House of Hillel and The House of Shammai. This authority can be shown by this example: “Rabbi Hillel binds, but Rabbi Shammai looses.” In other words, Rabbi Hillel said that a certain thing must be done, while Rabbi Shammai said it did not have to be done. This means that Yeshua gave the leadership of His *Ecclesia* the authority to make *halacha*, binding decisions, for their group, the Church and Messianic Judaism. *Halacha* means “the way to walk,” and is used in Judaism to refer to how *Torah* is understood concerning observance. Neither the Church nor Messianic Judaism has authority over the other, but each group must respect the spiritual choices of their fellow members of the Messiah’s body. May a beginning of understanding lead to increased opportunity for dialogue which can and will lead to even greater understanding. And greater understanding will lead to greater cooperation and greater unity.

The whole body of Messiah, the Church, and Messianic Judaism together, must seek a clear vision for the future. Individual congregational visions must be carried out, but there is also a critical need for *ecclesia*-wide, body-wide, vision. Another major need within the body is to repair the disunity and to begin to seek to have a unified vision concerning the end times. This can only be accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit and the willingness of the various parts of the body to listen to each other. When Yeshua returns depends somewhat upon us. Although G-d knows exactly when it will be, it is very likely not a pre-set time, and it can be hastened by our building the unity of the body and the extension of the *Beserah*, the Gospel. How well we do this also will have a direct bearing on the time of “the salvation of all Israel,” which I believe will occur before Yeshua returns. 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 salvation of all Israel will be the single major salvation event before Yeshua returns. And, all Israel will become the “nation of priests” which ADONAI called them to be (Exodus 19:6). But, an even greater salvation event may follow as the salvation of the Jews becomes the catalyst for another great end-time

revival. Even after all Israel is saved, there will still be millions of Gentiles who do not know *Yeshua* with the majority being in Islam. But Satan's hold on them will be broken as the new Spirit-filled Jewish evangelists begin to do their job. Zechariah 8 seems to speak of a time after all Israel has been saved. *20 Thus says Adonai-Tzva'ot, "Peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will again come. 21 The inhabitants of one city will go to another saying 'Let us go to entreat the favor of Adonai and to seek Adonai-Tzva'ot. I also am going.' 22 Indeed, many peoples and powerful nations will come to seek Adonai-Tzva'ot in Jerusalem, and to entreat the favor of Adonai." 23 Thus says Adonai-Tzva'ot, "In those days it will come to pass that ten men from every language of the nations will grasp the corner of the garment of a Jew saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'* (Zechariah 8:20-23 TLV). This final, end-time revival will seemingly be ten times larger than the number saved at the salvation of all Israel. And then, Messiah *Yeshua* will return!

The establishment of the Nation of Israel 76 years ago is very important, as was the recapture of Jerusalem 57 years ago. These things had to happen to fulfill ADONAI's eternal plan. But, our part in it is just as important. We, Jews and Gentiles of the New Covenant together, are the modern voices "crying in the wilderness" today. While there may be a human, physical Elijah who precedes the coming of *Yeshua*, we could also possibly be a corporate Elijah. As Isaiah wrote: *3 A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of Adonai, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* (Isaiah 40:3 TLV). *Yochanan*, John, was the Elijah voice in *Yeshua*'s day. Whether we are the Elijah voice today or not, we are called to "prepare the way." The Church and Messianic Judaism must work together to accomplish this! *Shabbat shalom!*