



Parasha Va'etchanan

August 17, 2024

Torah: Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26

Ketuvim Shlichim: James 2:14-26

Shabbat shalom mishpacha! Our *parasha* today is *Va'etchanan* which means “I pleaded.” Moses said: 23 “I pleaded with Adonai at that time, saying, 24 ‘O Lord Adonai, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand—for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do deeds and mighty acts like Yours? 25 Please! Let me cross over and see the good land across the Jordan—that good hill country and the Lebanon.’” (Deuteronomy 3:23-25 TLV). ADONAI would not relent, and Moses died after only seeing *Eretz Yisra’el*, the Promised Land, from a distance. In *Parasha Chukat* (Numbers 20:1-13), ADONAI instructed Moses to speak to the rock to bring forth water. But, because Moses was angry with the people, he struck it instead. In our human minds, this doesn’t seem to be enough to keep him out of the Promised Land, but to ADONAI it was.

The Book of Deuteronomy was a time of final preparation for Israel during which Moses reiterated many of the things which were taught which occurred during the time of the first generation. He told Israel that they will sin when they are in the land and worship other gods, which will cause ADONAI to scatter them among the nations. Other important things in these verses are the cities of refuge, a repetition of the Ten Words, and the teaching of the *Shema*. Many in the second generation probably never heard some of the things about which he spoke. How Moses presented the information to them was very orderly and followed a very specific format, the format of a covenant, hence the name of this book. *Deuteronomos*, meaning “second law,” was given to this book by the authors of the *Septuagint*, the Greek version of the *Torah* from about 200 BCE, rendering Deuteronomy in English.

Tisha B'Av, the 9th of the month of *Av*, was this past Tuesday. It reminded us of the importance of the nation of Israel in our prayers, but it also reminded us to pray for the “salvation of all Israel.” Today, the first *Shabbat*, after *Tisha B'Av*, is called *Shabbat Nachamu*. *Nachamu* means “comfort” and is today's first and second words in our *Haftarah* portion. In Jewish tradition, these words are a message of comfort from ADONAI to Israel after the trials and sorrows of *Tisha B'Av*. With the evil report of the ten spies in the wilderness being the first *Tisha B'Av*, that is a real possibility. The First Temple was not destroyed until more than a hundred years after Isaiah wrote these words. Isaiah’s words prophesied a much greater comfort, a promise, I believe, that in the end, Israel will return to ADONAI through *Yeshua* as *Messiah*. Verse 1 reads: *Nachamu nachamu ami yomar Eloheichem. 1 “Comfort, comfort my people, says Your G-d.”* (Isaiah 40:1 TLV). It continues: 2 “Speak kindly to the heart of Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed. For she has received from Adonai’s hand double for all her sins.” (Isaiah 40:2 TLV). “Tell her that her sins have been paid for.” That is what this is about. Israel’s sins have been paid for. Isaiah prophesied the coming of salvation, which would be paid for by their brother and kinsman-redeemer, *Yeshua*, *Goel Yisra’el*.

When Moses spoke the words of *Devarim* to Israel, Isaiah's days were far in the future, but Israel was just days away from entering Canaan to fight and make it *Eretz Yisra'el*, the Land of Israel. They faced uncertainty and strife but had ADONAI's promise that He was with them. He said to Joshua: *6 Chazak! Be strong! For you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be very strong, and resolute to observe diligently the Torah which Moses, My servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so you may be successful wherever you go.* (Joshua 1:6-7 TLV).

These words have special meaning for Yeshua's followers today as we face difficult circumstances. ADONAI says to us: *Chazak! Be Strong!* The world is in turmoil, and we don't know what to expect next. In a sermon in 1630, John Winthrop spoke of what would become our nation, the United States, as "a city on a hill." He took this from Yeshua's words: *14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."* (Matthew 5:14 TLV). His prophecy was correct. We would be a city set on a hill, a light to the nations. And we were for many years. But now, our light has dimmed and is in danger of being completely extinguished.

As members of Yeshua's body, we are taught to believe by faith for the impossible, and we do. As followers of Yeshua and citizens of the United States, we continue to seek for our nation to return to its former state when most of its people upheld G-d's moral laws and the constitution given to us by our founders. Not everything done was good. Our founders had a very large blind spot and allowed slavery to continue. Praise G-d that it no longer exists, but our nation today still has that problem in the form of human trafficking and many other horrible things.

The title of our message today is "It's Later Than You Think, Part 1." This is about eschatology, "the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and humankind. ADONAI has a timeline, and for our well-being, we need to know where we are on it. Our focus today is on the final destiny of mankind as set forth by ADONAI in His Word. I am not a theologian, and my approach to eschatology is through my understanding of Scripture, which is sometimes aided by materials of other followers of Yeshua. I fully understand that "I see through a glass darkly" (1 Corinthians 13:12) and can only pray that my understanding is acceptable to ADONAI. As always, I ask you to prayerfully consider the teachings presented for you in *Beit Shalom* and the Messianic Jewish body.

To understand what has been taught at *Beit Shalom*, having a little knowledge of the significant "end-time theologies" of the body of the Messiah will be helpful. We understand that the authors of these theologies also "have seen through a glass darkly" and additionally formulated their theologies at times much further away from the upcoming events. We have the advantage of being much nearer the events and also being a part of the Messianic Jewish Movement, something that has only been in existence since the 1960s and, incidentally, came into existence at the same time as Yeshua's prophecy about the times of the Gentiles in Jerusalem ending was fulfilled. (Luke 21:24; June 7, 1967). In my opinion, this is one of the most important purposes of the Messianic Jewish Movement: to bring back a more Jewish understanding of the Scriptures. The modern restoration of Messianic Judaism, I believe, was brought about by ADONAI to begin to prepare Yeshua's greater body, the Church, for the End Times. This is not to say that we are trying to make the Church Messianic. That is not our mission, but it is our mission to be "salt and light" to the greater body of Yeshua. This is an advantage for us because, in our Movement, we are, for the most part, looking

through the eyes of Jews, even though some of us are not Jews. The whole Bible is a Jewish document, and unfortunately, some of these earlier theologians had an anti-Semitic mindset.

According to the Logos website on their page entitled “What Is Eschatology? 4 Views, Why There’s Disagreement & More,” the four views are: Amillennialism, Postmillennialism, Historic Premillennialism and Dispensationalism. Understanding these four views will help us to clarify our view of the end times.

Amillennialism means there is no literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth. Instead, His reign is understood differently, and this theology has no Antichrist. There may be a man of sin, as described in 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12, who would be similar. Those espousing this theology note that the 1000-year language in Revelation 20 can be taken figuratively. With His resurrection and ascension, Christ began his reign, presently ruling on earth through his people, and He will return physically, at any moment, to usher in heaven on earth. In this view, Satan’s influence is diminished because Christ has bound him, and he is not presently exerting influence over the world. There is not a stark contrast between Israel and the Church because the Church is spiritual Israel, because Christ is true Israel. This doesn’t mean that the Church has replaced Israel but instead that the Church is the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham that his offspring (Jesus) would bless all nations (people groups). Martin Luther and John Calvin were both proponents of this theology.

Postmillennialism is challenging to understand because its followers disagree on some points. They disagree as to whether the reign of Christ is 1,000 years or simply a long time. Its basic understanding is that the gospel’s progress is ever-expanding until the world becomes markedly Christian, and then Christ returns. When Christ returns, the millennial age is ushered in by the unrelenting advance of the gospel. There is no definitive position on the role of Satan within postmillennial thought. Some of their theologians argue that Jesus bound Satan similar to Amillennialism beliefs, while others would argue it remains a future event, an agreement with Premillennialism. The Postmillennial position agrees with Amillennialism that the Church is the fulfillment of Israel and is spiritual Israel.

As a broad category, Premillennialism is sometimes assumed to be the significant view of Christians in America because it is the most common view of eschatology held by American evangelicals. There are two major divisions: Historic Premillennialism, often called Premillennialism, the traditional form, and Dispensational Premillennialism, usually called Dispensationalism.

In Historic Premillennialism, Christ will return physically and visibly to usher in the millennial reign—but historic premillennialists disagree whether the reign of Christ will be a literal thousand years or just a long time. In their view, Satan is currently at work in the world, influencing affairs and deceiving the nations. At the return of Christ, Satan will be bound for the duration of the millennial age. Historic premillennialism proposes that the Church is the spiritual fulfillment of Israel and is spiritual Israel.

In Dispensationalism, the millennial reign of Christ will begin after His return at the end of seven years, known as the Tribulation. They believe that the millennial reign of Christ begins at the third coming of Christ, the other two comings being His first coming in the flesh and an invisible coming. Regarding His invisible coming, Dispensationalists propose a secret rapture concept in which Christ returns, either before or midway through the tribulation period, to remove the Church from the earth. Dispensationalism states that Satan is actively at work to resist the Church and undermine God’s people. He will be bound for the duration

of the millennium and only released for a final confrontation following his thousand-year captivity. Dispensationalism also considers Daniel 9 regarding the 70 weeks as a key passage for interpreting history. Classic dispensationalism proposes that the content of the Bible is divided into seven dispensations or eras.

The end-time theology I have presented to you at *Beit Shalom* for the last several years is considerably different, but we may agree on some points. We agree with Amillennialism that there is no millennium and that there was a man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). We agree that with Yeshua's resurrection and ascension, He began his reign and rules over his body of believers from His position at the Father's right hand in Heaven. He will soon return physically to usher in heaven on earth. We agree that *HaSatan* was bound by Messiah but disagree that he is still bound, believing that he has already been released and is currently influencing the world. We disagree regarding their belief in "who is Israel." Concerning Postmillennialism, we disagree with pretty much everything they believe. We disagree that the gospel's progress is ever-expanding until the world becomes markedly Christian, and then Christ will return, nor is there a millennial age. We also disagree that the church is spiritual Israel.

We do not agree much with Historic Premillennialism. We agree that Yeshua will return physically to usher in His reign, but not that it will initially be for a millennium. Their view of the millennium is that Satan is currently at work in the world, influencing affairs and deceiving the nations, but will be bound for the duration of the millennial age when Christ returns. We believe that *HaSatan* was bound when Yeshua died on the cross and has already been released after a symbolic 1000-year captivity and is now actively deceiving the nations. We disagree with Dispensationalism, which believes that Yeshua will return and rule for a thousand years and that *HaSatan* will be bound at its end. More specifically, we disagree that there is a coming physical Antichrist, a rebuilt Temple, and a divided seven-year tribulation period. We also disagree with their "secret rapture" theory. Revelation 1:7 tells us that when Yeshua comes with the clouds, as told in 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17, every eye shall see Him. We disagree with their interpretation of Daniel 9 and the 70 weeks as a future event, believing it happened in the 1st century.

This is just scratching the surface regarding these theologies. Our purpose today is to give points for comparison. Also, the theological positions I will present are not necessarily those of other Messianic rabbis. I have not consulted them or read what anyone teaches about the end-time. Some would most likely be similar. I humbly present this information as understanding Yeshua's brother *Ya'acov's* words: *1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, since you know that we will receive a stricter judgment.* (James 3:1).

This theology outline presents a sequence based on the general order of occurrences in Scripture, with each element then to be analyzed individually. **A** First, Israel according to Jeremiah 31. **B** Second, the latter part of the Daniel 9 prophecy took place in the 1st century, all of it, and primarily referred to Yeshua. **C** Third, *HaSatan* was bound when Yeshua died on the cross and has already been released to deceive the nations. **D** Fourth, the Great Tribulation prophesied by Yeshua has already happened. **E** Fifth, there is no physical Antichrist. **F** Sixth, there is no millennium reign of Messiah prophesied. And **G**, seventh, everything required to happen for the latter events of the "Last Days" to happen is in place. We are even now seeing the fulfillment of Psalm 83 regarding Israel. We await the fulfillment

of Ezekiel's Gog and Magog prophecy (Ezekiel 38) and Revelation's Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), which may be the same event.

A Who is the Israel of prophecy? Jeremiah prophesied: 30 *"Behold, days are coming" —it is a declaration of Adonai— "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—"* (Jeremiah 31:31 TLV). ADONAI's actual words were not that He would make a New Covenant with "Israel." That would open the door for some to say: "We are Israel!" ADONAI did not say that but said He would make a New Covenant with "the house of Israel and the house of Judah," the Jews of the northern Israelite kingdom, and the Jews of the southern kingdom, Judah. Together, they were the "Israel" of 30 CE when Yeshua cut the New Covenant with His blood. ADONAI's New Covenant is today's spiritual/relational covenant with Israel. He has never made a covenant with the Church. Today, Israel is made up of the covenant partners of the New Covenant, Jews and Gentiles who have trusted in Yeshua, plus all the Jews of the world who are in covenant with Him through the Abrahamic Covenant. *Sha'ul* describes this complete group in Ephesians 2:12 as ADONAI's Commonwealth of Israel. Some say ADONAI divorced Israel. Isaiah wrote: 1 *Thus says Adonai: "Where is the divorce certificate, by which I sent your mother away? Or to whom of My creditors did I sell you? See, you were sold for your iniquities, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away."* (Isaiah 50:1 TLV). But then, He said: 7 *"For a brief moment I deserted you, but I will regather you with great compassion. 8 In a surge of anger I hid My face from you a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,"* says Adonai your Redeemer. (Isaiah 54:7-8 TLV). He never divorced or completely deserted Israel. I paraphrase ADONAI's words after He told of the coming New Covenant: "Only if the sun, moon, and stars stop giving their light or if heaven's or earth's foundation can be measured, will Israel cease from being a nation before Me." (Jeremiah 31:35-36). Here is another declaration by ADONAI regarding Israel: 9 *"So by this (the Exile) will Jacob's sin be atoned and this the full price to remove his sin:* (Isaiah 27:9 TLV). I encourage you to read the verses before this one to understand the context. To me, this means that ADONAI will not punish Israel again. Israel, here represented by the Jews who have not yet trusted in Yeshua, is now in the days of her redemption, awaiting the salvation of all Israel as described in Ezekiel 36:24-27 and Romans 11:25-27.

B This section begins with the prophecy delivered by the Angel Gabriel to Daniel in chapter 9. You know where my understanding comes from regarding this prophecy because I have spoken about it so many times since I first read Daniel Bruce's book, *Daniel Unsealed*, in 2013. I believe that ADONAI has given this man special insight into these mysteries and that, for the most part, he is correct. He also "sees through a glass darkly," but, in my opinion, has been given significant answers to the Daniel 9 prophecy and the whole book of Daniel. I continue to recommend that everyone read *Daniel Unsealed*, which can be downloaded at no cost from www.prophecysociety.org.

Yeshua died as our only effective sin sacrifice, and in doing so, He fulfilled the prophecy given to Daniel by the Angel Gabriel. (Daniel 9:24-27). More than 500 years before Yeshua was born, Gabriel described 70 future weeks during which six things would be fulfilled. Summarizing Bruce's findings is not an easy task, so it is essential that you deal with numerous details today. The things in bold are my additions.

24 *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, (1) to finish the transgression (To end the national religious revolt by Antigonus, the brother of Hyrcanus II. They were descendants of the Maccabean dynasty fighting over the*

priesthood), and (2) to make an end of sins (**The institution of the New Covenant as stated in Jeremiah 31:34b - for I will forgive their iniquity**), and (3) to make reconciliation for iniquity (Also refers to the coming New Covenant. **Jeremiah 31:34b says - and I will remember their sin no more**), and (4) to bring in everlasting righteousness (**Brought in by Yeshua's immersion in the Jordan River by John; Matthew 3:15 states that it was- to fulfill all righteousness**), and (5) to seal up the vision and prophecy (**The Masoretic text reads: "vision and prophet."** This was fulfilled at Yeshua's immersion. **John 6:27b states - "for him hath God the Father sealed" with Yeshua being the prophet**), and (6) to anoint the most Holy" (**Yeshua is the "most holy" and was anointed when immersed; Isaiah 42:1b says - I have put My Spirit on Him; John 1:32; ADONAI's Spirit descending like a dove on Yeshua at His immersion**) (KJV).

The 70 Weeks are composed of three groups of years: 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and one week. According to Bruce, "weeks" does not represent weeks of calendar years, 490 years, as most think, but is a reference to "the Festival of Weeks," *Shavuot*, and refers to 70 Festivals of Week's, 70 Pentecost's, an actual 70 years. We note that Jewish understanding was required to understand this prophecy, and Bruce was given it. The first *Shavuot* of the prophecy was in 42 BCE, with the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem by Julius Caesar, and ended on *Shavuot* in 28 CE. This is a complicated subject, but Bruce has done an amazing job explaining the details and how each was accomplished. The immersion of Yeshua by John took place during the 70th Week before the 70th *Shavuot*, and that was what accomplished "the anointing of the most holy" as prophesied in Daniel 9:24. Bruce's use of the King James Version is important because it is the most accurate for the context. Most other Bible versions say, "Anoint the Holy Place," but Bruce asserts that it is Yeshua who is the "most holy" and not the Temple, and King James reads, "to anoint the most holy." The 70 *Shavuots*, Pentecosts, were completed in 28 CE after Yeshua was covenanted by immersion in the Jordan River.

Verse 25: *25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment (Given by Julius Caesar to Hyrcanus II, the High Priest, the anointed one, in 44 BCE) to restore and to build Jerusalem (To rebuild the Jerusalem walls destroyed by Roman General Pompey in 63 BCE) unto the Messiah the Prince (It is not Yeshua! Hyrcanus II is the anointed one [High Priest] and prince of the prophecy) shall be seven weeks (42 BCE to 36 BCE), and threescore and two weeks (35 BCE - 27 CE): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (Daniel 9:25 KJV). Gruber's explanation of this verse is: "Observe with your eyes and calculate with your mind, that after the issuance of the decree by Julius Caesar to Hyrcanus II, high priest and ethnarch (anointed one-prince) of the Jews, restoring him to rule in Jerusalem (the first restoration) and granting him permission to rebuild its fortifications, until his repatriation to Jerusalem by Herod (the second restoration), there will be seven Pentecosts, followed by sixty-two Pentecosts. Before the seven Pentecosts begin, the tower gate with its broad place and the trench in front of the wall that were destroyed by Pompey will have been rebuilt."*

Verse 26: *26 And after threescore and two weeks (It was in 27 CE) shall Messiah be cut off (This is not the crucifixion! Yikarat, יִקְרָא, can mean covenanted. Yeshua was given at Jordan River immersion for a covenant to be killed. Isaiah 53:8b states - For He was cut off from the land of the living, for the transgression of my people—), but not for himself (Yeshua's servant role, a condition of nothingness): and the people (Roman soldiers) of the prince that shall come (Roman General Titus) shall destroy the city (Jerusalem in 70 CE) and the sanctuary (the Temple), and the end (of it) thereof shall be*

with a flood (It happened quickly after the Romans broke through Jerusalem's walls), and unto the end of the war desolations (The desolations are the Romans making offerings to their gods on Temple Mount by raising ensigns, flags with their gods names. See Josephus) are determined (Foretelling the more future destruction of Jerusalem by Hadrian, 2nd Jewish War, 132-135 CE). (Daniel 9:26 KJV). After His *mikvah* in the Jordan River, Yeshua began His ministry of a little less than 3 years. Now, move to 30 CE and the end of Yeshua's physical ministry.

Verse 27:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many (in 30 CE) for one week (Yeshua's return to and teaching in Jerusalem for one week): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease (Yeshua died on the cross in the middle of the week. His death ended the effectiveness of Temple sacrifices under the Covenant made at Sinai), and for the overspreading of abominations (Forseeing Byzantine rule of Jerusalem in the future, 324-637 CE, when the Temple Mount was made a garbage dump) he shall make it desolate (It was made desolate by the abominations built, the Mosque of Omar and the Dome of the Rock in the late 900's. They made and currently make the Temple Mount desolate), even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate (This last statement foretells the state of perpetual conflict and spiritual desolation of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount that is still in evidence to this very day). (Daniel 9:27 KJV).

Daniel Gruber is not perfect in his thinking and I'm certain he got a few things wrong, but his overall presentation gets an A+ from me. Scripture verifies that at the beginning of the final week of His life, Yeshua entered Jerusalem, acknowledged by the people as the King of Israel. (Luke 19:29-38). He, Yeshua, confirmed the "New" covenant prophesied by Jeremiah (31:31) at His Passover Seder the night before He died, representing Himself as the sacrifice that would cut the New Covenant the next day. (Matthew 26:26-28). He is the one who put an end to sacrifice and offering in the middle of the week. He did it by dying on the cross on 14 Nisan, the day that lambs were to be slaughtered for Passover. As ADONAI's New Covenant sacrifice for sin, Yeshua's sacrifice superseded the sacrifices prescribed in the First Covenant, thereby ending them. Yeshua's blood cut the New Covenant through His death, which became ADONAI's official covenant.

The Messianic Jewish Movement's very existence, just our being here, proclaims to Yeshua's body, "It's later than you think." We have to adjust our thinking. Yeshua's return is not far in the future but on our doorstep. We must prepare to face even more uncertain times in the world. Even as our nation prepares for a national election, we must pray for guidance and vote for the candidate whose proposal comes closest to embodying ADONAI's moral commands. There is no perfect candidate. Even a more conservative candidate's win will not return us to the good old days if ADONAI's plan for the End Times supersedes it. We have to be prepared that ungodly ones may continue to guide our government, and we may come into persecution. But even if there is a storm around us, ADONAI promises Israel, us: 2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, or through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, nor will the flame burn you." (Isaiah 43:2 TLV). However, all of this brings us closer each day to the return of our Messiah. Yeshua, may your kingdom come on earth as in heaven?! Part 2 next *Shabbat. Shabbat shalom!*

Revival Begins With Me!

***Return to Yeshua!
Return to Authority!
Return to Attendance!***

Pass it on!