



## **Parasha Re'eh**

August 31, 2024

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

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

*Ketuvim Shlichim:* 1John 4:1-6

*Shabbat shalom Mishpacha!* Our *parasha* today is *Re'eh*, “See.” In it Moses is continuing his review of everything that happened during Israel's 40 years in the wilderness. It seems that because the first generation that died in the wilderness failed so miserably, ADONAI has now instructed Moses to tell the people what will happen to them if they disobey. 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 11:2-28 TLV). Moses then repeated many of the *mitzvot* which were given in the wilderness. Before they entered Canaan, ADONAI set before Israel a *b'rachah* and a *k'lalah*, a blessing and a curse, a choice. If Israel does not obey the *mitzvot*, the commandments, of ADONAI, but turns aside from the “way” He has directed and goes *acharei elohim*, “after other gods,” which they have not known, then He will cause a curse, a *k'lalah*, to come upon them. But if Israel obeys His *mitzvot* and does not follow after other gods, He will cause a blessing to come upon them. Several curses came upon Israel after many years of disobeying ADONAI's commands.

Blessings and curses by ADONAI are real today. Would we be off base suggesting that our once-blessed nation is now cursed? We don't know the answer, the verdict is still out, and there may be an opportunity to reverse the curse. We cannot forget ADONAI's words to *Avram*: 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). How many in our nation have cursed Israel and blessed Hamas and other terrorist groups? The events happening today are a wake-up call for Yeshua's body.

Our past two messages have been a look at some of the Christian eschatologies of today. After examining them, they were rejected as not being true to Scripture. Humbly presented, this series is our eschatological understanding of the events of the Bible. Our list of contents is **A** Who is Israel according to Jeremiah 31. **B** The latter part of the Daniel 9 prophecy occurred in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, primarily referring to Yeshua. **C** *HaSatan* was bound when Yeshua died on the cross and has been released to deceive the nations. **D** The Great Tribulation prophesied by Yeshua has already happened. **E** There is no physical Antichrist coming. **F** There is no millennium reign of Messiah prophesied. **G** Everything required to happen for the latter events of the “Last Days” is in place. **A**, **B**, **C**, and **D** have been covered. We now take up **E**.

**E** There is no physical Antichrist coming.

What is the evidence for a human Antichrist? As Americans, we sometimes pride ourselves on determining what is true and what is not, resisting the scams of so many scammers. Yeshua told His disciples 32 “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!” (John 8:32 TLV). But what is “the truth.” In saying this, Yeshua obviously was referring

to the truth about Himself as Messiah. We believe that, but what about other truths? *Sha'ul* taught us a way to determine the truth: *15 Make every effort to present yourself before God as tried and true, as an unashamed worker cutting a straight path with the word of truth.* (2 Timothy 2:15 TLV). Studying the Word is most important. There are other components in the search for truth. Locate materials relating to the subject, seek advice from a trusted advisor, pray for guidance, etc. The step we don't find here is accepting something as truth because you have heard it all your life and because your family and friends believe it. But that is what many people do.

What is the evidence for a coming physical man called the Antichrist? Can we find it in the Bible? The answer is a resounding NO! The theology that millions have believed as truth for more than two hundred years is not found in the Bible. Information about the Antichrist comes primarily from the writings of three men, Francisco Ribera, Manuel Lacunza, and John Darby. There is no real Scriptural evidence of what they state. To see from where the Antichrist theory came, we have to learn about these three men. Regarding the first two, there is evidence that their complete end-time scheme was invented, invented to counteract rising pressure from the protestant churches of Europe against the Catholic Church. The Protestant Church reformers of the 16th century were beginning to say that the Catholic Church was the "whore of Babylon" pictured in Revelation 17:3-6, verses which describe a woman on a scarlet beast. *Yochanan*, John, wrote: *6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the kedoshim (holy ones) and with the blood of the witnesses of Yeshua.* (Revelation 17:6a TLV). Protestant reformers were beginning to tell their congregants that this woman was the Catholic Church.

In 1585, a Catholic priest, a Jesuit named Francisco Ribera, wrote a book, a futuristic view of Scripture with the premise that Revelation would not be fulfilled until the end of the Christian era. He invented an end-time Babylon, a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, and an end-time Antichrist, all, presumably, to ease the pressure from Protestant reformers being placed upon the Catholic Church and the Pope. In his book, Lacunza proposed that the first few chapters of Revelation apply to ancient pagan Rome and the rest, he assigned to a future period of 3½ literal years, which would occur immediately before the Messiah's second coming. He also proposed that the Antichrist, a human person, would do several things. He would persecute and blaspheme the saints of God, rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, abolish the Christian religion, deny Jesus Christ, be received by the Jews, pretend to be God, kill the two witnesses of God, and conquer the world. His view of Revelation interprets the prophecies about Antichrist as a future literal man who deceives the world. In his view of Scripture, there is a gap of around 2000 years between the 69th week and 70th week of Gabriel's prophecy in Daniel chapter 9.

There is more to this story because another Catholic priest, also a Jesuit, Manuel Lacunza, wrote a book about 200 years later (1782), continuing and building upon Ribera's story. In his book, Lacunza, a Gentile, claimed that he was a Jew who believed in Jesus and that his name was Rabbi Juan Ben-Ezra. He entitled his book "The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty," in which, among many other things, he stated that the Church would be taken up to be with the Lord 45 days before Jesus' final return to Earth. During those 45 days, while the Church was in heaven, God would pour out His wrath upon the wicked remaining on Earth, which, incidentally, would include all of the non-Christian Jews.

While we usually lay the theory of the Antichrist at the feet of Ribera, who then passed it on to Lacunza, Ribera may have actually gotten his idea from someone else. A Catholic

monk, Adso of Montier-En-Der, wrote a letter about the Antichrist to Queen Gerbera of France in about 950 CE, more than a thousand years ago and 635 years before Ribera wrote. You can read it at <http://www.apocalyptic-theories.com/theories/antichrist/antichristtext.html>. Here are a few sentences from Adso's last paragraph. "Since we have spoken about his beginning, let us say what end he will have. This Antichrist, the devil's son and the worst master of evil, as has been said, will plague the whole world with great persecution and torture the whole people of God with various torments for three and a half years. After he has killed Elijah and Enoch and crowned with martyrdom the others who persevere in the faith, at last God's judgment will come upon him, as Saint Paul writes when he says, "The Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth." (2 Thessalonians 2:8)." That was the year 950. Where Adso got his information, we don't know or even if this is a reliable resource. However, the information about Ribera and Lacunza is well documented.

After Lacunza died in 1801, his views were taught in Spain and published as a book in 1812. Fourteen years later, in 1826, it was translated into English. This theology then appeared in Scotland. Something else that occurred in that general time was a vision by Miss Margaret McDonald in Scotland. In 1830, there was a revival of the "gifts" which began to manifest in Scotland's lowlands. They experienced what they called "the outpouring of the Spirit," accompanied by speaking in "tongues" and other charismatic occurrences. One evening, the power of the Holy Spirit was said to have rested on Miss MacDonald while she was ill at home, very sick and believing she was dying. For several hours, she experienced manifestations of prophecy and vision. The message she received during this vision convinced her that Christ would appear in "two stages" at His Second Coming and not at a single coming, as most Christians generally believed. Her vision was that Christ would first come in glory "to those who look for Him" and then again later in a final stage "when every eye would see Him." Her vision represents the initial source of the modern "Rapture doctrine."

Also at this time, there was a man in London named John Darby, one of the founders of a group of Christians called "The Plymouth Brethren." Darby visited Scotland, where he may have heard about the Ribera/Lacunza theology and the vision of Miss McDonald. Darby apparently built upon her vision, which became a foundational part of what was then called Darby's "Secret Rapture Theory," which he revealed in 1830. He also used portions of the Ribera/Lacunza materials to develop his theology of "Dispensationalism" and is considered the author of modern Dispensationalism. Darby also visited Canada and the United States and expounded on this theology in the places where he spoke in the mid-1800s. He died in 1882.

C. I. Scofield was a minister in the United States who heard about Darby's theology and became enamored with it. At the time, Scofield was working on a new, annotated Bible, and because he was so taken with Darby's theory, he decided to include the Dispensational scheme of interpretation in his new Bible. The Scofield Reference Bible later became the most widely read Bible in English. First published in 1909, how many has it influenced? If it is found in the Bible, it must be true, correct?

Back to our question, "What is the evidence for a human Antichrist?" To begin with, the word Antichrist is nowhere to be found in the *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Bible. Daniel 9:27 doesn't say "Antichrist." It only says he: *27 Then he will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.* (Daniel 9:27a TLV). Who is the individual referred to as "he?" We learned two weeks ago from Daniel

Bruce in his book *Daniel Unsealed* that “he” is Yeshua. Reverend Ellis Skolfield, of blessed memory ([www.ellisskolfield.net/](http://www.ellisskolfield.net/)), whom I referenced in last week’s message, commented, “Dispensationalism tells us that this man will: 1. Appear at the end of the age. 2. Rule the world for 3½ years as a good leader and 3½ years as a monstrously evil leader. 3. Have the temple rebuilt. 4. Reinstate temple sacrifices for the first 3½ years. 5. Turn against the Jews for the second 3½ years. 6. Stop temple sacrifices in the middle of the 7 years. 7. Cause all to worship him. 8. Start the battle of Armageddon. 9. Persecute the Great Tribulation saints and anyone else he can get his hands on. 10. Miscellaneous other legends, including that as 666, he is Satan incarnate.” These ten things are a good summation of what Dispensationalism teaches. But is it true? Reverend Skolfield didn’t believe it!

The word Antichrist is found in the writings of Yeshua’s disciples, but only in one place and there, only four times. In Greek, it is *antichristos*, meaning “one who opposes Christ.” Where are those references? They are all in 1st and 2nd John. (1 John 2:18; 1 John 2:22; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 1:7). John tells us that *antichristos* (Greek) is a “spirit,” a spirit already in the world at his writing. Specifically, it is a demonic entity that denies both the Father and the Son and denies that Yeshua has come in the flesh. Could this not be the very same spirit that occupied the Syrians who desecrated the Temple in the days of the Maccabees? Could this not be the same spirit that motivated the Romans, who destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 CE? And, isn’t it also the motivating spirit in Islam? This statement is found inside the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount: “Oh God, bless Your Messenger and Your servant Jesus son of Mary. Peace be on him the day he was born, and the day he dies, and the day he shall be raised alive! Such was Jesus, son of Mary, (this is) a statement of the truth concerning which they doubt. It becometh not (the Majesty of) God that He should take unto Himself a son. Glory be to Him!” Islam recognizes Yeshua as a prophet but not that He was raised from the dead and that G-d has a Son. This statement written for all to see is direct evidence that the spirit behind Islam is the spirit of *antichristos*.

Here are the verses from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> John. (1) *18 Children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that the anti-messiah is coming, even now many anti-messiahs have come—by this we know that it is the last hour.* (1 John 2:18 TLV). (2) *22 Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Yeshua is the Messiah? This one is the anti-messiah—the one who denies the Father and the Son.* (1 John 2:22 TLV). (3) *2 You know the Ruach Elohim by this—every spirit that acknowledges that Messiah Yeshua has come in human flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-messiah, which you have heard is coming and now is already in the world.* (1 John 4:2-3 TLV). (4) *7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world—those who do not acknowledge Yeshua as Messiah coming in human flesh. This one is a deceiver and the anti-messiah.* (2 John 1:7 TLV). It’s very difficult, actually impossible, to understand how the ten statements Reverend Skolfield gave about the Antichrist could be constructed from just these four verses written by John.

Dispensationalism states that the “Man of Lawlessness” of 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 is the Antichrist. We have now learned that this seems to have come from the monk, Adso in 950 CE. This whole scheme of the Antichrist is based upon non-Biblical evidence, something that ADONAI warned us about in the Bible in Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:18-19. Shouldn’t we as disciples of Yeshua, be mindful of these verses? Nowhere in the verses in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 is this individual called the Antichrist. *1 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, concerning the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and our gathering together to Him, 2 not to get shaken out of your mind or disturbed—either by a spirit*

or a word or a letter as if through us—as though the Day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for the Day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is 19 revealed, the one destined to be destroyed. 4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself that he is God. 5 Don't you remember that when I was still with you I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what now holds back, for him to be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already operating; only there is one who holds back just now, until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Yeshua will slay him with the breath of His mouth and wipe him out with the appearance of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is connected to the activity of satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with every kind of wicked deception toward those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God sends them a delusional force, to lead them to believe what is false, 12 so that they may be judged—all those who did not believe the truth but delighted in wickedness. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 TLV).

Called “the man of lawlessness” in the TLV and most every other version of the Bible, can we just assume that this individual is Dispensationalism's Antichrist? As Reverend Skolfield explained, many heresies had already entered the Church in the 1<sup>st</sup> century and John was the last inspired writer who could address them. Regarding *antichristos* he wrote: *18 Children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that the anti-messiah is coming, even now many anti-messiahs have come—by this we know that it is the last hour.* (1 John 2:18 TLV). “Just as you heard” is the significant phrase here. John wasn't saying that the Antichrist is coming. He said, “You have only heard that he is.” It seems that the idea of *antichristos* was being circulated among Yeshua's followers even as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Is it possible that a theory was developed at that time and passed forward to the time of the monk Adso in the 10<sup>th</sup> century? Then John explains by saying, “Even NOW many antichrists have arisen,” and describes what Antichrist is really like: *2 Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Yeshua is the Messiah? This one is the anti-messiah—the one who denies the Father and the Son.* (1 John 2:22 TLV). There is a definite article in this sentence – the. John said: “One who does this, the one who denies the Father and the Son, is “THE Antichrist.” This means that anyone who “denies that Yeshua is the Messiah” and denies the reality of the Father and the Son is THE Antichrist, not AN Antichrist, but “THE Antichrist.” Lastly: *7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world— those who do not acknowledge Yeshua as Messiah coming in human flesh. This one is a deceiver and the anti-messiah.* (2 John 1:7 TLV). A deceiver who denies Yeshua as the Messiah who came in human flesh is “the Antichrist,” and there are going to be many Antichrists. John also tells us what Antichrist really is: *3..but every spirit that does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God. This is the spirit of the anti-messiah, which you have heard is coming and now is already in the world.* (1 John 4:3 TLV). Biblically, “The Antichrist is an evil spirit that denies that Yeshua is the Messiah.” There are no other verses in the Bible that mention the Antichrist. Everything else we believe about the Antichrist is pure conjecture.” *Sha'ul's* words are important in understanding John's verses: *12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.* (Ephesians 6:12 TLV). This verse reveals the root of not only the struggle in the Middle East, but also the struggles within our own nation. We are battling *HaSatan!*

Here are a few comments about “the man of lawlessness.” *3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for the Day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the one destined to be destroyed. 4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-*

*called god or object of worship so that he sits in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself that he is God.* (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 TLV). Reverend Skolfield proposed that the figure referred to as "the man of sin" in 2nd Thessalonians is *HaSatan*, and that the temple in which he resides is the human heart of the unrighteous, the place that is supposed to be the "temple of the Holy Spirit." *8 Then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Yeshua will slay him with the breath of His mouth and wipe him out with the appearance of His coming.* (2 Thessalonians 2:8 TLV). Reverend Skolfield also suggests that "the lawless one" is symbolic language for the great falling away which Yeshua spoke of in Matthew 24:12: *12 "Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold."* (Matthew 24:12 TLV). In Reverend Skolfield's opinion, the man of lawlessness is all the evil ones who come against Yeshua and the "day" in this verse is "the Day of ADONAI," the day spoken of by so many prophets. The great and terrible day is a day of ADONAI's judgment on the earth and as depicted in Revelation 19, is carried out by Yeshua. Reverend Skolfield believed that the "rebellion" is the time of lawlessness in the "last days" immediately preceding Yeshua's coming for His Bride. And, he may be correct.

But there are other ways to explain "the man of lawlessness." I believe that the man of lawlessness was Mohammed, a man who brought a system that has entrenched itself on ADONAI's holy Temple mount, proclaiming that Allah is God, the God of the universe. Lawlessness, or *Torahlessness*, is a description of a system that turned completely away from ADONAI's system of teaching and instruction. The "man of lawlessness" is a system that has turned away from Biblical truth and replaced our Creator, ADONAI, G-d who created the Universe. The entity behind this is none other than *HaSatan*, the adversary of Israel, who is assisted by his demonic forces, ranging from the princes down to the ordinary demons. This is what I believe, but I cannot tell you where this information came from or if it was delivered to my mind by the *Ruach*. I have no reference to quote. I could be wrong and even if I am, there is not evidence to make this figure into the Antichrist. Possible human candidates, such as Adolph Hitler and Mao Zedong, came to mind, but not being associated with a worship system, they were discounted. Mohammed, the false prophet of Allah, and Allah, *HaSatan* himself, get my vote. Allah, the false god behind Islam, symbolically sits in the Temple of God in the form of the buildings on the Temple Mount, the Dome of the Rock, and the Mosque of Omar. Their presence there, plus the *antichristos* spirit, is the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel and Yeshua. Two weeks ago, we spoke of a third edition of the Abomination of Desolation on the Temple Mount, and this is it. The Syrian army and their pagan altar were the abomination during the time of the Maccabees. The Romans and their offerings to their ensigns were the abomination in 70 CE at the Great Tribulation. Now, the presence of the Dome of the Rock and the Mosque of Omar make the Temple Mount desolate for the Jews and the rebuilding of the Temple. "The man of lawlessness" of 2 Thessalonians 2 is the personification of Islam and *HaSatan* himself, which Yeshua will destroy when He returns.

Dispensationalism says that "the man of lawlessness is the Antichrist, a physical man who will appear in the last days and rule the world. One part of their evidence is Daniel 9:27. Can we insert "the Antichrist" in place of "he" in the following verse? *27 "Then he (the antichrist?) will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he (the antichrist?) will put an end to sacrifice and offering."* (Daniel 9:27 TLV). Supposedly, he does this in the rebuilt temple in the last days. But, we can't insert Antichrist in this verse because the "he" is Yeshua. Yeshua put an end to sacrifice and offering, that is, stopped the effectiveness of the sacrifices in the Temple when he died on the stake in the middle of His last week on earth. After that, only His sacrificial death was effective for sin.

Here is a question: Is one verse in the Bible, Daniel 9:27, four mentions of Antichrist in 1st and 2nd John and verses about the man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2 enough to develop a doctrine about a physical Antichrist coming to rule the world? My opinion is no. It has only been accepted by many Christians today because of the one-hundred-plus years of the teachings of Darby in the Scofield Bible (1909) and their continued emphasis by modern Dispensationalists.

This is not an attack on any person. There are many sincere Christians who accept this as being true. But here are the facts. The primary reasons for rejecting Dispensationalism are (1) that Darby's theory is based almost completely upon the writings of two Jesuit priests, (2) Daniel 9:26 is incorrectly translated, (3) the Antichrist mentioned by John is a spirit and not a man and (4) the man of lawlessness in 2nd Thessalonians is *HaSatan* in the guise of Allah (my interpretation), Islam personified. There is much more to understand about "the man of sin." The verses in 2 Thessalonians 2 are symbolism and have to be understood symbolically in much the same way that Revelation 20, verses 1-3 (see *It's Later Than You Think, Part 2*) are symbolism and cannot be taken literally.

We don't seek this knowledge for boasting. It has a very definite purpose. Solomon wrote: *3 By wisdom a house is built, by understanding it is prepared, 4 and by knowledge its rooms are filled with every rare and pleasing treasure. 5 A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge becomes even stronger.* (Proverbs 24:3-5 TLV). The strength referred to in a wise man of knowledge is spiritual strength. Yeshua's words "The truth shall set you free" do seem to have application here. Truth sets us free from falsehood so that we may serve Him in truth. By stating truth, we are able to vanquish the enemy, spiritual enemies manifested as ADONAI's enemies. I do not believe that the Catholic Church is the "Whore of Babylon" and it becomes more and more apparent that position is held by a global conspiracy led by the Powers of Darkness. Please prayerfully consider this presentation and the other information that has been presented. *3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful through God for the tearing down of strongholds. We are tearing down false arguments 5 and every high-minded thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Messiah— 6 ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.* (2 Corinthians 10:3-6 TLV). *Shabbat shalom!*

***Revival Begins With Me!***

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

***Pass it on!***