



**Parashiyot Tazria/Metzorah**

May 3, 2025

*Torah:* Leviticus 12:1-13:59; 14:1-15:33

**See message notes [beitshalom.us](http://beitshalom.us) for parasha-specific messages**

*Haftarah:* 2 Kings 4:42-5:19; 7:3-20

*Ketuvim Shlichim:* Romans 11:1-36 (esp. 25-36)

**Specific to today's message**

### Disciples of Yeshua 25

*Shabbat shalom Mishpacha!* We are continuing our study of Romans chapter 11. In our study last week, *Sha'ul* revealed that ADONAI was not finished with physical Israel, who, for the most part, even today, continues to reject His Son Yeshua. Even though they were broken off from *Sha'ul's* olive tree, a graphic, metaphorical representation of ADONAI's active covenant of spiritual relationship with Israel, the New Covenant, He says that Jews can be grafted back in if they do not continue in their unbelief. This indicates that their relationship with ADONAI through the First Covenant connected them to the tree, but now that He has established a New Covenant and they have rejected it, they have been broken off. What is their unbelief? It is their rejection of His Son, whom He sent to earth because of His love for them and all the world. Yeshua is the gateway to the New Covenant. Because they rejected Yeshua in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, ADONAI placed a partial hardening on unbelieving Israel, and it remains today. But it is not permanent, and *Sha'ul* refers to the reversal of this hardening as a mystery, which we will consider shortly.

However, there is more to consider regarding the Blessing of Abraham, a blessing from ADONAI for Jews and Gentiles. Why did ADONAI want to bless the Gentiles? Try as I might, I could not find a verse of Scripture stating that G-d loves the Gentiles, but there is no question that He does. Yeshua told us in John 3:16 that ADONAI loves all the people that He created. The word "world," Greek, *cosmos*, in this verse, refers to all the world's people, both Jew and Gentile. And *Sha'ul* affirms Yeshua's words: *29 Is God the God of the Jewish people only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also.* (Romans 3:29 TLV). While we recognize that ADONAI loves us by welcoming us into His covenant, many verses highlight His love for Israel and His unique relationship with them. We are not jealous, realizing that each group has its divine purpose. We know He loves us because He placed a partial hardness on Israel, whom He loves, so Gentiles could be saved. Because of His love for us, He has allowed us to benefit from the faith of our spiritual ancestor, Abraham. However, ADONAI's calling of Israel to be a nation of priests, whom He chose and revealed at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:6), did not fulfill their calling as "a light to the nations" (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6) for hundreds of years. But the prophets indicated that He intended to use Israel to bring the *Goyim*, the people of the nations, into a spiritual relationship with Him. We often use the words "before the foundation of the earth" to

reference ADONAI's eternal plans for us, plans which *Sha'ul* perfectly described. He wrote to the Gentiles of the Congregation at Ephesus about all the people of ADONAI's creation: *4 He chose us in the Messiah before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love. 5 He predestined us for adoption as sons through Messiah Yeshua, in keeping with the good pleasure of His will— 6 to the glorious praise of His grace, with which He favored us through the One He loves! 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood—the removal of trespasses—in keeping with the richness of His grace 8 that He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight, 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, in keeping with His good pleasure that He planned in Messiah.* (Ephesians 1:4-9 TLV). In keeping with the richness of His grace, Jews and Gentiles were chosen and called before the foundation of the world. He chose everyone, but not everyone responded.

While it is not widely known, evidence suggests that ADONAI's statement to *Avraham*, “*and by you all the Nations of the earth will be blessed,*” holds more profound significance. (His name at the time was *Avram*.) There is another way to understand this. It is that ADONAI's original intent in blessing the people of the Nations was to “graft them into Israel,” just as *Sha'ul* illustrated in his “olive tree” imagery. When I discovered this information around fifteen years ago, it amazed me and continues to do so now, because it reveals the more complete plans of ADONAI concerning the people of the Nations and their salvation.

Let's look at the promise again. ADONAI told *Avraham*: *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). ADONAI has blessed Israel in many ways, and He continues to bless them. Those who curse them will reap the consequences of their cursing unless they repent and begin to bless Israel. But our focus is on the last phrase. In Hebrew it is:

וְאֶבְרָכָה מְבָרְכֶיךָ, וּמַקְלֶלְךָ, אֶעָר; וְנִבְרַכְוּ בְּךָ, כָּל מְשִׁפְחַת הָאָדָם

*Va'avarechah mevarachecha umekalelecha a'or venivrechu vecha kol mishpechot ha'adamah.* The word וְנִבְרַכְוּ, *venivrechu*, is usually translated “blessed,” but it can have another meaning. The Babylonian *Talmud*, Tractate *Sotah* 43, says that *venivrechu* is derived from the Hebrew infinitive *mavrich*, meaning “to graft.” Substituting it for “blessed,” we obtain, “and by or through you, that is, by Abraham and his descendants, all the other families of the earth will be ‘grafted in.’” Isn’t that incredible? ADONAI said to *Avraham*: *Va'avarechah* (And I will bless) *mevarachecha* (those who bless you) *umekalelecha* (and him who curses you) *a'or* (I will curse) *venivrechu* (and shall be blessed/**grafted in**) *vecha* (in you) *kol* (all) *mishpechot* (the families) *ha'adamah* (of the earth). Being grafted in is a blessing, wouldn't you say?

Nearly four thousand years ago, ADONAI gave Abraham a vision of his descendant Yeshua as his Seed who would enable both Jews and non-Jews who trust in him to be grafted into the Jewish olive tree, itself a graphic representation of the spiritual commonwealth of Israel under the New Covenant that ADONAI instituted and has nurtured over the years. Writing to the Galatians, *Sha'ul* said: *16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. It doesn't say, “and to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “and to your seed,” who is the Messiah.* (Galatians 3:16 TLV). This is about the *Besorah*, the Good News, the message of salvation. *8 The Scriptures, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, proclaimed the Good News to Abraham in advance, saying, 'All the nations shall be blessed through you.'* (Galatians 3:8 TLV). Because of his

olive tree metaphor, *Sha'ul* likely understood this to mean, “in connection with Abraham, all the Gentiles will be grafted in.” This understanding is also found in the *Mishna* in *Mishna Kilayim* 1, the section dealing with “Mixtures.” It states that *v'nivrech* is a term related to “mixing, as in mixing plant stock,” or in other words, “grafting.” A third witness regarding this concept comes from *Baalei HaTosafos* (*Ashkenzi pronunciation; Sephardic is HaTotafot*), a medieval commentary on the *Talmud*, which states that the word “*nivrech*” is a derivative of the infinitive “*mavrich*, which means “grafting.” *Baalei HaTosafos* says that although grafting results in merging, it does not imply that Abraham mingled with the nations; instead, it refers to the “grafting of the Gentiles into the Jewish Nation through the process of conversion and to the merging of the descendants of Esau and Ishmael with the remainder of humanity.” That agrees with our belief that in the last days, many Gentiles who now follow Islam will be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree by faith in Yeshua. That's been ADONAI's plan from the beginning, from before the foundation of the earth. It has always been His plan to reconcile all the world's people to Himself; that is, if they wish to be reconciled. And they must wish it because He has given us free will. We can choose ADONAI, or we can reject Him.

Thus far, much of Romans 11 has been about the Gentiles and how they fit into ADONAI's plans. *Sha'ul* now informs the congregation in Rome about a mystery concerning Israel, the Jews: *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;* (Romans 11:25 TLV). What does a partial hardening mean? One possibility is that G-d chose some, but not others, and some understand it that way today. But we have shown that He wants all to be saved. Our understanding of the partial hardening of unsaved Israel is that while ADONAI brought it about on all Jews, the individual can overcome it. That is the meaning of partial. It is not a complete hardening that would prevent salvation, but they must use their free will to overcome it. As we discussed last *Shabbat*, ADONAI hardened their human will, or as better understood, “strengthened” their will to act according to what they have already intended in their hearts. My understanding of the Scriptures is that any Jew who has been partially hardened can overcome it by listening to ADONAI's still, small voice, which is simultaneously drawing them. This closely resembles the Jewish belief in the *yetzer hatov* and the *yetzer hara*, the good and evil impulses within the human soul that struggle against each other. Unbelieving Jews allow the *yetzer hara*, the evil impulse, to overshadow and drown out the *yetzer hatov*, the good impulse, which is, in reality, the *Ruach Kodesh*, the Holy Spirit of ADONAI, drawing them toward Yeshua. And we know that ADONAI wants all to be saved. (2 Peter 3:9). Any Jewish person can be the Jewish firstfruits of salvation and have eternal life today, even though partially hardened. We know this because Yeshua said: *44 No one can come to Me unless My Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.* (John 6:44 TLV). Since we know that ADONAI wishes for none to be lost, Yeshua meant that the Holy Spirit draws everyone, and everyone who comes will be raised to be with Him on the last day, Yeshua's return to earth. Every person on the planet is being drawn by ADONAI's *Ruach* right now. All they must do is overcome their will, their own desires.

Here is the most critical revelation, which, when it takes place, will bring a great revival that will usher in Yeshua's return to earth: *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 Deliverer shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob,” referring to ADONAI, actually Yeshua, as Deliverer, leads us to believe that taking away Israel’s sins will be His sovereign act. The Complete Jewish Bible suggests that Sha’ul combined two passages from Isaiah to reach this conclusion. First, these verses: 20 “But a Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those in Jacob who turn from transgression.” It is a declaration of Adonai. 21 “As for Me, this is My covenant with them,” says Adonai: “My Ruach who is on you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, or from the mouth of your offspring, or from the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says Adonai, “from now on and forever.” (Isaiah 59:20-21 TLV). Sha’ul reveals that ADONAI’s covenant will be with those who turn away from transgression, and that it will occur through the drawing of His Holy Spirit and the words that He puts in their mouths.

He also used this verse: 9 So by this will Jacob’s sin be atoned and this the full price to remove his sin: When he makes all the altar stones like shattered chalk stones, so that the Asherah poles and incense rise no more. (Isaiah 27:9 TLV). Sha’ul used remez, alluding to these two scripture passages, to create a *d’rash*, a Jewish method of biblical exegesis, and derived this: <sup>26</sup>.... As the Tanakh says, **“Out of Tziyon will come the Redeemer; he will turn away ungodliness from Ya’akov <sup>27</sup> and this will be my covenant with them, . . .when I take away their sins.”** (Romans 11:26b-27 CJB). Yeshua will take away Israel’s ungodliness, their sins, and their reluctance to trust in Him, and usher them into the New Covenant when He takes away their sins.

The prophecy of the coming New Covenant is found in Jeremiah 31: 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 31:30 TLV). Why was the New Covenant with Israel necessary? ADONAI tells us why: 31 ... “For they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them;” it is a declaration of Adonai. (Jeremiah 31:31b TLV). Israel broke His covenant repeatedly, and ADONAI gave them advance notice of the coming of a new covenant, informing them about it approximately 600 years before Yeshua was born. The sacrifice that cut the covenant was the blood of ADONAI’s own Son. Yeshua was crucified and died on the cross for ADONAI’s chosen, the Jews. This explains Sha’ul’s words: 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). The New Covenant was made and first given to Israel, the Jews, but it is open to the people of the Nations. It was ADONAI’s plan, established before the foundation of the earth, for addressing the sins of all mankind—a plan that enabled a personal relationship between G-d and man. Only a tiny group of Jews was responsible for Yeshua’s death: the High Priest, those in the *Sanhedrin* who voted to have Him put to death, and those shouting “crucify Him,” but it was the Romans who killed Him and unwittingly carried out G-d’s plan. But the reality is that all of us crucified Yeshua because we are sinners without a way of redemption, and His purpose for coming to earth was to die for our sins. It has been ADONAI’s plan all along, and through His Son’s death, He cut a New Covenant with Israel. Yet, many 1st-century Jews did not understand the change in covenant and did not trust in Yeshua.

The revelation of the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31 also hints at the future salvation of “all Israel.” ADONAI said: 33 *“No longer will each teach his neighbor or each his brother, saying: ‘Know Adonai,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.” it is a declaration of Adonai. “For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more.”* (Jeremiah 31:33 TLV). Under the first covenant, ADONAI forgave their sins for one year only, and their forgiveness had to be renewed yearly on *Yom Kippur*. But when that future day comes for the salvation of “all Israel,” ADONAI says, “I will remember their sins no more.” “I will” is the revelation that He will bring about their salvation.

Ezekiel also spoke of this future day, when Israel will be regathered in their land, and their numbers multiply, a time such as now, as evidenced by the current Jewish population of 7.2 million. ADONAI 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.”* (Ezekiel 36:24-27 TLV). ADONAI’s words, “I will,” reinforce what He said earlier through Jeremiah: *“For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more.”* (Jeremiah 31:33b TLV). And they will have a heart of flesh, the circumcised heart of those who are covenant members of the New Covenant.

*Sha’ul* continued: 28 *“Concerning the Good News, they are hostile for your sake; but concerning chosenness, they are loved on account of the fathers— 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”* (Romans 11:28-29 TLV). *Sha’ul* explained why the Jews have hostility toward the *Besorah*, the Good News of the Messiah. ADONAI caused their hostility for the Gentiles’ sake, and because of their hostility, Gentiles can be saved. But he also says, “They are chosen because of the fathers.” ADONAI promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob their calling as a nation, and that His blessing upon them would never end. Even though Israel sinned over and over and turned away from ADONAI, He continues to forgive and will ultimately bring about eternal salvation for all Israel.

30 *For just as you once were disobedient to God but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, 31 in like manner these also have now been disobedient with the result that, because of the mercy shown to you, they also may receive mercy. 32 For God has shut up all in disobedience, so that He might show mercy to all.* (Romans 11:30-32 TLV). These verses speak of ADONAI’s mercy to both Jew and Gentile. He doesn’t cause us to be disobedient but allows it, and because He has shown us mercy, *Sha’ul* urges us to respond with gratitude: 1 *I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy, acceptable to God—which is your spiritual service.* (Romans 12:1 TLV). The word translated “urge” is *parakaleó* (par-ak-al-eh'-o), which means to exhort or to encourage. When he wrote this, the Temple was standing, and sacrifices were being offered daily. He compares our spiritual service as followers of Yeshua to animal sacrifice, exhorting us to present our bodies to G-d as living sacrifices, just as the lives of animals were offered in the Temple. Life within our bodies makes us acceptable as sacrifices who die to self and live for Yeshua. Our bodies are to be holy and set apart for service to G-d. Even though we may want to do this, it isn't easy because humans must also contend with their wishes and desires for self-gratification, a challenge

that every person must face. *Sha'ul* exhorts us: *2 Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 12:2 TLV). If we are truly sincere about our commitment to Yeshua, renewing our minds necessitates a fundamental shift in how we perceive and interpret life, transitioning from a worldly perspective to a God-centered one. If we focus our energies on our families, jobs, and personal fulfillment, the G-dly renewal of our minds will push these priorities down to second, third, and fourth place, placing ADONAI and Yeshua as number one. In every life without Yeshua, these three things can become gods of their own making. ADONAI said: *14 For you are to bow down to no other god, because Adonai is jealous for His Name—He is a jealous God.* (Exodus 34:14 TLV).

We have been praying for revival for several years, and there is spiritual revival around the world now, partial revival. A pouring out of ADONAI's Spirit is occurring in pockets here and there today, serving as evidence of revival. By fostering a deeper Hebraic understanding of Scripture, we are reviving what has been lost, along with many in Messianic Judaism and others in Yeshua's body. Revival is bringing back something that has been lost, in this case, the Jewishness of Yeshua and the Jewishness of the Scriptures. But the coming great revival will be a supernatural, worldwide revival brought about by the "salvation of all Israel." It will restore Israel and lead them back to their G-d in the manner that He desires them to worship Him. *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 8:23 TLV). The corner of the garment alludes to the כַּנָּף *kanaph*, the wings of the garment where the *tzitzit* are tied, and is a picture of millions of Jewish men wearing garments that fulfill ADONAI's commandment: *38 "Speak to Bnei-Yisrael. Say to them that they are to make for themselves tzitzit on the corners (**kanaph**) of their garments throughout their generations, and they are to put a blue cord on each tzitzit."* (Numbers 15:38 TLV).

When Jerusalem was under siege by the Babylonians, ADONAI spoke about revival through Jeremiah: *16 Thus says Adonai: "Stand in the roads and look. Ask for the ancient paths— where the good way is— and walk in it. Then you will find rest for your souls."* (Jeremiah 6:16a TLV). ADONAI said that *teshuvah*, repentance, was the way, a return to the old paths. *8 But if that nation turns from their evil, because of what I have spoken against it, I will relent concerning the calamity that I planned to do to it.* (Jeremiah 18:8 TLV). But those in Jerusalem and Israel did not turn, did not make *teshuvah*, and walk in those paths, and the city was destroyed, and many were killed. The "ancient paths," the good way, are the correct understanding of ADONAI's words and walking in them. The Jewishness of the Bible cannot be removed without changing the meaning of what ADONAI and Yeshua said. This is where we are now. We seek to understand the ancient paths, but the final restoration of the ancient paths will be the outcome of the coming great revival. Not only Jews, but also many Gentiles, will turn not only to Yeshua and to ADONAI's ancient ways that our Messiah proclaims. *3 Then many peoples will go and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of Adonai, to the House of the God of Jacob! Then He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths." For Torah will go forth from Zion and the word of Adonai from Jerusalem.* (Isaiah 2:3 TLV). (Also, Micah 4:2). All this will be precipitated when ADONAI fulfills these words: *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, and this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." May it be soon! Shabbat shalom!*