



## **Parasha Naso**

June 7, 2025

*Torah:* Numbers 4:21-7:89

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

*Haftarah:* Judges 13:2-25

*Ketuvim Shlichim:* Luke 21:20-28

## **Specific to today's message**

### Disciples of Yeshua 30

*Shabbat shalom Mishpacha!* The past 29 sessions have aimed to present a relatively systematic understanding of Scripture as it relates to those called into Messianic Judaism by ADONAI. Today, we will review our location in our Father's timetable of events and then begin our discussion of eschatology, which is the branch of theology that deals with the events of the end times, such as death, judgment, and the final destiny of men's and women's souls.

Beginning with *Adam* and *Chava*, ADONAI initiated a process where, despite initial defeat, man ultimately achieves victory for those who persevere to the end. Adam and Eve enjoyed a privileged life, but they lost it when they succumbed to the serpent's temptation, which was the form taken by *HaSatan*, the rebellious angel leading all of today's dissent against ADONAI. Their descendants quickly became so sinful that ADONAI decided to spare only a few righteous individuals, namely Noah and his family. After the earth recovered from the destruction of the flood and was repopulated, Abraham, a man with faith, responded to ADONAI's call. He chose this man and his family to serve as His representatives to the world, providing a means to introduce the diverse families of the world to His love for them. After rescuing Abraham's descendants from Egyptian slavery, at Mount Sinai, He declared He would make them into priests to the nations, to lead the people of the world into a relationship with Him. The covenant made with the descendants of the twelve sons of Israel detailed how they were to live under His rule, and many responded faithfully to ADONAI and kept His covenant. But many also abandoned it and started turning away from Him, following false gods. After giving them hundreds of years of opportunity to turn back to Him, ADONAI decided to initiate another covenant with Israel. Because they broke His first covenant (Jeremiah 31:31b), ADONAI said that He would make a New Covenant with Jacob's descendants (Jeremiah 31:30). Those who would enter it in faith would receive the promise of the *Olam Haba*, the world to come. That would come about through the ministry of His Son Yeshua, who would come to earth to inaugurate the New Covenant. After giving the earth's people the opportunity to enter the New Covenant, Yeshua would return to receive the faithful and destroy those who completely rejected Him. However, His return cannot happen until after a period known as "the time of the end," a time of rebellion and war.

There are many questions about this time and many thoughts about how it will occur. This is one of the most perplexing questions facing Yeshua's followers today. However, it's

all foretold in Scripture, with a wide range of scenarios. In Deuteronomy, Moses spoke about what we call the “end times” when he told Israel they would be spiritually restored (Deuteronomy 30:1-14). and he prophesied that a day would come when ADONAI would circumcise the hearts of His people, Israel, the Jews of the world. (Deuteronomy 30:6). In Hebrew thought, this future time is referred to as the *acharit ha-yamim*, עֵת הַיָּמִים הָאַחֵרָה, meaning the end of days, which leads to the עוֹלָם הַבָּא *Olam Habah*, the World to Come.

Most of us perceive that we are in the prophesied “time of the end,” but there was a specific day when this period of time began. ADONAI used the Prophet Daniel to reveal many things about future events, including the time when the end times would begin. Finding it begins with the words spoken by the Archangel Michael to Daniel: “4 *But you, Daniel, close up the words and seal the book until the time of the end*” (Daniel 12:4a TLV). It’s been partially understood for years, but not extensively until relatively recently. Michael said: עֵת קֵץ, *eit keitz*, time of the end, a reference to a particular coming day. We also find a different phrase, “the last days,” used in Scripture, also referring to a specific period. Last week, while studying *Shavuot*, we heard the words that indicated when the period referred to as “the last days” arrived. It was during *Shimon Kefa’s* sermon to those gathered on the Temple Mount when the *Ruach HaKodesh* fell on Yeshua’s disciples. Scoffers heard Yeshua’s disciples speaking in different tongues and claimed that they were drunk. But *Kefa* said: 15 *These men are not drunk, as you suppose—for it’s only the third hour of the day! 16 But this is what was spoken about through the prophet Joel: 17 “And it shall be in the last days,” says God, “that I will pour out My Ruach on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”* (Acts 2:15-17 TLV). *Shavuot* in 30 CE when these things took place marked the beginning of the period known as “the last days,” the time when ADONAI began pouring out His Spirit on all men and women who would receive it, a period lasting until the present.

But there was a specific day in time referred to by Michael when he said: *Satom hakatom hasefer ad etketz eit keitz*: “Seal up the words, and seal up the book, until the time of the end.” The words and the book are the Book of Daniel, which contains mysterious pictures that have puzzled people for more than two thousand years. The mysterious day that Michael referred to as “the time of the end” has now been identified as the beginning of the “end time,” a more precise determination for those of us living today. Author Daniel Bruce has conducted extensive research on the events in the Book of Daniel, revealing in his book, *Daniel Unsealed*, that July 7, 1967, marked the beginning of the end (*Daniel Unsealed*, pp 27-36). I encourage you to read his book and learn how he arrived on this date. We will consider more information from *Daniel Unsealed* in upcoming messages, particularly regarding the Angel Gabriel’s prophecy of “The Seventy Weeks” (Daniel 9:24-27). But July 7th was a day during Israel’s “Six Day War,” the day that the Jews recaptured Jerusalem after more than two thousand years of Gentile domination. Its recapture was the fulfillment of Yeshua’s prophecy: 24 ... “*Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*” (Luke 21:24b TLV). If the days before July 7, 1967, were “the times of the Gentiles,” the days after it are “the times of the Jews.” Michael’s words indicate that when the time of the Jews was reached, the “time of the end” commenced, further refining the period described by the Prophet Joel as “the last days.”

But we could not have reached that time without first fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy: 7 *Before she was in labor, she gave birth. Before her pain came, she delivered a male child. 8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her*

children. 9 “Will I bring the moment of birth, and not give delivery?” says Adonai. “Will I who cause delivery shut up the womb?” says your God. 10 Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her. Rejoice for joy with her all you who mourned over her.” (Isaiah 66:7-10 TLV). Isaiah prophesied the re-establishment of the physical nation of Israel, which had to occur before Jerusalem could be freed from Gentile domination. The “time of the end” is a period characterized by tribulation and escalating troubles, represented by the Greek word *thlipsis* (th-lip-sis), which means trouble or tribulation; however, it is not the “great tribulation.” That occurred in the year 70 CE in Jerusalem.

I have stated before that I am not a prophet, but by interpreting Scripture, in a sense, it is prophecy. Whenever possible, we should allow Scripture to interpret itself by connecting related verses to gain a deeper understanding. What you are about to hear is my interpretation of Yeshua’s words, for which I must take responsibility when I stand before Him at His judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10). But I am a fallible man and certain that I don’t know Yeshua’s whole truth. Yeshua, have mercy on me and all of us who stand by faith seeking to understand your words. The order in which Yeshua presented His statements is not necessarily the order in which they will occur.

Regarding our present tribulations, what is happening to us right now, Yeshua said: 33 “*These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have shalom. In the world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33 TLV)! He told this to His disciples in the Upper Room following His last Passover. There has always been tribulation of Yeshua’s followers at one place or another throughout the ages. In 70 CE, the “Great Tribulation” only occurred in one place, Jerusalem. However, widespread tribulation, suffering, and death of Yeshua’s followers now prevail throughout the world. This is where we find ourselves at the end, a time of increasing troubles. Referring to our present time, the time of the end, Yeshua said: 29 “*But immediately after the trouble of those days (**our present world-wide tribulation**), the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens will be shaken*” (Matthew 24:29 TLV). These words are frightening, and we will examine them in a moment. Even with the turmoil surrounding us, Yeshua tells us to: “take heart, for I have overcome the world.” Our reaction should be to draw nearer to Him. No one knows how long the tribulation of these days will last, but during these uncertain days, we have a real opportunity to be Yeshua’s witnesses to those around us.

Yeshua told us not to be confused about His return to Earth, but that we would know when He arrives. 25 “*See, I have told you beforehand.* 26 “*So if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. Or, ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.* 27 *For just as lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so also will be the coming of the Son of Man.* 28 *For wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather*” (Matthew 24:25-28 TLV). We should not believe anyone who tells us that Yeshua has already come, because it will not be a secret. Everyone will know at the same time. We will all see Him in the sky when He comes. His appearance will be as clear and as bright as a bolt of lightning. “For wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather” are strange words, but this is a simile, as Yeshua compares one thing to a different kind of thing. It’s not about vultures seeking to eat a carcass; it’s a picture of Yeshua’s righteous ones streaming up to meet Him in the clouds just as vultures stream toward a dead body. It’s Yeshua’s description of what *Sha’ul* described in 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4 after the last *shofar* sounds, our rising to meet Him. Here, He tells how it will happen, but when it will happen will be revealed a few verses later.

Then, Yeshua said: 29 *“But immediately after the trouble of those days, ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens will be shaken’ (Matthew 24:29 TLV). Those days represent the tribulation of our current time, leading up to Yeshua’s return. We are facing worldwide tribulation now, with wars and rumors of wars, along with increasing persecution of the world’s Jews. At the same time, Yeshua said: 29...‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens will be shaken’ (Matthew 24:29b TLV). It is not as it seems. This is my understanding, and it is not about the physical sun, moon, and stars. The powers of the heavens are HaSatan and his demon hordes. Sha’ul told us: 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). The sun, moon, and stars are HaSatan, his principalities and powers, and his other demon spirits. Their shaking is increasing their activity as lawlessness spreads across the earth. Even though we will have to face increasing demonic activity until Yeshua returns, we should not fear, for our redemption is near.*

Following the shaking of the powers of the heavens: 30 *“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see ‘the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven’ with power and great glory. 31 He will send out His angels with a great shofar, and they will gather together His chosen from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:30-31 TLV). (also Mark 13:26-27 and Luke 21:27-28). The sign of the Son of Man is His coming in the clouds, which is a picture of His divine glory and accompaniment by His heavenly army of thousands of angels. He comes as יהוה צבאות ADONAI Tsva’ot, L-rd of Hosts, accompanied by His angel army (Revelation 19:11-20). His crucifixion wounds may also be visible to those on the ground. Zechariah’s prophecy may be fulfilled then: 10 *“Then I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication, when they will look toward Me whom they pierced.” They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son and grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for a firstborn*” (Zechariah 12:10 TLV). *“And then all the tribes of the land will mourn”* in Matthew 24:30 refers to the Jews, the members of the twelve Tribes of haEretz, “the Land,” Eretz Yisrael. This is about “all Israel,” the Jews, who will mourn because they pierced Him.*

Uncertainty remains regarding the timing of these events. Whether this is the moment of salvation for all Israel prophesied by Sha’ul in Romans 11 (and Ezekiel 36) is unknown. Their salvation could occur earlier, which would allow the fulfillment of another prophecy in Zechariah: 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 8:22-23 TLV). These words seem to prophesy a great revival among the Gentiles led by Jewish evangelists. But revival can only occur before Yeshua returns because after He returns, no one can be saved. The author of Hebrews explains: 27 *And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this judgment, 28 so also the Messiah was offered once to bear the sins of many. He will appear a second time, apart from sin, to those eagerly awaiting Him for salvation.* (Hebrews 9:27-28 TLV). When He comes the second time, it will not be to forgive sin, but to receive us who have trusted Him.*

The last statement in this group of verses is: 31 *“He will send out His angels with a great shofar, and they will gather together His chosen from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”* (Matthew 24:31 TLV). Some see this as ADONAI’s physical regathering of Israel to the land, a process that began in the last several centuries and is now continuing at a record pace. However, it is also possible that this verse is a reference to what *Sha’ul* spoke of in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, the resurrection of the righteous dead and the rising of the living saints to meet Yeshua in the sky. It will occur with the sound of a *shofar*. Everyone who has trusted Yeshua is “His chosen,” and this group will include “all Israel,” who will have been saved when Yeshua comes. We don’t know when all Israel will be saved. It could be at this time, but it could also be before, but for whatever reason, ADONAI has chosen to keep the most revealing details to Himself until it occurs. It might be His testing of our faith. This is all that ADONAI has chosen to reveal to us regarding this, but men have devised their additions to the Father’s plan. Israel’s trust in Yeshua could come as late as His appearance in the air and then rise to meet Him. We only know in part. By faith, we believe that all Israel shall be saved, but we don’t know precisely when. When we gather to Yeshua in His clouds of glory, that will be the moment when those of us who have trusted Him and endure until the end will receive our resurrection bodies, bodies very similar to the one that Yeshua received from His Father when He was raised from the dead. *44 Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body! If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.* (1 Corinthians 15:44 TLV). (Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58).

Yeshua spoke about the fig tree and all the trees. *29 Then Yeshua told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 As soon as they sprout their leaves, you see it and you know at once that summer is near. 31 So also, when you see these all these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near”* (Luke 21:29-31 TLV). (Matthew 24:32-33 and Mark 13:28-29). Just as we know that summer is near when fig trees, and as Yeshua said in this verse, “all trees,” sprout their leaves, we know that when we see the things that Yeshua spoke of happening, the Kingdom of G-d and His appearance is near. Could Israel be the fig tree? The next verse is a clue.

*32 “Amen, I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things happen”* (Luke 21:32 TLV). (Matthew 24:34 and Mark 13:30). “This generation” is important in determining whether Israel is the fig tree, but to which generation is Yeshua referring? It was not the generation present when the Great Tribulation occurred, and the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE. It must be a future generation. Isaiah and Micah speak symbolically of Israel as a “fig tree,” and they, along with other prophets, also refer to Israel as “the vine” and “the olive tree.” The Blue Letter Bible proposes this: “the vine” is a symbol of Israel’s spiritual privileges, “the fig tree” is a symbol of Israel’s national privileges, and “the olive tree” is a symbol of Israel’s religious privileges. If this is true, then we must be looking at Israel, “the nation,” concerning Yeshua’s words about a generation. And none of this could have happened before Israel was restored as a nation and the times of the Gentiles ended.

Regarding Yeshua’s words, “when you see all these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near,” we understand that He was referring to the wars and rumors of war, as well as the events currently happening, and the signs in the heavens. Never have we witnessed such intense spiritual warfare as we are experiencing now. If the nation of Israel symbolizes the fig tree in the parable, then the generation Yeshua referred to is the one that has existed since Israel became a nation again. “This generation” refers to those born after Israel became a nation in 1948. A person born in 1948 would be 77 years old today. Recognizing that Israel miraculously became a nation in 1948 and that Gentile rule in

Jerusalem ended in 1967, we acknowledge that the Kingdom of G-d is near. This present generation of Israeli citizens will not pass away before all these things happen. But how long will this generation last? It could be another 23 years if one is born in 1948 and lives to age 100. We cannot decide whether the generation is 40 years or 60 years, or any other age range. It will be determined by the length of time the individuals live. But Yeshua didn't say that the entire generation must pass away; he only stated that the entire generation would not pass away before all these things happened. If this generation in the Nation of Israel is that generation, Yeshua will return before the last person passes away, sometime soon.

Given the signs of our times, what Yeshua said next is extremely important to us right now. These thoughts are also found in (Mark 13:31-37 and Luke 21:33-38. 35 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."* (Matthew 24:35 TLV). This appears to reference Matthew chapter 5, where Yeshua said: 17 *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets! I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. 18 Amen, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or serif<sup>u</sup> shall ever pass away from the Torah until all things come to pass.* (Matthew 5:17-18 TLV). Right now, we don't understand the symbolism of the Book of Revelation regarding the new heaven and the new earth. We understand that there will be changes made, but we don't know how or what they will be. However, we realize that there will be a renewed Earth.

36 *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven nor the Son, except the Father alone."* (Matthew 24:36 TLV). The day and hour to which Yeshua was referring is His coming on the clouds of glory to gather His faithful ones. He didn't know the day or the hour that it would happen when He was on earth, but now that He is with the Father, He knows.

37 *"For just as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. 39 And they did not understand until the flood came and swept them all away. So shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man"* (Matthew 24:37-39 TLV). Yeshua compares the day of His coming to the day of Noah. The people of Noah's time were scoffing at him and going on with their sinful lives. It is that way today. Many say, "Yes, I am going to follow Jesus, but not right now," while many who have once followed Him have turned away. Others choose their own gods to follow, ignoring ADONAI's spirit speaking to their spirits, and are led by the spirits of the Anti-Messiah. And others say: "There is no G-d. I only trust in what I can see and touch." The coming of the "Son of Man" in these verses represents His sudden and unexpected appearance in the heavens, occurring without warning, just as ADONAI shut the door of the Ark without prior notice. When Yeshua appears in the sky, those who have procrastinated or mocked will suddenly realize that it is too late, but we know that His second appearance will not be for salvation, but for judgment (Hebrews 9:27-28). If they have not trusted in Yeshua before His return, it will be too late. The unsaved seeing Him appear in the heavens will be like the people of Noah's day beating on the door of the ark in fear of the rain and the rising water. Yeshua's coming salvation, which we are eagerly awaiting, is salvation from the troubles of this world, not from our sins.

40 *"Then two men will be in the field, one taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill, one taken and one left. 42 Therefore stay alert; for you do not know what day your Lord is coming"* (Matthew 24:40-42 TLV). This is also a reference to Yeshua's coming with the clouds of glory and receiving His faithful ones. A man in the field is a believer and rises to meet Yeshua. The other does not know him and is left to face the coming wrath. One

of the women at the mill is a believer and rises to meet Yeshua. The other doesn't know Him and is left behind. This is the fulfillment of Yeshua's words and not about the Dispensationalism theology of the Rapture. The Rapture theory encompasses more than rising to meet Yeshua. It's not just one event, but a complete doctrine. To believe in the Rapture of Dispensationalism is also to believe in the Anti-Christ, a rebuilt Temple, sacrifices, and that a seven-year Great Tribulation is coming in the future. The Greek word *harpazo*, meaning "to catch up or snatch away," underlies *Sha'ul's* words "caught up" in the Tree of Life Version. We believe we will be caught up as *Sha'ul* described in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15, but not in the way that the doctrine of the Rapture describes. Dispensationalism calls it "the secret Rapture," a catching away that no one will see. Suddenly, everyone's gone. But that denies Scripture. The Book of Revelation says: 7 "*Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth shall mourn because of Him. Yes, amen!*" (Revelation 1:7 TLV). While we believe the entire Bible to be accurate, we may sometimes wonder if Yeshua's coming in the clouds is not an allegory, and that it may not occur in that manner. But we have witnesses who have seen it and testified that that is precisely how it will happen. The witnesses are Yeshua's disciples who saw Him rise physically to the Father, and then heard the words of *melachim*, angels, who said: 11 "... , *Men of Galilee, why do you keep standing here staring into heaven? This Yeshua, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.*" (Acts 1:11b TLV). Yeshua ascended accompanied by the heavenly host, ADONAI's angelic army, and He will return the same way.

For those who died in Messiah, who is ascending, has already been determined, but not for the living. As each day passes, these words of Yeshua become more and more urgent for those who don't know Him. We are living in the season of His return. The time is approaching, and we who follow Yeshua must remain vigilant and faithful.

The writer of Hebrews exhorts us: 22 *So let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and body washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the unwavering confession of hope, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds. 25 And do not neglect our own meetings, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another—and all the more so as you see the Day approaching.* (Hebrews 10:22-25 TLV).

We will continue our discussion of eschatology next *Shabbat*. Today, we have examined what Yeshua told us to expect. But now, we must consider the isms followed by others, not because we are teaching them, but because we, ourselves, must be taught. We have all been exposed to and may have adopted some of these things ourselves. Many are doctrines of men, some true, and some untrue. We seek the truth and will do our best to discover it.

The signs of the times and Yeshua's words emphasize that we are seeing "the Day" approaching. May we be found faithful. It is our sincere wish to be a congregation of comfort to Israel and to stand with them during these turbulent times while anxiously awaiting their salvation. *Shabbat shalom!*