



Parasha Beha'alotecha (also Beha'alotcha)

June 14, 2025

Torah: Numbers 8:1-12:15

See message notes beitshalom.us for parasha-specific messages

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Ketuvim Sh'lichim: 1 John 2:18; 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7

Specific to today's message

Disciples of Yeshua 31

Shabbat Shalom Mishpacha! The first and second “Great Awakenings” occurred in the United States in the 1700s and the 1800s, times of renewed national spiritual fervor. The Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles in 1906 led to a nationwide outpouring of ADONAI’s Spirit across many denominations, resulting in the modern Pentecostal Movement. Today, this movement is found in Pentecostal churches and many non-denominational churches, referred to as charismatic churches.

The Messianic Jewish Movement, which ADONAI began from the Holy Spirit outpouring of the “Jesus Revival” in the 1960s, is now a full-blown movement characterized, in my estimation, by many congregations recognizing the presence and power of the *Ruach HaKodesh*. Neither Pentecostal nor Charismatic in style, the presence of the Holy Spirit is evident in varying degrees within Messianic congregations and is essential in a movement of G-d in the end times. Just before Yeshua ascended to the Father, He told His disciples: 8 “*But you will receive power when the Ruach ha-Kodesh has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and through all Judah, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” (Acts 1:8 TLV). I submit that our movement has not yet fully realized the spiritual power available to us, but it soon will. ADONAI’s Messianic Jewish Movement restores 1st century Judaism as His means of bringing His chosen people, the Jews, back into His active covenant of redemption, the New Covenant. The Messianic Jewish Movement is comprised of up to 80 or 85 percent Gentiles whom ADONAI has called to stand alongside the Jewish founders of the movement. The love that these Gentiles have for the Jewish people characterizes those who have gained a personal vision of its significance. I believe the Messianic Jewish Movement will begin to increase in numbers of Jews as ADONAI pours out His Spirit on Jews in the Church and non-Messianic Jews who will receive His vision. We read this Scripture last week: 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). Maybe we’ve been viewing this the wrong way. Instead of seeing this as a revival led by Jews saved after all Israel is saved, it may instead represent a coming expansion of the Messianic Jewish Movement, as ADONAI intensifies the process leading to the salvation of all Israel in these last days. Let’s make it our unified congregational prayer, and may this prayer also spread throughout our movement. We need the power Yeshua promised now.

The theology of Dispensationalism has been widely known for over a hundred years and is a significant component of the beliefs of many Christians. Almost all the Gentiles in Messianic Judaism are former Christians, and many Messianic Jewish rabbis also came from

a Christian background. As former Christians, we need to unlearn some of the theology we have been exposed to. The classification of Dispensations, or ages throughout time, may vary between different groups, but generally, the doctrine states that G-d has worked differently in each of these “ages.” While not everyone understands Dispensationalism in the same way, most of its adherents today recognize what is known as the Church Age. It is said to have begun at Pentecost in the 1st century when three thousand people were saved, which is generally considered the birthday of the Church. However, someone forgot to notify *Shimon Kefa*, Simon Peter, because he continued going to the Temple after he received the Holy Spirit. When Yeshua appeared to *Sha’ul*, He didn’t tell him he was in the Church Age because one of the last things *Sha’ul* said before leaving Israel for Rome was, “I am a Pharisee.” In our understanding of history, “the Church” was not born until antisemitic Gentile leaders began to take control of Yeshua’s Jewish-led ecclesia in the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE. Before that time, both Jews and Gentiles followed the Messianic Jewish theological framework led by Yeshua’s first disciples.

According to GotQuestions.org, “The Church Age corresponds with the dispensation of Grace. In prophetic history, it falls between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27).” Daniel 9:26 speaks of a prince who will come and destroy the city of Jerusalem. We agree with GotQuestions that this prince was the Roman general Titus who destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 CE, but not that there is an almost two-thousand-year period between these two verses of Scripture. The Angel Gabriel told Daniel: 26 ... *Then the people of a prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. 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 9:26b; 9:27a TLV). According to Dispensational theology, a span of almost two thousand years exists between 70 CE, the year the Temple was destroyed, as mentioned in verse 26b, and a future time in the 21st century before the events described in verse 27 occur. Many Christians likely hold this belief because Reverend Scofield included study notes on Dispensationalism in his 1909 *Scofield Reference Bible*, which individuals have now read for over 116 years. The *Left Behind* series of novels, written between 1995 and 2007, likely also contributed to its widespread acceptance.

This message is not intended to convince members of the Church to disbelieve it; rather, it is to those who have been called into the Messianic Jewish Movement. Yeshua explained that He grants His followers the authority to make doctrinal determinations. He told *Shimon Kefa*: 19 “*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will have been forbidden in heaven and what you permit on earth will have been permitted in heaven.*” (Matthew 16:19 TLV). Forbidding and permitting, also referred to as binding and loosing, are rabbinic terms first used in ancient Israel to describe the authority of leadership to interpret Scripture. Essentially, Yeshua said to *Kefa* and, by extension, to all His future leaders: “You have my permission to interpret how you follow Scripture, and I will uphold it.” We all interpret Scripture; however, we will ultimately have to stand before Him and explain our interpretations (2 Corinthians 5:10). When Yeshua returns, everything that is unclear will become clear because He will explain it to us.

But we must seek the truth now. The theology of the Rapture, a belief that Christians will be taken to heaven before the Great Tribulation begins, is a false hope. No one will be “raptured out” before the Great Tribulation starts because the Great Tribulation has already taken place. Concerning the Rapture, the question is often asked: “Are you pre-trib, mid-trib, or post-trib? A beloved former pastor had the best answer. He said: “Pan-trib. I believe everything will pan out all right.” And he was right. We are in Yeshua’s loving arms, and all

His words are true. How did all these “tribs” come about? They arose from different understandings of the theology of Dispensationalism.

One of the central beliefs of Dispensationalism is known as “The 70th Week of Daniel,” which holds that the Great Tribulation has not yet occurred. In summary, this doctrine suggests that the prophecy in Daniel 9:27 did not occur sequentially with the events described in Daniel 9:24-26, the three preceding verses. Daniel 9:27 refers to a covenant being made for one week. Dispensationalism’s interpretation suggests that this week represents a week of years, seven future years. It states that a coming world leader called the Antichrist will reconstruct the Jerusalem Temple and allow the offering of sacrifices. For the first half of the seven years, 3 ½ years, he will generally be benevolent and allow the Temple sacrifices and grain offerings, but during the second 3 ½ years, he will prohibit them. After that, he will initiate the Great Tribulation. Dispensationalism indicates that the week in Daniel 9:27 refers to a distant future time, the time of the end.

To understand this, we need to take a history lesson. There is substantial evidence that this entire end-time scenario was created to counteract the growing pressure from Protestant churches in Europe against the Catholic Church. The Protestant Church reformers of the 16th century began teaching that the Catholic Church was the “whore of Babylon” depicted in Revelation, a woman on a scarlet beast. John wrote: *6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:...* (Revelation 17:6a KJV). The Protestant reformers claimed that this woman represented the Catholic Church. In 1585, the Jesuit Catholic priest Francisco Ribera began writing a book that presented a futuristic interpretation of Scripture, proposing that the events of Revelation would not be realized until the end of the Christian era. He invented an end-time Babylon, a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, and an end-time Antichrist. Presumably, all of this was intended to divert attention from the Catholic Church and the Pope, which was then being criticized by the Protestant reformers. In his book, he proposed that the first few chapters of Revelation pertain to ancient pagan Rome, while he ascribed the rest to a future period of 3½ literal years, which would take place immediately before the second coming of Christ. He also proposed that the Antichrist would persecute and blaspheme the saints of G-d, rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, abolish the Christian religion, deny Jesus Christ, be accepted by the Jews, claim to be God, kill the two witnesses of God, and conquer the world.

Prophecy in the Book of Revelation is typically understood through three different perspectives: Preterism, which holds that early Christian events fulfilled all prophecies; Historicism, suggesting that prophecy unfolds throughout history; and Futurism, which asserts that most of Revelation’s prophecies remain unfulfilled but will become reality as the events of Dispensationalism occur. Dispensationalism’s Futurist view of Revelation interprets the prophecies about the Antichrist as a literal future man who deceives the world. According to this theory, there is a gap of approximately 2,000 years between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel chapter 9.

There is more to this story because another Catholic priest, also a Jesuit, Manuel Lacunza, wrote a book in 1782, 200 years after Ribera's story, building upon it. In his book, *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty*, Lacunza, a non-Jew who claimed to be a Jew, asserted that he believed in Jesus and stated that his name was *Rabbi Juan Ben-Ezra*. Among many other things, he noted 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, G-d would pour out His wrath upon the wicked remaining on Earth, which would

include all non-Christian Jews. After Lacunza died in 1801, his views were taught in Spain and published in 1812. They were translated into English in 1826.

Another event that occurred during that general time was a vision experienced by Miss Margaret McDonald in Scotland. In 1830, a revival of the “gifts” began to be manifested among some people living in the lowlands of Scotland. They described it as an outpouring of the Spirit, accompanied by speaking in “tongues” and other charismatic phenomena. One evening, it was reported that the power of the Holy Spirit rested on Miss MacDonald while she was ill at home. Extremely sick and believing she was dying, she experienced prophetic visions for several hours. The message she thought she received convinced her that Christ would appear in “two stages” at His Second Coming, rather than at a single coming as most people previously believed. Her vision revealed that Christ would first come in glory “to those who look for Him” and then come again later in a final stage “when every eye would see Him.” This vision of Miss MacDonald reflects the source of the modern “Rapture doctrine,” with her first stage now symbolizing the doctrine of “the secret Rapture,” a time when millions of Christians will vanish simultaneously. While prophecy is real, not all things prophesied are true. *Sha’ul* wrote: *20 ...do not despise prophetic messages, 21 but test all things, hold fast to what is good,...* (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 TLV). That’s especially true for us today. Prophecy must be tested.

While these events were unfolding, a man in London named John Darby was one of the founders of a group of Christians known as “The Plymouth Brethren.” Darby is said to have visited Scotland starting in the 1820s and again in 1830, where he may have heard about Miss McDonald’s vision. Darby built on her vision, making it a foundational aspect of what was later known as his “Secret Rapture Theory,” which he revealed in 1830. He also utilized parts of the Ribera/Lacunza materials to shape his theology of Dispensationalism and is considered the author of modern Dispensationalism. Darby made several visits to Canada and the United States, where he expounded on his theology during the mid-1800s. C.I. Scofield was a minister in the United States who later became familiar with Darby’s theology and grew fond of it. He 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 Bible. The *Scofield Reference Bible* later became the most widely read Bible in the English language. First published in 1909, how many has it influenced? If it’s in the Bible, it must be true, right?

That’s how it began. The theology of “the Rapture” originated with a young woman with a fever who prophesied about a secret catching away of Christians. We do not oppose speaking in tongues or prophecy, as both are scriptural, but not every statement claimed to be a prophecy is given by the Holy Spirit. We most certainly believe in the event Miss McDonald referred to, the one described in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15. 1 Thessalonians states: *16 For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God’s shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air—and so we shall always be with the Lord.* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 TLV). I genuinely believe this will happen and look forward to it. However, the “Dispensational Rapture Theology” is not limited to the event described in these verses. It also includes the 70th Week of Daniel, which is projected into the future and divided into two 3 ½-year periods, along with a “Great Tribulation” overseen by the Antichrist. There is no doubt that we are currently experiencing trials and

tribulations. We hear and read about tribulations daily around the world, including the persecution and murder of Yeshua's followers. However, this is not the Great Tribulation, which occurred in the year 70 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.

What evidence exists for a human Antichrist? The primary sources, the writings of Ribera, Lacunza, and Darby, do not provide Scriptural support for their assertions. Daniel 9:27 doesn't mention "Antichrist." It only states "he." In fact, the term Antichrist is not found in the *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Bible. Who is the individual referred to as "he?" Reverend Ellis Skolfield (<https://www.ellisskolfield.net/>) was a Christian minister who wrote extensively about the fallacy of Dispensationalism. He died in 2015 at the age of 88 after a lifetime of studying Daniel and Revelation. He wrote: "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 monstrosity 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." This is a good summary of what Dispensationalism teaches. But is it true? Reverend Skolfield didn't believe it, and I don't either!

The word "Antichrist" appears in the writings of Yeshua's disciples, but only in one location, and there, only four times. In Greek, it is *antichristos*, meaning "one who opposes Christ." These four references are found in the books of 1 John and 2 John: 1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3, and 2 John 1:7. John tells us that *antichristos* is a "spirit" that was already in the world at the time of his letters. It specifically refers to a spirit that denies both the Father and the Son, as well as the incarnation of Yeshua, His coming in the flesh. I believe that this is the same spirit that occupied the Syrians who desecrated the Temple in the days of the Maccabees. I think this spirit also motivated the Romans who destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 CE. And I believe it is also the motivating spirit in Islam. It's difficult to understand how these 10 statements about the Antichrist could be derived from just these four verses written by John.

Some of what I am going to tell you next is taken from a message I delivered in 2010. In 2010, we heard a great deal about Islam as a religion of peace. Yasser Arafat, who died in 2004, had repeatedly stated: "We want peace." However, the world media failed to verify his definition of peace. In Islam, peace represents the period when the territory in question, specifically Israel in the context of Arafat, is entirely under Islamic authority. "It's peace when we control it all!" That was the "peace" Arafat pursued, and Palestinians, along with militant Hamas, continue to embrace that concept today. They have never desired just the so-called West Bank or Gaza; their goal is to take over the entire nation.

Around that time, we learned firsthand from an Egyptian Christian Islamic scholar who visited *Beit Shalom* that peace is what you hear in a country when Islam comes from a position of weakness, when their numbers are few. "Islam is a Religion of Peace" was a slogan sometimes displayed on billboards and the sides of transit buses in the United States before 2010, the time when I originally shared this message. I also wrote in 2010: "But in places where their numbers are greater, such as France, Holland, and England, they are exercising more influence on the populace, many have attained elected office and are bold enough to hold frequent demonstrations." In 2025, we are now far beyond that. Islam has grown significantly in the United States over the last fifteen years. We have numerous Muslims in

local, state, and national offices across the country, and demonstrating crowds here are very emboldened and sometimes violent. This is something we should expect. The Bible tells us so.

Back then, Muslims said: “All we want is peace” and then pointed to specific *suras*, verses, in the Quran, to prove it. The Quran is supposed to be unchangeable and free from any inconsistencies, but that is far from the truth. For the first ten years of promoting his god, Allah, Mohammed lived in Mecca and tried very hard to bring Christians and Jews into his religion. His writings during that time reflect the section that says that Christians and Jews are our friends. *Sura 2*, verse 62 states: “*Indeed, those who have faith,*” referring to the Muslims, “*and those who are Jews and Nasara,*” meaning the Jews and Christians, “*and the Sabeen,*” the idol worshippers, “*whoever has faith in Allah and the last day has performed a good deed, thus they will receive their rewards,*” their wages, “*from their Lord, and they shall have no fear, nor will they grieve.*” According to Mohammed, this meant that “Christians, Jews, and idol worshippers will have a place in heaven.” This is intended to make you think Islam is also for you. However, it does not work. This verse has been abrogated. It is a verse no longer in effect. After about ten years of failing to persuade Jews and Christians, Mohammed left Mecca for Medina, where he became increasingly militaristic, and his new messages from Allah indicated that the earlier verses were superseded. A later command in the Quran, *Sura 3*, verse 85 says: “*And whoever desire any other religion except Islam so it will not be accepted from him in the hereafter he will be among the losers.*” This means that Islam is the only religion, and it will be enforced upon the people of the earth. The earlier verses create the impression that the Quran is a forgiving book; however, many later verses nullify the earlier ones. Abrogate means: “to repeal or do away with.” *Sura 9*, verse 29 says: “*Engage in war with those who do not believe in Allah, etc...*” That is what we are seeing today. Not only are the ordinary Muslims more militant, but the very radical ones are attacking both ADONAI’s Nation, Israel, and us here in the United States. We’re not against them as individuals. They are our “neighbor” and we are commanded to love them as we love ourselves. That is our goal, and we pray for their salvation, believing that many Muslims will ultimately renounce their false beliefs and trust in Yeshua.

What is causing the threat facing us today? It is the spirit of the Antichrist in Islam. Who, or what, is Israel’s end-time enemy, ADONAI’s enemy, whom Yeshua will return to destroy? *Sha’ul* wrote: *1 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, concerning the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and our gathering together to Him (rising to meet Him in His clouds of glory), 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.* (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 TLV). Someone told the Thessalonians that Yeshua had already returned, and they had missed it. That lie has continued through the centuries. *Sha’ul* continued: *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.* (2 Thessalonians 2:3 TLV). Who is “the man of lawlessness?” According to www.Bibleref.com, **1.** “This description of the man of lawlessness seems to fit the false prophet, although **2.** many Bible teachers believe he is the head of the Revived Roman Empire, who is described as the beast that rises out of the sea.” (Revelation 13:1). However, www.Gotquestions.org says: **3.** “The man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 is the Antichrist who will come on the world scene at the beginning of the Day of the Lord after the rapture of the church in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.” What this tells us is that everyone is guessing, with three opinions right here.

Here is one more. The man of lawlessness was Mohammed, the “False Prophet” of the Book of Revelation, a man who brought a system that has entrenched itself on ADONAI’s holy Temple mount, proclaiming that Allah is the God of the universe. That he was Mohammed was something I first understood from Reverend Skolfield. *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 2:4 TLV). Lawlessness, or Torahlessness, is a description of a system that rebelled against ADONAI’s system of teaching and instruction. The “man of lawlessness” is a system that not only turns away from but also replaces our Creator, ADONAI, the G-d who created the Universe. The entity behind Allah is none other than *HaSatan*, the adversary of Israel, who is assisted by his demonic forces, ranked from the princes down to the ordinary demons.

How you understand the Man of Lawlessness depends upon your way of understanding the prophecies of the Book of Revelation. If you are a Preterist, you may believe that the Man of Lawlessness was Titus, the Roman general who destroyed the Temple. If you are a Futurist, you likely think that the Man of Lawlessness is the Antichrist. However, if you are a Historicist, as I am, you may believe that the Man of Lawlessness is Mohammed. He began his teachings around 613 CE, for it was necessary for the “lawlessness of Islam” to arise early to achieve significant power by the end times.

Whom do you prefer as your adversary, the Antichrist or the demonic forces of *HaSatan* through Islam? It doesn’t matter which we prefer. ADONAI has already shown who it is, and it is the people motivated by the Antichrist spirit. There is no physical Antichrist coming. Daniel Bruce has reasonably and thoroughly explained this in his book, *Daniel Unsealed*, where he addresses and explains the Angel Gabriel’s prophecy to Daniel in chapter 9, verses 24-27. His book was published in 2009, and he sent me a copy a few years later, which I assumed was because I was a congregational leader within the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues. After reading his book, I believed that his is the correct explanation and have been speaking about it since that time. We will examine verse 27 today; however, the explanation of all four verses will be incorporated into this message when it is posted on our website, www.beitshalom.us.

Gabriel said: 24 “*Seventy weeks are decreed concerning your people and your holy city,...*” (Daniel 9:24a TLV). Bruce decodes the words “seventy weeks” in Daniel 9:24 to refer to 70 *Shavuots*, 70 Festivals of Weeks, that is, 70 Pentecosts, and not 70 weeks of years. That is a total of 70 years, not 490 years. The bold comments in these verses are from *Daniel Unsealed*. Gabriel said: 24 “*Seventy weeks (70 weeks refers to seventy Shavuots, 70 years, not 490 years.) are decreed concerning your people and your holy city, to put an end to transgression to bring sin to an end, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Holy of Holies (Kodesh kodashim, “most holy,” does not refer to the Holy of Holies of the Temple, but to the anointing of Yeshua by ADONAI at His immersion in the Jordan River.)*. 25 *So know and understand: From the issuing of the decree to restore and to build Jerusalem (Issued by Julius Caesar in 44 BCE.) until the time Mashiach (Hebrew: anointed one), the Prince (Not Yeshua, but the High Priest Hyrcanus II.), there shall be seven weeks (There were seven Shavuots from 42-36 BCE.) and 62 weeks (62 following Shavuots, approximately 62 years.)*. It (“It” refers to Jerusalem’s fortifications BCE during the time of the Roman General Pompey.) will be rebuilt, with plaza and moat, but it will be in times of distress (Rome ended the independence of Israel and began to rule over Judah). 26 *Then after the 62 weeks (62*

Shavuots, from 35 BCE until 27 CE.) Mashiach (Hebrew: “anointed one,” now referring to Yeshua.) will be cut off (Not Yeshua’s death, but His anointing. He was יָכַרַת *yikaret*, anointed, by ADONAI to begin mediating a new covenant at His immersion by John in 27 CE.) and have nothing (He shall choose to be nothing; referring to selflessness, ie., the servant prophesied in Isaiah.). Then the people of a prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary (Destroyed by Titus and the Roman Army during the years 66-73 CE.). But his end (“his” refers to the “sanctuary” the Temple destroyed in 70 CE.) will come like a flood. Until the end of the war that is decreed there will be destruction. 27 Then he (Yeshua) will make a firm covenant with many (the people of Israel) for one week (7 days, His last week on earth), but in the middle of the week he (Yeshua) will put an end to sacrifice and offering (by dying on the cross and becoming the only effective sacrifice). And on a wing of abominations will come one who destroys (Hadrian completely destroyed Jerusalem following the 2nd Jewish Revolt against Rome, 132-135 CE), until the decreed annihilation is poured out on the one who destroys.” (Until the final defeat of HaSatan) (Daniel 9:24-27 TLV).

As Bruce showed, Yeshua fulfilled Daniel’s prophecy of the 70th week by dying in the middle of the last week of His life, a week begun with the crowds proclaiming Him King, and ending with Him rising from the dead. Yeshua died in the middle of the week on *Nisan* 14, the day that lambs were to be slaughtered for Passover. In His death, He cut the New Covenant promised through Jeremiah with the nation of Israel: 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). Three days later, Yeshua fulfilled His own prophecy by rising from the dead. He said: 40 “For just as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.” (Matthew 12:40 TLV). All those who trusted in Yeshua, His disciples, and many others, entered into ADONAI’s New Covenant and received the *Ruach Kodesh*, the Holy Spirit, into their lives. After the week in which Yeshua died, sacrifices continued until the Temple was destroyed 40 years later, but Yeshua’s death had rendered them ineffective for sin. It was Yeshua’s death that ended the daily sacrifice, and not a proposed coming of the Antichrist.

The events unfolding around us today are frightening. In the United States, we may soon face a situation that has been faced by many of Yeshua's followers all around the world for years: persecution and potentially death. Will we be faithful? Deliverance is coming for us, but not from our governments or our militaries. We should pray for them; however, they will not provide our delivery. Israel is fighting physically for their very survival right now, and we pray for their success, but their ultimate deliverance will come from ADONAI. Yeshua will return and destroy His enemies. *Sha’ul* wrote: 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). Yeshua will use the same mighty power through which He created the heavens and the earth (John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:3)—His voice, to destroy the Islamic forces along with the armies of Gog and Magog. He will speak, and they will be destroyed.

Yeshua told us: 28 *Now when these things begin to happen (the signs we are seeing today), stand straight and lift up your heads, because your salvation is near!*” (Luke 21:28 TLV). Reasonably, according to the signs of the times and prophecy, it could be within the next 25 years. *Chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek!* Be strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened

for what is coming! Study and test these things. Each person must be convinced in their own mind. *Shabbat shalom!*