



Parasha Vayelekh

September 27, 2025

Torah: Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Haftarah: Isaiah 55:6-56:8

Sh'lichim: Romans 7:1-25

Shabbat Shalom Mishpocha! Our *parasha* today is *Vayelekh*, one of the two shortest, and the *parasha* with the very fewest number of verses. But it is a most potent message and begins: *1 Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. 2 He said to them, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. Adonai has said to me, 'You are not to cross over this Jordan.' 3 Adonai your God—He will cross over before you. He will destroy these nations from before you, and you will dispossess them. Joshua will cross over before you, just as Adonai has promised. 4 "Adonai will do to them just as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He destroyed them. 5 Adonai will give them over to you, and you are to do to them according to all the mitzvot that I commanded you. 6 Chazak! Be courageous! Do not be afraid or tremble before them. For Adonai your God—He is the One who goes with you. He will not fail you or abandon you."* (Deuteronomy 31:1-6 TLV). Can we view today's events in Israel as a fulfillment of the original capture of *Eretz Yisra'el*? Was it a foreshadowing of the current events and events that have been happening since 1948? We know how it will end.

As Yeshua's disciples today, we are privileged to have been chosen to live at this time in ADONAI's calendar, the end times, the generation that will usher Yeshua back onto the earth as our King Messiah. I know that some of you will! And as a part of that generation, we are a part of a vital segment of Yeshua's body, the latter-day revelation of Yeshua's Jewish disciples. The Messianic Jews of today are the "first fruits" of the "salvation of all Israel," which *Sha'ul* prophesied (Romans 11:25-29). Modern Messianic Judaism, ADONAI's recreation of 1st-century Messianic Judaism, is composed of called-out Jews and Gentiles and will play a significant part in the coming salvation of our traditional Jewish brothers and sisters. The Church is equally important in carrying out Yeshua's directions, and its primary ministry is leading Gentiles to Yeshua. While we work in two different fields of ministry, the Church needs to be aware of Messianic Judaism and understand its calling so that unity can be established.

Just as ancient Israel was required to follow the *Torah*, so are we—the modern Messianic body of Yeshua—who walk in the *halacha* He permitted by giving us the "Keys to the Kingdom" (Matthew 16; binding and loosing). Chapter 7 of *Sha'ul*'s letter to the Roman congregation is essential for understanding our understanding of that, but at the same time, it can also be confusing. He wrote: *1 Or do you not know, brothers and sisters (for I speak to those who know law), that the law is master over a person as long as he lives? 2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives; but if the husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. 3 So then, if she is joined to another man while her husband is living, she will be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is free from the law—so she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.* (Romans 7:1-3 TLV). This is a picture of Israel under the First Covenant. If an Israelite was alive, the Law was master over him; he was required to obey it. However, when his life ended, he was no longer

subject to the Law. In this analogy, the woman whose husband dies is Yeshua's followers under ADONAI's New Covenant. Her husband was the *Torah* of the First Covenant. By Yeshua's death, which established the New Covenant, her husband, the purpose of the First Covenant, died, and its legal requirements came to an end. Under the First Covenant, one had to obey to remain part of the covenant. But under the New Covenant, we are given the opportunity to obey, and we're not thrown out of the covenant if we tell a lie. However, ADONAI encourages us not to lie or violate any of His commands, and has provided *teshuvah* for us, so that we can repent and return when we fail. *Sha'ul* continued: *4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you also were made dead to the Torah through the body of Messiah, so that you might be joined to another—the One who was raised from the dead—in order that we might bear fruit for God.* (Romans 7:4 TLV). While we have been made "dead to the *Torah*" as it represents the First Covenant, we have been joined to the New Covenant by Yeshua's death. *6 But now we have been released from the law, having died to what confined us, so that we serve in the new way of the Ruach and not in the old way of the letter.* (Romans 7:4 TLV). We have been released from "the law of the First Covenant," which, through keeping it, provided salvation, but now, in the new way of the Spirit, we keep the *Torah*, not for salvation, but because "we get to."

What the Nation of Israel, Jews worldwide, and we, Yeshua's followers—His complete Ecclesia—are facing today is even more challenging than the threats Israel faced from the Canaanites. Now, it feels like the entire world is against us. Crossing the Jordan River and taking possession of the land foreshadows Israel's current effort to reclaim the Land. Israel and the Body of Messiah are facing what appears to be an extensive array of spiritual enemies. But as the modern Commonwealth of Israel, traditional Jews and Yeshua's Body together, we are figuratively already across the river and engaged in battle.

We seek ADONAI for both spiritual and physical relief, as foreshadowed in the *Shemittah* and the *Yovel*. While the Biblical seventh-year release, the *Shemittah*, provides for a "release" of the land, rest for the land, access to the land's produce for everyone, and the forgiveness of debts, every 50 years, the *Yovel*, the Jubilee, which is more complete, involves freeing servants, but also returning ancestral land to its original owners. We see the upcoming Jubilee of the Messianic era as ADONAI's final deliverance for His people, Israel, and their nation from the physical and spiritual battles waged by the Evil One, *HaSatan*. We also see the *Yovel* as the time when the full land area that ADONAI promised to Abraham, from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates River, will be possessed. All of this will be initiated by Yeshua's return to earth as *Mashiach Ben David*, *Melekh Yisra'el* (Messiah Son of David, King of Israel), and the defeat of His enemies. His Kingdom on earth will have been established, and His *Torah* will go forth from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2).

But when is the *Yovel*? The last *Yovel* was celebrated in Israel around 600 BCE, and no one is certain whether the current cycles the rabbis follow are accurate. In 2015, I shared with you a prophecy reportedly made by a 12th-century German rabbi named Judah Ben Samuel, who based his prophecies on gematria (numerology) and astrological observations. Saladin, the Muslim ruler of the Ayyubid Sultanate, a group known as the Mamluks, was ruling in the Holy Land when Rabbi Judah made his predictions; however, a growing challenge to his rule was emerging from the Ottoman Turks at that time. He prophesied: "The Ottomans will conquer Jerusalem and rule over Jerusalem for eight jubilees. Then Jerusalem will become no-man's land for one jubilee. In the ninth jubilee, it will come back into the possession of the Jewish nation, and that would signify the beginning of the Messianic end time."

The Jubilee was to be celebrated every 50 years (Leviticus 25:10), with the actual event taking place after 49 years of seven cycles of seven sabbatical years. Three hundred years after Rabbi Judah died, the first of his predictions came true. The Mamluks, who had been ruling Jerusalem since 1250, were conquered in 1517 by the Ottoman Turks. The Ottomans, according to the prophecy, then remained in power for eight Jubilees, which is 8×50 years, totaling 400 years. Their 400-year rule ended in 1917 when the British conquered them. You may recall the story: General Allenby entered Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate on foot, conquering the city without firing a single shot. After having decisively won the Battle of *Beersheva*, the Turks had fled. The League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, conferred the Mandate for Palestine and Jerusalem to the United Kingdom. Israel had been called Palestine since the Romans defeated the Jews in the *Bar Kokhba* Revolt in 135 CE. Beginning in 1917, Jerusalem and Palestine were under international law, a no-man's land, overseen by the United Kingdom.

Fast forward to 1967. When Israel captured Jerusalem in the Six-Day War, it was precisely one Jubilee, 50 years, after 1917. The city of Jerusalem was once again under Jewish control after nearly 2000 years of Gentile rule. According to the prophecy of Judah Ben Samuel, the Messianic End Times began in 1967. He had said: "In the ninth jubilee, it will come back into the possession of the Jewish nation, and that would signify the beginning of the Messianic end time." Rabbi Judah predicted that the Ottoman Turks would rule Jerusalem for eight Jubilees, a forecast he made 300 years before they gained control of the city in 1517, and they did rule for that period. However, the years 1217, 1517, and 1967, which he believed were jubilee years, apparently were not. However, he was correct in predicting that during the ninth Jubilee, Jerusalem would be a "no-man's land," when it was under the British Mandate of the League of Nations from 1917 to 1967. Because the Holy Land was placed under British Mandate in 1917 by the League of Nations, it literally "belonged" to no nation. It was not until the Six-Day War in 1967, when the Israeli army conquered the entire "so-called" West Bank of the Holy Land, that the whole city of Jerusalem was once again in the possession of Israel. Rabbi Judah was also correct that 1967 marked the beginning of the Messianic era, a notion also confirmed by Daniel Bruce in his book, *Daniel Unsealed*. If 1967 had been a jubilee year, the next jubilee year would have been in 2017. I first reported this prophecy to you in 2015, and there was great Messianic excitement about it for the following two years. However, 2017 came and went without a supernatural jubilee. Either Rabbi Judah's prophecy wasn't true, or it was the work of scammers, which we see more and more of today. But even if this prophecy was a scam, which it has since been determined to be, that doesn't mean that ADONAI doesn't have a final jubilee coming. If the Biblical Jubilee is a foreshadowing of what will happen in the end times, we still have a few more years to look forward to "the captives being set free."

But individually, we have been freed from the "burden of sin," the heavy spiritual weight of guilt, shame, and separation from ADONAI. We accomplish it by trusting in Yeshua. He said: *28 Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and 'you will find rest for your souls.'* (Matthew 11:28-30 TLV). Under His New Covenant, the burden placed on us by His yoke is light. Yeshua's yoke is the "yoke of the *Torah*," just as it was for the Jews of His day, however it's much different than the "yoke of the *Torah*" under the Pharisees. Yes, we are still expected to obey His *Torah*, but we are not kicked out of the covenant if we don't, because He has provided a way to reconcile our sins through repentance and return, and be forgiven.

Oxen were often yoked as a team. To be unequally yoked meant that they were unmatched, possibly in size or strength. In a religious sense, being unequally yoked means “to be attached to someone who has differing beliefs, values, or goals, making a shared purpose or direction impossible.” We usually consider this in terms of our human relationships, and in that context, it's something we should try to avoid. But it can also apply to our yoke with Yeshua if we do not share His understanding of the *Torah*. He has told us that the *Torah* will not pass away before heaven and earth pass away (Matthew 5:18). To be equally yoked with Yeshua, we must understand His commands, as He has also linked our obedience to loving Him and stated, “If we love Him, we will keep His commandments” (John 14:15).

Sha'ul faced spiritual struggles just like we do. He wrote: *14 For we know that the Torah is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold to sin. 15 For I do not understand what I am doing—for what I do not want, this I practice; but what I hate, this I do.* (Romans 7:14-15 TLV). He didn't want to sin, and neither do we, but our flesh, our human nature, which controls our physical desires, wants to sin and often does. *16 But if I do what I do not want to do, then I agree with the Torah that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I doing it, but sin dwelling in me.* (Romans 7:16-17 TLV). But, when *Sha'ul* was doing what he did not want to do—breaking the laws of the *Torah*—he recognized that the *Torah* was good. He understood that it was not his spirit, which was perfected by the Holy Spirit, sinning, but the sinful flesh remaining in his body, his carnal (fleshly) mind. *18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me—that is, in my flesh. For the desire to will is present in me, but to act on what is good is not. 19 For the good I want to do, I do not do; but the evil I do not want to do, this I practice.* (Romans 7:18-9 TLV). *Sha'ul* understands, and we should too, that in our flesh—our carnal minds—nothing is good. Sometimes, our minds want to do good, but we don't act on it. When guided by our minds, we intend to do good, but we often end up doing the evil we don't want to do. *20 But if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I doing it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 So I recognize the principle—that evil is present with me, the one who wants to do good.* (Romans 7:20-21 TLV). Sin dwells within even those who have trusted in Yeshua, which again points out the need for repentance. As human beings, we will continue to sin until we receive our glorified resurrection bodies. Because we sin, we must continually seek to return to a state of righteousness before Yeshua through *teshuvah*. *22 For I delight in the Torah of God with respect to the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in my body parts, battling against the law of my mind and leading me into bondage under the law of sin that is in my body parts.* (Romans 7:22-23 TLV). The law of his mind is *Sha'ul's* renewed mind, which does not want to sin, and it fights against his “flesh,” his human, sinful nature. *24 Miserable man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God—it is through Messiah Yeshua our Lord! So then, with my mind I serve the Torah of God; but with my flesh, I serve the law of sin.* (Romans 7:24-25 TLV). In Biblical Greek, *noi* (noo-ee), meaning “with my mind,” comes from *nous* (nooce), meaning mind, understanding, or intellect. *Sha'ul* tells us that he, even after his years of serving Yeshua, continued to struggle with his sin nature. With his mind, his intellect, he desired to follow the *Torah*, but his sin nature continued to want to sin, and he had to struggle against it constantly.

But even though we receive the *Ruach HaKodesh* at salvation, that is not a guarantee that we won't sin. We can buy a little bit of spiritual insurance by asking ADONAI to fill us with His Holy Spirit, and then keep refilling us, because we leak. But even with His infilling, our fleshly nature remains active, and we must continually wrestle with it to maintain a position of righteousness before ADONAI. Being righteous doesn't mean we don't sin, but

that we don't want to sin, and when we do, we repent quickly and seek forgiveness. By understanding the purpose of the *Torah* for us and being obedient to it to the best of our abilities, we can uphold the righteousness that *Yochanan HaMatvil's* parents, *Z'charyah* and *Elisheva*, had. 5 *In the days of Herod, King of Judah, there was a kohen named Zechariah from the priestly division of Abijah. Elizabeth, his wife, was from the daughters of Aaron. 6 Together they were righteous before Adonai, walking without fault in all His commandments and instructions.* (Luke 1:6-7 TLV). Being righteous and walking without fault didn't mean they were perfect, just that they wanted to be obedient, and they repented when they failed. Both of them possessed the same human nature that *Sha'ul* described, just like all people.

I believe that ADONAI will fulfill the ancient *Yovel* at His time, but no one knows when that will be. He will fulfill it, just as He has fulfilled two of the *moedim*. Scripture doesn't tell us that *Pesach* and *Shavuot* would be fulfilled, but they were. Scripture doesn't say that the three fall festivals will be fulfilled, but we believe they will be. Scripture doesn't say that ADONAI will fulfill the *Yovel*, but I think He will. 8 *You are to count off seven Shabbatot of years—seven times seven years, so that the time is seven Shabbatot of years—49 years. 9 Then on the tenth day of the seventh month, on Yom Kippur, you are to sound a shofar blast—you are to sound the shofar all throughout your land. 10 You are to make the fiftieth year holy, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.* (Leviticus 25:8-10 TLV). Thus far, ADONAI has fulfilled His *moedim* in their proper order, exactly when they should occur. Would He not fulfill His final three, the fall festivals, in the same way?

We believe that in some future *Yom Teruah*, *Yeshua* will come for us in the clouds, and we will rise to meet Him. The "Days of Awe," which span the period between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, are ten days of introspection in Jewish tradition. Is it possible that the fulfillment of these days is to go with *Yeshua* to Israel to fight the final battle? If *Pesach* and *Shavuot* were fulfilled exactly, would the fall festivals also not be? This means that the final battle will follow, after we rise to meet *Yeshua* in the clouds, and we will be in Israel with *Yeshua* for it.

Immediately after the battle, the judgment time arrives when we and everyone else must stand before *Yeshua* on *Yom Kippur*, the Day of Atonement. We read from Daniel 7 on *Rosh Hashanah* that the books were open in the heavenly court. If our names were written in Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the earth, everyone who has trusted in *Yeshua* is all set. But those whose names are written in the other book will be judged by King *Yeshua* and sent to an eternity of separation from Him. We will face His judgment too, but in a different way. We will have to answer Him for our failures, and how we served Him will determine the rewards that we receive. After He has completed His judgment on *Yom Kippur*, consider this possibility: 9 *Then on the tenth day of the seventh month, on Yom Kippur, you are to sound a shofar blast—you are to sound the shofar all throughout your land. 10 You are to make the fiftieth year holy, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.* (Leviticus 25:8-10 TLV).

As Mr. Spock often said, "It seems logical," and I also think it is logical that ADONAI would fulfill the *Yovel*, making it a time of both spiritual and physical release for His servants who have endured to the end. Isn't the restoration of all things foreshadowed by the *Yovel*? The spiritual fulfillment of the Jubilee may occur in the next few years. Could the *shofar* that announces the *Yovel* also signal the appearance of "the New Jerusalem," ADONAI's restoration of the heavens and the earth? After that happens, five days later, the Festival of *Succot* will follow, a grand celebration of the end-time harvest of souls. Consider this fantastic

possibility: *Sukkot* could be the time of the “Wedding Feast of the Lamb.” 7 *Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready,* 8 *She was given fine linen to wear, bright and clean! For the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the kedoshim.”* 9 *Then the angel tells me, “Write: How fortunate are those who have been invited to the wedding banquet of the Lamb!” He also tells me, “These are the true words of God.”* (Revelation 19:7-9 TLV).

But there is one more, *Shemini Atzeret*, the following day after the end of the seven-day *Sukkot* celebration. This is a somewhat mysterious festival. What could its fulfillment be? Consider this possibility: it is the arrival of eternity, a shift from temporal time to something even beyond our imagination? *Atzeret*, meaning assembly, comes from *atsar*, which means to restrain, hold back, or stop, which in the natural sense implies tarrying and staying with ADONAI a little longer. But in fulfillment, could it not be that eternity is the shrouded, original meaning of *Shemini Atzeret*? Don’t get too excited about all of this. These are just my musings, not prophecies, but they are possibilities that each of us should consider and pray about.

Rabbi Judah Ben Samuel supposedly predicted that the Jews would regain control of Jerusalem in 1967. We now know that this was not a genuine prophecy, but the work of religious scammers, something we must continue to guard against on the internet today. But part of the statement was correct, and it is also the Messianic era, as also shown by Daniel Bruce in *Daniel Unsealed*. The Jews did regain control of Jerusalem in 1967, a time that Yeshua also referenced, not by year but by the event that occurred. He said: 24 *Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled* (Luke 21:24b). And the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled in 1967 when Israel won the Six-Day War. Those two things line up, meaning that we are now living in the Messianic era. We don’t know when all these other things will happen, but we do believe that we are part of the generation that will witness our Messiah’s return and are privileged to take part in preparing for it. Regarding the present recapture of the Land of Israel, we are part of ADONAI’s army, composed of natural Israel, the Jews, the actual warriors, as well as Yeshua’s body of believers, the prayer warriors. The Nation of Israel is fighting to conquer the Land a second and final time, and we are witnesses to it. We pray that the victory will come soon.

Sha’ul’s message to the Romans describes our dilemma as disciples of Yeshua. Our carnal nature often wants to go in the other direction, but we must struggle against it with all our strength and repent frequently. And we must strive to make our love for Yeshua and ADONAI *agape* (ag-ap-ei), the highest form of love, the kind Yeshua asked of *Shimon Kefa* (John 21:15-16), when He said, “Peter, do you love me?” We have been chosen to live in these last days, and more than that, we have been selected and called to be part of the Messianic Jewish Movement. We are privileged to pray for and look forward to “the salvation of all Israel” (Romans 11:25-28). Yeshua has given each of us talents to prepare us for this heavenly mission, some more than others, but He is most interested in how we use the talents He has given us (Matthew 25:14-30). On that future *Yom Kippur*, standing before Yeshua’s Judgment Seat, we pray that each of us will hear Him say, 21 ..., “*Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a little, so I’ll put you in charge of much. Enter into your master’s joy!*” (Matthew 25:21; 23). *Shabbat shalom!*