



Parasha Pinchas

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Torah: Numbers 25:10-30:1.

Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3.

Ketuvim Shlichim: Romans 1:16-32

Messianic Judaism 2

Shabbat shalom mishpacha! This is Messianic Judaism 2. In our message last *Shabbat*, the point was made that the 19th-century Messianic Judaism of rabbis Rabinowitz and Lichtenstein did not endure, not because it wasn't Scriptural, but because it was not in ADONAI's timing. In fact, a great deal would happen to the people of Israel after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE before Yeshua's prophecy regarding the end of the times of the Gentiles in Jerusalem (Luke 21:24b) would be fulfilled. It's important that we know the history. The First Jewish Revolt began in 66, when Jewish resentment boiled over in response to Roman policies and taxation. In 67, the Roman General Vespasian was sent by Rome to crush the rebellion, and he began reconquering territory, starting in Galilee. In 70, following a relentless blockade, Roman forces, now under Vespasian's son Titus, captured and destroyed Jerusalem, and Herod's magnificent Second Temple was burned to the ground. The Roman army under Titus killed thousands of Jews during the siege of Jerusalem and its subsequent destruction. Tens of thousands were taken as slaves, with some sent to labor in mines, some to serve as gladiators, and others forced to build public works such as the Colosseum. Emperor Vespasian instituted a punitive tax on all Jews throughout the Roman Empire, known as the Fiscus Judaicus. This tax replaced the annual half-*shekel* previously donated to the Temple in Jerusalem and was now sent directly to the Roman treasury to fund the Temple of Jupiter in Rome. The Romans dismantled the city, systematically destroying its walls and the Temple. The Tenth Legion was permanently stationed in the ruins to prevent future uprisings. In the year 71, Emperor Vespasian and General Titus held a grand, celebratory military parade in Rome, displaying captured Jewish treasures, including the Menorah and the Table of Showbread, and publicly executing Jewish leaders. The Romans also confiscated Jewish-owned agricultural land throughout Judaea and redistributed it among Roman veterans and loyalists. For the next several years, the Roman army continued hunting down and killing the remaining pockets of rebellious Jews, and the First Jewish Revolt concluded in 74 with the killing of all who had barricaded themselves in the Fortress of Masada.

In the ensuing years, Jewish resentment toward the occupying Romans continued to fester. As more Greek and Roman colonists settled in Judea, they severely strained the resources and traditional way of life of the local Jewish community. Ruling Judea with a brutal hand, the Roman governor Tineius Rufus sought to suppress Jewish identity by banning the ritual of *B'rit Milah*. Things continued in this uneasy peace for years, but to make matters worse, some 55 years later, during his tour of the East in 129, Emperor Hadrian visited the ruins of Jerusalem and announced plans to rebuild it as the Roman colony of Aelia Capitolina. Its name honored both his clan (Aelius) and the Roman god Jupiter Capitolinus. The new pagan city featured a temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount. This

decision is widely regarded as a primary catalyst for the Second Jewish Revolt, known as the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132–135 CE).

Rabbi Akiva, the leading *Torah* sage of the 2nd century, was the spiritual architect of the Second Jewish Revolt. He applied the messianic prophecy from Numbers 24:17, “A star shall come forth from Jacob,” to the Jewish military leader *Shimon ben Kosiba*, bestowing on him the name *Bar Kokhba* (“Son of a Star”) and declaring him the Messiah. While the First Jewish Revolt was spontaneous, the Second was meticulously planned, with tunnels built and armaments stockpiled before the rebels attacked the Romans. Initial Jewish successes in the *Bar Kokhba* revolt led to the declaration of an independent Jewish state, but it was short-lived. In response, Emperor Hadrian deployed 12 legions to crush the uprising, systematically destroying more than 500 Jewish villages and fortresses, culminating in the fall of the rebel stronghold of Betar in 135 CE. Afterward, he established the pagan colony of Aelia Capitolina, built Roman temples, and decreed the death penalty for any Jewish person entering the city.

While this was physically devastating for the Jews of that era, it also destroyed the Jewish leadership among Yeshua’s followers in Israel, leaving a vacuum soon filled by Gentiles who did not uphold their *Torah* practices. Yeshua’s brother *Ya’acov* (Jacob) became the leader of the Jerusalem congregation around 44 and served until his martyrdom in 62. The events surrounding this period and leading up to the Second Jewish Revolt were described by Josephus, the Jewish historian (*Antiquities of the Jews*; 93-94 CE), Hegesippus (*On The Destruction of Jerusalem*; 180 CE), and Eusebius of Caesarea (*Ecclesiastical History*; 325 CE). The High Priest Aranous accused *Ya’acov* and several of his companions of being “breakers of the law,” and a mob threw him down from the pinnacle of the Temple, where he was then stoned, and finally had his brains bashed out with a launderer’s club. But Jewish leadership of the congregation continued under *Simeon Ben Clopus*, a cousin of Yeshua (the son of Joseph’s brother Clopus).

The day before He died on the cross, Yeshua had said, 15 “So when you see ‘the abomination of desolation,’ which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader understand), 16 then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.” (Matthew 24:15-16 TLV). Simeon understood this to mean “leave,” and he led the congregation out of Jerusalem around 66 CE, just before the outbreak of the First Jewish War. They relocated to Pella across the Jordan River (the area known as “the Ten Towns”) and survived the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE, returning around 74 CE. Simeon continued to lead the group for decades until he was crucified by Emperor Trajan in 107.

According to Eusebius, beginning with *Ya’acov*, there were fifteen Jewish leaders of the Jerusalem congregation. They were: 1. *Ya’acov*, 2. Simeon, 3. Justus I, 4. Zacchaeus, 5. Tobias, 6. Benjamin, 7. John I, 8. Matthias, 9. Philip, 10. Seneca, 11. Justus II, 12. Levi, 13. Ephres, 14. Joseph, and 15. Judas. The final thirteen leaders apparently served very short terms, possibly due to persecution and death at the hands of the Romans during those turbulent times. But the Jewish leadership of the Jerusalem congregation came to a sudden and complete end after the crushing of the *Bar Kokhba* Revolt in 135 CE. Roman Emperor Hadrian completely leveled what remained of Jerusalem and rebuilt it as a pagan Roman colony called Aelia Capitolina, renaming the Roman province of Judaea as Syria Palestina. At the same time, he banned all circumcised Jews from entering or residing in the newly reconstructed city on pain of death. The surviving Jerusalem Congregation was forced to appoint its first Gentile leader, a man named Marcus. From 135 onward, the mother

congregation of Jerusalem lost its distinct Jewish character, including the emphasis on keeping the *Torah*. It's important to understand the history of Jewish spiritual leadership in *Eretz Israel* because the void, the period without it, lasted from 135 to 1967, 1,832 years to be exact, before "true Biblical Judaism" returned to a group of Yeshua's Jewish followers. In the early centuries, what later became the Church, under various Gentile leaderships, introduced the antinomian doctrine, which continued to develop over the ensuing centuries. These Gentile groups in the early centuries were also deeply antisemitic and promoted the hatred of Jews, the birthplace of today's antisemitism in portions of today's Church. This is not meant to condemn the Church. It is past history, and we will all be judged by ADONAI for our present actions.

Returning to the time before the fall of Jerusalem, some prophetic words written by *Sha'ul* were ominous signs of what would come many years later, events that would eventually affect the whole earth, including our present day. They were written to a congregation he had established in Thessalonika, Macedonia, in 49 or 50 CE. Just a few years after he founded it, false teachers in Thessalonika (*Sha'ul* was in Corinth at the time) began stirring up the people by teaching that "the Day of the Lord," the day of Yeshua's judgment on the earth, had already come or was about to come. The people were in a state of panic, with many abandoning their jobs to await the return of Yeshua. He wrote: *1 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, concerning the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and our gathering together to Him, 2 not to get shaken out of your mind or disturbed—either by a spirit or a word or a letter as if through us—as though the Day of the Lord has come.* (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 TLV). *Sha'ul* told them not to worry, saying it had not happened, but what he said next might have frightened them even more: *3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for the Day (Yeshua's return) will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the one destined to be destroyed. 4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself that he is God.* (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 TLV). What was he referring to in this prophecy? Traditional Christian scholarship says that this referred to one of two possibilities. 1. The Preterist view, the view that biblical prophecies regarding the end-times were fulfilled throughout history. According to this view, it refers to events that occurred shortly after the First Jewish Revolt and the Roman Empire's destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. 2. The Futurist view points to an end-times scenario in which a world dictator will reveal himself before the Messiah's final return. Most believe he is the man called "the Antichrist." I want to give you a third possibility, one I believe is most likely.

Some 560 years after *Sha'ul* wrote these words, something ominous appeared, a cancer that continued to grow and now extends into our own time: the religion of Islam. In 570, Mohammed was born in Mecca. In the twenty years from 610 to 630, he established Islam and unified most of the Arabian Peninsula under it. In 632, he fell ill and died, yet the religion continued. How do *Sha'ul's* words relate to this? First, he says that a rebellion is coming, one that must occur before Messiah Yeshua returns. The rebellion was Islam, a rebellion against the G-d of the Heavens, YHVH, and His Son, Yeshua. The man of "lawlessness" was not Mohammed but the entity he proclaimed to be god, Allah. *Sha'ul* said: *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.* Who has done that other than the spiritual entity, Allah, the god that Mohammed created? He created Allah by destroying and expelling all other representations of Arabic gods from the Kasbah in Mecca, leaving only the statue of the Moon God, Allah, a demonic entity that I believe was occupied by *HaSatan* himself.

A little reflection is required before determining how he sits in the Temple of G-d. Yeshua was to prophesy: 15 “So when you see ‘the abomination of desolation,’ which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader understand), 16 then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. (Matthew 24:15-16 TLV). We saw that Simeon took this to heart and led the Messianic community to Pella in 66 CE, four years before the Temple was destroyed. But while Yeshua’s words about this evil entity, the “abomination of desolation,” were important for that time, they are relevant to us today as well. In Yeshua’s prophecy, the “Abomination” was first the demonic entity behind the Syrian army that desecrated the Temple during the time of the Maccabees when they offered a pig to Zeus on the Temple altar (Kislev 25, 167 BCE). Yeshua also foretold a second appearance, when the “Abomination,” this time the pagan Roman army, would desecrate and destroy the Temple some 40 years after He spoke these words, in the year 70. Yeshua told His disciples they would see it. We don’t know who went to Pella with Simeon, but among the tens of thousands of Yeshua’s followers at the time of the Roman destruction (see Acts 21:20), many would have seen it. The “Abomination” was a spirit embodying the pagan Roman pantheon, including the various gods and goddesses, as well as the chief god, Zeus. It is also very likely that *HaSatan* was the author of the many Greek and Roman pagan entities, their gods and goddesses, and He may have been Zeus.

What is an “abomination of desolation?” An abomination is something or an action that elicits extreme disgust, hatred, or loathing. The word comes from the Latin *abominari*, which literally translates to “praying against an evil omen.” Desolation refers to a state of complete emptiness, destruction, or profound sadness. It is typically used to describe a ruined, lifeless physical environment. Taken together, the words describe an abomination that makes a place desolate. In the time of the Maccabees, the Temple was desolate for the Jews because their holy symbol had been destroyed and desecrated, and they could not go there to worship. With the Romans, it was similar: a complete physical destruction and removal of the holy Temple, one that has lasted for thousands of years. Since then, there has been no holy place of ADONAI on the Temple Mount, but structures representing Islam have stood there, underlain by the Adversary, *HaSatan*.

Sha’ul’s words to the Thessalonians, 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*, personalizes the entity who is making these claims. Muslim forces first conquered Jerusalem around 637 CE. The Dome of the Rock was completed in 692, and Islam ruled Jerusalem for nearly 1,200 years. The city was under Islamic control from 637 until 1099 CE, when it was briefly captured by Christian Crusaders. Islamic control was re-established in 1187 and remained under various Islamic empires, including the Mamluks and the Ottoman Empire, until the end of World War I in 1917. The builder of the Dome of the Rock, Caliph Abd al-Malik, viewed it as a grand architectural declaration of Islam’s permanence, triumph, and theological supremacy in a city that had been dominated by Judaism and Christianity. It was not a mosque, but a shrine built to protect the “foundation rock,” from which Muslims believe Mohammed ascended to heaven during his Night Journey. But in reality, it is an abomination that renders the place desolate for Jews and followers of Yeshua, while openly proclaiming that Allah is the god of the universe. By building it on the Temple Mount, Muslims proclaim that Allah is the true God of the universe of the Bible. Sadly, a large percentage of the Body of Messiah in the United States believes that Allah and YHVH are one and the same, including the Catholic Church. An inscription inside the building states: “Far be it from His glory that He (**Allah**) should have a son” (Quran: Surah 4:171). As *Sha’ul* prophesied, *HaSatan*, in the form of Allah, exalts himself above every god, and sits

in the temple of G-d, on His Temple Mount, and proclaims that he is God. And this demonic entity has been there since 692, some 1,334 years. This is the rebellion against the G-d of Israel that *Sha'ul* said must come first.

Today is July 4th, the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. We are so fortunate to have been chosen to live here. Settled by many people seeking religious liberty, the first colonies were predominantly Christian. Our founding fathers, though not perfect themselves, did an admirable job of framing our Declaration of Independence and then our Constitution. They laid out a foundation for what is described as a "Constitutional Federal Republic." It is not a Christian nation, but a nation comprised of many Christians, whereas Islamic nations are frequently governed by the Quran.

As we celebrate our 250th year, we are a deeply divided nation politically. Our two political parties are defined by their platforms, a list of governing ideas for the party. Looking first at the Republican Platform, last adopted at the Republican National Convention in 2024 and titled "Make America Great Again," it lists 20 core promises and principles (<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/2024-republican-party-platform>). They are: 1. SEAL THE BORDER, AND STOP THE MIGRANT INVASION. 2. CARRY OUT THE LARGEST DEPORTATION OPERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY. 3. END INFLATION, AND MAKE AMERICA AFFORDABLE AGAIN. 4. MAKE AMERICA THE DOMINANT ENERGY PRODUCER IN THE WORLD, BY FAR!. 5. STOP OUTSOURCING, AND TURN THE UNITED STATES INTO A MANUFACTURING SUPERPOWER. 6. LARGE TAX CUTS FOR WORKERS, AND NO TAX ON TIPS! 7. DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTION, OUR BILL OF RIGHTS, AND OUR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF RELIGION, AND THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS. 8. PREVENT WORLD WAR THREE, RESTORE PEACE IN EUROPE AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND BUILD A GREAT IRON DOME MISSILE DEFENSE SHIELD OVER OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY -- ALL MADE IN AMERICA. 9. END THE WEAPONIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. 10. STOP THE MIGRANT CRIME EPIDEMIC, DEMOLISH THE FOREIGN DRUG CARTELS, CRUSH GANG VIOLENCE, AND LOCK UP VIOLENT OFFENDERS. 11. REBUILD OUR CITIES, INCLUDING WASHINGTON DC, MAKING THEM SAFE, CLEAN, AND BEAUTIFUL AGAIN. 12. STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE OUR MILITARY, MAKING IT, WITHOUT QUESTION, THE STRONGEST AND MOST POWERFUL IN THE WORLD. 13. KEEP THE U.S. DOLLAR AS THE WORLD'S RESERVE CURRENCY. 14. FIGHT FOR AND PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE WITH NO CUTS, INCLUDING NO CHANGES TO THE RETIREMENT AGE. 15. CANCEL THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANDATE AND CUT COSTLY AND BURDENSOME REGULATIONS. 16. CUT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ANY SCHOOL PUSHING CRITICAL RACE THEORY, RADICAL GENDER IDEOLOGY, AND OTHER INAPPROPRIATE RACIAL, SEXUAL, OR POLITICAL CONTENT ON OUR CHILDREN. 17. KEEP MEN OUT OF WOMEN'S SPORTS. 18. DEPORT PRO-HAMAS RADICALS AND MAKE OUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES SAFE AND PATRIOTIC AGAIN. 19. SECURE OUR ELECTIONS, INCLUDING SAME DAY VOTING, VOTER IDENTIFICATION, PAPER BALLOTS, AND PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP. And, 20. UNITE OUR COUNTRY BY BRINGING IT TO NEW AND RECORD LEVELS OF SUCCESS.

Now, a look at the Democrat Platform, last adopted at the Democratic National Convention in 2024. The platform serves as a statement of the party's policy priorities and vision (<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/2024-democratic-party-platform>). Key policy positions in the document include (there are a number of subtitles under each major platform): 1. Growing Our Economy from the Bottom Up & Middle Out (Economic

Progress, Investing In America, Good Jobs, Small Businesses, Agriculture, Fighting Poverty, and Ending Special Interest Giveaways). 2. Rewarding Work, Not Wealth (Cutting Taxes For Working Families and Making The Wealthy & Big Corporations Pay Their Fair Share). 3. Lowering Costs (Health Care & Prescription Drugs, Child Care, Home Care, & Paid Leave, Gas & Groceries, Corporate Greed, Housing, Education, Social Security, Pensions, & Medicare). 4. Tackling the Climate Crisis, Lowering Energy Costs, & Securing Energy Independence (Producing Cleaner, More Affordable Energy, Lowering Energy Costs, Creating Clean Energy Jobs, Reducing Pollution & Making Polluters Pay, Environmental Justice, Building Climate Resilient Communities, Conservation, and Global Climate Leadership). 5. Protecting Communities & Tackling the Scourge of Gun Violence (Gun Safety, Policing & Public Safety, Criminal Justice, and Violence Against Women). 6. Strengthening Democracy, Protecting Freedoms, & Advancing Equity (Judges, Voting Rights, Stopping The Influence Of Special Interests, Reproductive Freedom, Women's Rights, Racial Equitu, Lgbtqi+, Disability, Tribal Nations, Combating Hate & Protecting Freedom Of Religion, Freedom Of The Press, Arts & Humanities, and D.C., Puerto Rico, Territories). 7. Securing our Border & Fixing the Broken Immigration System (Securing The Border, Expanding Legal Immigration & Deterring Illegal Immigration). 8. Advancing the President's Unity Agenda (Beating The Opioid Epidemic, Investing In Mental Health, Protecting Kids Online, Strengthening Americans' Data Privacy, & Promoting Competition, Ending Cancer As We Know It, and Meeting Our Nation's Sacred Obligation To Veterans And Military Families). 9. Strengthening American Leadership Worldwide (Europe, Indo-Pacific, China, The Middle East & North Africa, Western Hemisphere, Africa, Strengthening The U.S. And Global Economy, Leading With Diplomacy And American Values, and Strongest Military In The World).

There is much more information on each point of both the Republican and Democrat platforms on their respective websites, which are listed in the written message. As responsible voters, we should make ourselves acquainted with the specifics of these platforms. I make no bones about it. The Republican platform is much more in line with my beliefs about the Constitution and my faith in G-d, and I believe it aligns much more closely with the Church's basic beliefs. The Democrat platform goes against my spiritual beliefs and those of the Bible in many points. Not only do they promote abortion, homosexual marriage, LGBT+ ideologies, and biological males competing in women's sports, but also what they call hate speech. Their "hate speech" is directed at us when we say that these things are wrong according to our religious beliefs and the Bible. There are many on the far left political spectrum who wish to do away with our constitution, with recently declared "Social Democrat" candidates espousing socialism and the removal of many of the bedrocks of our society. They are in favor of abolishing: 1. Private health insurance and implementing a publicly funded, single-payer Medicare for All system. 2. Defunding and replacing current policing (**police forces**), cash bail, and prison systems, as well as eliminating Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). 3. Remove private, corporate, and Super PAC money from politics. 4. Transfer ownership and democratic control of major industries and essential services from private owners to the public sector. 5. End military aid to foreign nations (such as Israel) and reduce the overall budget of the Department of Defense. 6. Abolish the Electoral College and fundamentally restructure the Supreme Court and independent presidency, seeking to make them subordinate to Congress. All of these are attacks on our Constitution. The Democratic Socialists of America assert that the current U.S. Constitution is an inherently undemocratic document designed to enshrine minority rule and protect elite, capitalist interests. While I am in the lower-income tiers, I do appreciate the capitalists for their ingenuity and enterprise, which build businesses and provide jobs. Socialism cannot do it, as shown by the failure of Communism in the Soviet Union, and the currently failing

Communism of Cuba. China has moved away from Communism to a hybrid form of Communism/Capitalism, retaining unelected leadership and military control of the people.

The Body of Messiah in the United States is at its most fragmented time. Not only are we divided theologically, but the Church is also being divided by the acceptance of socialism and the hate of Jews and the Nation of Israel. Division is promoted by those on the far right and left by espousing racial hatred. Both groups constantly stir up trouble with hateful statements, and they encourage others to join in their hate. We cannot hate anyone. ADONAI has clearly told us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Without revival and the Spirit of G-d to bring all those who have trusted in Yeshua back to the true focus of the Bible, our nation is doomed to go the way of the Socialist Democrats. But that is not who they really are. Most of them don't know it, but they are being used by the radical Muslims behind this movement. Mayor Mamdani of New York City understands Islam's goal to subdue the Great Satan, the United States, and the Little Satan, Israel, because his first loyalty is not to socialism, but to Islam. Islam's goal is to control the whole earth. We and others like us are standing in their way. We understand the truth of the Scriptures, believing that ADONAI will prevail over the earth, and that His Son Yeshua will return to defeat these enemies. Pray that Yeshua's body of believers would be healed and that we would come to stand together for Biblical truth.

Sha'ul's prophecy stated: 3 Let no one deceive you in any way, for the Day (Yeshua's return) will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the one destined to be destroyed. The man of lawlessness is *HaSatan*, the ancient Serpent who has continually opposed what ADONAI is doing on the earth. Much more must happen before he is destroyed, but we believe in faith that he will be. First, Yeshua returns to the earth to defeat His enemies, which He does with the words of His mouth, speaking them, the very same way that the earth was created. Then *HaSatan* will be eliminated: *10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are too, and they shall be tortured day and night forever and ever.* (Revelation 20:10 TLV).

On our nation's 250th birthday, we have much to be thankful for, but we also have much work to do. We must become effective disciples of Yeshua so that we can faithfully work to promote the truth of the Scriptures while also being examples of loving our neighbor as ourselves. *Shabbat shalom.*