



Parasha Ki Tavo

August 29, 2026

Torah: Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22

Ketuvim Shlichim: Matthew 24:29-34

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Messianic Judaism 9

Shabbat shalom, Mishpacha! We are now about halfway through the month of *Elul*, and drawing near to *Rosh Hashanah*, 5787. During *Elul*, our brothers and sisters in the wider Jewish community focus on *teshuvah* (repentance), hoping to draw closer to ADONAI and achieve forgiveness (*selicha*) and atonement (*kapparah*) on *Yom Kippur*. For them, an important part of this process is also repairing human relationships because wrongs against another person must be personally resolved before forgiveness can be fully realized. For them, forgiveness and atonement are based on the rabbinic framework established in the *Talmud*, but that system lacks a major component found in Scripture: blood. Everything they do is important and scriptural, but it lacks the blood that ADONAI requires. After Leviticus 16 details the *Yom Kippur* service and the method of atonement, a verse in the next chapter explains how ADONAI effects atonement. He said: 11 “For the life of the creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your lives—for it is the blood that makes atonement because of the life.” (Leviticus 17:11 TLV). Atonement is from the Hebrew word *kaphar* כָּפַר, meaning “to cover,” “to purge,” or “to make reconciliation.” Today, without the blood ADONAI requires, traditional Jews turn to the *Talmud*’s three pillars of atonement: *teshuvah* (sincere repentance), *tefillah* (sincere prayer), and *tzedakah* (charity and good deeds). These three are good, but they lack the essential requirement for atonement: blood.

As disciples of Yeshua, as we progress through the month of *Elul* each year, our hearts turn to our Jewish brothers and sisters, praying that they find the true meaning of *Yom Kippur* now that animal sacrifice in the Temple is no longer possible and that their blood no longer provides atonement year after year. Today, the year-to-year atonement of the First Covenant has been replaced by the covenant Jeremiah prophesied: 30 “Behold, days are coming”—it is a declaration of Adonai— “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and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). We will discuss the covenant further in the coming days, but the truth is that this covenant, now known as the New Covenant, is ADONAI’s only redemptive covenant, and it retains blood atonement. It was established through the shedding of blood, as required, and was cut when ADONAI’s Son, Yeshua, died on the cross in 30 CE, serving as the permanent replacement for bulls and goats, a sacrifice of absolute permanence and complete effectiveness. In this regard, *Yom Kippur* has taken on new meaning. Yeshua’s blood is the only blood that can atone (*kippur*, from the verb *kaphar*) for our sins, and each person has their own personal *Yom Kippur*, the day they trusted in Yeshua. But we continue to commemorate *Yom Kippur* on its required day as ADONAI commanded, believing that Yeshua will fulfill it when He returns as King. Our continuing prayer is that many of our Jewish brothers and sisters would trust in their brother Messiah, Yeshua, throughout this month of *Elul* and into the upcoming High Holy Days.

An event that began this past Thursday night and continued into early Friday (August 27-28) reminds us that we are in “the last days.” The partial lunar eclipse that occurred is described as an “almost blood moon.” When Earth’s shadow (the umbra) covered 96% of the lunar surface at its maximum, the Moon took on a rusty red, copper hue characteristic of blood moons, though lighter in color. The concept of a “blood moon” has religious significance because of certain Scripture passages. Some point to this verse: *14 Then God said, “Let lights in the expanse of the sky be for separating the day from the night. They will be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.”* (Genesis 1:14 TLV). Is this referring to blood moons? I don’t think so. From this, we understand that the Sun would light the day and the Moon would shine at night as indicators of each. They would also serve as *l’otot nĕp̄l*, visual signs in the sky to help humans navigate, determine direction, and mark time. Early humans learned to determine direction from the Sun by placing a stick in the ground and a stone at the tip of the stick’s shadow. After letting the shadow move for a short time, they placed another stone at the shadow’s tip, then drew a line from stone to stone, marking East and West. West was at the first stone and East at the second. The rotation of the Earth and the Sun’s recurring appearance also marked time, days. The Sun and Moon together marked the seasons, *moadim* מועדים, or “appointed times.” However, at that early time, ADONAI had given no appointed times, but they would come, and the Sun and the Moon would be most important in determining when they would occur. The Hebrew calendar is described as lunisolar, and major biblical holidays such as *Pesach* (Passover) and *Sukkot* (the Feast of Tabernacles) always fall on a full moon. The solar aspect of this arrangement is that solar months are longer than the thirty-day lunar Hebrew months, and extra months are occasionally added to keep pace with the solar year.

But what about “blood moons?” The specific phrase “moon into blood” appears in three passages of scripture: Joel 2:31, Acts 2:20, and Revelation 6:12. The Prophet Joel spoke of a coming time when ADONAI says: *3 “I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth—blood, fire and pillars of smoke. 4 The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of Adonai comes.”* (Joel 3:3 TLV). (2:30-31 in Christian Bibles). In eschatology, the Day of ADONAI is a future time when G-d will directly enter human history to bring severe judgment and execute justice. In his first chapter, Joel spoke to the people of Israel about the Day of ADONAI: *15 Ah, the day! The day of Adonai is near! As havoc from Shaddai it will come.* (Joel 1:15 TLV). Havoc is the Hebrew word *ukasod* וָכָשָׁד, meaning destruction. Scholars debate when Joel lived because his text gives no markers, such as a reigning king or anything that would identify his time. While some think he wrote early in Israel’s history, many believe he wrote after the return from Babylon, when Israel had just lived through a plague of locusts and very hard times. The words, *9 They rush on the city, they run on the wall, they climb up into the houses, coming through the windows like a thief* (Joel 2:9 TLV), describe a plague of locusts marching like an army and seem to symbolize a future army that will invade Israel in a second layer of interpretation.

Yeshua’s disciple *Shimon Kefa* (Simon Peter) quoted Joel in his sermon on the Day of *Shavuot*, ten days after Yeshua’s ascension to the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9). *Kefa* said: *20 ‘The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious Day of Adonai comes. 21 And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of Adonai shall be saved.’* (Acts 1:20 TLV). We can look at what happened earlier that day as a partial fulfillment of the prophecy at a time we might call “the beginning of the last days.” The Spirit had just been poured out on those gathered with Peter, and they spoke in tongues they had not known. That was an early taste of the final fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy where he said: *1 “So it will be afterward, I will pour out My Ruach on all flesh: your sons and*

daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 2 “Also on the male and the female servants will I pour out My spirit in those days.” (Joel 3:1-2 TLV). This is a day we believe is coming soon, a day when ADONAI’s Spirit is poured out on all flesh, everyone. Some will receive it and some will not, as shown by Joel’s words: *5 Then all who call on Adonai’s Name will escape, for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be rescue, as Adonai has said, among the survivors whom Adonai is calling.”* (Joel 3: 5 TLV). While the *Ruach* will be poured out on all flesh, only those who call on ADONAI’s name will be rescued.

Two camps debate the meaning of the “moon turning to blood.” Some believe that heavenly alignments, especially those occurring around key years or festivals, signal coming changes in world order, particularly regarding the nation of Israel. Others point out that lunar eclipses are predictable, regularly occurring natural phenomena, arguing that the biblical prophets used “apocalyptic language” metaphorically to describe massive historical shake-ups rather than actual astronomical predictions. I can see truth in both views, but I lean more toward those who see these predictions as future events, especially regarding “the Day of ADONAI.” I believe there is a time coming when ADONAI, through His Son Yeshua, will step onto earth’s stage and bring all these things to pass, including a great battle that the King of Kings will fight against Gog and Magog, the armies described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. This may describe a future time when, in *Kefa’s* words, “the sun shall be turned to darkness” (a solar eclipse) and “the moon to blood” (a lunar eclipse), and they will occur in sequence, just before “the Day of ADONAI.”

Ezekiel’s prophecy about Gog and Magog seems to fit our general time, which we can identify as the “last days” since Israel is again a nation. Referring to Ezekiel as “Son of man,” ADONAI said: *1 The word of Adonai came to me saying: 2 “Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophecy against him 3 and say, thus says Adonai Elohim: ‘Behold, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 4 I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws. I will bring you out, with all your army, horses and horsemen—all of them splendidly dressed—a vast assembly with breastplate and shield, all of them wielding swords.”* (Ezekiel 38:1-4 TLV). Gog is said to lead the nation of Magog, usually identified with Russia, and also Meshech and Tubal, thought to be regions in modern-day Turkey. Gog leads an alliance of nations: Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, and Togarmah. Persia is easy to identify as modern Iran, which is causing a lot of trouble right now. Cush is identified as northern Egypt, possibly including parts of modern-day Sudan and Ethiopia. In the ancient world, Put referred to the region directly west of Egypt, possibly modern-day Libya. Gomer is an ancient people known as the Cimmerians, whose historic territories are associated with modern-day Turkey, Ukraine, and parts of Europe. Togarmah is an ancient people and city-state located in modern-day Turkey, tied to the Armenian and Georgian peoples. In Ezekiel’s prophecy, ADONAI draws these armies into Israel.

ADONAI continued: *8 After many days you will be summoned. In the latter years, you (Gog and his minions) will come against the land that has been brought back from the sword and regathered from many peoples on the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. But they were brought out from the peoples. When all of them are dwelling securely, 9 you will come up, you will come like a storm, you will be like a cloud covering the land—you and all your troops and many peoples with you.”* (Ezekiel 38:8-9 TLV). Israel had not been a nation for almost 2,000 years until just 78 years ago, but now many Jews have been regathered to the Land. We don’t know how many of the world’s Jews must be in the land when this takes place, and that they are “dwelling securely” is explained further: *10 Thus says Adonai Elohim: “It will come to pass in that day that things will come into your heart and*

you will devise an evil plan. 11 You will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwallled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who live securely, all of them living without walls, having no bars or gates, 12 in order to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places now inhabited and against the people gathered from the nations, who have been acquiring livestock and property, who live in the center of the world.' (Ezekiel 38:10-12 TLV). This tells us that it is a future time when Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Huthis have been quieted, and the Antisemites of the world are silent.

Even so, it appears to be in our immediate future and fits the generation of the Fig Tree analogy. Yeshua said: 32 *"Now learn the parable from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the door. 34 Amen, I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things happen."* (Matthew 24:32-34 TLV). Many prophetic statements have a double meaning, one for the current generation and another for a future time. This seems to be the case with Yeshua's words, as the early fulfillment occurred about 40 years after He died, when the Temple was destroyed. Some of the people living during His earthly ministry witnessed the Roman army tear down the Temple in 70 CE, a period within a normal human lifespan. A second layer of Yeshua's prophecy concerns the time of His Second Coming as King. This "generation" refers to a future time in Israel, when the nation is "the olive tree" he prophesied. The generation now in Israel seeing the end-time signs begin will also live to see the end of the age and "the Day of ADONAI."

The third verse that referred to "the moon like blood" is in Revelation: 12 *I saw when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth made of goat's hair, and the full moon became like blood. 13 The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 The heaven ripped apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from their places.* (Revelation 6:12-14 TLV). This seems to describe the Day of ADONAI, the time of judgment, preceded by a lunar eclipse and earthquakes, which also seems tied to Ezekiel's prophecy about earthquakes: 19 *"In My jealousy and the fire of My wrath I have spoken! Surely in that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep upon the ground and all humans upon the face of the earth will shake at My presence. The mountains will be thrown down. The steep places will fall. Every wall will fall to the ground.* (Ezekiel 38:19-20 TLV). This also aligns with Zechariah with regard to earthquakes: 1 *Behold, a day of Adonai is coming when your plunder will be divided in your midst. 2 "I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to wage war. The city shall be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women ravished. Half of the city will be exiled, but the remainder of the people will not be cut off from the city." 3 Then Adonai will go forth and fight against those nations as He fights in a day of battle. 4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which lies to the east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a huge valley. Half of the mountain will move toward the north and half of it toward the south."* (Zechariah 14:1-4 TLV). Joel 3, Acts 2, Ezekiel 38, and Revelation 6 are tied together, linking the blood moon, earthquakes, and Gog's invading army. These verses contain symbolism we cannot fully explain, yet the general theme seems to align with the "Day of ADONAI." Add to this Yeshua's words: 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).

The first part of Yeshua's statement seems to confirm that there will be solar and lunar eclipses at that time, but the stars falling from heaven are difficult to explain; that is, unless

you see this part as metaphorical, which I do. Yeshua's words may relate to Revelation 6, where it says: *The stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree drops unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.* Yeshua says almost the same thing: *The stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.* Some scholars believe this is referring to HaSatan's minions, the demonic princes and ordinary demons who inhabit the heavens. Speaking to the Ephesian congregation, Sha'ul said: *2 At that time, you walked in the way of this world, in conformity to the ruler of the domain of the air—the ruler of the spirit who is now operating in the sons of disobedience.* (Ephesians 2:2 TLV). Other Bible versions call HaSatan "the Prince of the power of the air," where "power" and "domain" both refer to the corporate body of demonic forces under his leadership.

Bringing this all together, we believe that there will come a time when ADONAI will draw a group of nations to attack Israel, which will at that time be living peacefully. Zechariah points to some death and destruction, while Ezekiel says that ADONAI will (at some point) turn the invading army against each other, and they will kill each other. The time of these events just precedes the coming "Day of ADONAI," a time marked by solar and lunar eclipses, great earthquakes, and the stripping of power from HaSatan's minions, though he himself is dealt with separately (Revelation 20). The good news of all this is what Joel prophesied: *1 "So it will be afterward, I will pour out My Ruach on all flesh: your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 2 "Also on the male and the female servants will I pour out My spirit in those days. 3 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth— blood, fire and pillars of smoke. 4 The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of Adonai comes. 5 Then all who call on Adonai's Name will escape, for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be rescue, as Adonai has said, among the survivors whom Adonai is calling."* (Joel 3:1-5 TLV). There is a partial fulfillment now, in that the Ruach continues to be poured out, but when that day comes, all who call on Yeshua's name will be rescued. Yeshua told us to pray that that day would come. He said: *9 "Therefore, pray in this way: 'Our Father in heaven, sanctified be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"* (Matthew 6:9-10 TLV). When the Day of ADONAI comes, His kingdom will be on the earth, and we pray that day will be soon. No one knows the exact meaning of the scriptures we have quoted, and I don't claim complete accuracy in what I have proposed. But we need some idea of what is coming, and I suggest this is a reasonable explanation. One more scripture we should consider is the one about Armageddon: *16 Then the spirits gathered the kings to the place called in Hebrew Har-Megiddo.* (Revelation 16:16 TLV). The kings are the leaders of the armies described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 that have come against Israel, and this is the same battle. In the following verses in this chapter, we read what ADONAI does in this battle. The connecting scripture for Yeshua is from Revelation 19: *11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The One riding on it is called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and many royal crowns are on His head. He has a name written that no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is "the Word of God." 14 And the armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword—so that with it He may strike down the nations—and He shall rule them with an iron rod, and He treads the winepress of the furious wrath of Elohei-Tzva'ot. 16 On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "King of kings, and Lord of lords."* (Revelation 19:11-16 TLV). The sharp sword in Yeshua's mouth is His voice, and He speaks the destruction of His enemies, just as He spoke the world into being. Again, we don't know everything about this final event, but this is a strong possibility.

What are we to do in this age, with the world so upset? We are to continue living actively, stay alert, and do ADONAI's work while we wait for Yeshua's return. We must stay on guard and spiritually awake, making *talmidim* for Him, while making every effort to walk righteously by obeying His Word and repenting when we fail. ADONAI chose the children of Abraham, the Jews, to be His special nation, and all His future plans for them are good. We are part of them, both physically and spiritually, and we want only ADONAI's best for them. May they soon know their fellow Jew, Yeshua, personally. *Shabbat shalom!*