



Parasha Shemot

January 6, 2024

Torah: Exodus 01:01-06:01

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Ketuwim Shlichim: Acts 7:17-34

Talmidim Shel Yeshua 21

Shabbat shalom mishpacha! The events of *Parasha Shemot* began a new era for Jacob's descendants in a new book. Joseph had died, a new pharaoh was on the throne and this new era is reflected in the Greek name for this Book of *Torah*, *Exodos*, the name given to it by the Jewish writers of the Septuagint. It means "going out" or "going from," referring to the first major event in this book, being freed from and going out from Egypt. The Hebrew name of this book, *Shemot*, taken from the first verse, means "names:" *1 Now these are the names of Bnei-Yisrael who came into Egypt with Jacob,..* (Exodus 1:1 TLV). This is the continuing story of ADONAI's choosing and calling of Israel, the grandchildren of Abraham who had trusted in Him. Today, we continue our diversion from the *parasha* theme to continue our series, *Talmidim Shel Yeshua*, Disciples of Yeshua. This session, session 21 will be the last in our series.

Who is Yeshua? He seems to be whomever you ask, but we know that can't be true. But, it is true that men and women through the ages have seen Him through the eyes of their own culture and continue to do so today. You may have seen pictures on the Sunday School room walls, representations of Jesus appearing to be a Gentile, pictured by the Church, the group which has been His major translator for almost two thousand years. Almost sixty years ago, ADONAI re-established Messianic Judaism, the re-creation of the faith of Yeshua's original disciples, the Jews of the 1st century and the Messianic Gentiles who joined with them. In my opinion, He did it for a very specific purpose, to recreate a group which emphasized Israel and loved Israel and was concerned for her salvation. This is not to say that the Church is not concerned for Israel's salvation. They are, but they are unable to relate to Israel in the way that a Jewish group can. Messianic Judaism, in her short sixty years, has provoked "the lost sheep of the House of Israel, as Yeshua called them. (Matthew 10:6; 15:24), a provoking which will ultimately lead to the "salvation of all Israel" prophesied by *Sha'ul*. (Romans 11:26). Those of us in this group, the Messianic body, are more likely to see Yeshua as a 1st century Jew with dark curly hair and Semitic features.

An interesting thing has happened since the Israel-Hamas war began this past October 7th and the focus has been on those that some call Palestinians. Recently, a Roman Catholic priest suggested to a cable TV host that the Christmas story was about a Palestinian Jew born into a time when his country was occupied. He was right. Yeshua was a Jew, but not a Palestinian. To begin with, that is an anachronism, an event placed in a time period other than when it occurred. We know that the Land of Israel did not begin to be called Syria Palestina until about the year 135 CE after the Jews were defeated in the Second Jewish

Revolt against Rome. Supposedly, Emperor Hadrian named it after Israel's ancient enemies, the Philistines. From that time forward, everyone who lived there was called a Palestinian, Palestinian Jews and Palestinian Arabs. Much has been said about the "Palestinians" since Yasser Arafat became the chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in 1969. Arafat, a founding member of the Fatah political party, took the PLO which had been founded in 1964, to international recognition, initiating and carrying on of the "myth of the Palestinian people." There never has been a Palestinian people, a group of Arabs who constantly occupied the Land of Israel. Until the founding of the modern nation of Israel in 1948, the Jews were also known as Palestinians.

Since the Catholic priest made this statement, it has stirred up many emotions, not the least of which are within the Jewish people. An article written by Boaz Michael, a Messianic Jew living in Israel, who incidentally, spoke in our congregation years ago, recently wrote an article entitled *Jews Reclaim Jesus- A Christmas Miracle*.

<https://ffoz.org/messiah/articles/jews-reclaim-jesus-a-christmas-miracle>). In it, he recounts the social media response to the making of Jesus at His birth into a Palestinian. Quoting Boaz, "The battle played out over Christmas. Jewish voices on social media reacted with unprecedented zeal to reclaim Jesus as a Jew—and not just that, but a good Jew, an observant Jew, a Jew who stood up for the Torah and Israel during an onerous occupation by the hated Romans. My social media feed filled up with Jewish voices proudly proclaiming the Jewishness of Yeshua of Nazareth." What do we make of this? Rabbi Smuley Boteach, a virulent anti-Messianic even responded on X:

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CNN NOW FRAUDULENTLY CLAIMS THAT JESUS WAS NOT JEWISH BUT A PALESTINIAN.

I have appeared with Father Edward Beck on National TV before. This is a disgraceful interview which is the very essence of fake news. JESUS was not a Palestinian as Palestine did not exist at that time.

Clearly Father Edward Beck is utterly ignorant of Even the Christian Bible (New Testament).

Jesus was a Jew who was murdered by the Romans for being a JEW and for proclaiming himself the king of the Jews. He was not an Arab, not a Palestinian. Islam did not exist until 700 years after Jesus.

This is a disgraceful interview that undermines CNN's entire claim to any kind of truth. I have rarely seen such historical fiction and such fraudulents.

We know Rabbi Boteach from his debates opposing Messianic Judaism with one of our foremost Messianic Jewish scholars, Dr. Michael Brown. But now, the rabbi has taken up

for Jesus, the one whom many traditional rabbis refer to, not as “Yeshua,” meaning “ADONAI’s salvation,” but by “Yeshu,” a play on His real name meaning “may his name be blotted out.” But, other Jews also weighed in supporting the Jewishness of Yeshua. Boaz Michael continues with various Jewish responses: “Jesus was a rabbi.” “Christmas celebrates “the birth of an Orthodox Jew.”” “Jesus was a proud, observant Jew.” One account went so far as to call Jesus “a dark-skinned, Hebrew/Aramaic speaking Israeli Zionist Judean rabbi” who “kept the Sabbath.” What are we to make of all this?

Boaz goes on to tell about Avram Poljak, an early Messianic Jew and Zionist: “Poljak believed that our people would recognize Yeshua as the Messiah only after a series of steps of reconciliation had been completed. The third step in the process he outlined was for the Jewish people to “recognize him as their brother”—that is, as a fellow Jew.” That is what has just recently happened, but how many recognizing Him is enough? Boaz continues: “The next step, according to Poljak, is for us to recognize Yeshua as a teacher—one who correctly interpreted the Torah and had valuable insights into Jewish thought, ethics, and practice.” We are close; we are close!

The “goal of the *Torah*,” as expressed in Romans 10:4, is to lead people to righteousness through Yeshua, and in the *Torah* are found many pictures foreshadowing Him. One is the picture of Joseph dressed in Egyptian garb with eye makeup, sitting on a throne looking down at his brothers, a parallel which we also see today. Yosef’s brothers thought he was an Egyptian until he revealed himself as their brother Joseph. Today, we see Yeshua presented to His Jewish brothers and sisters dressed in Gentile garb, not appearing Jewish at all. We may be tempted to blame the Church, but we cannot because it is something which ADONAI has allowed. We must recognize Joseph’s words to his brothers as our truth for today: *20 Yes, you yourselves planned evil against me. God planned it for good, in order to bring about what it is this day—to preserve the lives of many people.* (Genesis 50:20 TLV). ADONAI has brought us to this time, the *Acharit Hayamim*, the End of Days, for His purposes. Yes, there was evil against the Jews, the evil of the early Church fathers, who with *HaSatan*’s prodding, launched the spirits of antisemitism into the world. Those same spirits are today prodding those with uncircumcised hearts against the Jews. But, there can be no doubt that ADONAI, Himself, has brought us to this time.

Those of us who trust in and call upon the name of our Messiah as either Jesus or Yeshua, are in this together. We’re not in a struggle to see who will win the theology battle. But, the truth is that there are many, many “isms” within Yeshua’s body today. We can’t all be right. We all should have “the truth” as our goal. We will all recognize it when the *Ruach HaKodesh* makes it apparent in the whole body of Yeshua’s followers.

Yeshua has been presented to the world as “the Baby Jesus,” and He is, but He is also the infant Yeshua who was circumcised on the eighth day and brought into the Covenant of Abraham. As an infant of thirty days age, he was prophesied over by two ancient saints, but He was also at the Temple to be redeemed as a first born son, *Pidyon HaBen*, according to *Torah*. (Numbers 18:15-16). Yeshua was anointed for service at the age of thirty (Numbers 4:3) and began His ministry as Prophet, Priest and King. He was given *tevillah*, immersion, by His cousin *Yochanan*, John, the very traditional Jewish way of entering into a new stage of life for a 1st century Jew. He is the Creator of the universe (John 1:1-3; 1Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-17) and as Creator will create the coming new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21:1). He is the *logos*, the Word made flesh, who upheld the truth of the *Torah* (Matthew 5:17-19) which He perfectly kept. During His life on earth, He lived the life of a

sinless one, the perfect sacrifice required to initiate the New Covenant. Yeshua is Jewish in every way.

Just a few days before His death on the cross, Yeshua sat on the Mount of Olives and told His disciples what would happen in the coming years. It was basically the continuing story of His Jewish disciples. The *p'shat*, the original context, of Yeshua's entire discourse on the Mount of Olives is that He was speaking to Jews about what would happen to them. 9 *"Then they will hand you (Jews) over to persecution and will kill you. You (Jews) will be hated by all the nations because of My name. 10 And then many (Jews) will fall away and will betray one another and hate one other. 11 Many (Jewish) false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many (Jews) will grow cold. 13 But the one (Jew) who endures to the end will be saved. 14 This Good News of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come"* (Matthew 24:9-14 TLV). We see that most of these statements have now come true. Since the 1st century, the Jews have been the most persecuted and killed group, the result of the early antisemitism of the Gentile Church fathers. Many Jews have fallen away from the faith, entering into Atheism, Buddhism, Hinduism and many other isms, but their hate also extends to the Jewish followers of Yeshua who are spit upon by certain groups of Jews. Through the ages, there have been many Jewish false prophets including a number who claimed to be the Messiah. Verse 12 especially speaks to Judaism: *12 Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many (Jews) will grow cold.* This verse perfectly describes the Reform Movement of the 1800s and "lawlessness," the move away from *Torah* as a way of life. The Jew who trusts in Yeshua until the end of his life or the end of the world, whichever comes first, he shall be saved. Then, the Good News of Yeshua's Kingdom will be proclaimed to all the world and then the end shall come.

This is where we Gentiles come in. Yeshua was sent by His Father to save the whole world (John 3:16), but it was to be done through the Jews, His chosen people. During His human lifetime, the only interaction that Yeshua had with Gentiles was the Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:5-13) and the Syrophenician woman (Matthew 15:21-28), and that was due to His compassion. (Yes, also the Magi). He had stated that He was only called to the House of Israel (Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24). His three and one-half year time of ministry was a time of training and preparation for the work He had called his disciples to do and He gave them instruction about the Gentiles shortly before He rose into heaven: *18 And Yeshua came up to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Ruach ha-Kodesh, 20 teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And remember! I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:18-20 TLV). This does not make Yeshua's Gentile followers second class. Yeshua's going first to Israel was explained by *Sha'ul*: *16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who trusts—to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* (Romans 1:16 TLV). *Sha'ul* further explained: *28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female—for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua.* (Galatians 3:28 TLV).

It's a matter of calling. After Israel's rescue from Egypt, ADONAI said to them: *5 "Now then, if you listen closely to My voice, and keep My covenant, then you will be My own treasure from among all people, for all the earth is Mine. 6 So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of kohanim and a holy nation." These are the words which you are to speak to Bnei-Yisrael.*" (Exodus 19:5-6 TLV). This is a conditional statement, "listen to My voice and keep My

covenant.” In the year 30 CE, the covenant changed and the New Covenant became the active covenant. *Sha’ul* wrote: *1 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.* (Romans 11:1 TLV). He continues: *5 So in the same way also at this present time there has come to be a remnant according to God’s gracious choice.* (Romans 11:5 TLV). This remnant is “the righteous remnant,” Jews who have kept ADONAI’s covenant. They are the remnant of the group which ADONAI called to be priests to the nations, a group which will soon expand and become “all Israel.” Presently, the majority of Jews are not keeping ADONAI’s covenant. They are holding to the Mosaic Covenant which is presently inactive, or to no covenant, all the while rejecting the New Covenant, ADONAI’s active covenant. This Jewish remnant began with Yeshua’s first disciples followed by the 3,000 who trusted on *Shavuot* (Pentecost- Acts 2:41) followed by many more and even *Sha’ul* who had persecuted them. By the time *Sha’ul* returned to Jerusalem in about 57 CE, some 27 years after Yeshua died on the cross, cutting the New Covenant with His own blood, there were tens of thousands of Messianic Jews in Judea, not counting those that would have been in Samaria, the Galilee and in the rest of the known world. The elders in Jerusalem said to *Sha’ul*: *20 ... , “You see, brother, how many myriads there are among the Jewish people who have believed—and they are all zealous for the Torah.* (Acts 21:20b TLV). These myriads, tens of thousands of Messianic Jews, were keeping ADONAI’s covenant in the way that He wanted – they kept the *Torah*. They were not antinomian.

In context, everything else which Yeshua told His disciples on the Mount of Olives was to Jews. There have been many interpretations of His words by Gentile followers of Jesus through the years, but it was all said to His Jewish followers about things which would happen in Jerusalem and Israel and not in the world. *14 “But when you see ‘the abomination of desolation’ standing where it should not be (let the reader understand [on the Temple mount]), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains. 15 The one on the roof must not go down, nor enter to take anything out of his house. 16 And the one in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 18 Pray that it will not happen in winter. 19 “For in those days there will be trouble such as has never happened, not since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will. 20 And unless Adonai had cut short those days, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He cut short the days”* (Mark 13:14-20 TLV). Essentially the same thing is said in Matthew 15-22 and Luke 20-24.

I used Mark’s Scripture because in it Yeshua told us that the “abomination of desolation” is not the Anti-Christ. Mark wrote: *‘the abomination of desolation’ standing where it should not be.* An “it” is not a person. It is a thing; a something. The “abomination” is also found in the Matthew Scripture, and is not identified there as a person either. Matthew also refers to it as: *“the abomination of desolation”*, but adds, *“which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet.”* Luke doesn’t mention the abomination, but says: *“when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.”* The word “desolation” is found in all three Gospels. In saying this, Yeshua warned all of His disciples who were in Jerusalem with Him, some who would likely be in Jerusalem when these things happened. He said to those in Judea “to get away from there when they saw these things happening.”

The abomination of desolation, the “it” which Yeshua spoke of in Mark and referred to in Matthew was spoken about by Daniel the Prophet in Daniel chapter 11, verse 31. At the time that Yeshua was speaking, that had been the only appearance of the “abomination of

desolation” and it occurred at the time of the Maccabees about two hundred years earlier. It was when the Syrian army invaded Jerusalem and desecrated the Temple in about 167 BCE. The abomination was the altars erected for offerings to false gods by the pagan Syrian army. (Read more about it at: [Parasha Vayeshev Talmidim Shel Yeshua 18 December 9 2023 Text.pdf](#)). The dictionary tells us that an abomination is a thing which causes disgust or hatred. Desolation is a state of complete emptiness or destruction. The abomination of desolation which Yeshua told them to flee from is a hated thing which causes emptiness or destruction. Yeshua referred to it in the days of the Maccabees and also referred to it to come in the near future.

But, the abomination which Yeshua was warning His disciples about was future from His time. From Josephus, we know this abomination to be the altars constructed by the pagan Roman army on the Temple Mount with their ensigns (flags) dedicated to various false gods. The Roman army destroyed the Temple in the year 70, about 40 years in the future from when Yeshua was speaking. He told His disciples to pray that this would not happen in winter and it didn't. It happened in the spring. In the year 70CE, Titus's Roman legions breached the walls of Jerusalem and entered. They slaughtered almost the entire population of Jerusalem. Yeshua had said: *20 And unless Adonai had cut short those days, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He cut short the days*” (Mark 13:20 TLV). A remnant survived.

Yeshua also told his *talmidim* that coming time would be the worst that happened in *eretz Yisra'el*, the Land of Israel, ever! He said: *21 For there will be trouble (tribulation) then (in 70 CE) worse than there has ever been (very great tribulation) from the beginning of the world until now, and there will be nothing like it again!* (Matthew 24:21). Other Bible versions say "tribulation." That was the "Great Tribulation." It happened in Jerusalem in the year 70. How bad was it? It has been estimated that the population of Jerusalem in the year 70 was 600,000. But, Josephus the Jewish historian, reported that as many as 1,100, 000 were killed during the siege of Jerusalem and that 97,000 more Jews were sold as slaves. That's almost 1.2 million! How could that happen in a city of 600,000? The answer is that over a million others came to Jerusalem for Passover. Josephus said that the initial siege took place during Passover when the city was surrounded and blockaded. And, many of those killed were not residents of Jerusalem, but had travelled there for Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That accounts for the greater number of dead, many of whom starved to death. Almost all of the citizens of Jerusalem were either killed, died of starvation or sold as slaves. They were trapped inside the city for about 110 days, from Passover to the 9th of Av when the Romans broke through and destroyed the Temple. That's a great tribulation!! The *p'shat*, the plain meaning of Yeshua's words, was a reference to an event in Jerusalem, not in the entire world. Something worse than that would have to happen to Jerusalem today for it to be a greater time of tribulation. But, that won't happen because Yeshua said: *there will be nothing like it again!* That was the “Great Tribulation.”

Yeshua told His disciples that when they saw the Roman Abomination of Desolation standing in the Holy Place that they should “run for the hills,” which many did, leaving a remnant of the tens of thousands of Yeshua's followers alive since many likely died in Jerusalem's Great Tribulation. This running away created a rift between traditional Jews and Messianic Jews and they began to be systematically excluded from their synagogues. But, by following Yeshua's instructions, a remnant of Messianic Jews was preserved. The Messianic Jews were also excluded by Yeshua's Gentile followers of the 1st century and later and around the year 400 CE the last mention of them is found. Continuing our Scripture

parallel as we read in today's *parasha*: 8 *Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.* (Exodus 1:8 TLV). The new "kings" ruling Yeshua's body of believers did not know Israel.

Much more is yet to happen. Yeshua also prophesied on the Mount of Olives regarding the city of Jerusalem. When He was describing what would happen to the city in the future, He said: 24 *"... Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."* (Luke 21:24b TLV). Yeshua's prophecy was fulfilled on June 6, 1967 during Israel's Six Day War with the Arab nations. Jerusalem was now under the control of the Jews after Israel had become a nation nine years earlier (May 14, 1948), thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. (Isaiah 66:7-8).

There is yet more to happen, specifically, the salvation of all Israel as prophesied by Ezekiel (36:26-27) and *Sha'ul* (Romans 11:25-27). Israel's salvation may be led up to by this event: 10 *"Then I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication, when they will look toward Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son and grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for a firstborn"* (Zechariah 12:10 TLV). We look for a great revival before "the end" that Yeshua spoke about. It could happen after the "salvation of all Israel" when this prophecy of Zechariah is fulfilled: 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). Following this, we look forward to Yeshua's return for His faithful followers as foretold by *Sha'ul* (1Corinthians 15:50-54 and 1Thessalonians 4:13-18), believing that "all Israel" will already be saved and will rise with all of Yeshua's other followers when He comes for us in the clouds. And then, the end will come. Yeshua will defeat His enemies and we shall rule and reign with Him forever. There's much more that could be said, but there is not time today.*

The point of all this is that we are living in a critical time. Yeshua's followers, Messianic Jews, Messianic Gentiles and the members of the Church are one body, one in Messiah! Yeshua has commanded that we love each other. We are not in competition. We all have the same goal, for G-d's will to be done on the earth. And, we believe that His will is for as many as possible of the people that He created to come to Yeshua. This includes those from every nation and especially Muslims. A recent report from Assembly of God missionaries reveals that Jesus is coming to many Muslims in dreams and many are trusting Him.

Our goal in studying Scripture is truth, ADONAI's truth, which He will reveal and it will be recognized by Yeshua's whole body. We have so many isms today. Every person must seek the truth for themselves. Pray for revival, not only a revival of *teshuvah*, repentance, but also a revival of truth. Yeshua said: 31 *...*, *"If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples. 32 You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!"* (John 8:31-32 TLV). We are living in exciting times. As we progress toward the salvation of all Israel, pray that more and more Jews will recognize Yeshua as a Jew. Pray also for Avram Poljak's next step, that Israel will recognize Yeshua as teacher, one who correctly interpreted the *Torah*. May all Israel soon see Yeshua without His Gentile garb, but as He is, the Jewish Prophet like Moses, the Son of David, the Lion of Judah, the High Priest of Israel and the coming King of Israel. *Shabbat shalom!*