

## Message 2025-05-17

### Parsha Emor

Emor ("Say") opens with laws regulating priestly behavior, working in the Mishkan (Tabernacle), and consuming sacrifices and priestly food. It describes the biblical holidays of Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot, and ends with a story about a blasphemer and his punishment.

- Torah: Leviticus 21:1-24:23
- Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

## Your Own Personal Yeshua

שלום החברים והמשפחה שלי

**Shalom, khaverim v'mishpokhah sheli.**

**Shalom, my family and friends.**

Today we are going to be spending our time dwelling on the character of Yeshua. In case you fall asleep or check out in some other way, the summary of my message today is this.

As talmidim Yeshua we should be working to 'conform ourselves to the likeness of Yeshua' and not to 'conform Yeshua to our likeness'.

We are going to begin this time today near the beginning.

*Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in the likeness of ourselves..."*

*So God created humankind in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.*

**Ge 1:26-27 (CJB)**

בצלם אלהים

Be-tzel-em Elohim

In the image of G-d

Questions have fueled my drive to know G-d since I was a little boy. Little words like 'who, what, when, where, why and how' have been some of my favorite words. You may be thinking, 'He was probably an irritating kid', and this may seem very straightforward to you.

It never was to me. So, when I read this scripture, I ask, 'How?' How are we created in the image of G-d?

Here is my basic problem.

[insert images of people]

None of these people look alike. So, which of these people is created in the image of G-d?

Well, maybe it's because these are ordinary people. G-d is extraordinary, so maybe it is just the extraordinary people that are created in the image of G-d, and maybe we need to combine some of these famously extraordinary people together to get back to the original. That could be the problem.

[insert mashups]

These horrific hybrids were not my handiwork. Obviously, that doesn't really work either.

How are we created in the image of G-d? So, as a kid, the answer I would receive would go something like this, 'Well, Jeremy. You see. This means that G-d has two eyes, a mouth, and a nose. Two ears, arms and legs. It means he is bipedal and walks on two feet.'

[insert gorilla and ostrich]

The point is simple. Being created in the image of G-d can't have anything to do with what G-d looks like.

Besides this, the Bible gives us several descriptions of the appearance of G-d. For example,

*Above the dome that was over their heads was something like a throne that looked like a sapphire. On it, above it, was what appeared to be a person.*

*I saw what looked like gleaming, amber-colored fire radiating from what appeared to be his waist upward. Downward from what appeared to be his waist, I saw what looked like fire, giving a brilliant light all around him.*

*This brilliance around him looked like a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day. This was how the appearance of the glory of ADONAI looked. When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking.*

### **Ezekiel 1:26-28 (CJB)**

That doesn't look like anyone I have seen.

However, despite the evidence of our eyes and the descriptions in scripture, we as a people are pretty committed to conforming G-d to our image. We need G-d to be relatable.

Historically, Jews didn't create figurative art, art representing people. Art is not forbidden. Making and worshipping idols is forbidden. However, this fence, a tradition that helps us avoid sin, is there to prevent us from worshipping what the pagans worshipped. They worshipped idols, graven images.

The gentiles didn't have this tradition. So, when they came into the faith they wanted to represent G-d. And, they simply placed the greatest 'little g' god they knew, Jupiter (or Zeus if you were Greek), in the role of G-d.

[insert images of Zeus and representations of G-d]

The result of this is a tremendous amount of doctrine and theology reshapes the character of G-d to align with that of Zeus as well. You know what I mean, right? The ANGRY G-d of the Old Testament, and other fundamentally wrong assertions.

Some other day we can discuss in depth what I think it means to be created in the image of G-d. However, today I want to do is to continue

to explore this drive to conform G-d to our image. Because, as the good news of Jesus spread around the world, this tradition continued.

[insert ethnic Yeshua images]

Someone on YouTube did a composite based on all of the data we have of what the average Jew in Israel looked like 2,000 yrs ago, and this last image is it. Just an average looking Jewish guy.

The prophet Isaiah saw the suffering servant, our messiah, and described him like this.

*He was not well-formed or especially handsome;  
we saw him, but his appearance did not attract us.*

**Isaiah 53:2**

My objection to all of these images of Yeshua is not *only* that they are historically or scripturally inaccurate. My objection is that, in our desire to see ourselves in the image of G-d, we have conformed G-d to our image. We have put Him in a box, and that box just so happens to look like us.

This is a dangerous thing. When we reduce G-d to our image, all of those who don't look like us can become, fundamentally, less. Bigoted and racist media is full of this sort of language, and this error has been central to most of the stains on the history of the church.

*There can be a way which seems right to a person, but at its end are the ways of death.*

**Mishlei {Proverbs} 14:12 (CJB)**

We are not supposed to put our emunah, our faith, in appearances. It is the kindness of Adonai, not His beauty, that leads us to repentance. The authors of the gospels were far more concerned with what Yeshua **said** and **did** than what he looked like. Who he was (and is and is to be) is what mattered.

Conforming the Messiah to our image is also dangerous theologically

because it allows us to distort his character. We conform him to our own social, moral, and cultural standards.

We see the results of this staining the record of 2000 years of church history.

We see it today.

## **Is Yeshua Messiah?**

Not everyone believes Yeshua is Messiah. Let's briefly look at three reasons Yeshua is rejected in normative Judaism. We will address these as we go.

I have a brief video that sets this up for us.

Here are three messianic expectations that are problematic for observant Jews. Even the term 'Messianic Jew' is problematic because, like our friend here on the video said, all observant Jews are Messianic.

### **World Peace: Isaiah 2:4**

*He will judge between the nations and arbitrate for many peoples. Then they will hammer their swords into plow-blades and their spears into pruning-knives; nations will not raise swords at each other, and they will no longer learn war.*

### **Rebuilt (Fully Realized) Temple: Ezekiel 37:26-27**

*My home will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. The nations will know that I am ADONAI, who sets Isra'el apart as holy, when my sanctuary is with them forever.*

### **Complete Return (All Jews in the Land): Isaiah 11:12**

*He will hoist a banner for the Goyim, assemble the dispersed of Isra'el, and gather the scattered of Y'hudah from the four corners of the earth.*

If Yeshua is HaMashiakh, THE Mesiah, should we not have world peace,

a fully realized temple, and a complete return to the land? This was prophesied.

At the same time, Yeshua fulfilled so many prophecies that it is inconceivable that he is not messiah. If you download the message notes, available at [OrHaOlam.com](http://OrHaOlam.com), I have included a document that lists 44 of the prophecies that were fulfilled by Yeshua.

I have NO idea who compiled this list, Kudos to whoever did, it's a good list.

### **Triumphant King & Suffering Servant**

This seeming contradiction stems from the false premise that there is only one Messianic interpretation. There were many in the 1st century, and there are many today.

One that there is a belief that was held since long before the coming of Yeshua that Ha Mahsiakh would have to come twice in order to fulfill all that had been written about him. He would have to come once as a suffering servant and would return again as a triumphant king. The first time Messiah comes he would redeem His people, and the second time he would rule and reign.

This is derived from Z'kharyah where his humble entry on a donkey is later contrasted with a future triumphal entry, and passages like Dani'el 9 that the Mashiakh will be cut off for a time.

*Then, after the sixty-two weeks, Mashiach will be cut off and have nothing. The people of a prince yet to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary, but his end will come with a flood, and desolations are decreed until the war is over.*

**Dani'el {Daniel} 9:26 (CJB)**

G-d exists outside of time. All people of faith in the G-d of Israel look to redemption through messiah; from the past, present and future. The unfolding of the work of messiah exists outside of time. It is a drag for us as slaves of time because we see only a glimpse of the unfolding work,

but G-d is greater than time. From my perspective, this is a fundamental principle in Messianic Judaism.

When Mashiakh returns the messianic kingdom will be established and he will reign from Jerusalem. The peace that He ushered in as the suffering servant by redeeming mankind to G-d will be extended to peace between all mankind. All of Israel will be restored to the land, and all mankind will recognize Yeshua HaMashiakh as Adonai. All the nations of the earth will come up to the temple in Jerusalem to worship and learn to walk in G-d's ways.

This is the promised destiny that awaits us, complete shalom between G-d and man.

### **שְׁלוֹם מְחֻלָּט**

Complete Peace

### **G-d Wants a Personal Relationship With Us**

When we come to faith through Yeshua we absolutely DO enter into a personal relationship with Adonai. We were created for this relational purpose, our special purpose. This relationship endeavors in some ways to return us to Gan Eden, to the garden of Eden; to walk with G-d.

### **בְּזָכוּת אֱמוּנָה**

By Faith

It is also true that *WE* do not come to faith. The Jewish people; we have a covenantal relationship to the G-d of Israel. We are chosen to be an example to the world of the faithfulness of G-d to His word. However, we all need to make the same decision to place our faith in Adonai. That is a personal choice, your personal relationship. By faith, Noakh, Avraham, Sara, Moshe, and all of the others mentioned in Hebrews 11 looked forward to the type of relationship that we are able to have through Messiah Yeshua.

By faith you are made right with Adonai, but this does not make the messiah your Build-a-Bear. You don't get to dress him up in whatever clothes you like or change everything about his character to fit your personality. He is not your own personal Yeshua.

## **Your Own Personal Yeshua**

Another aside here, this is why we use his Hebrew name as well. His mom didn't call him Jesus. His name is Yeshua. He is Jewish. We are not being pedantic. We are not being deceitful. We are trying to be as honest and truthful as possible.

The utter insanity that exists today where demonizations and churches and Christians are supporting Islamic terrorists (who are actively killing both gentile and Jewish believers) rather than supporting Israel and the Jewish people is only possible because of 2,000 years of conforming Yeshua to our own image. He likes whatever we like. He doesn't like whatever or whoever we don't like. His true identity has been utterly erased for the majority of the Christian world.

When we alter the identity of Yeshuah to conform Him to our identity we lose the true identity of our messiah. We bury Him so deeply in our cultural traditions and norms that we lose sight of who He was, who He is, and who He is to be.

On the other hand, when we restore Yeshua to his proper context and we stop dressing Him up in costumes that hide His true identity (we could call him Cosplay Jesus), we reveal the messiah in truth.

**You are His.**

**אֲנִי שְׁלֶךְ, אַתָּה שְׁלִי**

I am yours. You are mine.

Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel. Yeshua came as a Jew. His mortal life took place in Israel around 2000 years ago in what scholars now call 'the first century of the common era'. He lived a perfect life according to Torah, and he demonstrated through His life, death, and resurrection how we are supposed to live this life as well. He fulfilled all of the prophecies and promises of the messiah as the 'suffering servant', and he will return again as a 'triumphant king'. This is reality. This is truth. Nothing else we know or believe about Yeshua can violate this fundamental truth.

Your job as talmidim Yeshua is to wake up everyday and endeavor to be more like Him.

*In other words, do not let yourselves be conformed to the standards of the 'olam hazeh. Instead, keep letting yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds; so that you will know what God wants and will agree that what he wants is good, satisfying and able to succeed.*

**Romans 12:2 (CJB)**

That is what we endeavor to do here at Or HaOlam and throughout the world through Messianic Judaism. We endeavor to restore the identity of Jesus to Yeshua HaMashiakh and to strip away from our avodah all the trappings of non-Biblical culture so that we can reveal the messiah in truth.

**John 4:23-26 (CJB)**

23But the time is coming—indeed, it's here now—when the true worshippers will worship the Father spiritually and truly, for these are the kind of people the Father wants worshipping him. 24God is spirit; and worshippers must worship him spiritually and truly."

25The woman replied, "I know that *Mashiach*\* is coming" (that is, "the one who has been anointed"). "When he comes, he will tell us everything." 26Yeshua\* said to her, "I, the person speaking to you, am he."

That is why Rabbi Shmuel and I are so committed to the vision of Or HaOlam. Because when we restore the character of the messiah of Israel to Yeshua, we reveal him plainly to our Jewish brothers and sisters.

*For if their rejection leads to the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

**Romans 11:15 (CJB)**

Why? Because the acceptance of Yeshua HaMashiakh is life from the dead.

**Today... close...**

## Bibliography and Notes

- Did Jesus Look Like This? [https://youtu.be/Am\\_si1K3Ftc?si=DNM-FpCxG-sqhO5Y](https://youtu.be/Am_si1K3Ftc?si=DNM-FpCxG-sqhO5Y)
- The Messiah, Zetterholm, 2007, Fortress Press
- Yeshua, Dr. Ron Mosely, 1996, Messianic Jewish Publishers
- <https://archive.org/details/44-prophecies-jesus-christ-fulfilled>

## 44 Prophecies Yeshua the Messiah Fulfilled

	Prophecies About Yeshua	Scripture	Fulfillment
1	Messiah would be born of a woman.	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:20, Galatians 4:4
2	Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-6
3	Messiah would be born of a virgin.	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23, Luke 1:26-31
4	Messiah would come from the line of Abraham.	Genesis 12:3, Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1, Romans 9:5
5	Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac.	Genesis 17:19, Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:34
6	Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob.	Numbers 24:17	Matthew 1:2
7	Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33, Hebrews 7:14
8	Messiah would be heir to King David's throne.	2 Samuel 7:12-13, Isaiah 9:7	Luke 1:32-33, Romans 1:3
9	Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal.	Psalms 45:6-7, Daniel 2:44	Luke 1:33, Hebrews 1:8-12
10	Messiah would be called Immanuel.	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
11	Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14-15
12	A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
13	A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah	Isaiah 40:3-5	Luke 3:3-6
14	Messiah would be rejected by his own people.	Psalms 69:8, Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11, John 7:5
15	Messiah would be a prophet.	Deuteronomy 18:15	Acts 3:20-22
16	Messiah would be preceded by Elijah.	Malachi 4:5-6	Matthew 11:13-14
17	Messiah would be declared the Son of God.	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:16-17
18	Messiah would be called a Nazarene.	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
19	Messiah would bring light to Galilee.	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:13-16
20	Messiah would speak in parables.	Psalms 78:2-4, Isaiah 6:9-10	Matthew 13:10-15, 34-35
21	Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted.	Isaiah 61:1-2	Luke 4:18-19
22	Messiah would be a priest after the order of Melchizedek.	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6
23	Messiah would be called King.	Psalms 2:6, Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 27:37, Mark 11:7-11
24	Messiah would be praised by little children.	Psalms 8:2	Matthew 21:16
25	Messiah would be betrayed.	Psalms 41:9, Zechariah 11:12-13	Luke 22:47-48, Matthew 26:14-16
26	Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field.	Zechariah 11:12-13	Matthew 27:9-10
27	Messiah would be falsely accused.	Psalms 35:11	Mark 14:57-58
28	Messiah would be silent before his accusers.	Isaiah 53:7	Mark 15:4-5
29	Messiah would be spat upon and struck.	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
30	Messiah would be hated without cause.	Psalms 35:19, Psalm 69:4	John 15:24-25
31	Messiah would be crucified with criminals.	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38, Mark 15:27-28
32	Messiah would be given vinegar to drink.	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34, John 19:28-30
33	Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced.	Psalms 22:16, Zechariah 12:10	John 20:25-27
34	Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed.	Psalms 22:7-8	Luke 23:35
35	Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments.	Psalms 22:18	Luke 23:34, Matthew 27:35-36
36	Messiah's bones would not be broken.	Exodus 12:46, Psalm 34:20	John 19:33-36
37	Messiah would be forsaken by God.	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
38	Messiah would pray for his enemies.	Psalms 109:4	Luke 23:34
39	Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side.	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
40	Messiah would be buried with the rich.	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
41	Messiah would resurrect from the dead.	Psalms 16:10, Psalm 49:15	Matthew 28:2-7, Acts 2:22-32
42	Messiah would ascend to heaven.	Psalms 24:7-10	Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51
43	Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.	Psalms 68:18, Psalm 110:1	Mark 16:19, Matthew 22:44
44	Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin.	Isaiah 53:5-12	Romans 5:6-8

### Suffering Servant

- Isaiah 53:3-5
- Daniel 9:26
- Zechariah 9:9
- Zechariah 14:4

### Messianic Kingdom

- Revelations 19:11-16

### Peace

- John 14:27
- Revelations 21:1-4

### Return

- Ezekiel 36:24
- 2 Thessalonians 2:4
- Revelations 11:12

### Philippians 2:12-18 (CJB)

*12*So, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed when I was with you, it is even more important that you obey now when I am away from you: keep working out your deliverance **with fear and trembling**, *13*for God is the one working among you both the willing and the working for what pleases him. *14*Do everything without kvetching\* or arguing, *15*so that you may be blameless and pure children of God, without defect in the midst of **a twisted and perverted generation**, among whom you shine like stars in the sky, *16*as you hold on to the Word of Life. If you do this, I will be able to boast, when the Day of the Messiah comes, that I did not run or toil for nothing. *17*Indeed, even if my lifeblood is poured out as a drink offering over the sacrifice and service of your faith, I will still be glad and rejoice with you all. *18*Likewise, you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

### Revelations 1:12-16

*I saw seven gold menorahs; 13 and among the menorahs was someone like a Son of Man, wearing a robe down to his feet and a gold band around his chest.[a] 14 His head and hair were as white as snow-white wool, his eyes like a fiery flame, 15 his feet like burnished brass refined*

*in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing waters.[b] 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp double-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.*