

Lech Lecha- Pursuing the Promise



Bereshiyth [Genesis] 12:1- 17:27 [Reading Bereshiyth [Gen] 15]

Introduction: Our last Torah portion concluded with the descendants of Shem the son of Noach recorded so that we can see that Shem was **390 years** of age at the time of Abram's birth with Noach living until Abram was 58. Our portion therefore introduces us to the call to Abram, though the **Book of Yasher** [Jasher] gives us much more information. What we come to see is that Terah the Father of Abram was an advisor of **Nimrod** but upon the Wise men suggesting Abram's birth was a bad omen to Nimrod we find Terah & his whole clan departing from **Ur of the Chaldeans** [Chasdim]:

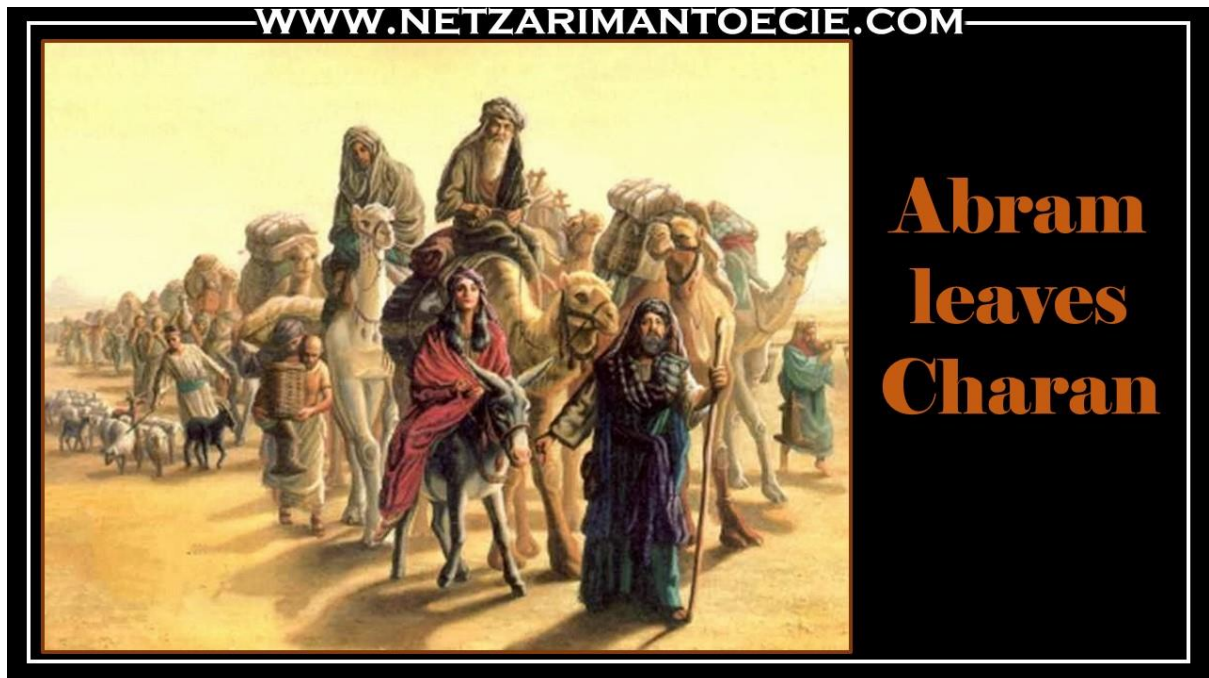


The Journey was to go to Canaan though they came to be detained in **Charan** [Haran] the

next biggest city. Therefore, our message for today is the ultimate purpose of the Journey in the eyes of Yahweh & about pursuing that Promise relentlessly:

Events in the Torah:

The list of events are very extensive so let us summarize them here:



- Yahweh commands Abram to leave his Father's house & Country to go to the land that He will show him.



- Abram leaves Canaan because of Famine taking Sarai, Lot & his people to Mitsrayim where Pharaoh takes Sarai but Pharaoh's house is afflicted.



- Abram then departs Mitsrayim returning to Canaan with great wealth given by Pharaoh.

Lot Separates from Abram



- Lot then separates from Abram & Yahweh appears to Abram & details his promise.

- A war between the Kings happen & Lot is taken captive with Abram & Mamre's men soundly defeating the Kings & returning the captives & the spoil.



Abram rejects the King of Sodom

- Abram declares he will not take even a sandal strap of the spoil from Sodom.
- Yahweh also promises Abram a child with countless descendants.

Hagar the Maidservant



- Yahweh now initiates the Covenant of the parts & Sarai suggests giving Hagar to Abram to establish the promise & finally Abram's name is changed.
- Finally, the Covenant is sealed with circumcision, Sarai's name is changed & the promise that she will have a son with Abraham given & his entire house is circumcised when he is 99 years of age.

The Journey Begins:



Our Portion Lech Lecha literally means **“go for yourself”** and this truly is the journey of faith as it is totally personal. When Abram was called, he was told to leave his family & relatives though he did ultimately take Lot his nephew. This journey was truly of faith not knowing where he would go & what he would confront.

Many think that Abram had no prior knowledge of Yahweh but that may not be true. According to the **Book of Yasher** also quoted in **2 Timothy 3:8** it indicates that **Noach** [Noah] Died when Abram was 58 so we know there was knowledge of the Flood & Creation. We can also learn much from the Journey of Abram about Covenants since when we look at Abram there is always a Proposal, then a sealing of the Covenant. We also see Yahweh further detailing the dimensions of the **land Covenant** only after Lot separates from Abram which fulfilled Abram’s responsibility to the Covenant to leave his family.

The Prophetic Picture in the Covenants:

We now come to see Yahweh establishing with Abram what is known as **The Covenant of the Parts:**

What we first need to understand is that a covenant once sealed is an unending relationship between two parties that extent even beyond death with each additional covenant adding to it until the final unveiling is achieved so the words of **Shaul** [Paul] are appropriate to consider:



Galatians 3:17 Now this I say, the Torah that came four hundred and thirty years later, does not annul a Covenant previously confirmed by Elohim in Messiah, so as to do away with the promise.

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The major truth hidden within the Covenants is the picture of **Yeshua** [Yahusha] so we will consider the Covenant YHWH made with Abram to see how it reveals Yeshua and the Favour of Yahweh:



The Covenant of the Parts

Bereshiyth (Genesis) 15:9-12 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." **10** Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. **11** And when the vultures came

down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. **12** And it came to be when the Sun was going down and a deep sleep fell upon Abram, that see, a frightening great darkness fell upon him.

What is most important is to understand the process of cutting a Covenant. There would be two participants, the sacrificial animals and the Agreement. What is remarkable in the Covenant with Abram is how it reveals a Covenant of Favour (**Grace**) & trust in the following verses:

Bereshiyth (Genesis) 15:17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

What we come to understand by this verse is that Abram did not participate by walking between the slaughtered animals which was the customary means of cutting a Covenant, but as it tells us Abram fell into a deep sleep and a burning torch, the picture of YHWH passed between the slaughtered animals. What this is revealing is that YHWH was declaring that if he or Abram broke the Covenant then he would pay the price, which was death like that of the slaughtered animals and so we see the divine picture of a loving relationship between YHWH and Abram and a beautiful image of the **Covenant of Favour** (Grace) which saw its fulfilment in **Yeshua** giving his life on the Tree.

Therefore, the most striking thing that hopefully we can see is that no Covenant is superseded but rather each Covenant slowly lifts the Veil of understanding until the full revelation is seen.

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The Covenant Unveiling

As it stands today, we have the following Covenants:

- 1. The Edenic Covenant.**
- 2. The Adamic Covenant.**
- 3. The Noahide Covenant.**
- 4. The Abrahamic Covenant.**
- 5. The Sinai Covenant.**
- 6. The Davidic Covenant.**
- 7. The Renewed Covenant**

The Melki-Zedek Connection:

Just as Covenants progressed there is too an ongoing connection from the Melki-Zedek, meaning the “**King of Righteousness**” and we can begin to discover that, when we find out who he is after Abram returns from the defeat of **Kedarlaomer** as in:



Bereshiyth [Genesis] 14:18 And Malki-Tzedek King of Shalem brought forth lechem (bread) and yayin (wine) and he was the priest of El Elyon (the Most High).**19** And he blessed him, and said, Baruch (Blessed) be Abram by El Elyon, Creator of Heaven & Earth; **20** And blessed El Elyon, Who hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him a tenth [tithe] of all.

Many have questioned who this was, but it is made abundantly clear through the Book of **Yasher** in chapter **16:11-12** where we find the same is **Shem** the son of Noach.

We see that the **Melchi-zedek** [king of righteousness] received one tenth of the spoil of the victory against whom, **Kedarlaomer** plus his confederates. This is the key to unravelling the mystery of the Melki-zedek anointing that YHWH wants to place on all of us. To understand this connection, we come to:

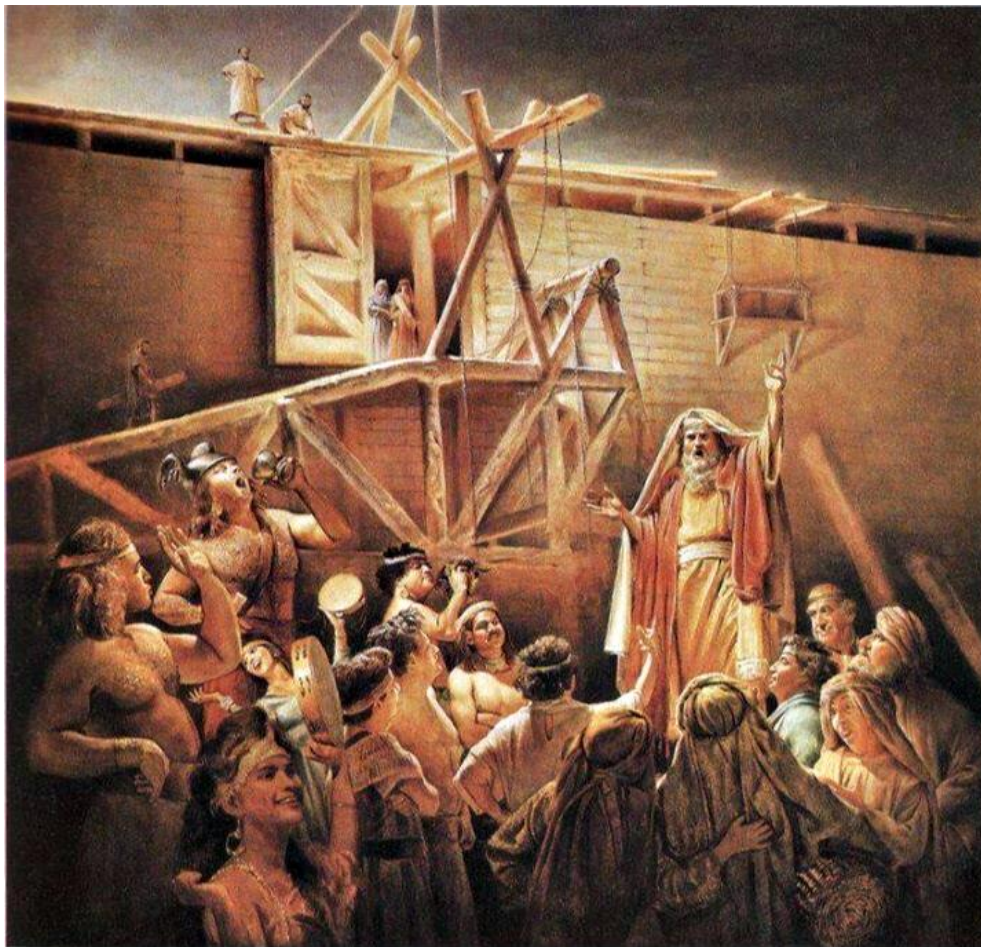
Ivriim [Hebrews] 5:6 You are a Priest forever according to the order of Malki-Tzedek [Ps 110:4]

In the Greek “**order**” means, in the proper sequential array of something! A good example of this is:



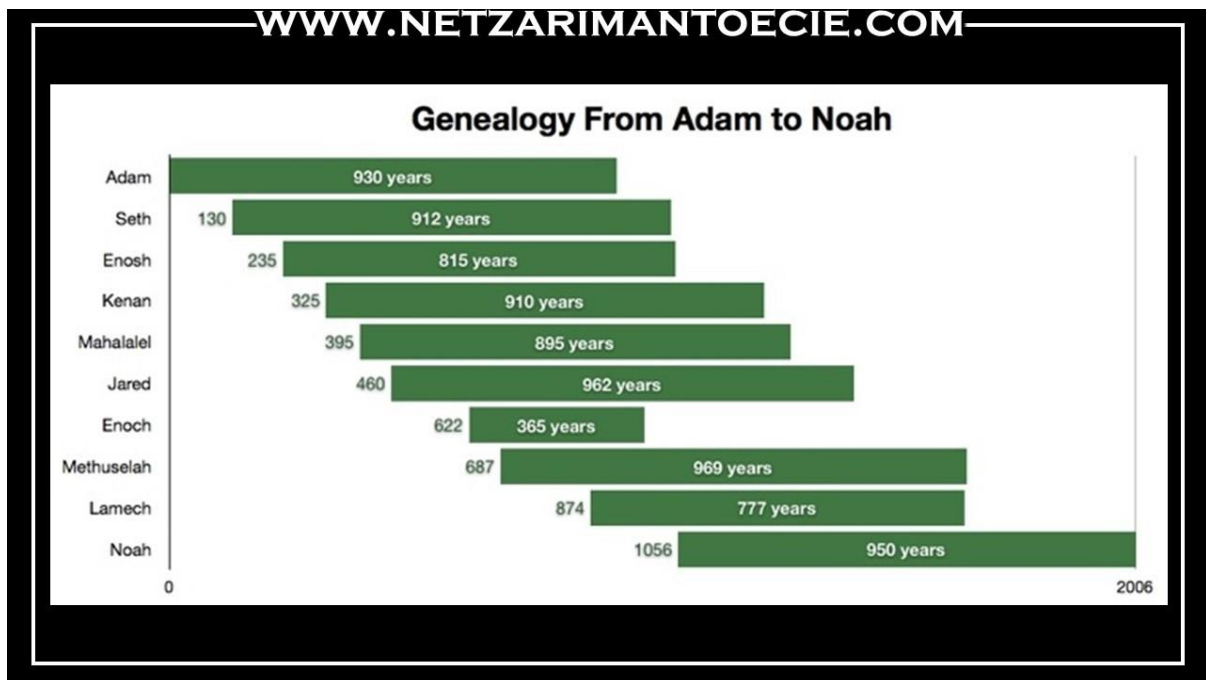
Luke 1:5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zecharyah, who belonged to the priestly division (order) of Abijah (Abiyah);

The concept that comes across is that of a sequential progression of preachers of Righteousness of which we partake of, since we read this in a correct reading which is according to the Greek **[the Blue Letter Bible]:**



Kepha Beyth [2 Peter] 2:4-5 For if Elohim (G_d) did not spare the messengers who sinned, but cast them down to the roots of the Mountains [tartarus] and delivered them into chains of darkness to be kept for judgement 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah [Noach], the eighth preacher of righteousness 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live wickedly; (Literal translation).

In the literal translation it does not say there were seven others saved with Noah. Who then were the other seven if Noah was the eighth preacher of righteousness? However, Noah was actually the tenth generation:



1. Adam , 2. Seth, 3. Enosh, 4. Cainan, 5. Mahahel, 6. Jared, 7. Enoch, 8. Mathuselah, 9. Lamek, 10. Noah.

How could he be the eighth, but he could be in a sequential order of preachers of righteousness.

Adam was the 1st, next was **Seth**, **Enosh** then was next, **Cainan** was next, **Mahahel** was next, **Jared** continued, when he died **Methuselah** replaced him because **Enoch** was taken therefore that line in the succession was missed, when **Methuselah** died the eighth preacher of righteousness was **Noah**. Noah took the role because **Lamek** had already died. He was therefore the eighth in the order of Righteousness.

Now we might ask who was in the order of a preacher of Righteousness when Abram gave a tenth & who was serving at that time in the **Melchizedek** order? When Noah died his son **Shem** would have been next in that line.

Also, why was **Chedarlaomer** only mentioned & not the other Kings. This was because he was a descendant of Shem. This is because Chedarlaomer was the King of Elam (**Gen 14:1**). Elam was a son of Shem (**Gen 10:22**). Abram was also one of Shem's descendants through

Aphaxad. Abraham had just killed his relative therefore you have a family feud on your hand. Then the **Kohen** (Priest) of the Most high comes, so Abram tries to make peace with him by paying him a Tithe & the **Melchi-zedek** gives him bread & wine. Shem makes peace with Abram by giving bread & wine while Abram makes peace by giving Shem a tenth of all he had acquired.

The Majestic Conclusion:

This unlocks a Mystery for us. **Yeshua the Righteous King [Malki-Zedek]** came to bring peace to a family feud between Kingdoms, nations & Elohim. It is not a coincidence that this particular Melchi-zedek is called **Shem** because in Hebrew this word means name & the Elohim is often referred to as **Ha Shem** the name by most Yahudi (Jews). To this anointing we are called as declared in:



Hitgaluth [Revelation] 1:5-6 And from Yeshua [Yahusha] the Messiah, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the Kings of the Earth, who loved us and washed us from our sins in his blood, **6** and has made us to be Kings and Priests to Elohim His Father to him be glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Truly it is about what He did because he established a New Order, now he requires us to follow him in that Order. We are called to live as a King under the Righteousness Divine Laws of Yahweh with Yeshua as our Head. When we see our position in the Kingdom we can then live out of that place & serve Yahweh & our Supreme King to bring the good news of Peace to a World in total conflict. These are the same thoughts brought to the Shepherds at the birth of Yeshua found in:

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The Good News For Mankind

Luke 2:14 "Glory to Elohim in the Highest and on Earth peace and goodwill towards men!"

This should always be our message, to bring peace to men but most importantly that through Yeshua there is peace with Yahweh Elohim.

Amen!