

Parashat Vayeira- Child of the Covenant



Introduction: Our Torah portion begins with three unusual visitors coming to the Tent of Abraham in which one is recognized by Abraham as His Master himself though Scripture clearly says that Yahweh appeared and among the Yahudim [the Jews] this appearance is known as his **Memra** or **Davar** meaning His **Word** in human form with two other Messengers much like we read in **Yahuchanan [John] 1**. This is not that uncommon as many times when we read the Messenger of Yahweh, we come to see how the words spoken have the implication of being Yahweh himself. In this great encounter we come to see how Yahweh shows Himself to be so concerned with His creation as coming down to see for Himself to fulfil his purpose in the Earth & desiring to participate among Humanity in that Process which is shown by coming to Abraham. Can this be seen as His lovingkindness to humanity through the coming to us also of our Master Yeshua.

The Events of the Portion:

- Three travellers visit & a feast is prepared for them after which Sarai is promised a son.
- Then Yahweh informs Abraham He intends to destroy Sodom & the surrounding cities over their wickedness.

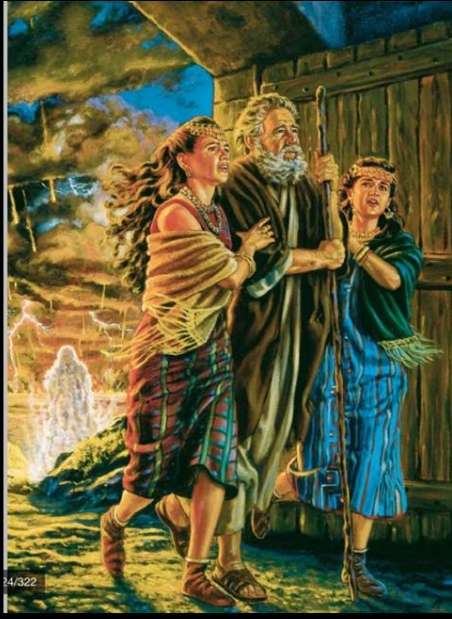


The Malakim rescue Lot from Sodom & destruction comes.



lot's wife looks back turning to a pillar of salt because she looks back.

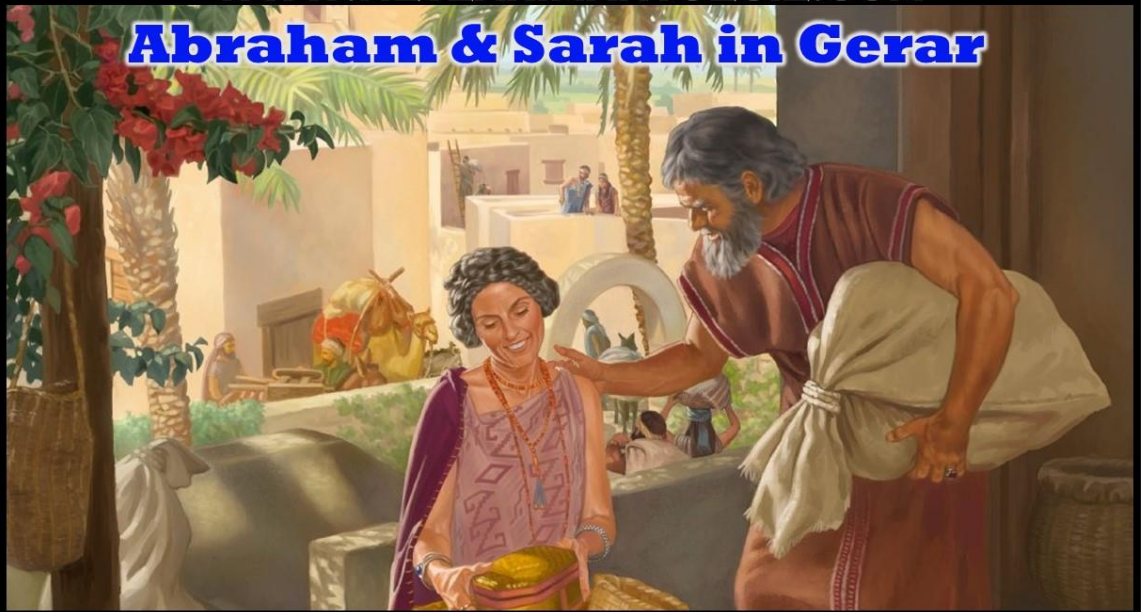
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Lot's Daughters make him drunk to lay with him

- Lots daughters fear they will never marry so intoxicate their father & lay with him to have Children.

Abraham & Sarah in Gerar



- Abraham again deceives King Abimelek over Sarah who he says is His Sister.



- Yitschaq [Isaac] is born & circumcised on the 8th Day.



- Sarai causes Hagar & Ishmael to be expelled to wander.



- A Malakim [Angel] reveals to Hagar a well before they die of thirst.
- A conflict over wells occur & Abraham calls on the name of Yahweh.
- Finally, Yahweh commands Abraham to sacrifice Yitschaq [Isaac] which is the focus of our lesson.

The Covenant Blessing:



Up until this point, we can see that Abraham thought of himself as a servant of Yahweh calling Him my Master as revealed in:

Bereshiyth [Gen] 18:2-5 So he lifted his eyes and looked and saw three men standing opposite him. And when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the ground, **3** and said, “my Master, if I have now found favour in Your

eyes, please do not pass Your servant by. 4 “Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 “And let me bring a piece of bread and refresh your hearts and then go on, for this is why you have come to your servant.” And they said, “Do as you have said.”

However, Yahweh is revealing how Covenants are progressive because Yahweh is about to reveal those things He is about to do, something that is told to only a most intimate friend.

This reveals a greater depth of Covenant which can be seen also with Yeshua in the Last Supper in this verse:



Yahuchanan [John] 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his Master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

What is interesting is that in **Bereshiyth (Genesis) 12** YAHWEH promises to bless, protect, and make Abram great. This echo promises that a good master would make to a most faithful servant but we notice that it is not until **Bereshiyth (Genesis) 17** when Abram has shown himself to be faithful after separating himself from Lot his nephew that YAHWEH referring to himself as El Shaddai the Almighty changes his name and ratifies the Servant Covenant with Abraham through asking him & his whole household to be circumcised.

It is believed that YAHWEH comes to initiate the next level of Covenant three days after the **circumcision** being the sign & seal of the servant Covenant. Now the **Friendship Covenant** is entered as we just observed.



This level of Covenant is seen through a fellowship meal during which we find Yahweh clearly revealed as speaking that Sarah will have a son. Surely Yahweh understands how to turn a mocking laugh into a joyous laugh by telling them to call the Son Yitschaq [Isaac] meaning to laugh. Also, the Lord says He will return at the time of life which we know is in fact 9 months & Sarai will have a son. We see from Sarai & Abraham that out of their Humanity they had great doubts just as we may, in times of difficulty. From our reading we also discover that the Master actually said in Hebrew **“Is anything too wondrous for Yahweh”** & did not say is anything too difficult as most translations say.

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**Yitschaq
the son of
Promise is
Born**

Following this next step of intimacy, we saw the result of this relationship being the long-awaited promised son **Yitschaq** (Isaac) who would inherit the promise first given to

Abraham. What we discover is that entering the different Covenant levels leads to increased relationship and increased blessing.



The **Friendship Covenant** is epitomised by a fellowship meal as we see with Yeshua when even **Yahudah** [Judas] dipped his bread in the Master's salt dish after which he betrayed the Master revealing a terrible break in friendship that Yeshua fully understood as a fulfilment of the prophetic words of David found in:

Tehillim [Psalms] 41:9 Even my own friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

The Ultimate Test of Intimacy with Yahweh:

The Joy of Abraham & Sarah at the birth of Yitschaq [Isaac] must have been truly great and I do wonder what may have led to Abraham being so exceedingly tested. Surely this was the ultimate test.



Surely every thought & desire of Abraham was focussed on Yitschaq [Isaac]. This blessing of a son given by the Almighty could even become a sort of Idol so we too can find the blessings in our life may become a sort of Idol. We read this in the Book of Yasher [Jasher]:



Yasher 21:4 And the child grew up and he was weaned [on solid food], and Abraham made a Great Feast upon the day Yitschaq was weaned. 5 And Shem and Eber and all the great people of the land, and Abimelek king of the Philistines and his servants came to eat & drink.



The Family & Friends come from Haran

The guests also included Terah Abraham's Father & his brother Nahor from Haran so great was the Feast. We do read in the **Book of Yasher** this as a thought, when the sons of Elohim come before the Lord with Satan saying these words in:

Yasher 23:51 Now that his son Yitschaq is born to him, he has forsaken thee, he has made a great feast for all the inhabitants of the land, and the Lord he has forgotten. **52** for amidst all that he has done he brought thee no offering, neither burnt offering nor peace offering, neither Ox, lamb nor goat of all that he killed on the day his son was weaned.

Though these events are not in the Scriptures it helps to rationalize and give a back story to this final test which is the ultimate test for anyone of faith in Yahweh. **Yasher** also tells us that Abraham only tells Sarah that he will bring **Yitschaq** to visit **Shem & Eber** for instruction rather than holding a discussion with her which surely would become heated. Surely faith in Yahweh cannot become a group debate so we come to see how sure Abraham was of the voice of Yahweh leaving him in no doubt. How amazing to have such an intimate relationship with Yahweh.

The Glorious Conclusion to His Faith:

The wondrous example of faith has always been Abraham since we read these wonderful words from the Messenger speaking as being Elohim with these words:



Bereshiyth [Genesis] 22:10-13 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son, **11** but the Messenger of YHWH called to him from the heavens and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” **12** And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy, nor touch him. For now I know that you fear Elohim, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”



**The
replacement
sacrifice for
Yitschaq**

Abraham experienced the true heart of Yahweh who provided for him the Ram. What this great story reveals however is that faith needed a demonstration just as Ya'acov [James] says in:

Ya'acov [James] 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.



Surely this great epic story is reminiscent of what Yahweh himself would do & did do When he sent for his glorious son his only brought forth son to sacrifice him for the sin of the whole World. This has brought us the hope of Eternal life & peace with Yahweh Elohim and a display of his lovingkindness towards us.

Haftarah: Melechim Beyth (2 Kings) 4:8-17

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Haftarah:
Melechim Beyth
[2 Kings] 4:8-17

The illustration depicts a woman in a black dress and white headscarf standing next to an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe and sandals. The man is holding a staff. They are in a room with a red vase on the floor.

This Shunamite woman was from a town near Jezreel on the slopes of Mt. Moreh and she recognized Elisha as a Prophet separated unto Yahweh and asked, her husband to separate a upper room for him. Though she was content in her shamed childlessness and as with Sarah she did not want her hopes raised to be later disappointed as she considered having a son was impossible. However, like Sarah she bore a son something we see often within Scripture with women who are barren that Yahweh's people may praise his great name because nothing is too wondrous for Yahweh.

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The painting shows an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe, leaning over a young child lying on a bed. The child is wrapped in a white cloth. The man is holding the child's head, and the child's eyes are open, suggesting a resurrection.

This story also ends with the death of this son & his return to life & his mother when Elisha breaths the breath of life back into him.

Netzarim Ketuvim: Ivri'im (Hebrews) 11:8-19



Abram left **Ur of the Chaldeans** [chasdīm] by faith though none of the Patriarch's received possession of the land but they believed the promise. Though both Abraham & Sarah were as good as dead they received by **divine** intervention their long-awaited son. They were patient believing Yahweh had something better, therefore when asked, Abraham offered up **Yitschaq** believing Yahweh could raise him from the dead which he did in a spiritual sense therefore Yahweh is not ashamed to be called their Elohim & I pray that could be said about us too.

Amein! Shavua Tov Alechein [A Good Week Unto You]