

The book of Genesis

בְּרֵאשִׁית

Vayera - וִירָא

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## Memorial page

For the soul elevation of

**Lazar ben  
Manya**

לעילוי נשמת  
רב יחיאל הלל בן רב יעקב

לעילוי נשמת  
יוכבד הענא בת חיים יהושע  
פאליק

For the soul elevation of  
**Shayna Mindel bat  
Rav Yechiel Hillel**

לעילוי נשמת  
יחיה בן חיים

לעילוי נשמת  
יהודית בת נחמיה

## *Prasha Summary*

*Vayeira, Vayera, or Va-yera (וַיֵּרָא — Hebrew for "and He appeared," the first word in the parashah) is the fourth weekly Torah portion (פְּרָשָׁה, parashah) in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading. It constitutes Genesis 18:1–22:24. The parashah tells the stories of Abraham's three visitors, Abraham's bargaining with God over Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's two visitors, Lot's bargaining with the Sodomites, the flight of Lot, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, how Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father, how Abraham once again passed off his wife Sarah as his sister, the birth of Isaac, the expulsion of Hagar, disputes over wells, and the binding of Isaac (הַעֲקִידָה, the Akedah).*

*The parashah has the most words (but not the most letters or verses) of any of the weekly Torah portions in the Book of Genesis, and its word-count is second only to parshat Naso in the entire Torah. It is made up of 7,862 Hebrew letters, 2,085 Hebrew words, 147 verses, and 252 lines in a Torah Scroll (סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה, Sefer Torah). (In the Book of Genesis, Parashah Miketz has the most letters, and Parashiyot Noach and Vayishlach have the most verses.)*

*Jews read it on the fourth Sabbath after Simchat Torah, in October or November. Jews also read parts of the parashah as Torah readings for Rosh Hashanah. Genesis 21 is the Torah reading for the first day of Rosh Hashanah, and Genesis 22 is the Torah reading for the second day of Rosh Hashanah. In Reform Judaism, Genesis 22 is the Torah reading for the one day of Rosh Hashanah. In traditional Sabbath Torah reading, the parashah is divided into seven readings, or עליות, aliyot. In the Masoretic Text of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), Parashah Vayeira has four "open portion" (פתוחה, petuchah) divisions (roughly equivalent to paragraphs, often abbreviated with the Hebrew letter פ (peh)). Parashah Vayeira has two further subdivisions, called "closed portion" (סתומה, setumah) divisions (abbreviated with the Hebrew letter ס (samekh)) within the first open portion (פתוחה, petuchah). The first open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) spans the first five readings (עליות, aliyot). The second open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) coincides with the sixth reading (עליה, aliyah). The third open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) covers the binding of Isaac, which is most of the seventh reading (עליה, aliyah), excluding only the concluding maftir (מפטיר) reading. And the fourth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) coincides with the concluding maftir (מפטיר) reading. Closed portion (סתומה, setumah) divisions further divide the long fourth reading (עליה, aliyah).*


**Aliya: Kohen-Chessed-Abraham**


*In the first reading (עלייה, aliyah), as Abraham was sitting in the entrance of his tent by the terebinths of Mamre in the heat of the day, he looked up and saw God in the form of three men. He ran, bowed to the ground, and welcomed them. Abraham offered to wash their feet and fetch them a morsel of bread, and they assented. Abraham rushed to Sarah's tent to order cakes made from choice flour, ran to select a choice calf for a servant-boy to prepare, set curds and milk and the calf before them, and waited on them under the tree as they ate. One of the visitors told Abraham that he would return the next year, and Sarah would have a son, but Sarah laughed to herself at the prospect, with Abraham so old. God then questioned Abraham why Sarah had laughed at bearing a child at her age, noting that nothing was too wondrous for God. The first reading (עלייה, aliyah) ends here*

**Chapter: 18**

1. **וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה בְּאַלְנֵי מַמְרֵה וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּתוֹךְ-הָאֲלֵל כְּנוֹם הַיּוֹם:**  
1. And YHVH appeared unto him by the terebinths of Mamre, as he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;
2. **וַיֵּשֶׁא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיֵּרָא וַיֵּרֶץ לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֵהָל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּוּ אֲרָצָה:**  
2. and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood over against him; and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed down to the earth,
3. **וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי אִם-נָא מָצָאתִי זָוַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֵל-נָא תַעֲבֹר מֵעַל עַבְדְּךָ:**  
3. and said: 'My lord, if now I have found favour in your sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from your servant.
4. **יִקְחוּ-נָא מֵעֵט-מַיִם וְרוּזְצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁעֵנוּ תַּנּוֹת הָעֵץ:**  
4. Let now a little water be fetched, and wash your feet, and recline yourselves under the tree.
5. **וְאֶקְחָה פַת-לֶחֶם וְסַעְדוּ לְבָבְכֶם אֲזוּר תַעֲבֹרוּ כִי-עַל-כֵּן עֲבַרְתֶּם עַל-עַבְדְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵן תַעֲשֶׂה כַאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:**  
5. And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and stay ye your heart; after that ye shall pass on; forasmuch as ye are come to your servant.' And they said: 'So do, as thou hast said.'
6. **וַיְמַהֵר אַבְרָהָם הָאֵהָלָה אֵל-שָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר בְּהָרִי שְׂלֵשׁ סָאִים קָמֹז סֹלֶת לוֹשֵׁי וַעֲשֵׂי עֲזוֹת:**  
6. And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said: 'Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.'
7. **וְאֵל-הַבָּקָר רָץ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקְחוּ בֶן-בָּקָר רָךְ וְטוֹב וַיִּתֵּן אֵל-הַזֶּמֶר וַיְמַהֵר לְעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ:**  
7. And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto the servant; and he hastened to dress it.

8. ויקחו זממאה וזולב ובן-הבקר אשר עשה ויתן לפניהם והוא-עמד עליהם תנות העץ ויאכלו:

8. And he took curd, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

9. ויאמרו אליו איה שרה אשתך ויאמר הנה באהל:

9. And they said unto him: 'Where is Sarah your wife?' And he said: 'Behold, in the tent.'

10. ויאמר שוב אשוב אליך כעת וזיה והנה-בן לשרה אשתך ושרה שמעת פתחו האהל והוא אזריו:

10. And He said: 'I will certainly return unto thee when the season cometh round; and, lo, Sarah your wife shall have a son.' And Sarah heard in the tent door, which was behind him.--

11. ואברהם ושרה זקנים באים בימים זרל להיות לשרה ארוז פגשים:

11. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, and well stricken in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.--

12. ותצחק שרה בקרבה לאמר אזרני בלתי היתה-לי עדנה ואדני זקן:

12. And Sarah laughed within herself, saying: 'After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?'

13. ויאמר יהוה אל-אברהם לבמה זה צווקה שרה לאמר האף אננם אלה ואני זקנתי:

13. And YHVH said unto Abraham: 'Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying: Shall I of a surety bear a child, who am old?'

14. היפלא מיהוה דבר לבועד אשוב אליך כעת וזיה ולשרה בן:

14. Is any thing too hard for YHVH. At the set time I will return unto thee, when the season cometh round, and Sarah shall have a son.'

— Aliya: Levi-Gevurah-Isaac —

*In the second reading (עליה, aliyah), frightened, Sarah denied laughing, but God insisted that she had. The men set out toward Sodom and Abraham walked with them to see them off. God considered whether to confide in Abraham what God was about to do, since God had singled out Abraham to become a great nation and instruct his posterity to keep God's way by doing what was just and right. God told Abraham that the outrage and sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was so great that God was going to see whether they had acted according to the outcry that had reached God. The men went on to Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before God. Abraham pressed God whether God would sweep away the innocent along with the guilty, asking successively if there were 50, or 45, or 40, or 30, or 20, or 10 innocent people in Sodom, would God not spare the city for the sake of the innocent ones, and each time God agreed to do so. When God had finished speaking to Abraham, God departed, and Abraham returned to his place. The second reading (עליה, aliyah) ends here with the end of chapter*

15. ותכוזש שרה | לאמר לא צווקתי כי | יראה ויאמר | לא כי צווקתי:

15. Then Sarah denied, saying: 'I laughed not'; for she was afraid. And He said: 'Nay; but thou didst laugh.'
16. And the men rose up from thence, and looked out toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.
17. And YHVH said: 'Shall I hide from Abraham that which I am doing;
18. seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?
19. For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of YHVH, to do righteousness and justice; to the end that YHVH may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him.'
20. And YHVH said: 'Verily, the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and, verily, their sin is exceeding grievous.
21. I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto Me; and if not, I will know.'
22. And the men turned from thence, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham stood yet before YHVH.
23. And Abraham drew near, and said: 'Wilt Thou indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?
24. Peradventure there are fifty righteous within the city; wilt Thou indeed sweep away and not forgive the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?
25. That be far from Thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked, that so the righteous should be as the wicked; that be far from Thee; shall not the judge of all the earth do justly?'
26. And YHVH said: 'If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will forgive all the place for their sake.'

27. וַיַּעַן אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה-נָא הוֹאֲלֹתִי לְדַבָּר אֶל-אֲדֹנָי וְאֲנֹכִי עָפָר וְאִפָּרָה:  
 27. And Abraham answered and said: 'Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, who am but dust and ashes.
28. אֲוִלִי יוֹסֵרֶן זֹמְשִׁים הַעֲדִיקֶם זֹמְשֵׁה הַתְּשׁוּזִית בְּזֹמְשֵׁה אֶת-כָּל-הָעִיר וַיֹּאמֶר: לֹא אֲשׁוּזִית אִם-אֶמְצָא שָׁם אַרְבָּעִים וָחָמֵשׁ:  
 28. Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous; wilt Thou destroy all the city for lack of five?' And He said: 'I will not destroy it, if I find there forty and five.'
29. וַיִּסֵּף עוֹד לְדַבָּר אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אוֹלִי יִמְצְאוּן שָׁם אַרְבָּעִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲעִשֶׂה בְּעֵבֹר הָאַרְבָּעִים:  
 29. And he spoke unto Him yet again, and said: 'Peradventure there shall be forty found there.' And He said: 'I will not do it for the forty's sake.'
30. וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָא יוֹזֵר לְאֲדֹנָי וְאֲדַבְּרָה אוֹלִי יִמְצְאוּן שָׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲעִשֶׂה אִם-אֶמְצָא שָׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים:  
 30. And he said: 'Oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Peradventure there shall thirty be found there.' And He said: 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.'
31. וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה-נָא הוֹאֲלֹתִי לְדַבָּר אֶל-אֲדֹנָי אוֹלִי יִמְצְאוּן שָׁם עֶשְׂרִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשׁוּזִית בְּעֵבֹר הָעֶשְׂרִים:  
 31. And he said: 'Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord. Peradventure there shall be twenty found there.' And He said: 'I will not destroy it for the twenty's sake.'
32. וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָא יוֹזֵר לְאֲדֹנָי וְאֲדַבְּרָה אֶה-הַפְּעֵם אוֹלִי יִמְצְאוּן שָׁם עֶשְׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר: לֹא אֲשׁוּזִית בְּעֵבֹר הָעֶשְׂרָה:  
 32. And he said: 'Oh, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once. Peradventure ten shall be found there.' And He said: 'I will not destroy it for the ten's sake.'
33. וַיֵּלֶךְ יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר כָּלָה לְדַבָּר אֶל-אַבְרָהָם וְאַבְרָהָם שָׁב לְמִקְוֵוֹ:  
 33. And YHVH went His way, as soon as He had left off speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned unto his place.

 **Aliya: Third-Tiferet-Jacob** 

*In the third reading (עלייה, aliyah), in chapter 19, as Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom in the evening, the two angels arrived, and Lot greeted them and bowed low to the ground. Lot invited the angels to spend the night at his house and bathe their feet, but they said that they would spend the night in the square. Lot urged them strongly, so they went to his house, and he prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Before they had retired for the night, all the men of Sodom gathered about the house shouting to Lot to bring his visitors out so that they might be intimate with them. Lot went outside the entrance, shutting the door behind him, and begged the men of Sodom not commit such a wrong. Lot offered the men his two virgin daughters for them to do with as they pleased, if they would not do anything to his guests, but they*



*disparaged Lot as one who had come as an alien and now sought to rule them, and they pressed threateningly against him and the door. But the visitors stretched out their hands and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door and struck the people with blindness so that they were unable to find the entrance. The visitors directed Lot to bring what family he had out of the city, for they were about to destroy the place, because the outcry against its inhabitants had become so great. So Lot told his sons-in-law that they needed to get out of the place because God was about to destroy it, but Lot's sons-in-law thought that he was joking. As dawn broke, the angels urged Lot to flee with his wife and two remaining daughters, but still he delayed. So out of God's mercy, the men seized Lot, his wife, and daughters by the hand and brought them out of the city, telling them to flee for their lives and not to stop or look back anywhere in the plain. But Lot asked them whether he might flee to a little village nearby.*

**Chapter: 19**

1. וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סָדְמָה בְּעֶרְבַּ וְלוֹט יָשָׁב בְּשַׁעַר-סְדֹם וַיֵּרָא-לוֹט וַיִּקָּם לִקְרַאתָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּוּ אֲפָיִם אַרְצָה:

1. And the two angels came to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom; and Lot saw them, and rose up to meet them; and he fell down on his face to the earth;

2. וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה נָא-אֲדֹנָי סוּרוּ נָא אֶל-בַּיִת עַבְדְּכֶם וְלִינֹו וְרוּזְצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁכַּמְתֶּם וְהִלַכְתֶּם לְדַרְכְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִי בְרוּזֹוב נָלִין:

2. and he said: 'Behold now, my lords, turn aside, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your way.' And they said: 'Nay; but we will abide in the broad place all night.'

3. וַיִּפְצֵר-בָּם מְאֹד וַיִּסְרוּ אֵלָיו וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵל-בֵּיתוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתֶּה וּבִמְצוֹת אָפֶה וַיֹּאכְלוּ:

3. And he urged them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

4. טָרָם ֹוּ שִׁכְבּוּ וְאֲנֹשֵׁי הָעִיר אֲנֹשֵׁי סְדֹם נָסְבוּ עַל-הַבַּיִת מִנְעֵר וְעַד-זֶקֶן כָּל-הָעָם בַּמְקָצָה:

4. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both young and old, all the people from every quarter.

5. וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל-לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֵיהָ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה הַיָּאִם אֵלֵינוּ וְגִדַעַה אֹתָם:

5. And they called unto Lot, and said unto him: 'Where are the men that came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.'

6. וַיֵּצֵא אֹלָהֶם לוֹט הַפְתִּיזוּהָ וְהִתְקַלַּת סָגֵר אֲזוּרָיו:

6. And Lot went out unto them to the door, and shut the door after him.

7. וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נְאֻזֵי תַרְעוּ:

7. And he said: 'I pray you, my brethren, do not so wickedly.'



8. הִנֵּה-נָא לִי שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת אִשָּׁר לֹא-יָדְעוּ אִישׁ אוֹעִיָּא-נָא אֶתְהֶן אֲלֵיכֶם וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶן כְּטוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם רַק לְאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵל אֶל-תַּעֲשׂוּ דְבַר כִּי-עַל-כֵּן בָּאוּ בְּצֶל קִרְתִּי:

8. Behold now, I have two daughters that have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes; only unto these men do nothing; forasmuch as they are come under the shadow of my roof.'

9. וַיֹּאמְרוּ | זָשׁ-הִלָּאָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאָוֹד בָּא-לָגֹר וַיִּשְׁפֹּט שְׁפֹט עֲתָה זָרַע לָךְ מֵהֵם וַיִּפְצְרוּ בְּאִישׁ בְּלוֹט מְאֹד וַיִּגְשׂוּ לְשַׁבֵּר הַדְּלָת:

9. And they said: 'Stand back.' And they said: 'This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs play the judge; now will we deal worse with thee, than with them.' And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and drew near to break the door.

10. וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֶת-יָדָם וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת-לוֹט אֲלֵיהֶם הַבַּיְתָה וְאֶת-הַדְּלָת סָגְרוּ:

10. But the men put forth their hand, and brought Lot into the house to them, and the door they shut.

11. וְאֶת-הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-פָּתְחוּ הַבַּיִת הֵכֹּו בְּסַנְזָרִים מִקִּטָּן וְעַד-גָּדוֹל וַיִּכְאוּ לַמִּצָּא הַפְּתוּחַ:

11. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great; so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

12. וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֶל-לוֹט עַד מִי-לָךְ פֹּה זֹתָן וּבְנֵיהֶן וּבְנֵיתֶיהָ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-לָךְ בְּעִיר הַזֶּה מִן-הַמָּקוֹם:

12. And the men said unto Lot: 'Hast thou here any besides? son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomsoever thou hast in the city; bring them out of the place;

13. כִּי-מִשְׁזֹזוֹתַי אֲנֹנְנוּ אֶת-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי-גָדְלָה צַעֲקָתָם אֶת-פְּנֵי יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁלְחוּנוּ יְהוָה לְשֹׁזוֹתָהּ:

13. for we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxed great before YHVH; and YHVH hath sent us to destroy it.'

14. וַיֵּצֵא לוֹט וַיְדַבֵּר | אֶל-זֹתָנָיו | לְקַחְזֵי בְנֵיתֵי וַיֹּאמֶר קוּמוּ צְאוּ מִן-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי-מִשְׁזֹזִית יְהוָה אֶת-הָעִיר וַיְהִי כַּמִּצְוֶה בְּעֵינֵי זֹתָנָיו:

14. And Lot went out, and spoke unto his sons-in-law, who married his daughters, and said: 'Up, get you out of this place; for YHVH will destroy the city.' But he seemed unto his sons-in-law as one that jested.

15. וַכְּמוֹ הַשְּׁחֹזר עָלָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַמְּכַלְאָכִים בְּלוֹט לֹאמֹר קוּמוּ קוּמוּ אֶת-אִשְׁתְּךָ וְאֶת-שְׁתֵּי בְנֵיתֶיךָ הַנִּמְצָאֹת בָּן-תִּסְפָּה בְּעֶזֶן הָעִיר:

15. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying: 'Arise, take your wife, and your two daughters that are here; lest thou be swept away in the iniquity of the city.'

16. וַיִּתְבַּהֲמָה | וַיַּזְזִיקוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּיָדוֹ וּבִידֵי אִשְׁתּוֹ וּבִידֵי שְׁתֵּי בְנֵיתָיו בְּזַמְכַּלַּת יְהוָה עָלָיו וַיֵּצְאוּהוּ מִזֹּזוֹן לְעִיר:

16. But he lingered; and the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; YHVH being merciful unto him. And they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17. וַיְהִי כִּהְיוּצִיָאם אֹתָם הַזּוֹצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמַּלְאָךְ אֵל-נַפְשֵׁךָ אֶל-תַּבִּיט אַזְרוּרָה וְאַל-תֵּעָמֹד בְּכָל-הַכֶּכֶר הַהָרָה הַמְלֻטָּה פֶּן-תִּסָּפֶה:

17. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said: 'Escape for your life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the Plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be swept away.'

18. וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹט אֲלֵהֶם אֶל-נָא אֲדַנִּי:

18. And Lot said unto them: 'Oh, not so, my lord;

19. הֲיֵנָה-נָא מִצְאָה עֲבָדְךָ זֹזֹן בְּעֵינֶיךָ וַתִּגְדַּל זֹסֶדְךָ אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי לְהַצִּילוֹת אֶת-נַפְשִׁי וְאִנְכִי לֹא אוֹכֵל לְהַמְלֻטָּה הַהָרָה פֶּן-תִּדְבַקְנִי הָרָעָה וּמוֹתִי:

19. behold now, your servant hath found grace in your sight, and thou hast magnified your mercy, which thou hast shown unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest the evil overtake me, and I die.

20. הֲיֵנָה-נָא הָעִיר הַזֹּאת קְרִיבָה לָנוּס שָׂמוּהָ וְהוּא מִצְעָר אַמְלֻטָּה נָא שְׂמוּהָ הַלֵּא מִצְעָר הוּא וַתִּזְוִי נַפְשִׁי:

20. Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one; oh, let me escape thither--is it not a little one? --and my soul shall live.'

#### ◆ Aliya: Fourth-Netzach-Moses ◆

*In the long fourth reading (עליה, aliyah), the angel replied that he would grant Lot this favor too, and spare that town. The angel urged Lot to hurry there, for the angel could not do anything until he arrived there, and thus the town came to be called Zoar. As the sun rose and Lot entered Zoar, God rained sulfurous fire from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah and annihilated the entire plain. Lot's wife looked back, and she turned into a pillar of salt. Next morning, Abraham hurried to the place where he had stood before God and looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and saw the smoke rising like at a kiln. Lot was afraid to dwell in Zoar, so he settled in a cave in the hill country with his two daughters. The older daughter told the younger that their father was old, and there was not a man on earth with whom to have children, so she proposed that they get Lot drunk and have sex with him so that they might maintain life through their father. That night they made their father drink wine, and the older one lay with her father without his being aware. And the next day the older one persuaded the younger to do the same. The two daughters thus had children by their father, the older one bore a son named Moab who became the father of the Moabites, and the younger bore a son named Ben-ammi who became the father of the Ammonites. A closed portion (סתומה, setumah) ends here with the end of chapter 19. As the reading continues in chapter 20, Abraham settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was sojourning in Gerar, Abraham said that Sarah was his sister, so King Abimelech had her brought to him, but God came to Abimelech in a dream and told him that taking her would cause him to die, for she was a married woman. Abimelech had not approached her, so he asked God whether God would slay an innocent, as Abraham and Sarah had told him that they were brother and sister. God told Abimelech in the dream that God knew that Abimelech had a blameless*

heart, and so God had kept him from touching her. God told Abimelech to restore Abraham's wife, since he was a prophet, and he would intercede for Abimelech to save his life, which he and his household would lose if he failed to restore her. Early next morning, Abimelech told his servants what had happened, asked Abraham what he had done and why he had brought so great a guilt upon Abimelech and his kingdom. Abraham replied that he had thought that Gerar had no fear of God and would kill him because of his wife, and that she was in fact his father's daughter though not his mother's, so he had asked of her the kindness of identifying him as her brother. Abimelech restored Sarah to Abraham, gave him sheep, oxen, and slaves, and invited him to settle wherever he pleased in Abimelech's lands. And Abimelech told Sarah that he was giving Abraham a thousand pieces of silver to serve her as vindication before all. Abraham then prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and the women in his household, so that they bore children, for God had stricken the women with infertility because of Sarah. Another closed portion (סתומה, setumah) ends here with the end of chapter 20. As the reading continues in chapter 21, God took note of Sarah, and she bore Abraham a son as God had predicted, and Abraham named him Isaac. Abraham circumcised Isaac when he was eight days old. The fourth reading (עליה, aliyah) ends here

21. וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הַיָּהוָה זְעִינֵאֲתִי כִּי־נִיחָה גַם לְדַבֵּר הַיָּהוָה לְבִלְתִּי הַפְּכִי אֶת-הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:

21. And he said unto him: 'See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow the city of which thou hast spoken.

22. מִהֵרָה הַמְלֻט שְׂמָה כִּי לֹא אוֹכֵל לַעֲשׂוֹת דְּבַר עַד-בְּאֶרֶץ שְׂמָה עַל-כֵּן קָרָא שֵׁם-הָעִיר צֹעַר:

22. Hasten thou, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither.' --Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.--

23. הַשָּׁמַיִם יָצָא עַל-הָאָרֶץ וְלוֹט בָּא צֹעָרָה:

23. The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot came unto Zoar.

24. וַיְהִי הַיָּהוָה הַמְטִיר עַל-סְדֹם וְעַל-עֲמֹרָה גִּפְרִית וְאֵשׁ מֵאֵת יְהוָה מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם:

24. Then YHVH caused to rain upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from YHVH out of heaven;

25. וַיִּהְיֶה אֶת-הָעָרִים הָאֵל וְאֶת כָּל-הַכֶּפֶר וְאֶת כָּל-יִשְׁבֵי הָעָרִים וְצִמּוֹז הָאֲדָמָה:

25. and He overthrow those cities, and all the Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26. וַתִּבֶט אִשְׁתּוֹ מֵאַחֲרָיו וַתְּהִי נְעִיב מְלֹחַ:

26. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

27. וַיִּשְׁכֶם אַבְרָהָם בְּבֶקֶר אֶל-הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-עָמַד שָׁם אֶת-פְּנֵי יְהוָה:

27. And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he had stood before YHVH.

28. וַיִּשְׁקֹף עַל-פְּנֵי סְדֹם וְעַמֹּרָה וְעַל-כָּל-פְּנֵי אֶרֶץ הַכֶּפֶר וַיֵּרָא וַתִּגָּה עָלָה קִיטָר הָאָרֶץ כְּקִיטָר הַכַּבְשִׁיץ:

28. And he looked out toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the Plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the land went up as the smoke of a furnace.

29. וַיְהִי בְּשָׁנוֹת אֱלֹהִים אֶת-עָרֵי הַכְּפֹר וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת-אַבְרָהָם וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-לוֹט מִתּוֹךְ הַהֶבְרֹתָה בְּהַפֵּךְ אֶת-הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר-יָשָׁב בָּהֶן לוֹט:

29. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt.

30. וַיַּעַל לוֹט מִצּוּעַר וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּהָר וַיִּשְׁתֵּי בְּנֹתָיו עִמּוֹ כִּי יָרָא לְעֵבֶת בְּצוּעַר וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּמוֹעֲרָה הוּא וַיִּשְׁתֵּי בְּנֹתָיו:

30. And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar; and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

31. וַתֹּאמֶר הַבְּכִירָה אֶל-הַצְּעִירָה אָבִינוּ זָקֵן וְאִישׁ אֵין בְּאֶרֶץ לְבֹא עִלֵּינוּ כְּדָרֶךְ כָּל-הָאָרֶץ:

31. And the first-born said unto the younger: 'Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth.

32. לָכֵן נִשְׁקָה אֶת-אָבִינוּ יַיִן וְנִשְׁכְּבָה עִמּוֹ וְנִזְוֶיָה מֵאָבִינוּ זָרַע:

32. Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.'

33. וַתִּשְׁקִינָן אֶת-אָבִיהֶן יַיִן בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא וַתְּבֹא הַבְּכִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב אֶת-אָבִיהָ וְלֹא-יָדַע בְּשִׁכְבָּהּ וּבְקוּמָה:

33. And they made their father drink wine that night. And the first-born went in, and lay with her father; and he knew not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

34. וַיְהִי מִמּוֹזָזֶת וַתֹּאמֶר הַבְּכִירָה אֶל-הַצְּעִירָה הֵן-שָׁכַבְתִּי אִמְשֵׁ אֶת-אָבִי נִשְׁקִינוּ יַיִן גַּם-הַלַּיְלָה וּבְאִל שִׁכְבִּי עִמּוֹ וְנִזְוֶיָה מֵאָבִינוּ זָרַע:

34. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the first-born said unto the younger: 'Behold, I lay yesternight with my father. Let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.'

35. וַתִּשְׁקִינָן גַּם בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא אֶת-אָבִיהֶן יַיִן וַתִּקֶּם הַצְּעִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב עִמּוֹ וְלֹא-יָדַע בְּשִׁכְבָּהּ וּבְקוּמָה:

35. And they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose, and lay with him; and he knew not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

36. וַתְּהַרְיִין שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת-לוֹט מֵאָבִיהֶן:

36. Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

37. וַתֵּלֶד הַבְּכִירָה בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מוֹאָב הוּא אָבִי-מוֹאָב עַד-הַיּוֹם:

37. And the first-born bore a son, and called his name Moab--the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.

38. והצעירה גם-הוא ילדה בן ותקרא שמו בן-עמי הוא אבי בני-עמון עד-היום:  
(ס)

38. And the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi--  
the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

Chapter: 20

1. ויסע משם אברהם ארצה הנגב וישב בין-קדש ובין שור ויגר בגרר:

1. And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the land of the South, and  
dwelt between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.

2. ויאמר אברהם אל-שרה אשתו אנותי הוא וישלח אבימלך מלך גרר ויקוז את-  
שרה:

2. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife: 'She is my sister.' And Abimelech  
king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.

3. ויבא אלהים אל-אבימלך בןזלום הלילה ויאמר לו הנך מת על-האשה אשר-  
לקחתי והוא בעלת בעל:

3. But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him:  
'Behold, thou shalt die, because of the woman whom thou hast taken; for she  
is a man's wife.'

4. ואבימלך לא קרב אליה ויאמר אדני הגוי גם-צהיק תהרג:

4. Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said: 'Lord, wilt Thou slay  
even a righteous nation?

5. הלא הוא אומר-לי אנותי הוא והיא גם-הוא אמרה אנוי הוא בתם-לבבי  
ובנקין פני עשיתי זאת:

5. Said he not himself unto me: She is my sister? and she, even she herself  
said: He is my brother. In the simplicity of my heart and the innocency of my  
hands have I done this.'

6. ויאמר אליו האלהים בןזלום גם אנכי ידעתי כי בתם-לבבך עשית זאת ואושר  
גם-אנכי אותך מווסטו-לי על-כן לא-נתתיך לנגע אליה:

6. And God said unto him in the dream: 'Yea, I know that in the simplicity  
of your heart thou hast done this, and I also withheld thee from sinning  
against Me. Therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.'

7. ועתה השב אשת-האיש כי-נביא הוא ויתפכל בעדר וזויה ואם-אינה משיב דע  
כי-מות תמות אתה וכל-אשר-ך:

7. Now therefore restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall  
pray for thee, and thou shalt live; and if thou restore her not, know thou that  
thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.'

8. וישכם אבימלך בבקר ויקרא לכל-עבדיו וידבר את-כל-הדברים האלה  
באזניהם ויראו האנשים מאד:

8. And Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and  
told all these things in their ears; and the men were sore afraid.

9. וַיִּקְרָא אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ לְאַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה-עָשִׂיתָ לָנוּ וּמָה-זָּוַטְתָּ אֵתִי לְךָ כִּי-הִבָּאתָ עָלַי וְעַל-מַמְלַכְתִּי זָוַטְתָּה זָדוֹנָה מִעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יַעֲשׂוּ עֲשִׂיתָ עִמּוֹדִי:

9. Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him: 'What hast thou done unto us? and wherein have I sinned against thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done.'

10. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ אֶל-אַבְרָהָם מָה רָאִיתָ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה:

10. And Abimelech said unto Abraham: 'What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing?'

11. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם כִּי אֲמַרְתִּי רַק אִין-יִרְאֶת אֱלֹהִים בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְהָרְגוּנִי עַל-דָּבָר אֲשֶׁר־אֵשֶׁתִּי:

11. And Abraham said: 'Because I thought: Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake.'

12. וְגַם-אֲמִנָּה אֶזְוֹתִי בַת-אָבִי הִוא אַךְ לֹא בַת-אֲמִי וְתַהֲי-לִי לְאִשָּׁה:

12. And moreover she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and so she became my wife.

13. וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר הִתְעַן אֹתִי אֱלֹהִים מִבֵּית אָבִי וְאָמַר לָהּ זֶה זֹסֶדֶךְ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשִׂי עִמּוֹדִי אֵל כָּל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר נָבֹא שָׁמָּה אֲמַר־לִי אֶזְוִי הִוא:

13. And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her: This is your kindness which thou shalt show unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me: He is my brother.'

14. וַיִּקְזֹז אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ צֹאן וּבָקָר וְעִבְדִּים וְשִׁפּוֹזֹת וַיִּתֵּן לְאַבְרָהָם וַיָּשֶׁב לוֹ אֶת שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ:

14. And Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and men-servants and women-servants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife.

15. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ הִנֵּה אֶרְצִי לְפָנֶיךָ בְּטוֹב בְּעֵינַיִךָ שָׁב:

15. And Abimelech said: 'Behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee.'

16. וּלְשָׂרָה אָמַר הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי אֵלֶיךָ כֶּסֶף לְאֶזְוִיךָ הִנֵּה הִוא-לְךָ כְּסוּת עֵינַיִם לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה וְאֵת כָּל זְכָוֹת:

16. And unto Sarah he said: 'Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is for thee a covering of the eyes to all that are with thee; and before all men thou art righted.'

17. וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אַבְרָהָם אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּרְפָּא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וְאֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאִמּוֹתָיו וַיִּלְדוּ:

17. And Abraham prayed unto God; and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maid-servants; and they bore children.

18. כִּי-עָצָר עָצָר יְהוָה בְּעַד כָּל-רְחוּם לְבַיִת אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ עַל-דָּבָר שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ אַבְרָהָם: (ס)

18. For YHVH had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife.



Chapter: 21

1. וַיִּזְכֹּר יְהוָה פֶּקֶד אֶת-שָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה לְשָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר:  
1. And YHVH remembered Sarah as He had said, and YHVH did unto Sarah as He had spoken.
2. וַתֵּהָר וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה לְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן כְּלֻמָּנָיו לְמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר אֲתוֹ אֱלֹהִים:  
2. And Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.
3. וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שְׁם-בְנֵו הַזֶּכֶל-לוֹ אֲשֶׁר-יָלְדָה-לוֹ שָׂרָה יִצְחָק:  
3. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.
4. וַיִּמַּל אַבְרָהָם אֶת-יִצְחָק בְּנֵו בֶן-שְׁמֹנֶת יָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֲתוֹ אֱלֹהִים:  
4. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

 **Aliya: Fifth-Hod-Aaron** 

*In the fifth reading (עלייה, aliyah), Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born, and Sarah remarked that God had brought her laughter and everyone would laugh with her about her bearing Abraham a child in his old age. Abraham held a great feast on the day that Sarah weaned Isaac. Sarah saw Hagar's son Ishmael playing, and Sarah told Abraham to cast Hagar and Ishmael out, saying that Ishmael would not share in Abraham's inheritance with Isaac. Sarah's words greatly distressed Abraham, but God told Abraham not to be distressed but to do whatever Sarah told him, for Isaac would carry on Abraham's line, and God would make a nation of Ishmael, too. Early the next morning, Abraham placed some bread and water on Hagar's shoulder, together with Ishmael, and sent them away. Hagar and Ishmael wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba, and when the water ran out, she left the child under a bush, sat down about two bowshots away so as not to see the child die, and burst into tears. God heard the cry of the boy, and an angel called to Hagar, saying not to fear, for God had heeded the boy's cry, and would make of him a great nation. Then God opened her eyes to a well of water, and she and the boy drank. God was with Ishmael and he grew up in the wilderness and became a bowman. Ishmael lived in the wilderness of Paran, and Hagar got him an Egyptian wife. The fifth reading (עלייה, aliyah) and the first open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) end here*

5. וַאֲבָרָהָם בֶּן-מֵאת שָׁנָה בְּהוֹלֵד לוֹ אֶת יִצְחָק בְּנֵו:  
5. And Abraham was a hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.
6. וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרָה צִחָק עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים כָּל-הַשְּׂמֵעַ יִצְחָק-לִי:  
6. And Sarah said: 'God hath made laughter for me; every one that heareth will laugh on account of me.'
7. וַתֹּאמֶר מִי מִכֹּל לְאַבְרָהָם הִינִיקָהּ בְּנִים שָׂרָה כִּי-יָלְדָתִי בֶן כְּלֻמָּנָיו:  
7. And she said: 'Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should give children suck? for I have borne him a son in his old age.'
8. וַיִּגְדַּל הַיָּלֵד וַיִּגְמַל וַיַּעַשׂ אַבְרָהָם מִשְׁתָּה זָדוּל בָּיוֹם הַגָּמֵל אֶת-יִצְחָק:  
8. And the child grew up and was weaned, and Abraham made a feast of great mourning that day, because of Isaac.



8. And the child grew, and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

9. ותרא שרה את-בן-הגֵר המִצְרַיִת אֲשֶׁר-יָלְדָה לְאַבְרָהָם מִצְוֹק:

9. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne unto Abraham, making sport.

10. ותאמר לְאַבְרָהָם גֵרֵשׁ הָאִמָּה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת-בְּנָתָהּ כִּי לֹא יִירֶשׁ בֶּן-הָאִמָּה הַזֹּאת עִם-בְּנֵי עַם-יִצְחָק:

10. Wherefore she said unto Abraham: 'Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.'

11. וַיִּרַע הַדָּבָר מְאֹד בְּעֵינֵי אַבְרָהָם עַל אֹרְחַת בְּנוֹ:

11. And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight on account of his son.

12. וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-אַבְרָהָם אַל-יִרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עַל-הַנְּעִר וְעַל-אִמָּתְךָ כֹּל אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלֶיךָ שָׂרָה שְׂמַע בְּקוֹלָהּ כִּי בְיִצְחָק יִקְרָא לָךְ זֶרַע:

12. And God said unto Abraham: 'Let it not be grievous in your sight because of the lad, and because of your bondwoman; in all that Sarah saith unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall seed be called to thee.'

13. וְגַם אֶת-בֶּן-הָאִמָּה לֵצְוִי אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ כִּי זֶרַעְךָ הוּא:

13. And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is your seed.'

14. וַיִּשְׁכֶם אַבְרָהָם | בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקְחוּ-לָוֶם וְזֹמַת מִיַּם וַיִּתֵּן אֶל-הַגֵּר שֵׁם עַל-שִׁכְמָהּ וְאֶת-הַיֶּלֶד וַיְשַׁלְּוּהָ וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּתֵעַ בְּמִדְבַר בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע:

14. And Abraham arose up early in the morning, and took bread and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away; and she departed, and strayed in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

15. וַיִּכְלוּ הַמַּיִם מִן-הַנְּזֻמָּת וַתִּשְׁלַךְ אֶת-הַיֶּלֶד תַּחַת אֹנֶךְ הַשִּׁיזֹם:

15. And the water in the bottle was spent, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

16. וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּשֶׁב לָהּ בַּמִּצְדָּה הַרְוֹק כַּמִּטְוִי קָשֶׁת כִּי אָמְרָה אֶל-אַרְאֵה בְּמוֹת הַיֶּלֶד וַתֵּשֶׁב בַּמִּצְדָּה וַתִּשָּׂא אֶת-קוֹלָהּ וַתִּתְבַּךְ:

16. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bow-shot; for she said: 'Let me not look upon the death of the child.' And she sat over against him, and lifted up her voice, and wept.

17. וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת-קוֹל הַנְּעִר וַיִּקְרָא מִלְּאֵךְ אֱלֹהִים | אֶל-הַגֵּר מִן-הַשָּׁבִיב וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ בּוֹה-לָךְ הַגֵּר אֶל-תִּירְאִי כִּי-שָׂמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל-קוֹל הַנְּעִר בְּאֲשֶׁר הוּא-שָׁם:

17. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her: 'What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.'

18. קוּמִי שְׂאִי אֶת-הַנֶּזֶר וְהוֹזִיקִי אֶת-יָדְךָ בּוֹ כִּי-לִזְוִי גָדוֹל אֲשִׁימֵנוּ:

18. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast by your hand; for I will make him a great nation.'

19. וַיִּפְקֹזוּ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרָא בְּאֵר מַיִם וַתִּלְכֶּה וַתִּמְלֵא אֶת-הַזְּמוֹת מַיִם וַתִּשְׁקֵה אֶת-הַנֶּזֶר:

19. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

20. וַיְהִי אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הַנֶּזֶר וַיִּגְדַּל וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּמִדְבַּר וַיְהִי רֶבֶה קִשְׁתָּ:

20. And God was with the lad, and he grew; and he dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

21. וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּמִדְבַּר פָּאֲרָן וַתִּקְחוּ-לוֹ אִמּוֹ אִשָּׁה מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (פ)

21. And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.

— Aliya: Sixth-Yessod-Joseph —

*In the sixth reading (עליה, aliyah), Abimelech and Phicol the chief of his troops asked Abraham to swear not to deal falsely with them. Abraham reproached Abimelech because Abimelech's servants had seized Abraham's well, but Abimelech protested ignorance. Abraham gave Abimelech sheep and oxen and the two men made a pact. Abraham then offered Abimelech seven ewes as proof that Abraham had dug the well. They called the place Beersheba, for the two of them swore an oath there. After they concluded their pact, Abimelech and Phicol returned to Philistia, and Abraham planted a tamarisk and invoked God's name. Abraham lived in Philistia a long time. The sixth reading (עליה, aliyah) and the second open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) end here with the end of chapter 21.*

22. וַיְהִי בַעַת הַהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל וּפִיכֹל עֵר-עֲבָאוּ אֶל-אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר אֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה:

22. And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Phicol the captain of his host spoke unto Abraham, saying: 'God is with thee in all that thou doest.

23. וְעַתָּה הִשְׁבַּעָה לִּי בְּאֱלֹהִים הַנָּה אִם-תִּשְׁקֶר לִּי וּלְנִינִי וּלְנִכְדֵי כּוֹסֵד אֲשֶׁר-עֲשִׂיתִי עִמָּךְ תִּעֲשֶׂה עִמּוֹדֵי וְעַם-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-גָּרַתָּה בָּהּ:

23. Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son; but according to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast sojourned.'

24. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנִכִּי אֲשַׁבַּע:

24. And Abraham said: 'I will swear.'

25. וַהֲכֹנֵן אַבְרָהָם אֶת-אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ עַל-אֲדוֹת בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ עִבְדֵי אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ:

25. And Abraham reproved Abimelech because of the well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away.

26. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי מִי עָשָׂה אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְגַם-אַתָּה לֹא-הִגַּדְתָּ לִּי וְגַם אֲנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי בְלִלְתִּי הַיּוֹם:

26. And Abimelech said: 'I know not who hath done this thing; neither didst thou tell me, neither yet heard I of it, but to-day.'

27. וַיִּקְזוּ אַבְרָהָם צֹאן וּבָקָר וַיִּתֵּן לְאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וַיַּכְרְתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם בְּרִית:

27. And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them unto Abimelech; and they two made a covenant.

28. וַיָּצַב אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שֶׁבַע כְּבָשֵׂת הַצֹּאן לְבַדְהָן:

28. And Abraham set seven ewe-lambs of the flock by themselves.

29. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ אֶל-אַבְרָהָם מַה הֵנָּה שֶׁבַע כְּבָשֵׂת הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר הֵצַבְתָּ לְבַדְהָנָה:

29. And Abimelech said unto Abraham: 'What mean these seven ewe-lambs which thou hast set by themselves?'

30. וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֶת-שֶׁבַע כְּבָשֵׂת תִּקְזוּ מִיָּמַי בְּעֵבוֹר תְּהִיָּה-לִּי לְעֵדוּהָ כִּי זָוַרְתִּי אֶת-הַבְּאֵר הַזֹּאת:

30. And he said: 'Verily, these seven ewe-lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that it may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well.'

31. עַל-כֵּן קָרָא לַמְּקוֹם הַהוּא בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבָּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם:

31. Wherefore that place was called Beer-sheba; because there they swore both of them.

32. וַיַּכְרְתוּ בְרִית בְּבְאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיָּקָם אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֵל שַׂר-עַבְדָּאוֹ וַיֵּשְׁבוּ אֶל-אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים:

32. So they made a covenant at Beer-sheba; and Abimelech rose up, and Phicol the captain of his host, and they returned into the land of the Philistines.

33. וַיִּטַּע אַבְרָהָם בְּבְאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיִּקְרָא-שֵׁם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה אֵל עוֹלָם:

33. And Abraham planted a tamarisk-tree in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of YHVH, the Everlasting God.

34. וַיֵּזֶר אַבְרָהָם בְּאֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים יָמִים רַבִּים: (פ)

34. And Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines many days.

### ◆ — Aliya: Seventh-Malchut-King David — ◆

*In the seventh reading (עליה, aliyah), which coincides with chapter 22, sometime later, God tested Abraham, directing him to take Isaac to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering. Early the next morning, Abraham saddled his donkey and split wood for the burnt offering, and then he, two of his servants, and Isaac set out for the place that God had named. On the third day, Abraham saw the place from afar, and directed his servants to wait with the donkey, while Isaac and he went up to worship and then return. Abraham took the firestone and the knife, put the wood on Isaac, and the two walked off together. When Isaac asked Abraham where the sheep was for the burnt offering, Abraham replied that God would see to the sheep for the burnt offering. They*

arrived at the place that God had named, and Abraham built an altar, laid out the wood, bound Isaac, laid him on the altar, and picked up the knife to slay him. Then an angel called to Abraham, telling him not to raise his hand against the boy, for now God knew that Abraham feared God, since he had not withheld his son. Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket by its horns, so he offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. Abraham named the site Adonai-yireh. The angel called to Abraham a second time, saying that because Abraham had not withheld his son, God would bless him and make his descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore, and victorious over their foes. All the nations of the earth would bless themselves by Abraham's descendants, because he obeyed God's command. Abraham returned to his servants, and they departed for Beersheba; where Abraham stayed. The third open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

As the seventh reading (עליה, aliyah) continues with the maftir (מפטיר) reading that concludes the parashah, later, Abraham learned that Milcah had borne eight children to his brother Nahor, among whom was Bethuel, who became the father of Rebekah. Nahor's concubine Reumah also bore him four children. The seventh reading (עליה, aliyah), the fourth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah), chapter 22, and the parashah end here.

## Chapter: 22

1. וַיְהִי אַזְוֹר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְהָאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת-אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנָנִי:

1. And it came to pass after these things, that God did prove Abraham, and said unto him: 'Abraham'; and he said: 'Here am I.'

2. וַיֹּאמֶר קְוֹז-נָא אֶת-בְּנֶךָ אֶת-יְחִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר-אֶהְבֵּת אֶת-יִצְחָק וְלָךְ-לָךְ אֶל-אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרְיָה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶזְרַח הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֹמַר אֵלֶיךָ:

2. And He said: 'Take now your son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.'

3. וַיִּשְׁכַּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיַּזְבֵּשׂ אֶת-זֹמְרוֹ וַיִּקְוֹז אֶת-שְׁנֵי זַעֲרָיו אֹתוֹ וְאֶת יִצְחָק בְּנֹו וַיִּבְקַע עֵצִי עֹלָה וַיִּקַּח וַיִּלָּךְ אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אָמַר-לִּי הָאֱלֹהִים:

3. And Abraham rose early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he cleaved the wood for the burnt-offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

4. בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת-עֵינָיו וַיִּרָא אֶת-הַמָּקוֹם מֵרֶזֶק:

4. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

5. וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל-זַעֲרָיו שְׁבוּ-לְכֶם פֹּה עִם-הַזֹּמְרוֹר וְאֲנִי וְהַזַּעַר נִלְכָּה עַד-כֹּה וְנִשְׁתַּוְוָה וְנִשְׁוָבָה אֵלֵיכֶם:

5. And Abraham said unto his young men: 'Abide ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship, and come back to you.'

6. ויקחו אברהם את-עצי העולה וישם על-יצחק בנו ויקחו בידו את-האש ואת-המאכלת וילכו שניהם יחדו:

6. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife; and they went both of them together.

7. ויאמר יצחק אל-אברהם אביו ויאמר אבי ויאמר הנני בני ויאמר הנה האש והעצים ואיה השה לעלה:

7. And Isaac spoke unto Abraham his father, and said: 'My father.' And he said: 'Here am I, my son.' And he said: 'Behold the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?'

8. ויאמר אברהם אלהים יראה-לו השה לעלה בני וילכו שניהם יחדו:

8. And Abraham said: 'God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So they went both of them together.

9. ויבאו אל-המקום אשר אמר-לו האלהים ויבן שם אברהם את-המזבוח ויערף את-העצים ויעקד את-יצחק בנו וישם אתו על-המזבוח מפועל לעצים:

9. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built the altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

10. וישלחו אברהם את-ידו ויקחו את-המאכלת לשחוט את-בנו:

10. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

11. ויקרא אליו מלאך יהוה מן-השמים ויאמר אברהם | אברהם הנני:

11. And the angel of YHVH called unto him out of heaven, and said: 'Abraham, Abraham.' And he said: 'Here am I.'

12. ויאמר אל-תשלוז ירך אל-הנער ואל-תעש לו מאומה כי | עתה ידעתי כי-ירא אלהים אתה ולא זשכת את-בנך את-יוזרך מפני:

12. And he said: 'Lay not your hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him; for now I know that thou art a God-fearing man, seeing thou hast not withheld your son, thine only son, from Me.'

13. וישא אברהם את-עיניו וירא והנה-איל אזור נאון בסבך בקרניו ויך אברהם ויקחו את-האיל ויעלהו לעלה תנות בנו:

13. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt-offering in the stead of his son.

14. ויקרא אברהם שם-המקום ההוא יהוה | יראה אשר יאמר היום בחר יהוה יראה:

14. And Abraham called the name of that place Adonai-jireh; as it is said to this day: 'In the mount where YHVH is seen.'

15. ויקרא מלאך יהוה אל-אברהם שנית מן-השמים:

15. And the angel of YHVH called unto Abraham a second time out of heaven,

16. וַיֹּאמֶר בְּיָדִי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נָאִם-יְהוָה כִּי יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא זָוַשְׁתָּ אֶת-בְּנֶךָ אֶת-יְוֹזְבֵדָה:

16. and said: 'By Myself have I sworn, saith YHVH, because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld your son, thine only son,

17. כִּי-בָרַךְ אֲבָרְכֶךָ וְהִרְבֵּה אֲרַבֶּה אֶת-זְרַעְךָ כְּכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכּוֹזוּל אֲשֶׁר עַל-שַׁפְּתַי הַיָּם וַיִּרְשׂ זְרַעְךָ אֶת שַׁעַר אֹיְבָיו:

17. that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

18. וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְּזְרַעְךָ כָּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ עֲקֵב אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹלִי:

18. and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast hearkened to My voice.'

19. וַיָּשֶׁב אַבְרָהָם אֶל-זְעָרָיו וַיִּקְבְּמוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ יוֹזְבֵד וְאֶל-בְּאֵר שָׁבַע וַיָּשֶׁב אַבְרָהָם בְּבֵאֵר שָׁבַע: (פ)

19. So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba.

**Aliya: Maftir**

20. וַיְהִי אַזְוָרִי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּגַּד לְאַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה יִלְדָה מִלְכָּה גַם-הִוא בָּנִים לְנִזְוֹר אֲוִיָּה:

20. And it came to pass after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying: 'Behold, Milcah, she also hath borne children unto your brother Nahor:

21. אֶת-עֵוִץ בְּכָרוֹ וְאֶת-בּוּז אֲוִיו וְאֶת-קִמּוּאֵל אֲבִי אָרָם:

21. Uz his first-born, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram;

22. וְאֶת-כְּשִׁיד וְאֶת-חֲזוֹ וְאֶת-פִּלְדָּשׁ וְאֶת-יִדְלָפ וְאֶת בְּתוּאֵל:

22. and Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel.'

23. וּבְתוּאֵל יָלַד אֶת-רַבֵּקָה שְׁמֵנָה אֵלֶּה יִלְדָה מִלְכָּה לְנִזְוֹר אֲוִי אַבְרָהָם:

23. And Bethuel begot Rebekah; these eight did Milcah bear to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

24. וּפִילְגֵשׁוּ וּשְׁמָהּ רְאוּמָה וְתִלְדָּה גַם-הִוא אֶת-טָבוֹז וְאֶת-גָּזוּם וְאֶת-תַּחוּשׁ וְאֶת-מַעַכָּה: (פפפ)

24. And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, she also bore Tebah, and Gaham, and Tahash, and Maacah.

- End of Parasha -