



Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

SECOND EDITION/ISSUE 3

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LECH LECHA

8th Cheshvan 5745

Kohen - First Aliya:

Page 60, Chapter 12, verses 1-13

- ✚ Hashem commands Avram to leave his place of origin (Haran) and journey to a place which Hashem will show him. Once there Hashem promises him that His descendants will become a great nation.
- ✚ Avram obeys and leaves Haran; accompanied by his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot and journeys towards the land of Canaan.
- ✚ Upon arrival they see a great famine has struck the land, leaving Avram and his entourage no choice but to continue on and travel down to Mitzraim (Egypt) instead.

Levi - Second Aliya:

Page 62, Chapter 12, Verse 14 – Chapter 13, Verse 4

- ✚ Due to Sarai's amazing beauty, The Egyptians kidnap her and hand her over to Pharaoh.
- ✚ To spare his life Avram deceives Pharaoh's men that Sarai was his sister and not his wife.
- ✚ When a Plague hit Pharaoh and his household. Pharaoh realised the truth and handed back Sarai to Avram ordering them to vacate the land of Mitzraim along with Lot and all their wealth and possessions.

Shlishi - Third Aliya:

Page 64, Chapter 13, Verses 5- 18

- ✚ Arriving back in Canaan, both Avram and Lot had amassed so many herds and flocks there was not enough land to graze them all in the same area and an argument erupted amongst the shepherds. Avram knew the time had come for Lot and himself to part company.
- ✚ Avram gave Lot first choice of where he would like to go and settle down and Avram would travel in the opposite direction. Lot made the decision to dwell in the land of Sodom.

R'VI'I - Fourth Aliya:

Page 66, Chapter 14, Verses 1- 20

- ✚ War broke out; with the armies of 4 kingdoms on one side against 5 other kingdoms on the other.
- ✚ During battle, news reaches Avram via the giant Og that Lot has been taken captive.
- ✚ With only a handful of students and servants; Avram helps the five kingdoms to defeat the 4 and was able to rescue his nephew from certain slavery or even death.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya:

Page 70, Chapter 14, verse 21 – Chapter 15, Verse 6

- ✚ Avram refuses any spoils of war handed to him by the king of Sodom.
- ✚ In a vision Hashem promises Avram that one day soon he is destined to have a son and his descendants will be numerous like the stars in heaven.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya:

Page 72, Chapter 15, Verse 7

-Chapter 17, verse 6

- ✚ The 'Bris Bain Habesarin' (Covenant of the Parts takes place). Hashem assures Avram even though his descendants will face a multitude of hardships and Golus (Exiles). They will ultimately inherit the Land of Israel.
- ✚ Avram Marries Hagar (Sarai's maidservant) who bore a son to him called, Ishmael.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya:

Page 79, Chapter 17, Verses 7 - 27

- ✚ Avram has his Bris Milla at the age of 99 and Ishmael also at the age of 13
- ✚ Hashem changes Avram's name to Avraham and Sarai's to Sarah.

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Haftorah – Page 82, YISHAYAH (ISAIAH) Chapter 40 verse 27 to Chapter 41 verse 16

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ The prophet Yishayah addresses Israel's complaint: "My way of serving G-d has been ignored by the Lord, and from my G-d, my judgment passes [unrewarded]"
- ✚ The Haftorah then turns its attention to the idolatrous nations of the world where Yishayah reminds Israel of the creator's greatness and how he promises to protect his children from the onslaught of trying to destroy us.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ This week's Haftorah continues the theme of Hashem's manifest presence within nature and our selection as the 'Chosen People'.
- ✚ Yishayah discusses Abraham's journey to the land of Canaan at Hashem's behest, and touches upon Abraham's miraculous battle against the four kings, both of which are described in this week's torah reading.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

Thinking about what to write about this week, I remembered what one of my teachers once said as an introduction to learning Middos (Good Character Traits). He said "A person is influenced not only by his environment but by the people they choose to mix with." On the surface even someone as great as Avraham Ovinu was not completely immune to the bad influences surrounding him.

At the beginning of this week's sedra, Avram wished to serve Hashem and keep all the torah mitzvors. Therefore Hashem had to appear before him and instruct Avram to move away from his homeland immediately so he would not be influenced by his idol worshipping contemporaries who did not appreciate Avram's exceptional qualities and strong belief in Hashem and would only try to dissuade and interfere with Avram's decision to do good.

Avraham's devotion to Hashem not only caused him to walk obediently but also allowed him to persuade others, especially those in his own household, to do the same and give up everything and begin afresh in a new land to adhere to Hashem's will.

No matter what circumstances and strife which befell upon him, that at times seemed to escalate out of control, whether it was arriving to their new land only to find it is being ravished by a famine, dealing with the pharaoh in Mitzraim (Egypt) who wished to kill him in order to marry his wife Sarai, or being forced to send away Hagar etc; there was one key trait which describes Avraham's success in defusing the situations he encountered during his lifetime. Avraham always treated and regarded others better than himself.

His unselfish nature is not only seen in giving his nephew Lot first choice of land in which to pasture his flocks and herds but also in his willingness to intercede and go into battle, risking his own life just to save Lot and assist in recapturing returning other prisoners and stolen property belonging to the people of Sodom. Even though they were wicked, Abraham was concerned for them and did what he could to spare them from the judgment which came upon them.

With Hashem's help may we all emulate and live our lives in the way of Avraham, doing what is necessary to make our world a better place.

שבת שלום
S h a b b a t S h a l o m !