

Reading Moses...Finding Jesus... Torah Portion 4 - Meeting 8/9/26

Luke 24:27 “Then Jesus took them through **the writings of Moses** and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Next Meeting: **TBD – either Sept 13th or 14th**

Today - Portion 4 – Vayera “And He Appeared” Genesis 18:1-22:24

Genesis 18:1 – NLT - **The Lord** appeared again to Abraham

Genesis 18:1 – CJB - **Adonai** appeared to Avraham

Hebrew – Y’hova or YHWH (Jehovah...Yahweh...) – it’s the proper name of God

Genesis 18:2 – “He raised his eyes and looked, and there in front of him stood three men.”

Genesis 18...The rest of verse 2 and verse 3 – “On seeing them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, **prostrated himself** on the ground, ³ and said, “My lord, if I have found favor in your sight, please don’t leave your servant.”

Genesis 18:13-14 - ¹³ Then the **Lord** said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Can an old woman like me have a baby?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the **Lord**? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

“Lord” = Y’hova...YHWH...

Genesis 18:22 - The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the **Lord** remained with Abraham.”

Who remained with Abraham? Y’hova!!!

This is Jesus, in the flesh, with two angels, physically walking and talking with Abraham!

Vayera – “And He Appeared” – Jesus appeared!

24 years since the promise of Isaac...still one more year to wait

Are we patient for God’s timing?? Do we question His promises?

God is a promise maker and promise KEEPER!

Jesus knows your thoughts – He will comfort your doubts!

God is **Merciful**....Jesus is **Merciful**....even with Sodom and Gomorrah!

How do we reconcile that statement with Sodom and Gomorrah??

Genesis 18:23-25 - ²³ Abraham approached him and said, “Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes? ²⁵ Surely you wouldn’t do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn’t do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”

If you find 50? 45? 40? 30? 20? 10? Jesus says – yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, and yes

Jesus’ desire was to spare these evil cities for just a few righteous people...that’s His character and nature. He doesn’t desire to destroy – **He desires to SAVE!!!**

John 3:17 - “God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to **save** the world through him.”

Genesis 19:16 - When Lot still hesitated, the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, **for the Lord was merciful.**”

Genesis 22:1 - Some time later, God tested Abraham’s faith. “Abraham!” God called. “Yes,” he replied. “Here I am (Hineni).”

God TESTED Abraham’s faith

Genesis 20:11 - Abraham replied, “I thought, ‘This is a godless place. They will want my wife and will kill me to get her.’”

2nd time this has happened (reference Genesis 12)...Abraham doubts the promises and protection of God

Are you being tested? Same thing happening over and over? Passing or failing the test? If you fail, they continue and get harder....Abraham – are you willing to sacrifice your promised son?

The Story of Isaac is a Foreshadow to Jesus:

- Isaac had a miraculous birth; Jesus had a miraculous birth
- Isaac (the son) brings Abraham (the father) great joy; Jesus (the son) brings the Father great joy
- Ishmael (the brother) mocks Isaac; Jesus's brothers mock him (later become believers...James and Jude...but mock him at first).
- Gen 22 – God says to Abraham... “Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—go and sacrifice; Sound familiar...your one and only son...whom you love so much...sacrificed....??
- Abraham had so much faith that if he killed his son, Isaac would be resurrected....what day did they reach the top of the mtn? 3rd day...3rd day resurrection sound familiar...
- Isaac carried the wood on his back for his own sacrifice; Jesus carried the wood on his own back....
- Isaac was a grown man ...not a boy...the term “Lad” meant grown man....in his 30's...this is important b/c Isaac willingly got up on the wood to be sacrificed; Jesus willingly went to the cross...willingly got up on the wood..
- God provided a substitute for Isaac...a Ram; Jesus was our substitute...the sacrificed lamb.
- Isaac was taken to the top of Mount Moriah – which is the temple mount....Isaac's faith was tested there...Jesus's faith was tested at the same place.....when He was fasting.

It's a 1 to 1 comparison! Jesus was foretold in the story of Isaac!

Genesis 22:16-18 - ¹⁶“This is what the Lord says: Because you have **obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that ¹⁷**I will certainly bless you.** I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. ¹⁸ And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—**all because you have obeyed me.**”**

Our obedience leads to God's Blessings!!!!

“Yahweh Yireh” – “The Lord will provide”.

Recap....

- **Jesus is the 3rd man that appeared to Abraham**
- **Isaac is a foreshadow to Jesus as the One who was sacrificed**
- **Jesus desires mercy – He is merciful!**
- **Jesus knows our thoughts – our doubts – and He shows up to help us despite our doubts.**
- **We will be tested...and tested...and the tests may get harder till we pass.....**
- **When we are obedient, God will give us increase – He will bless us!**
- **The name of the Lord is “the Lord will provide!”**

He desires a relationship with us....He protects us after our failures if we are seeking Him...He’s a promise maker and keeper....His promises all throughout scripture are for each of us....He is merciful – He desires mercy over destruction – He blesses us when we are obedient – His very name is a promise to provide for us!

Next month, Sept 13th or 14th, we’ll cover Chayei Sarah... “The life of Sarah” in Genesis 23:1-25:18

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