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לך לך Lech-Lecha

Genesis 12:1-17:27

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- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לְדָלֶךְ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמְּלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ
אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֶרְאֶךָ:

וַאֲעֲשֶׂךָ לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל וְאֶבְרַכְךָ וְאֶגְדָּלְהָ שְׁמֶךָ וְהָיָה בְּרַכָּה:

וְאֶבְרַכְהָ מִבְּרַכְיֶיךָ וּמִקְלָלֶיךָ אֶאְרָר וְנִבְרַכְוּ בְּךָ כָּל מִשְׁפָּחֹת הָאָדָמָה:

וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֵלָיו יְהוָה וַיֵּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ לוֹט וְאַבְרָם
בֶּן־חֲמִשָּׁה שָׁנִים וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה בָּצְאוּ מִחָרָן:

וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם אֶת־שָׂרָי אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־לוֹט בֶּן־אָחִיו וְאֶת־כָּל־רִכּוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר
רָכְשׁוּ וְאֶת־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־עָשׂוּ בַּחֲרָן וַיֵּצְאוּ לֵלְכֵת אֶרֶצָה כְּנָעַן
וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרֶצָה כְּנָעַן:

וַיַּעֲבֹר אַבְרָם בְּאַרְצָא עַד מְקוֹם שְׁלָם עַד אֵלּוֹן מוֹרְהָ וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי אָז
בְּאַרְצָא:

וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹרְעָא אֲתָן אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וַיִּבְנוּ
שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה הַנִּרְאָה אֵלָיו:

וַיַּעֲזֹק מִשָּׁם הַהִירָה מִקְדָּם לְבֵית־אֵל וַיֵּט אֶהְלָה בֵּית־אֵל מִיָּם וְהָעִי
מִקְדָּם וַיִּבְרָשֶׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה:

וַיִּסַּע אַבְרָם הַלּוֹךְ וְנִסְעָה הַנֶּגֶבָה:

וַיְהִי רָעָב בְּאַרְצָא וַיֵּרֶד אַבְרָם מִצְרָיִמָה לְגִוּר שָׁם כִּי־כָבֵד הָרָעָב
בְּאַרְצָא:

וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיב לְבֹאֵא מִצְרָיִמָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־שָׂרָי אִשְׁתּוֹ הִנֵּה־נָא
יִלְעָתִי כִּי אִשָּׁה יִפְתִּי־מִרְאָה אֵת:

וְהִלָּה כִּי־יֵרְאוּ אֹתָךְ הַמִּצְרָיִם וַאֲמָרוּ אִשְׁתּוֹ זֹאת וְהָרְגוּ אֹתִי וְאַתָּה
יָחִי:

אִמְרִי־נָא אָחִיתִי אֵת לְמַעַן יִיטְבֵּלִי בְּעִבּוּרְךָ וְחַיִּיתָה נַפְשִׁי בְּגִלְלָךְ:

וַיְהִי כִּבּוֹא אַבְרָם מִצְרָיִמָה וַיֵּרְאוּ הַמִּצְרָיִם אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה כִּי־יִפְהָ הִוא
מְאֹד:
- 1 Abram said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you.
 - 2 I will make of you a great nation,And I will bless you;I will make your name great,And you shall be a blessing.*
 - 3 I will bless those who bless youAnd curse the one who curses you;And all the families of the earthShall bless themselves by you."
 - 4 Abram went forth as הוה had commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.
 - 5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the wealth that they had amassed, and the persons that they had acquired in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in the land of Canaan,
 - 6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, at the terebinth of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land.
 - 7 הוה appeared to Abram and said, "I will assign this land to your offspring." And he built an altar there to הוה who had appeared to him.
 - 8 From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and he built there an altar to הוה and invoked הוה by name.
 - 9 Then Abram journeyed by stages toward the Negeb.
 - 10 There was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.
 - 11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I* know what a beautiful woman you are.
 - 12 If the Egyptians see you, and think, 'She is his wife,' they will kill me and let you live.
 - 13 Please say that you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may remain alive thanks to you."
 - 14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw how very beautiful the woman was.

- 15 וַיֵּרְאוּ אוֹתָהּ שָׂרֵי פַרְעֹה וַיְהַלְלוּ אֹתָהּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וַתֵּקַח הָאִשָּׁה בֵּית פַּרְעֹה:
- 16 וּלְאַבְרָם הֵיטִיב בְּעִבּוּרָהּ וַיְהִי־לּוֹ צֹאן־וּבָקָר וַחֲמֹלִים וְעֶבְדִּים וּשְׁפֹחֹת וְאִתְּנָת וְגַמְלִים:
- 17 וַיִּנָּזַע יְהוָה | אֶת־פַּרְעֹה וְנָגְעִים גְּדֹלִים וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ עַל־דְּבַר שָׂרֵי אִשְׁתּוֹ אַבְרָם:
- 18 וַיִּקְרָא פַרְעֹה לְאַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לָמָּה לֹא־הַגַּדְתָּ לִּי כִּי אִשְׁתְּךָ הִוא:
- 19 לָמָּה אָמַרְתָּ אֲתָנִי הִוא וְאָקַח אֹתָהּ לִי לְאִשָּׁה וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה אִשְׁתְּךָ קַח וְלֵךְ:
- 20 וַיִּצֹו עָלָיו פַּרְעֹה אֲנָשִׁים וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אוֹתוֹ וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ:

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- 1 וַיַּעַל אַבְרָם מִמִּצְרַיִם הִוא וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְלוֹט עַמּוֹ הַנִּגְבָּה:
- 2 וְאַבְרָם כָּבֵד מְאֹד בַּמִּקְנָה בַּכֶּסֶף וּבַזָּהָב:
- 3 וַיֵּלֶךְ לְמִסְעָיו מִנִּגְב וְעַד־בֵּית־אֵל עַד־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה שָׁם אֹהֶלָה בְּתוֹחֶלֶה בֵּין בֵּית־אֵל וּבֵין הָעֵי:
- 4 אֶל־מָקוֹם הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה שָׁם בְּרֹאשֹׁנָה וַיִּקְרָא שָׁם אַבְרָם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה:
- 5 וְלֹט לָלוֹט הֵהָלֵךְ אֶת־אַבְרָם הִזָּה צֹאן־וּבָקָר וְאֹהֲלִים:
- 6 וְלֹא־נִשְׂא אֹתָם הָאָרֶץ לְשֹׁכֵת יַחְדָּו כִּי־הָיָה רְכוּשָׁם רָב וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לְשֹׁכֵת יַחְדָּו:
- 7 וַיְהִי־רִיב בֵּין רָעִי מִקְנֵה־אַבְרָם וּבֵין רָעִי מִקְנֵה־לֹוֹט וַהֲכַנְעָנִי וַהֲפָרְזִי אִזּוֹ יֵשֵׁב בָּאָרֶץ:
- 8 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־לוֹט אֵלֶיךָ תְּהִי מְרִיבָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ וּבֵין רָעִי וּבֵין רָעִיךָ כִּי־אֲנִשְׁשִׁים אֲחִים אֲנַחְנוּ:
- 1 From Egypt, Abram went up into the Negeb, with his wife and all that he possessed, together with Lot.
- 2 Now Abram was very rich in cattle, silver, and gold.
- 3 And he proceeded by stages from the Negeb as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been formerly, between Bethel and Ai,
- 4 the site of the altar that he had built there at first; and there Abram invoked by name.
- 5 Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents,
- 6 so that the land could not support them staying together; for their possessions were so great that they could not remain together.
- 7 And there was quarreling between the herders of Abram's cattle and those of Lot's cattle.—The Canaanites and Perizzites were then dwelling in the land.—
- 8 Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, between my herders and yours, for we are kin.

- הָלֹא כָּל־הָאָרֶץ לִפְנֶיךָ הַפָּדֹה נָא מֵעָלַי אִם־הִשְׁמָאֵל וְאִם־הַיָּמִין וְאִם־מִיָּלֶה׃
- 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let us separate:* if you go north, I will go south; and if you go south, I will go north.”
- וַיַּשְׁאֵל־לוֹט אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְאֵהוּ אֶת־כָּל־כֶּכֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן כִּי כָּלָה מִשְׁקָהּ לִפְנֵי | שַׁחַת יְהוָה אֶת־סֹדֶם וְאֶת־עֲמֹלָה כְּגַן־יְהוֹנָה כְּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּאֶרֶץ צָעַר׃
- 10 Lot looked about him and saw how well watered was the whole plain of the Jordan, all of it—this was before הוֹדִי had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—all the way to Zoar, like the garden of הוֹדִי, like the land of Egypt.
- וַיִּבְחַר־לּוֹ לֹט אֶת כָּל־כֶּכֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיֵּסַע לֹט מִקֶּדֶם וַיִּפְרְדּוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו׃
- 11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they parted from each other;
- אַבְרָם יָשָׁב בְּאֶרֶץ־כְּנָעַן וְלֹט יָשָׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכֶּלָּר וַיֵּאָהֶל עַד־סֹדֶם׃
- 12 Abram remained in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the Plain, pitching his tents near Sodom.
- וְהָיוּ רָעִים וְחַטָּאִים לַיהוָה מְאֹד׃
- 13 Now the inhabitants of Sodom were very wicked sinners against הוֹדִי.
- וַיֹּהֲוֶה אֶמְרָא אֶל־אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפָּדֹה־לֹט מֵעַמּוֹ שֶׁאֵין נָא עֵינָיִךְ וְרָאָה מִן־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה שָׁם צָפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְקִדְמָה וְיָמָה׃
- 14 And הוֹדִי said to Abram, after Lot had parted from him, “Raise your eyes and look out from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west,
- כִּי אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה רֹאֶה לָךְ אֶתְנַנֶּה וְלִזְרַעְךָ עַד־עוֹלָם׃
- 15 for I give all the land that you see to you and your offspring forever.
- וְשָׁמַתִּי אֶת־זֶרְעֶךָ כַּעֲפַר הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר | אִם־יִוְכַל אִישׁ לִמְנוֹת אֶת־עַפְרַר הָאָרֶץ גַּם־זֶרְעֶךָ יִמְנָה׃
- 16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, then your offspring too can be counted.
- קוּם וּתְהַלֵּךְ בָּאָרֶץ לְאָרְכָּהּ וּלְרֹחְבָּהּ כִּי לָךְ אֶתְנַנֶּה׃
- 17 Up, walk about the land, through its length and its breadth, for I give it to you.”
- וַיֵּאָהֶל אַבְרָם וַיָּבֹא וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּאֵלֶיךָ מִמְרָא אֲשֶׁר בְּחֶבְרוֹן וַיִּבְנוּ־שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה׃
- 18 And Abram moved his tent, and came to dwell at the terebinths of Mamre, which are in Hebron; and he built an altar there to הוֹדִי.

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- וַיְהִי בִּימֵי אִמְרָפֶל מֶלֶךְ־שִׁנָּר אַרְיוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֶלְסַר כְּדוּרְלַעַם מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם וְתִדְעַל מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם׃
- 1 Now, when King Amraphel of Shinar, King Arioch of Ellasar, King Chedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim
- עָשׂוּ מִלְחָמָה אֶת־בְּרַעַל מֶלֶךְ סֹדֶם וְאֶת־בִּרְשָׁע מֶלֶךְ עֲמֹרָה שִׁנְאָב | מֶלֶךְ אַדְמָה וְשִׁמְעֵבֶר מֶלֶךְ צַבִּיִּים (צַבּוּלָם) וּמֶלֶךְ בֶּלַע הִיא־צָעַר׃
- 2 made war on King Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of Admah, King Shemeber of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar,
- כָּל־אַלְלָה תִּבְרּוּ אֶל־עֶמֶק הַשְּׁדִימִים הוּא יָם הַמֵּלַח׃
- 3 all the latter joined forces at the Valley of Siddim, now the Dead Sea.*
- שְׁתֵּי־עָשָׂר שָׁנָה עָבְדוּ אֶת־כְּדוּרְלַעַם וּשְׁלֹש־עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה מָרְדּוּ׃
- 4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

- 5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim at Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim at Ham, the Emim at Shaveh-kiriathaim,
- 6 and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness.
- 7 On their way back they came to En-mishpat, which is Kadesh, and subdued all the territory of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazazon-tamar.
- 8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar, went forth and engaged them in battle in the Valley of Siddim:
- 9 King Chedorlaomer of Elam, King Tidal of Goiim, King Amraphel of Shinar, and King Arioch of Ellasar—four kings against those five.
- 10 Now the Valley of Siddim was dotted with bitumen pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, in their flight, threw themselves into them, while the rest escaped to the hill country.
- 11 [The invaders] seized all the wealth of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their provisions, and went their way.
- 12 They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, and his possessions, and departed; for he had settled in Sodom.
- 13 A fugitive brought the news to Abram the Hebrew, who was dwelling at the terebinths of Mamre the Amorite, kinsman of Eshkol and Aner, these being Abram's allies.
- 14 When Abram heard that his kinsman's [household] had been taken captive, he mustered his retainers,* born into his household, numbering three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.
- 15 At night, he and his servants deployed against them and defeated them; and he pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.
- 16 He brought back all the possessions; he also brought back his kinsman Lot and his possessions, and the women and the rest of the people.
- 17 When he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh, which is the Valley of the King.
- וּבִשְׁנֵי עָשָׂר שָׁנָה בָּא כְדוֹרְלֹאֶמֶר וְהַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ וַיִּכּוּ
אֶת־רִפְאִיִּם בְּעִשְׁתֵּת קַרְנַיִם וְאֶת־זוּזִים בְּחָם וְאֶת הָעִמִּים בְּשָׁוֶה
קִרְיַת־חַיִּים:
- וְאֶת־הַחֹרִי בְּהַרְרֵם שְׁעִיר עַד אֵיל פָּאֵרָן אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַמִּדְבָּר:
- וַיָּשֻׁבוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־עֵין מִשְׁפָּט הוּא קָדֵשׁ וַיִּכּוּ אֶת־כָּל־שָׂדֶה
הָעֲמֻלָּקִי וְגַם אֶת־הָאֲמֹרִי הַיֹּשֵׁב בְּחִצְצֹן תְּמָר:
- וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם וּמֶלֶךְ עֲמֹרָה וּמֶלֶךְ אַדְמָה וּמֶלֶךְ (צִבְיִים) [צְבוֹיִם]
וּמֶלֶךְ בֶּלַע הוּא־צֹר וַיֵּצְאוּ וַיַּעֲרְכוּ אֹתָם מִלְחָמָה בְּעֶמֶק הַשִּׁדִּים:
- אֶת כְּדוֹרְלֹאֶמֶר מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם וְתִידָל מֶלֶךְ גֹּיִם וְאַמְרָפֶּל מֶלֶךְ שִׁנָּר
וְאַרְיוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֵלְסָר אַרְבָּעָה מְלָכִים אֶת־הַחֲמִשָּׁה:
- וְעֶמֶק הַשִּׁדִּים בְּאֶרֶת בְּאֶרֶת חֲמֹר וַיִּנְסוּ מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם וְעֲמֹרָה
וַיִּפְלוּ־שָׁמָּה וְהַנִּשְׁאָרִים הָרָה נָסוּ:
- וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־כָּל־רֶכֶשׁ סֹדֶם וְעֲמֹרָה וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲכָלָם וַיֵּלְכוּ:
- וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־לוֹט וְאֶת־רֶכְשׁוֹ בְּיָדֵי אֲבָרָם וַיֵּלְכוּ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּסֹדֶם:
- וַיָּבֹא הַפְּלִיט וַיַּגֵּד לְאַבְרָם הָעִבְרִי וְהוּא שֹׁכֵן בְּאֵלְנֵי מִמְרָה
הָאֲמֹרִי אֲחִי אֶשְׁכֹּל וְאֲחִי עֵנֶר וְהֵם בְּעָלֵי בְרִית־אַבְרָם:
- וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם כִּי נִשְׁבָּה אֲחִיו וַיִּרָק אֶת־חַנְיָכָיו יְלִידֵי בֵיתוֹ שְׁמֹנֶה
עָשָׂר וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת וַיִּרְדֹּף עַד־דָּן:
- וַיַּחֲלֵק עֲלֵיהֶם לַיְלָה הוּא וְעַבְדָּיו וַיִּכּוּם וַיִּרְדְּפֵם עַד־חֹבָה אֲשֶׁר
מִשְׁמָאל לְדַמְשָׁק:
- וַיָּשֻׁב אֶת כָּל־הָרֶכֶשׁ וְגַם אֶת־לוֹט אֲחִיו וּרְכָשׁוֹ הַשֵּׁיב וְגַם אֶת־הַנְּשִׁים
וְאֶת־הָעָם:
- וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם לִקְרָאתוֹ אַחֲרָיו שׁוֹבוֹ מִהֲכֹת אֶת־כְּדוֹרְלֹאֶמֶר
וְאֶת־הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ אֶל־עֶמֶק שָׁוֶה הוּא עֶמֶק הַמֶּלֶךְ:

- 18 And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High.*
- 19 He blessed him, saying, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.
- 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your foes into your hand." And [Abram] gave him a tenth of everything.
- 21 Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the possessions for yourself."
- 22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I swear* to הוהי, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth:
- 23 I will not take so much as a thread or a sandal strap of what is yours; you shall not say, 'It is I who made Abram rich.'
- 24 For me, nothing but what my servants have used up; as for the share of the parties who went with me—Aner, Eshkol, and Mamre—let them take their share."
- וּמֶלֶכ־צֶדֶק מֶלֶךְ שָׁלֵם הוֹצִיא לֶחֶם וַיְהִי כֹהֵן לֵאלֹהֵי עֲלִיוֹן: 18
- וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר בְּרוּךְ אַבְרָם לֵאלֹהֵי עֲלִיוֹן קִנְה שְׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ: 19
- וַיְבָרוּךְ אֱלֹהֵי עֲלִיוֹן אֲשֶׁר־מָגֵן צָרָתוֹ בְּיָדוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ־לוֹ מֵעֶשֶׂר מִכָּל: 20
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם אֶל־אַבְרָם תְּנוּ־לִי הַנָּפֶשׁ וְהָרֶכֶשׁ קַח־לָךְ: 21
- וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־מֶלֶךְ סֹדֶם הִרְמַתִּי יָדִי אֶל־יְהוָה אֵל עֲלִיוֹן קִנְה שְׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ: 22
- אִם־מָחוּט וְעַד שָׁרוּךְ־נָעַל וְאִם־אֶקֶח מִכָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לָךְ וְלֹא תֹאמַר אֲנִי הִעֲשֵׂיתִי אֶת־אַבְרָם: 23
- בְּלִעְדֵּי דָבָר אֲשֶׁר אָכְלוּ הַנְּעָרִים וְחֵלֶק הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר הָלְכוּ אִתִּי עִנְיָן אֲשָׁכֵל וּמִמָּלְאָה הֵם יִקְחוּ חֵלֶקם: 24

15

- 1 Some time later, the word of הוהי came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."
- 2 But Abram said, "O lord הוהי,* what can You give me, seeing that I shall die childless, and the one in charge of my household is Dammesek Eliezer!"*
- 3 Abram said further, "Since You have granted me no offspring, my steward will be my heir."
- 4 The word of הוהי came to him in reply, "That one shall not be your heir; none but your very own issue shall be your heir."
- 5 [Then in the vision, God] took him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them"—continuing, "So shall your offspring be."
- 6 And he put his trust in הוהי, who reckoned it to his merit.
- 7 Then [God] said to him, "I am הוהי who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to assign this land to you as a possession."
- 8 And he said, "O lord הוהי, how shall I know that I am to possess it?"
- אֶחָד | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הָיָה דְּבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם בְּמַחְזָה לֵאמֹר אֶל־תִּירָא אַבְרָם אֲנִכִּי מִגֵּן לָךְ שְׂכָרְךָ הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד: 1
- וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה מִהִיתָתְךָ־לִי וְאֲנִכִּי הוֹלֵךְ עִרְיָי וּבְרִמְשֵׁק בֵּיתִי הוּא דַּמְשֵׁק אֱלִיעֶזֶר: 2
- וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם הֵן לִי לֹא נָתַתָּה זָרַע וְהִנֵּה בֶן־בֵּיתִי יוֹרֵשׁ אֹתִי: 3
- וְהִנֵּה דְּבַר־יְהוָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא יִירָשְׁךָ זֶה כִּי־אִם אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעֶיךָ הוּא יִירָשְׁךָ: 4
- וַיּוֹצֵא אוֹתוֹ חוּצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הִבְטֵנָּה הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וּסְפֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים אִם־תּוּכַל לִסְפֹּר אוֹתָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה יִהְיֶה זִרְעֲךָ: 5
- וַהֲאֵמֵן בַּיהוָה וַיִּחְשְׁבֶהָ לוֹ צְדָקָה: 6
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאוּר כַּשְׁדִּים לָתֶת לָךְ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: 7
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה בְּמָה אֶדְעֶה כִּי אִירָשְׁנָה: 8

- 9 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו קְחָה לִּי עֵגְלָה מְשֻׁלֶּשֶׁת וְעֵז מְשֻׁלֶּשֶׁת וְאַיִל מְשֻׁלֶּשׁ וְתֹר וְנוֹזֵל: Came the reply, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young bird.”
- 10 וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ אֶת־כָּל־אֵלֶּה וַיִּבְתֵּר אֹתָם בַּתְּנוּךְ וַיִּתֵּן אִישׁ־בְּתֵרוֹ לַקְּרֹאת רָעָהוּ וְאֶת־הַצֹּפֶר לֹא בָתַר: He brought all these and cut them in two, placing each half opposite the other; but he did not cut up the bird.
- 11 וַיֵּרֶד הָעֵיט עַל־הַפְּגָרִים וַיֵּשֶׁב אֹתָם אַבְרָם: Birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.
- 12 וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לָבוֹא וַתִּרְדָּמָה נִפְלָה עַל־אַבְרָם וְהָנָה אִמְהָ חֲשִׁכָה גְדֹלָה נִפְלְתָ עָלָיו: As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a great dark dread descended upon him.
- 13 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יְדַע תְּדַע כִּי־נֵר אֲיִהְיֶה זֶרַעְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם וַעֲבָדוּם וַעֲנֻ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה: And [God] said to Abram, “Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs, and they shall be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years;
- 14 וְגַם אֶת־הַנְּגוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ הֵן אֲנֹכִי וְאֶת־רֵיכָן יִצְאוּ בִּרְכָשׁ גָּדוֹל: but I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve, and in the end they shall go free with great wealth.
- 15 וְאַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֶל־אֲבוֹתֶיךָ בְּשָׁלוֹם תִּקְבָּר בְּשִׂיבָה טוֹבָה: As for you, You shall go to your ancestors in peace; You shall be buried at a ripe old age.
- 16 וְדוֹר רְבִיעִי יָשׁוּבוּ הֵנָּה כִּי לֹא־שָׁלֵם עֹנֶן הָאֲמֹרִי עַד־הֵנָּה: And they shall return here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
- 17 וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ בָּאָה וַעֲלָטָה הָיָה וְהָיָה תִנּוּר עֶשֶׂן וּלְפִיד אֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר עָבַר בֵּין הַגְּזָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: When the sun set and it was very dark, there appeared a smoking oven, and a flaming torch which passed between those pieces.
- 18 בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כָּרַת יְהוָה אֶת־אַבְרָם בְּרִית לֵאמֹר לְזֶרַעְךָ נָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מִנְּהַר מִצְרַיִם עַד־הַנָּהָר הַגָּדֹל נְהַר־פָּרָת: On that day הוהי made a covenant with Abram: “To your offspring I assign this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates—
- 19 אֶת־הַקֵּינִי וְאֶת־הַקְּנִזִּי וְאֶת־הַקַּדְמוֹנִי: the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,
- 20 וְאֶת־הַחִתִּי וְאֶת־הַפְּרִזִּי וְאֶת־הַרְפָּאִים: the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,
- 21 וְאֶת־הָאֲמֹרִי וְאֶת־הַקְּנַעֲנִי וְאֶת־הַגִּרְגָּשִׁי וְאֶת־הַיְּבוּסִי: the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

16

- 1 וְשָׂרַי אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָם לֹא יָלְדָה לוֹ וְלָהּ שַׁפְחָה מִצְרַיִת וּשְׁמָהּ הָגָר: Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.
- 2 וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל־אַבְרָם הִנֵּה־יָצָא עֲצָרָנִי יְהוָה מִלִּדָּת בְּאִנָּא אֶל־שַׁפְחָתִי אוֹלִי אֲבָנָה מִמֶּנָּה וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם לְקוֹל שָׂרַי: And Sarai said to Abram, “Look, הוהי has kept me from bearing. Consort with my maid; perhaps I shall have a child* through her.” And Abram heeded Sarai’s request.

- 3 So Sarai, Abram's wife, took her maid, Hagar the Egyptian—after Abram had dwelt in the land of Canaan ten years—and gave her to her husband Abram as concubine.
- 4 He cohabited with Hagar and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was lowered in her esteem.
- 5 And Sarai said to Abram, "The wrong done me is your fault! I myself put my maid in your bosom; now that she sees that she is pregnant, I am lowered in her esteem. הווי decide between you and me!"
- 6 Abram said to Sarai, "Your maid is in your hands. Deal with her as you think right." Then Sarai treated her harshly, and she ran away from her.
- 7 A messenger of הווי found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the road to Shur,
- 8 and said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" And she said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai."
- 9 And the messenger of הווי said to her, "Go back to your mistress, and submit to her harsh treatment."
- 10 And the messenger of הווי said to her, "I will greatly increase your offspring, And they shall be too many to count."
- 11 The messenger of הווי said to her further, "Behold, you are pregnant And shall bear a son; You shall call him Ishmael,* For הווי has paid heed to your suffering.
- 12 He shall be a wild ass of a person;* His hand against everyone, And everyone's hand against him; He shall dwell alongside of all his kin."
- 13 And she called הווי* who spoke to her, "You Are El-roi,"* by which she meant, "Have I not gone on seeing after my being seen!"*
- 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi;* it is between Kadesh and Bered.—
- 15 Hagar bore a son to Abram, and Abram gave the son that Hagar bore him the name Ishmael.
- 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.
- וַתִּלָּךְ שָׂרַי אִשְׁת־אַבְרָם אֶת־הָגָר הַמִּצְרַיִת שִׁפְחָתָהּ מִקֵּץ עֶשְׂרֵי שָׁנִים לְשִׁבְתָּ אַבְרָם בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַתִּתֵּן אוֹתָהּ לְאַבְרָם אִשָּׁה לֹא־אֵשָׁה:
- וַיָּבֹא אֶל־הָגָר וַתְּהַר וַתֵּלֶד כִּי הָרְתָהּ וַתִּקַּל גְּבוּרָתָהּ בְּעֵינֶיהָ:
- וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל־אַבְרָם חֲמָסִי עָלֶיךָ אֲנֹכִי נָתַתִּי שִׁפְחָתִי בְּחִיקְךָ וַתֵּלֶד כִּי הָרְתָהּ וְאֶקַּל בְּעֵינֶיהָ יִשְׁפֹּט יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־שָׂרַי הִנֵּה שִׁפְחָתְךָ בְּיָדְךָ עֲשִׂי־לָהּ הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ וַתַּעֲנֶה שָׂרַי וַתְּבָרַח מִפָּנֶיהָ:
- וַיִּמְצָאָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה עַל־עֵין הַמַּיִם בַּמִּדְבָּר עַל־הָעֵין בְּדֶרֶךְ שׁוּר:
- וַיֹּאמֶר הָגָר שִׁפְחַת שָׂרַי אֵי־מָנָה בָּאת וְאַנָּה תֵּלְכִי וַתֹּאמֶר מִפָּנֶי שָׂרַי גְּבוּרָתִי אֲנֹכִי בָרַחַת:
- וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה שׁוּבִי אֶל־גְּבוּרָתְךָ וְהִתְעַנִּי תַּחַת יְדֶיהָ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה הִרְבָּה אֲרֻבָּה אֶת־זֶרְעֶךָ וְלֹא יִסְפָּר מִרְבּוֹ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה הִנֵּה הָרָה וְיִלְדֶּת בֶּן וְקִרְאתָ שְׁמוֹ יִשְׁמָעֵאל כִּי־שָׁמַע יְהוָה אֶל־עֲנִיָּךְ:
- וְהוּא יִהְיֶה פָרָא אֱלֹם יָדוֹ בְּכָל וְיָד כָּל בּוֹ וְעַל־פָּנָי כָּל־אֲחָיו יִשְׁכֹּן:
- וַתִּקְרָא שֵׁם־יְהוָה הַדֹּבֵר אֵלֶיהָ אֶתָּה אֵל רֹאִי כִּי אָמְרָה הִגַּם הָלָם רְאִיתִי אַחֲרַי רֹאִי:
- עַל־כֵּן קָרָא לְבֵאֵר בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי הִנֵּה בֵּין־קַדֶּשׁ וּבֵין־בֶּרֶד:
- וַתֵּלֶד הָגָר לְאַבְרָם בֶּן וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָם שְׁם־בְּנוֹ אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָהּ הָגָר יִשְׁמָעֵאל:
- וְאַבְרָם בֶּן־שְׁמֹנִים וָשֵׁשׁ שָׁנָה וְשֵׁשׁ שָׁנִים בְּלָדָתָהּ הָגָר אֶת־יִשְׁמָעֵאל לְאַבְרָם:

- וַיְהִי אַבְרָם בְּיָתְשָׁעִים שָׁנָה וַתֵּשַׁע שָׁנִים וַיֵּלֶא יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם
וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי־אֵל שׁוּלֵי הַתְּהֵלֶךְ לִפְנֵי וְהָיָה תָמִיד:
- וַאֲתֵנָּה בְרִיתִי בֵינִי וּבֵינְךָ וְאַרְבָּה אוֹתְךָ בְּמֵאָד מְאֹד:
- וַיִּפֹּל אַבְרָם עַל־פָּנָיו וַיְדַבֵּר אֲתוֹ אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר:
- אֲנִי הִנֵּה בְרִיתִי אִתְּךָ וְהָיִיתִי לְאָב הַמֶּוֹן גּוֹיִם:
- וְלֹא־יִקְרָא עוֹד אֶת־שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אֲבִי־הַמֶּוֹן גּוֹיִם
נִתְּתִיךָ:
- וְהִפְרֵתִי אוֹתְךָ בְּמֵאָד מְאֹד וְנִתְּתִיךָ לְגוֹיִם וּמַלְכִּים מִמֶּךָ יֵצְאוּ:
- וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי בֵינִי וּבֵינְךָ וּבֵין זֶרְעֶךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ לְדֹרֹתָם לְבְרִית
עוֹלָם לְהָיִית לְךָ לְאֱלֹהִים וְלִזְרַעְךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ:
- וְנָתַתִּי לְךָ וּלְזֶרְעֶךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ אֶת | אֶרֶץ מִגְדֹּן אֶת כָּל־אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
לְאֻחֻזַּת עוֹלָם וְהָיִיתִי לָהֶם לְאֱלֹהִים:
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם וְאַתָּה אֶת־בְּרִיתִי תִשְׁמֹר אֹתָהּ וְזֶרְעֶךָ
אַחֲרֶיךָ לְדֹרֹתָם:
- זֹאת בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמְרוּ בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין זֶרְעֶךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ הַמּוֹל
לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר:
- וְנִמְלֹתֶם אֶת בָּשָׂר עֶרְלַתְכֶם וְהָיָה לְאוֹת בְּלִית בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם:
- וּבְשָׁמְנַת יָמִים יִמּוֹל לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם יֶלֶד בְּיֹת וּמִקְנַת־כֶּסֶף
מִכָּל בֶּן־נֶכֶד אֲשֶׁר לֹא מִזֶּרְעֶךָ הוּא:
- הַמּוֹל | יִמּוֹל יֶלֶד בֵּיתְךָ וּמִקְנַת כֶּסֶף וְהָיְתָה בְּרִיתִי בִּבְשָׂרְכֶם
לְבְרִית עוֹלָם:
- וְעַל | זָכָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִמּוֹל אֶת־בָּשָׂר עֶרְלָתוֹ וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא
מִעַמִּיהָ אֶת־בְּרִיתִי הַפֶּר:
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שְׁרִי אֲשַׁתְּךָ לֹא־תִקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָהּ שְׁרִי כִּי
שָׂרָה שְׁמָהּ:
- 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, הוּדִי
appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am El
Shaddai.* Walk in My ways and be blameless.
- 2 I will establish My covenant between Me and you,
and I will make you exceedingly numerous.”
- 3 Abram threw himself on his face; and God spoke to
him further,
- 4 “As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You
shall be the father of a multitude of nations.
- 5 And you shall no longer be called Abram, but your
name shall be Abraham,* for I make you the father
of a multitude of nations.
- 6 I will make you exceedingly fertile, and make
nations of you; and kings shall come forth from
you.
- 7 I will maintain My covenant between Me and you,
and your offspring to come, as an everlasting
covenant throughout the ages, to be God to you and
to your offspring to come.
- 8 I assign the land you sojourn in to you and your
offspring to come, all the land of Canaan, as an
everlasting holding. I will be their God.”
- 9 God further said to Abraham, “As for you, you and
your offspring to come throughout the ages shall
keep My covenant.
- 10 Such shall be the covenant between Me and you and
your offspring to follow which you shall keep:
every male among you shall be circumcised.
- 11 You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin,
and that shall be the sign of the covenant between
Me and you.
- 12 And throughout the generations, every male among
you shall be circumcised at the age of eight days.
As for the homeborn slave and the one bought from
an outsider who is not of your offspring,
- 13 they must be circumcised, homeborn and purchased
alike. Thus shall My covenant be marked in your
flesh as an everlasting pact.
- 14 And if any male who is uncircumcised fails to
circumcise the flesh of his foreskin, that person
shall be cut off from kin; he has broken My
covenant.”
- 15 And God said to Abraham, “As for your wife Sarai,
you shall not call her Sarai, but her name shall
be Sarah.*

- 16 ויברכתני אלה וגם נתתי ממנה לך בן ויברכתיו והיתה לגוים מלכי עמים ממנה יהיו: I will bless her; indeed, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she shall give rise to nations; rulers of peoples shall issue from her.”
- 17 ויפל אברהם על-פניו ויצחק ויאמר בלבו הלא בן מאה-שנה יולד ואם-שלה הבת-תשעים שנה תלד: Abraham threw himself on his face and laughed, as he said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man a hundred years old, or can Sarah bear a child at ninety?”
- 18 ויאמר אברהם אלה-אלהים לו ישמעאל יחיה לפניך: And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live by Your favor!”
- 19 ויאמר אלהים אבל שרה אשתך ילדת לך בן וקראת את-שמו יצחק והקמתי את-בריתי אתו לברית עולם לזרעו אחריו: God said, “Nevertheless, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac;* and I will maintain My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring to come.
- 20 ולישמעאל שמעתיך הנה | ברכתני אתו והפריתי אתו והרביתי אתו במאד מאד שנים-עשר נשיאם יוליד ונתתיו לגוי גדול: As for Ishmael, I have heeded you.* I hereby bless him. I will make him fertile and exceedingly numerous. He shall be the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make of him a great nation.
- 21 ואת-בריתי אקים את-יצחק אשר תלד לך שרה למועד הזה בשנה האחרת: But My covenant I will maintain with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.”
- 22 ויכל לדבר אתו ויעל אלהים מעל אברהם: Done speaking with him, God was gone from Abraham.
- 23 ויקח אברהם את-ישמעאל בנו ואת כל-ילדי ביתו ואת כל-מקנת כספו כל-זכר באנשי בית אברהם ולמל את-בשר ערלתם בעצם היום הזה כאשר דבר אתו אלהים: Then Abraham took his son Ishmael, and all his homeborn slaves and all those he had bought, every male in Abraham’s household, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins on that very day, as God had spoken to him.
- 24 ואברהם בן-תשעים וחמש שנה בהמלו בשר ערלתו: Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin,
- 25 וישמעאל בנו בן-שלש עשרה שנה בהמלו את בשר ערלתו: and his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.
- 26 בעצם היום הזה נמול אברהם וישמעאל בנו: Thus Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised on that very day;
- 27 וכל-אנשי ביתו יליד בית ומקנת-כסף מאת בן-נכר נמלו אתו: and all [men of] his household, his homeborn slaves and those that had been bought from outsiders, were circumcised with him.