

# 4

וִירָא Vayera

Genesis 18:1-22:24

# 18

- 1 אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה בָּאֵלָנִי מִמָּרָא וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב פֶּתַח־הָאֹהֶל בְּחֹם הַיּוֹם:  
וַיֵּרָא

1 appeared\*appeared Or “initiated communication (with); made contact (with)”—without indicating a visual experience—as in 12.7; 17.1; 26.2, 24; 35.9–10; 48.3–4; and seven passages elsewhere in the Bible. to him by the terebinths of Mamre; he was sitting at the entrance of the tent as the day grew hot.
- 2 נֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיֵּרָא וַיִּרְץ לִקְרֹאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אֹרְצָה:  
וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים

2 Looking up, he saw three figures\*figures Lit. “participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation.” Or “agents [of the divine],” as the notice of the advent of divine communication in v. 1 (see previous note) implies an agency situation that casts these participants in their defining role as agents. Trad. “men.” Cf. Rashbam, Ramban; see further the Dictionary under ’ish; Agent. standing near him. Perceiving this, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the ground,
- 3 אֲדֹנָי אִם־נָא מִצָּאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֵל־נָא תַעֲבֹר מֵעַל עֲבֹדְךָ:  
וַיֹּאמֶר

3 he said, “My lords!\*My lords Or “My lord,” referring either to the delegation’s apparent leader or to God. If it please you, do not go on past your servant.
- 4 יִקַּח־נָא מִעֵט־מַיִם וְרַחֲצֵוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁעֵנוּ תַּחַת הָעֵץ:

4 Let a little water be brought; bathe your feet and recline under the tree.
- 5 כִּי־עָלִיכֶן עֲבֹרְתֶם עַל־עֲבֹדְכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:  
וַאֲקַוֶּה פֶתֶלֶחֶם וְסַעֲדֹו לְבַכְּם אַחֲרֵי תַעֲבְרוּ

5 And let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may refresh yourselves; then go on—seeing that you have come your servant’s way.” They replied, “Do as you have said.”
- 6 וַיֹּאמֶר מִהֲרִי שֹׁלֵשׁ סָאִים קֶמַח סִלַּת לְוִשִׁי וַעֲשֵׂי עֲגוֹת:  
וַיִּמְהַר אַבְרָהָם הָאֹהֶלָה אֶל־שָׂרָה

6 Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quick, three seahs of choice flour! Knead and make cakes!”
- 7 וַיֵּלֶךְ בֶּרֶבֶלֶךְ רֶךְ וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הַנֶּעֱר וַיִּמְהַר לַעֲשׂוֹת אוֹתוֹ:  
וַאֲלִי־הַבָּקָר רֶץ אַבְרָהָם

7 Then Abraham ran to the herd, took a calf, tender and choice, and gave it to a servant-boy, who hastened to prepare it.
- 8 אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן לִפְנֵיהֶם וְהוּא־עֹמֵד עֲלֵיהֶם תַּחַת הָעֵץ וַיֹּאכְלוּ:  
וַיֵּלֶךְ חֲמָאָה וַחֲלֵב וּבִרְהֻבָּקָר

8 He took curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared and set these before them; and he waited on them under the tree as they ate.
- 9 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו אֵיךְ שָׂרָה אִשְׁתְּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בָאֹהֶל:  
וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בָאֹהֶל:

9 They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he replied, “There, in the tent.”

- והנה-בן לשרה אשתך ושרה שמעת פתח האהל והוא אחריו:  
ויאמר שוב אשוב אליך כעת חיה
- 10 Then one said, “I will return to you next year,\*next year Heb. ka-’et ayyah; cf. Gen. 17.21; 2 Kings 4.16–17. and your wife Sarah shall have a son!” Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind him.
- ושרה זקלים באים בימים חדל להזיות לשרה ארח כנשים:  
ואברהם
- 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years; Sarah had stopped having her periods.\*her periods Heb. ’ora ka-nashim, lit. “the way of women”; NJPS “the periods of women.” (Perhaps, in light of Akkadian ’aru “month,” the lit. meaning is actually “women’s menses.”)
- שרה בקרבה לאמר אחרי בלתי היתה-לי עדנה ואני זקן:  
ותצחק
- 12 And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “Now that I’ve lost the ability,\*I’ve lost the ability Precise force of Heb. veloti uncertain. NJPS “I am withered,” trad. “I am waxed old.” am I to have enjoyment—with my husband so old?”
- למה זה צחקה שרה לאמר האף אמנם אלד ואני זקנתי:  
ויאמר יהוה אל-אברהם
- 13 Then הוה\*הוה The agent who is speaking is labeled with the principal’s name, to underscore that the following message is delivered on the principal’s behalf. (A narrative convention throughout the Hebrew Bible; cf. Kimhi at 31.3.) said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I in truth bear a child, old as I am?’
- היפלא מיהוה דבר למועד אשוב אליך כעת חיה ולשרה בן:
- 14 Is anything too wondrous for הוה? I will return to you at the same season next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”
- שרה | לאמר לא צחקתי כי | יראה ויאמר | לא כי צחקתי:  
ותכחש
- 15 Sarah lied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was frightened. Came the reply, “You did laugh.”
- האנשים וישקפו על-פני סדם ואברהם הלך עמם לשלחם:  
ויקמו משם
- 16 The agents\*agents Lit. “[other] participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation.” See note at 18.2. set out from there and looked down toward Sodom, Abraham walking with them to see them off.
- ויהוה אמר המכסה אני מאברהם אשר אני עשה:
- 17 Now הוה had said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,
- ואברהם היו יהיה לגוי גדול ועצום ולברכו-בו כל גוי הארץ:
- 18 since Abraham is to become a great and populous nation and all the nations of the earth are to bless themselves by him?
- ומשפט למען הביא יהוה על-אברהם את אשר-דבר עליו:  
את-בניו ואת-ביתו אחרייו ושמרו דרך יהוה לעשות צדקה  
כי ידעו למען אשר יצוה
- 19 For I have singled him out, that he may instruct his children and his posterity to keep the way of הוה by doing what is just and right, in order that הוה may bring about for Abraham what has been promised him.”
- יהוה ועקת סדם ועמרה כירבה וחטאתם כי כבדה מאד:  
ויאמר
- 20 Then הוה said, “The outrage of Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave!

- 21 I will go down to see whether they have acted altogether according to the outcry that has reached Me; if not, I will take note.”
- 22 The agents went on from there to Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before הוהי.
- 23 Abraham came forward and said, “Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty?”
- 24 What if there should be fifty innocent within the city; will You then wipe out the place and not forgive it for the sake of the innocent fifty who are in it?
- 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty, so that innocent and guilty fare alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”
- 26 And הוהי answered, “If I find within the city of Sodom fifty innocent ones, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.”
- 27 Abraham spoke up, saying, “Here I venture to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes:
- 28 What if the fifty innocent should lack five? Will You destroy the whole city for want of the five?” “I will not destroy if I find forty-five there.”
- 29 But he spoke up again, and said, “What if forty should be found there?” “I will not do it, for the sake of the forty.”
- 30 And he said, “Let not my lord be angry if I go on: What if thirty should be found there?” “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”
- 31 And he said, “I venture again to speak to my lord: What if twenty should be found there?” “I will not destroy, for the sake of the twenty.”
- 32 And he said, “Let not my lord be angry if I speak but this last time: What if ten should be found there?” “I will not destroy, for the sake of the ten.”
- 33 Having finished speaking to Abraham, הוהי departed; and Abraham returned to his place.
- וַאֲרָאָה הַכְּצַעְקָתָהּ הַבָּאָה אֵלָי עָשׂוּ | כִּלְהָ וְאִם־לֹא אִדְעָה:  
אֶרְדֶּה־נָּא
- מִשָּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיֵּלְכוּ סְדֹמָה וְאַבְרָהָם עֹדְנֹו עֹמֵד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה:  
וַיִּפְנֹו
- וַיָּנֶשׂ אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲאֵיךְ תִּסְפֶּה צְדִיק עִם־רָשָׁע:
- תִּסְפֶּה וְלֹא־תִשָּׂא לַמָּקוֹם לְמַעַן חֲמִשִּׁים הַצְדִּיקִים אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּהּ:  
אוֹלֵי יֵשׁ חֲמִשִּׁים צְדִיקִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר הֲאֵיךְ
- כְּצְדִיק כְּרָשָׁע חִלְלָה לָךְ הַשֹּׁפֵט כִּלְי־הָאָרֶץ לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט:  
חִלְלָה לָךְ מַעֲשֵׂה | כְּדִבֶּר הַזֶּה לְהַמִּית צְדִיק עִם־רָשָׁע וְהִיָּה
- חֲמִשִּׁים צְדִיקִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וַנִּשְׁאַתִּי לְכָל־הַמָּקוֹם בְּעִבּוּרָם:  
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אִם־אֶמְצָא בָסָדָם
- וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה־נָא הוֹאֵלְתִּי לְדִבֶּר אֶל־אֲדֹנִי וְאֲנֹכִי עָפָר וְאֶפֶר:  
וַיַּעַן אַבְרָהָם
- וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁחִית אִם־אֶמְצָא שֵׁם אַרְבָּעִים וְחֲמִשָּׁה:  
חֲמִשִּׁים הַצְדִּיקִים חֲמִשָּׁה הַתְּשַׁחִית בְּחֲמִשָּׁה אֶת־כָּל־הָעִיר  
אוֹלֵי יְחִסְדָּו
- אוֹלֵי יִמְצְאוּן שֵׁם אַרְבָּעִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אַעֲשֶׂה בְּעִבּוּר הָאַרְבָּעִים:  
וַיִּסָּף עוֹד לְדִבֶּר אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר
- יִמְצְאוּן שֵׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אַעֲשֶׂה אִם־אֶמְצָא שֵׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים:  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־נָא יַחַר לֵאדֹנִי וַאֲדַבְּרָה אוֹלֵי
- אוֹלֵי יִמְצְאוּן שֵׁם עֶשְׂרִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁחִית בְּעִבּוּר הָעֶשְׂרִים:  
וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה־נָא הוֹאֵלְתִּי לְדִבֶּר אֶל־אֲדֹנִי
- אוֹלֵי יִמְצְאוּן שֵׁם עֶשְׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁחִית בְּעִבּוּר הָעֶשְׂרָה:  
וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־נָא יַחַר לֵאדֹנִי וַאֲדַבְּרָה אֶת־הַפֶּעַם
- וַיֵּלֶךְ יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר כִּלְהָ לְדִבֶּר אֶל־אַבְרָהָם וְאַבְרָהָם שָׁב לַמָּקוֹמוֹ:

בשער־סֹדֶם וַיֵּרְאוּ לוֹט וַיִּקָּם לִקְרֹאתָם וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ אֲפִים אֶרְצָה:  
וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סְדֹמָה בַּעֲרֵב וְלוֹט יֹשֵׁב

וְהַשְׁכַּמְתָּם וְהִלַּכְתָּם לְדֶרֶכְכֶּם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִּי בְרוּחֹב נָלִין:  
הִנֵּה נָא־אֲדֹנִי סוּרוּ נָא אֶל־בֵּית עַבְדְּכֶם וְלִינוּ וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם  
וַיֹּאמֶר

אֵלָיו וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתָּה וּמִצּוֹת אָפָה וַיֹּאכְלוּ:  
וַיַּפְצְרֻבָּם מְאֹד וַיִּסְרוּ

אֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֶם נֹסְבִי עַל־הַבַּיִת מִנֶּעַר וְעַד־זָקֵן כָּל־הָעָם מִקְצָה:  
טָרָם יִשְׁכְּבוּ וְאֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר

הָאֲנָשִׁים אָשְׁר־בָּאוּ אֵלָיו הִלְיָה הוֹצִיָאם אֵלָינוּ וְנִדְעָה אֹתָם:  
וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל־לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֵיךְ

וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵהֶם לוֹט הַפֶּתַח וְהִדְלֹת סָגַר אַחֲרָיו:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־נָא אַחֵי תִרְעוּ:

רְק לְאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵל אֶל־תַּעֲשׂוּ דְבָר כִּי־עַל־כֵּן בָּאוּ בְּצֹל קִרְתִּי:  
אִישׁ אוֹצִיָּאֶה־נָא אֹתָהֶן אֲלֵיכֶם וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶן כְּטוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם  
הִנֵּה־נָא לִי שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּ

1 The two messengers arrived in Sodom in the evening, as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to greet them and, bowing low with his face to the ground,

2 he said, "Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant's house to spend the night, and bathe your feet; then you may be on your way early." But they said, "No, we will spend the night in the square."

3 But he urged them strongly, so they turned his way and entered his house. He prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

4 They had not yet lain down, when the town council [and] the militia of Sodom\*town council [and] the militia of Sodom Cf. Gen. 34.20, Josh. 7.4-5, and Judg. 20.2. Heb. we-'anshe ha-'ir 'anshe sedom; NJPS "the townspeople, the men of Sodom," trad. "the men of the city, the men of Sodom." —insignificant and influential alike,\*insignificant and influential alike NJPS "young and old," trad. "both young and old"; Heb. mi-na'ar we-'ad zagen. See the Dictionary under na'ar and "elders." the whole assembly without exception—gathered about the house.

5 And they shouted to Lot and said to him, "Where are the ones\*ones Lit. "participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation." NJPS "men." See the Dictionary under 'ish. who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may be intimate with\*be intimate with I.e., humiliate. them."

6 So Lot went out to them to the entrance, shut the door behind him,

7 and said, "I beg you, my friends, do not commit such a wrong.

8 Look, I have two daughters\*daughters I.e., of great value to Lot; cf. Judg. 11.35; 2 Sam. 12.3. who have not known a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you please;\*do to them as you please I.e., I will entrust them to you as hostages if you will trust me meanwhile with the visitors. but do not do anything to the others,\*the others NJPS "these men." Cf. note at v. 5. since they have come under the shelter of my roof."

- נָרַע לָךְ מֵהֵם וַיַּפְּצִרוּ בְּאִישׁ בְּלוֹט מֵאֵד וַיִּגְשׁוּ לְשֹׁכֵר הַדֶּלֶת:  
| גִּשְׁחִלְלָאָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֶחָד בְּאֵלֶּגוֹר וַיִּשְׁפֹּט שְׁפוֹט עָלָהּ  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ
- 9 But they said, “Stand back! The fellow,” they said, “came here as an alien, and already he acts the ruler! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” And they pressed hard against that householder\*against that householder Heb. ba-ish; NJPS “against the person [of Lot],” trad. “upon the man.” See the Dictionary under ‘ish. —against Lot—and moved forward to break the door.
- אֶת־יָדָם וַיִּבְיֵאוּ אֶת־לוֹט אֲלֵיהֶם הַבַּיִתָּה וְאֶת־הַדֶּלֶת סָגְרוּ:  
וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים
- 10 But the agents\*agents See notes at 18.2, 16; cf. 19.1. stretched out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.
- הַבַּיִת הַכּוֹ בְּסִנּוּרִים מִקֵּטָן וְעַד־גָּדוֹל וַיִּלְאוּ לְמַצָּא הַפֶּתַח:  
וְאֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־פָּתַח
- 11 And the people\*people So NJPS; lit. “[other] participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation.” Trad. “men.” See the Dictionary under ‘ish. who were at the entrance of the house, low and high alike,\*low and high alike Cf. note at v. 4. Heb. mi-katon we-‘ad gadol; NJPS “young and old,” trad. “both small and great.” they struck with blinding light, so that they were helpless to find the entrance.
- כָּה חָתָן וּבְנֵיךְ וּבְנֹתֶיךָ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ בְּעִיר הוּצָא מִן־הַמָּקוֹם:  
וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֶל־לוֹט עַד מִי־לְךָ
- 12 Then the agents said to Lot, “Whom else have you here? Sons-in-law, your sons and daughters, or anyone else that you have in the city—bring them out of the place.
- הִזֵּה כִּי־גְדֹלָה צָעֲקַתְם אֶת־פְּנֵי יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁלַחֲנוּ יְהוָה לְשַׁחֲתָהּ:  
כִּי־מִשְׁחַתִּים אָנֹכְנוּ אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם
- 13 For we are about to destroy this place; because the outcry against them before יהוה has become so great that יהוה has sent us to destroy it.”
- הִזֵּה כִּי־מִשְׁחַתִּית יְהוָה אֶת־הָעִיר וַיְהִי כַּמְצָחַק בְּעֵינֵי חֲתָנָיו:  
וַיְדַבֵּר | אֶל־חֲתָנָיו | לֵקְחוּ בְנֹתֵי וַיֹּאמֶר קוּמוּ צֵאוּ מִן־הַמָּקוֹם  
וַיֵּצֵא לוֹט
- 14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for יהוה is about to destroy the city.” But he seemed to his sons-in-law as one who jests.
- אֶת־אֲשֶׁתְּךָ וְאֶת־שְׁתֵּי בְנֹתֶיךָ הַנִּמְצָאֹת פֶּן־תִּסָּפֶה בְּעֹן הָעִיר:  
וּכְמוֹ הַשְׁחָר עָלָה וַיֹּאצִּצוּ הַמַּלְאָכִים בְּלוֹט לֵאמֹר קוּם לֶךְ
- 15 As dawn broke, the messengers urged Lot on, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two remaining daughters, lest you be swept away because of the iniquity of the city.”
- שְׁתֵּי בְנֹתָיו בְּחֻמְלַת יְהוָה עָלָיו וַיֵּצְאָהוּ וַיִּנְחָהוּ מִחוּץ לָעִיר:  
וַיִּתְּמַהֲמָה | וַיִּחַזְּקוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּיָדוֹ וּבִידֵי־אֲשֶׁתוֹ וּבְיָד
- 16 Still he delayed. So the agents seized his hand, and the hands of his wife and his two daughters—in יהוה’s mercy on him—and brought him out and left him outside the city.
- אֶחָדֵיךְ וְאֶל־תַּעֲמֵד בְּכָל־הַכְּכָר הַהָרָה הַמִּלֵּט פֶּן־תִּסָּפֶה:  
וַיְהִי כַּהוֹצִיאֵם אֹתָם הַחוּצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמִּלֵּט עַל־נַפְשֶׁךָ אֶל־תִּבְטֵט
- 17 When they had brought them outside, one said, “Flee for your life! Do not look behind you, nor stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, lest you be swept away.”
- וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹט אֲלֵיהֶם אֵלֵינִי אֲדֹנָי:
- 18 But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lord!

- 19 ואנכי לא אוכל להמלט ההרה פורתדבקני הרעה ומתי:  
חן בעיניך ותגדל חסדך אשר עשית עמלי להחיות את־נפשי  
הנה־נא מצא עבדך
- 20 והוא מצער אמלטה נא שמה הלא מצער הוא ותחי נפשי:  
הנה־נא העיר הזאת קרבה לנוס שמה
- 21 נשאתי פליך גם להבר הזה לבלתי הפכי את־העיר אשר דברת:  
ויאמר אליו הנה
- 22 אוכל לעשות דבר עד־באך שמה על־כן קרא שם־העיר צוער:  
מהר המלט שמה כי לא
- 23 השמש יצא עלי־הארץ ולוט בא צערה:  
על־סדם ועל־עמרה גפרית ואש מאת יהוה מן־השמים:  
ויהוה המטיר
- 24 האל ואת כל־הכפר ואת כל־ישבי העלים וצמח האדמה:  
ויהפך את־הערים
- 25 ותבט אשתו מאחריו ותהי נציב מלח:  
וישכם אברהם בבקר אלי־המקום אשר־עמד שם את־פני יהוה:
- 26 ארץ הכפר וירא והנה עלה קיטר הארץ כקיטר הכבשן:  
וישקף על־פני סדם ועמרה ועל־כל־פני
- 27 את־לוט מתוך ההפלה בהפך את־העלים אשר־ישב בהן לוט:  
בשחת אלהים את־ערי הכפר ויזכר אלהים את־אברהם וישלח  
ויחי
- 28 עמו כי ירא לשבת בצוער וישב במערה הוא ושתי בנתיו:  
ויצל לוט מצוער וישב בהר ושתי בנתיו
- 29 אבינו זקן ואיש אין בארץ לבוא עלינו כדרך כל־הארץ:  
ותאמר הבכירה אלי־הצעירה
- 30 לכה נשקה את־אבינו יין ונשכבה עמו ונחיה מאבינו זרע:
- 19 You have been so gracious to your servant, and have already shown me so much kindness in order to save my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die.
- 20 Look, that town there is near enough to flee to; it is such a little place! Let me flee there—it is such a little place—and let my life be saved.”
- 21 He replied, “Very well, I will grant you this favor too, and I will not annihilate the town of which you have spoken.
- 22 Hurry, flee there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Hence the town came to be called Zoar.\*Zoar Connected with mi’ar “a little place,” v. 20.
- 23 As the sun rose upon the earth and Lot entered Zoar,
- 24 it rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah sulfurous fire from יהוה out of heaven—
- 25 annihilating those cities and the entire Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities and the vegetation of the ground.
- 26 Lot’s\*Lot’s Lit. “His.” wife looked back,\*back Lit. “behind him.” and she thereupon turned into a pillar of salt.
- 27 Next morning, Abraham hurried to the place where he had stood before יהוה,
- 28 and, looking down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the Plain, he saw the smoke of the land rising like the smoke of a kiln.
- 29 Thus it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain and annihilated the cities where Lot dwelt, God was mindful of Abraham and removed Lot from the midst of the upheaval.
- 30 Lot went up from Zoar and settled in the hill country with his two daughters, for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar; and he and his two daughters lived in a cave.
- 31 And the older one said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to consort with us in the way of all the world.
- 32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him, that we may maintain life through our father.”

- 33 That night they made their father drink wine, and the older one went in and lay with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she rose.
- 34 The next day the older one said to the younger, "See, I lay with Father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go and lie with him, that we may maintain life through our father."
- 35 That night also they made their father drink wine, and the younger one went and lay with him; he did not know when she lay down or when she rose.
- 36 Thus the two daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.
- 37 The older one bore a son and named him Moab;\*Moab As though me-'ab "from (my) father." he is the father of the Moabites of today.
- 38 And the younger also bore a son, and she called him Ben-ammi;\*Ben-ammi As though "son of my (paternal) kindred." See further the Dictionary under 'am. he is the father of the Ammonites of today.
- ותָּבֹא הַבְּכִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב אֶת־אָבִיהָ וְלֹא־יָדָע בְּשֹׁכְבָהּ וּבְקוּמָהּ: וַתִּשְׁקֵן אֶת־אָבִיהָ יוֹן בְּלֵילָהּ הַהוּא
- נִשְׁקָנוּ יוֹן גַּם־הַלְיָלָהּ וּבֹאִי שֹׁכְבִי עִמּוֹ וּנְחִיָּה מֵאֲבִינוּ זָרַע: וַתֹּאמֶר הַבְּכִירָה אֶל־הַצְעִירָה הֲיִשְׁכַּבְתִּי אִמֶּשׁ אֶת־אָבִי וַיְהִי מִמָּחָרָת
- יֵין וַתִּקֶּם הַצְעִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב עִמּוֹ וְלֹא־יָדָע בְּשֹׁכְבָהּ וּבְקוּמָהּ: וַתִּשְׁקֵן גַּם בְּלֵילָהּ הַהוּא אֶת־אָבִיהָ
- וַתְּהָרִין שְׁתֵּי בְנוֹת־לוֹט מֵאֲבִיהֶן:
- וַתֵּלֶד הַבְּכִירָה בֶן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מוֹאָב הוּא אָבִי־מוֹאָב עַד־הַיּוֹם:
- בֶּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בֶן־עַמִּי הוּא אָבִי בְנֵי־עַמּוֹן עַד־הַיּוֹם: וַהֲצַעִירָה גַּם־הוּא יֶלֶדָהּ

## 20

- 1 Abraham journeyed from there to the region of the Negeb and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was sojourning in Gerar,
- 2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So King Abimelech of Gerar had Sarah brought to him.
- 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "You are to die because of the woman that you have taken, for she is a married woman."
- 4 Now Abimelech had not approached her. He said, "O lord,\*lord See the Dictionary under "male metaphors for God." will You slay people even though innocent?
- 5 He himself said to me, 'She is my sister'! And she also said, 'He is my brother.' When I did this, my heart was blameless and my hands were clean."
- מִשָּׁם אַבְרָהָם אֶרֶצָה הַנֶּגֶב וַיֵּשֶׁב בֵּין־קַדֶּשׁ וּבֵין שׁוּר וַיֵּגֶר בְּגֵרָר: וַיִּסַּע
- אֶשְׁתּוֹ אֶחְתִּי הִיא וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ גֵּרָר וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שָׂרָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־שָׂרָה
- וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִנֵּנִי מֵת עַל־הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־לָקַחְתִּי וְהוּא בָּעֵלָת בָּעַל: וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ בַּחֲלֹם הַלַּיְלָה
- וַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא קָרַב אֵלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי הֲגֹי גַם־צֹדִיק תַּהַרֵּג:
- אָמְרָה אֲחִי הִיא בְּתַם־לִבִּי וּבִנְקִל כִּפִּי עָשִׂיתִי זֹאת: הֲלֹא הוּא אֶמְרִלִּי אֶחְתִּי הוּא וְהִיא־גַם־הִיא



וַאֲחֻשֶׁךְ גַּם־אֲנֹכִי אוֹתָךְ מִחֲטוּלָּי עַל־כֵּן לֹא־נִתְּתִיךְ לִנְגֹעַ אֵלֶיהָ:  
אֵלָיו הָאֱלֹהִים בְּחֹלֶם גַּם אֲנֹכִי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי בְתָם־לִבְבְךָ עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת  
וַיֹּאמֶר

וַחֲוִיָּה וְאִם־אֵינְךָ מְשֻׁבַּח דָּע כִּי־מוֹת תָּמוּת אִתָּה וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ:  
וְעִתָּה הָשֵׁב אֶשְׁת־הָאִישׁ כִּי־נָבִיא הוּא וַיִּתְּפֹלֶל בְּעֶדְךָ

וַיְדַבֵּר אֶת־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים מְאֹד:  
וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקְרָא לְכָל־עַבְדָּיו

חֲטָאָה גְדֹלָה מַעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יַעֲשׂוּ עֲשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי:  
לֹא מִה־עֲשִׂיתָ לָנוּ וּמִה־חֲטָאתִי לְךָ כִּי־הִבָּאתָ עָלַי וְעַל־מַמְלַכְתִּי  
וַיִּקְרָא אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ לְאַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר

אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם מָה רָאִיתָ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה:  
וַיֹּאמֶר

רַק אֵין־יֵרָאתָ אֱלֹהִים בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְהִרְגֹנִי עַל־דְּבַר אֲשֶׁר־נִי:  
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם כִּי אֲמַרְתִּי

וְגַם־אִמְנָה אֲחֹתִי בַת־אָבִי הִוא אֵךְ לֹא בַת־אִמִּי וְתַהֲיִלִּי לְאִשָּׁה:

עִמָּדִי אֵל כָּל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר נָבִיא שְׁמָה אִמְרִי־לִי אָתִי הוּא:  
הִתְּעָו אֹתִי אֱלֹהִים מִבֵּית אָבִי וַאֲמַר לָהּ זֶה חֲסִדְךָ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂי  
וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר

וַיִּבָּקֶר וַעֲבָדִים וּשְׁפָחוֹת וַיִּתֵּן לְאַבְרָהָם וַיֵּשֶׁב לוֹ אֶת שָׂרָה אֲשֶׁר־נִי:  
וַיִּקַּח אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ צֹאן

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ הִנֵּה אֶרְצִי לְפָנֶיךָ בְּטוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ שָׁב:

הִנֵּה הוּא־לְךָ כְּסוּת עֵינַיִם לְכָל אֲשֶׁר אִתָּךְ וְאֶת כָּל וְנִכְחַת:  
וּלְשָׂרָה אֲמַר הִנֵּה נִתְּתִי אֵלַיךְ כְּסֹף לְאַחֶיךָ

וַיִּרְפָּא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וְאֶת־אֲשֶׁר־נִי וְאֶת־הַיָּלְדוֹת:  
וַיִּתְּפֹלֶל אַבְרָהָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים

6 And God said to him in the dream, "I knew that you did this with a blameless heart, and so I kept you from sinning against Me. That was why I did not let you touch her.

7 Therefore, restore the man's wife—since he is a prophet, he will intercede for you—to save your life. If you fail to restore her, know that you shall die, you and all that are yours."

8 Early next morning, Abimelech called his servants and told them all that had happened; and they\*they Lit. "the [salient] participants." See the Dictionary under 'ish. were greatly frightened.

9 Then Abimelech summoned Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? What wrong have I done that you should bring so great a guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.

10 What, then," Abimelech demanded of Abraham, "was your purpose in doing this thing?"

11 "I thought," said Abraham, "surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.

12 And besides, she is in truth my sister, my father's daughter though not my mother's; and she became my wife.

13 So when God made me wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'Let this be the kindness that you shall do me: whatever place we come to, say there of me: He is my brother.'"

14 Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male and female slaves, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored his wife Sarah to him.

15 And Abimelech said, "Here, my land is before you; settle wherever you please."

16 And to Sarah he said, "I herewith give your brother a thousand pieces of silver; this will serve you as vindication\*vindication Lit. "a covering of the eyes"; meaning of latter half of verse uncertain. before all who are with you, and you are cleared before everyone."

17 Abraham then prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his slave girls, so that they bore children;

18 כל־רָחֵם לְבֵית אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ עָל־דְּבַר שָׂרָה אִשְׁתְּ אַבְרָהָם:  
כִּי־עָצָר עֲצֹר יְהוָה בְּעַד  
for the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, the wife of Abraham.

## 21

- 1 פָּקַד אֶת־שָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה לְשָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר:  
וַיִּהְיֶה  
1 the household did for Sarah what had been announced.
- 2 וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה לְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן לִזְקֻנָּיו לְמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים:  
וַתִּהְיֶה  
2 Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken.
- 3 אַבְרָהָם אָת־שְׁם־בְּנוֹ הִנּוּל־לּוֹ אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָה־לּוֹ שָׂרָה יִצְחָק:  
וַיִּקְרָא  
3 Abraham gave his newborn son, whom Sarah had borne him, the name of Isaac.
- 4 וְכִשְׁמֹנֶת בָּנוֹ בְּן־שְׁמֹנֶת יָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים:  
וַיִּמְלֵךְ  
4 And when his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him.
- 5 וְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן־מֵאָת שָׁנָה בְּהוֹלֵד לוֹ אֶת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ:  
וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרָה צָחֵק עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים כָּל־הַשְׁמֵעַ יִצְחָק־לִי:  
6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter; everyone who hears will laugh with\*with Lit. "for." me."
- 7 וַתֵּשֶׂה מִלֵּל לְאַבְרָהָם הִינִיקָה בָּנִים שָׂרָה כִּי־יָלְדָתִי בֶּן לִזְקֻנָּיו:  
וַתֹּאמֶר  
7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham That Sarah would suckle children! Yet I have borne a son in his old age."
- 8 הַיֵּלֶד וַיִּגְמַל וַיַּעַשׂ אַבְרָהָם מִשְׁתֵּה גָדוֹל בַּיּוֹם הַגָּמַל אֶת־יִצְחָק:  
וַיִּנְדֹּל  
8 The child grew up and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.
- 9 וַתֵּרָא שָׂרָה אֶת־בְּנֵי־הָעֵרָה הַמִּצְרַיִת אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָה לְאַבְרָהָם מִצְחָק:  
וַאֲת־בְּנָה כִּי לֹא יִרְשׁ בְּנֵי־הָאִמָּה הַזֹּאת עִם־יִצְחָק:  
וַתֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָהָם גֵּרֶשׁ הָאִמָּה הַזֹּאת  
9 Sarah saw the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham playing.
- 10 וַתֵּשֶׂה מִלֵּל לְאַבְרָהָם הִינִיקָה בָּנִים שָׂרָה כִּי לֹא יִרְשׁ בְּנֵי־הָאִמָּה הַזֹּאת עִם־יִצְחָק:  
וַתֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָהָם גֵּרֶשׁ הָאִמָּה הַזֹּאת  
10 She said to Abraham, "Cast out that slave-woman and her son, for the son of that slave shall not share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."
- 11 וַיִּרַע הַדָּבָר מְאֹד בְּעֵינֵי אַבְרָהָם עַל אוֹדֹת בְּנוֹ:  
אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלַיִךְ שָׂרָה שְׂמֵעַ בְּקוֹלָהּ כִּי בִיצְחָק יִקְרָא לָךְ זָרַע:  
אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אֶל־יִרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עַל־הַנֶּעֱר וְעַל־אֲמָתְךָ כָּל־יָאמַר  
11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly, for it concerned a son of his.
- 12 אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלַיִךְ שָׂרָה שְׂמֵעַ בְּקוֹלָהּ כִּי בִיצְחָק יִקְרָא לָךְ זָרַע:  
אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אֶל־יִרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עַל־הַנֶּעֱר וְעַל־אֲמָתְךָ כָּל־יָאמַר  
12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed over the boy or your slave; whatever Sarah tells you, do as she says, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be continued\*continued Lit. "called." for you.
- 13 וְגַם אֶת־בְּנֵי־הָאִמָּה לְגוֹי אֲשִׁמְנֶנּוּ כִּי זָרַעְךָ הוּא:  
13 As for the son of the slave-woman, I will make a nation of him, too, for he is your seed."

- על־שכמה ואֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּשְׁלַחַהּ וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּחַע בַּמִּדְבָּר בְּאֶר שָׁבַע: וַיִּשְׁכֶם אַבְרָהָם | בְּבֹקֶר וַיִּקְח־לָחֶם וְחֶמֶת מַיִם וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הָגָר שָׁם
- 14 Early next morning Abraham took some bread and a skin of water, and gave them to Hagar. He placed them over her shoulder, together with the child, and sent her away. And she wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.
- וַיִּכְלוּ הַמַּיִם מִן־הַחֶמֶת וַתִּשְׁלַךְ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד תַּחַת אֶחָד הָעִשְׂיָחִים:
- 15 When the water was gone from the skin, she left the child under one of the bushes,
- וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּשֶׁב לָהּ מֵנֶגֶד הָרַחֵל כַּמֶּטְחָנִי קִשְׁתָּ כִּי אָמְרָה: אֶל־אֲרָאָה בְּמוֹת הַיֶּלֶד וַתֵּשֶׁב מֵנֶגֶד וַתִּשָּׂא אֶת־קֶלְהָ וַתִּבְכֶּה:
- 16 and went and sat down at a distance, a bowshot away; for she thought, "Let me not look on as the child dies." And sitting thus afar, she burst into tears.
- וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנָּעֹר וַיִּהְיֶה מַלְאָךְ אֱלֹהִים | אֶל־הָגָר מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִה־לָּךְ הָגָר אֶל־תִּירָאִי כִּי־שָׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל־קוֹל הַנָּעֹר בְּאֶשֶׁר הוּא־שָׁם:
- 17 God heard the cry of the boy, and a messenger of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is.
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הַנָּעֹר וַיִּחַזְּקֵהוּ בְּיָדוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ בֹּרְךְ אֱשִׁימֶנּוּ:
- 18 Come, lift up the boy and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him."
- וַתִּרְאֶה בְּאֶר מַיִם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּמְלֵא אֶת־הַחֶמֶת מַיִם וַתִּשְׁקֶה אֶת־הַנָּעֹר: וַיִּפְקַח אֱלֹהִים אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ
- 19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water, and let the boy drink.
- וַיְהִי אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הַנָּעֹר וַיִּגְדַּל וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּמִּדְבָּר וַיְהִי רֹכֵה קֶשֶׁת:
- 20 God was with the boy and he grew up; he dwelt in the wilderness and became skilled with a bow.
- וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּמִּדְבָּר פָּאֵרָן וַתִּקְח־לּוֹ אִמּוֹ אִשָּׁה מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:
- 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.
- וַיְהִי בַּעַת הַהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שְׂרָצָבָאוּ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר אֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ כָּכָל אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה:
- 22 At that time Abimelech and Phicol, chief of his troops, said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything that you do.
- וַיִּשָּׁבַע לִי בְּאֱלֹהִים הַזֶּה אֲסִיתֶשְׁקֹר לִי וּלְנִינִי וּלְנִכְדִי כַחֲסֹד וְעַתָּה
- 23 Therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my kith and kin, but will deal with me and with the land in which you have sojourned as loyally as I have dealt with you."
- וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי אֲשָׁבַע:
- 24 And Abraham said, "I swear it."
- וַתִּבְיָאֵבִימֶלֶךְ עַל־אֲדוֹתַי בְּאֶר הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ עַבְדֵי אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ: וַהּוֹכַח אַבְרָהָם
- 25 Then Abraham reproached Abimelech for the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized.
- הַזֶּה וְגַם־אַתָּה לֹא־הִגַּדְתָּ לִּי וְגַם אֲנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי בְלִתֵּי הַיּוֹם: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי מִי עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר
- 26 But Abimelech said, "I do not know who did this; you did not tell me, nor have I heard of it until today."
- וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם צֹאן וּבָקָר וַיִּתֵּן לְאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וַיִּכְרְתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם בְּרִית:
- 27 Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a pact.
- וַיִּצַּב אַבְרָהָם אֶת־שִׁבְעַת כֶּבֶשֶׁת הַצֹּאן לְבִדְהָן:
- 28 Abraham then set seven ewes of the flock by themselves,

- 29 and Abimelech said to Abraham, “What mean these seven ewes which you have set apart?”
- 30 He replied, “You are to accept these seven ewes from me as proof that I dug this well.”
- 31 Hence that place was called Beer-sheba, \*Beer-sheba I.e., “well of seven” or “well of oath.” for there the two of them swore an oath.
- 32 When they had concluded the pact at Beer-sheba, Abimelech and Phicol, chief of his troops, departed and returned to the land of the Philistines.
- 33 [Abraham] planted a tamarisk at Beer-sheba, and invoked there the name of הוהי, the Everlasting God.
- 34 And Abraham resided in the land of the Philistines a long time.
- אֶל־אַבְרָהָם מָה הִנֵּה שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׂת הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר הִצַּבְתָּ לְבִדְנָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ  
תִּקַּח מִיָּדִי בַּעֲבוּר תְּהִי־הִלְלִי לְעֵדָה כִּי תִפְרַתִּי אֶת־הַבָּאָר הַזֹּאת: וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֶת־שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׂת  
עַל־כֵּן קָרָא לַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בָּאָר שִׁבְעַת כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבָּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם:  
שִׁבְעַת וַיִּקָּם אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שַׂר־צְבָאוֹ וַיָּשׁוּבוּ אֶל־אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים:  
וַיִּזְעַע אֲשֶׁל בַּבָּאָר שִׁבְעַת וַיִּקְרָא־שָׁם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה אֵל עוֹלָם:  
וַיֵּגֶר אַבְרָהָם בְּאֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים יָמִים רַבִּים:

## 22

- 1 Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test, saying to him, “Abraham.” He answered, “Here I am.”
- 2 “Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you.”
- 3 So early next morning, Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and he set out for the place of which God had told him.
- 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place from afar.
- 5 Then Abraham said to his servants, “You stay here with the ass. The boy and I will go up there; we will worship and we will return to you.”
- 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. He himself took the firestone\*firestone Lit. “fire.” and the knife; and the two walked off together.
- 7 Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he answered, “Yes, my son.” And he said, “Here are the firestone and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?”
- וְהָאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:  
וַיֵּחִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה  
הַמִּרְיָה וְהַעֲלָהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶחָד הַהָלִים אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִי:  
אֶת־בְּנֵךְ אֶת־יִחְיִידָךְ אֲשֶׁר־אָהַבְתָּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וְלִדְלָלְךָ אֶל־אֶרֶץ  
וַיֹּאמֶר קַח־נָא  
וַיִּבְקַע עֵצִי עֲלֶיהָ וַיִּקָּם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אָמַרְלוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים:  
וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת־חֲמֹלּוֹ וַיִּלָּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי נְעָרָיו אֹתוֹ וְאֵת יִצְחָק בְּנֵו  
וַיִּשְׁלַם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֶר  
הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיֵּשָׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם מֵרֶחֶק:  
וַאֲנִי וְהַנֶּעֱר נִלְכָּה עֲדִכָּה וְנִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וְנִשְׁוֹבָה אֵלֵיכֶם:  
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נְעָרָיו שְׁבוּ־לָכֶם פֹּה עִם־הַחֲמֹר  
בְּנֵו וַיִּקַּח בִּידּוֹ אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת־הַמַּאֲכָלֹת וַיֵּלֶכּוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:  
וַיִּלָּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵצִי הָעֹלָה וַיִּשָּׂם עַל־יִצְחָק  
וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה הָאֵשׁ וְהָעֵצִים וַאֲנִי הִשָּׂה לְעֹלָה:  
וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי

- 8 And Abraham said, "It is God who will see to the sheep for this burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.
- 9 They arrived at the place of which God had told him. Abraham built an altar there; he laid out the wood; he bound his son Isaac; he laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
- 10 And Abraham picked up the knife to slay his son.
- 11 Then a messenger of הוה called to him from heaven: "Abraham! Abraham!" And he answered, "Here I am."
- 12 "Do not raise your hand against the boy, or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your favored one, from Me."
- 13 When Abraham looked up, his eye fell upon a\*<sup>a</sup> Reading 'ead with many Heb. mss. and ancient versions; text 'aar "after." ram, caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son.
- 14 And Abraham named that site Adonai-yireh,\*Adonai-yireh I.e., "הוה will see"; cf. v. 8. whence the present saying, "On the mount of הוה there is vision."\*On the mount of הוה there is vision Heb. be-har y-h-w-h yera'eh.
- 15 The messenger of הוה called to Abraham a second time from heaven,
- 16 and said, "By Myself I swear, הוה declares: Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your favored one,
- 17 I will bestow My blessing upon you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore; and your descendants shall seize the gates of their foes.
- 18 All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, because you have obeyed My command."
- 19 Abraham then returned to his servants, and they departed together for Beer-sheba; and Abraham stayed in Beer-sheba.
- 20 Some time later, Abraham was told, "Milcah too has borne sons to your brother Nahor:
- 21 Uz the first-born, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram;
- ואברהם אלהים יראה-לו השעה לעלה בנך וילכו שניהם יחדו: ויאמר
- ויעקד את-יצחק בנו וישם אתו עליהמזבח ויערך את-העצים ויבאו אליהמקום אשר אמר-לו
- וישלח אברהם את-ידו ויקח אתהמאכלת לשחוט את-בנו: מלאך יהוה מן-השמים ויאמר אברהם | אברהם ויאמר הנני: ויקרא אליו
- כי-ירא אלהים אתה ולא חשכת את-בנך את-יחידך ממני: אל-תשלח ידך אליהנער ואל-תעש לו מאומה כי | עתה ידעתי ויאמר
- בקרניו וילך אברהם ויקח אתהאיל ויעלהו לעלה תחת בנו: וישא אברהם את-עליו וירא והנהאיל אחר נאחו בסבך
- ההוא יהוה | יראה אשר יאמר היום בהר יהוה יראה: ויקרא אברהם שם-המקום
- ויקרא מלאך יהוה אל-אברהם שנית מן-השמים:
- יען אשר עשית אתהדבר הזה ולא חשכת את-בנך את-יחידך: ויאמר בי נשבעתי נאם-יהוה כי
- השמים וכחול אשר על-שפת הים וירש ורעך את שער איביו: כי-ברך אברכך והרבה ארבה את-ורעך ככוכבי
- והתברכו בזרעך כל גויי הארץ לקב אשר שמעת בקלי:
- ויקמו וילכו יחדו אל-באר שבע וישב אברהם בבאר שבע: וישב אברהם אל-נעליו
- לאברהם לאמר הנה ילדה מלכה גס-הוא בנים לנחור אחיך: ויהי אחרי הדברים האלה ויגד
- את-עוז בכרו ואת-בוז אחיו ואת-קמואל אבי ארם:

- וְאֶת־כֶּשֶׁד וְאֶת־חָזוֹ וְאֶת־פִּלְדָּשׁ וְאֶת־יִדְלָף וְאֶת בְּתוּאֵל: 22 and Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel”—
- יָלַד אֶת־רִבְקָה שְׂמֹנָה אֱלֹהֵי יִלְדָּהּ מִלְכָּה לְנָחוֹר אָחִי אַבְרָהָם: 23 Bethuel being the father of Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham’s brother.
- וְתֵלֵד גַּם־הוּא אֶת־טֶבַח וְאֶת־גַּחַם וְאֶת־תַּחַשׁ וְאֶת־מַעֲכָה: 24 And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore [sons]—Tebah, Gaham, and Tahash—and [a daughter,]\*[a daughter] As implied. In the Bible, the name Maacah is given to five or six other persons—all of whom are women. Biblical genealogies are known to identify a lineage by a woman’s name—especially at the end of a list of segments. Maacah.