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לך לך Lech-Lecha

Genesis 12:1-17:27

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- לְךָ־לֶךְ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלֶדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאֶךָ:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם
- 1 I said to Abram, “Go forth from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you.
- וְאֶעֱשֶׂךָ לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל וְאֶבְרַכְךָ וְאֶגְדָּלְהָ שְׁמְךָ וְהָיָה בְרַכָּה:
- 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.* a blessing I.e., a standard by which blessing is invoked; cf. v. 3 end.
- מְבָרְכֶיךָ וּמְקַלְלֶיךָ אֶאְרֹר וְנִבְרְכוּ בְךָ כָּל מְשֻׁפָּחוֹת הָאֲדָמָה:
וְאֶבְרַכְהָ
- 3 I will bless those who bless you And curse the one who curses you; And all the families of the earth Shall bless themselves by you.”
- אֲתָנוּ לוֹט וְאַבְרָם בְּיָחֻזְםָּ שְׁנֵי־שָׁנִים וּשְׁבַע־עָשָׂר שָׁנָה בְּצֵאתוֹ מִחָרָן:
וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָם כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֵלָיו יְהוָה וַיֵּלֶךְ
- 4 Abram went forth as הוּאִי had commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.
- אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂו בָּחֶרֶן וַיֵּצְאוּ לְלֶכֶת אֶרֶצָּה כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרֶצָּה כְּנָעַן:
וְאֶת־לוֹט בֶּן־אָחִיו וְאֶת־כָּל־רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר רָכְשׁוּ וְאֶת־הַנַּפֶּשׁ
וַיֵּקֶחַ אַבְרָם אֶת־שָׂרָי אִשְׁתּוֹ
- 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,
- אַבְרָם בָּאֶרֶץ עַד מְקוֹם שְׁלָם עַד אֵלּוֹן מוֹרֵה וְהַכְנַעֲנִי אָז בְּאֶרֶץ:
וַיַּעֲבֹר
- 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.
- אֲתָנוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וַיָּבִין שֵׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה הַנִּרְאָה אֵלָיו:
וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר לְזָרְעֶךָ
- 7 הוּאִי appeared to Abram and said, “I will assign this land to your offspring.” And he built an altar there to הוּאִי who had appeared to him.
- מִיָּם וְהָעִי מִקְדָּם וַיָּבִין־שֵׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה:
וַיַּעֲתֶק מִשָּׁם הָהָרָה מִקְדָּם לְבֵית־אֵל וַיֵּט אֹהֶלָה בֵּית־אֵל
- 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 הוּאִי and invoked הוּאִי by name.
- וַיִּסַּע אַבְרָם הַלּוֹךְ וְנִסְעוֹעַ הַנֶּגֶב:
- 9 Then Abram journeyed by stages toward the Negeb.
- רָעַב בְּאֶרֶץ וַיֵּרֶד אַבְרָם מִצְרַיִמָּה לְגִוּר שָׁם כִּי־כָבֵד הָרָעַב בְּאֶרֶץ:
וַיְהִי
- 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.
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־שָׂרָי אִשְׁתּוֹ הִנֵּה־נָא יֹדַעְתִּי כִּי אִשָּׁה יִפְתֹּר־מֶרְאָה אָתָּ:
וַיְהִי כְּאֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיב לְבֹא מִצְרַיִמָּה
- 11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I* I Or “You”; cf. the second-person feminine form -ti in Judg. 5.7; Jer. 2.20; Mic. 4.13, etc. know what a beautiful woman you are.
- אֲתָלְךָ הַמִּצְרַיִם וַאֲמָרוּ אִשְׁתּוֹ גָּאֵת וְהִרְגוּ אֹתִי וְאֲתָלְךָ יָחִיו:
וְהָיָה כִּי־יִרְאוּ
- 12 If the Egyptians see you, and think, ‘She is his wife,’ they will kill me and let you live.
- אֲחַתִּי אָתָּה לְמַעַן יִטְבַּל־י בַּעֲבוּרְךָ וְחַיִּיתָה נַפְשִׁי בְּגִלְגָּל:
אֲמָר־נָא
- 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 Pharaoh's courtiers saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's palace.
- 16 And because of her, it went well with Abram; he acquired sheep, oxen, asses, male and female slaves, she-asses, and camels.
- 17 But הוה afflicted Pharaoh and his household with mighty plagues on account of Sarai, the wife of Abram.
- 18 Pharaoh sent for Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me! Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?"
- 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her as my wife? Now, here is your wife; take her and begone!"
- 20 And Pharaoh put agents*agents Lit. "participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation"; trad. "men." Cf. Josh. 10.18. See the Dictionary under 'ish; Agent. in charge of him, and they sent him off with his wife and all that he possessed.
- אברם מצרימה ויראו המצרים את־האשה כי־יפה היא מאד:
ויראי כבוא
- שרי פרעה ויהללו אתה אל־פרעה ותקח האשה בית פרעה:
ויראו אתה
- ויהי־לו צאן־ובקר וחמלים ועבדים ושפחות ואתנת וגמלים:
ולאברם היטיב בעבורה
- אֲת־פֶּרְעָה נִגְעִים וְגָדִים וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ עַל־דִּבְרֵי שְׂרַי אִשְׁתֹּת אֲבָרָם:
וַיִּנָּע יְהוָה
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֶה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לָמָּה לֹא־הִגַּדְתָּ לִּי כִּי אִשְׁתְּךָ הוּא:
וַיִּקְרָא פֶּרְעָה לְאַבְרָם
- אֲחֹתִי הוּא וְאָקַח אֹתָהּ לִי לְאִשָּׁה וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה אִשְׁתְּךָ קִח וְלֵךְ:
לָמָּה אָמַרְתָּ
- עָלִיו פֶּרְעָה אֲנָשִׁים וַיִּשְׁלַחוּ אוֹתוֹ וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ:
וַיֵּצֵא

13

- 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 הוה 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.—
- אֲבָרָם מִמִּצְרַיִם הָיָא וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְלוֹט עִמּוֹ הִנְגָּבָה:
וַיֵּעַל
- וַאֲבָרָם כְּבֹד מְאֹד בַּמִּקְנֶה בַּכֶּסֶף וּבַזָּהָב:
- וַאֲשֶׁר־הָיָה שָׁם אֵהְלָה בְּתַחֲלָה בֵּין בֵּית־אֵל וּבֵין הָעֵי:
וַיֵּלֶךְ לְמִסְעָיו מִנֶּגֶב וְעַד־בֵּית־אֵל עַד־הַמָּקוֹם
- הַמְזֻבָּח אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה שָׁם בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה וַיִּקְרָא שָׁם אֲבָרָם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה:
אֶל־מָקוֹם
- וְגַם־לְלוֹט הָיָה אֶת־אֲבָרָם הָיָה צֹאן־וּבָקָר וְאֹהֳלִים:
- הָאָרֶץ לִשְׁבֹּת יַחְדָּו כִּי־הָיָה רְכוּשָׁם רָב וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לִשְׁבֹּת יַחְדָּו:
וְלֹא־יָשָׂא אֹתָם
- וּבֵין רְעֵי מִקְנֵה־לוֹט וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי אֵץ יֵשֵׁב בָּאָרֶץ:
וַיַּהֲרִיבוּ בֵּין רְעֵי מִקְנֵה־אֲבָרָם

- מְרִיבָה בֵּינִי וּבֵין רַעֲי וּבֵין רַעֲיָךְ כִּי־אֲנִשִּׁים אַחִים אֲנַחְנוּ:
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־לוֹט אֵל־נָא תְּהִי
- 8 Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, between my herders and yours, for we are kin.
- הַפָּרָד נָא מֵעָלֵי אִם־הַשְׂמָאל וְאִם־הַיָּמִין וְאִשְׁמְאִילָה:
הֲלֹא כָל־הָאָרֶץ לְפָנֶיךָ
- 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let us separate.*Let us separate Lit. "Please separate from me." if you go north, I will go south; and if you go south, I will go north."
- יְהוָה אֶת־סֹדֶם וְאֶת־עַמּוּלָה כִּנְי־יְהוָה כְּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּאֶכָּה צָעַר:
אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא אֶת־כָּל־כֶּכֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן כִּי כָּלָה מִשְׁקָהָ לְפָנָי | שַׁחַת וַיִּשְׂאֵלֹוט
- 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.
- אֶת כָּל־כֶּכֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיִּסַּע לוֹט מִקְדָּם וַיִּפְרְדּוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו:
וַיִּבְחָרְלוּ לוֹט
- 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 וְלוֹט 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.
- וְאֲנָשֵׁי סֹדֶם רָעִים וְחַטָּאִים לַיהוָה מְאֹד:
- 13 Now the inhabitants of Sodom were very wicked sinners against הוֹדִי.
- וַיֹּרְאָה מִן־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אָתָּה שָׁם צִפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְקִדְמָה וַיִּמָּה:
וַיְהִי וְאָמַר אֶל־אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפָּרֶד־לוֹט מַעֲמֹ שָׂא נָא עֵינֶיךָ
- 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־אָתָּה רֹאֶה לְךָ אֶתְנַנָּה וְלִזְרַעְךָ עַד־עוֹלָם:
- 15 for I give all the land that you see to you and your offspring forever.
- אֲשֶׁר | אִם־יִיכָל אִישׁ לִמְנוֹת אֶת־עֵפֶר הָאָרֶץ גַּם־זֶרַעְךָ יִמְנָה:
וְשִׁמְתִּי אֶת־זֶרַעְךָ כְּעֵפֶר הָאָרֶץ
- 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 וְהִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּאָרֶץ לְאָרְכָּהּ וּלְרֵחְבָּהּ כִּי לְךָ אֶתְנַנָּה:
- 17 Up, walk about the land, through its length and its breadth, for I give it to you."
- וַיָּבֹא וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּאֵלְנֵי מַמְרָא אֲשֶׁר בְּחֶבְרוֹן וַיִּבְרָשֶׁם מִזֶּבֶחַ לַיהוָה:
וַיֵּאָהֶל אַבְרָם
- 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.

14

- אֲרִיּוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֱלֶסָר כְּדָרְלַעְמָר מֶלֶךְ עִילָם וְתִדָּל מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם:
וַיְהִי בִּימֵי אִמְרַפֶּל מֶלֶךְ־שִׁנָּר
- 1 Now, when King Amraphel of Shinar, King Arioch of Ellasar, King Chedorlaomer of Elam, and King Tidal of Goiim
- אִדְמָה וְשִׁמְאֵב מֶלֶךְ (צִבְיִים) [צִבּוּיִם] וּמֶלֶךְ בֶּלַע הֵיאֵצֶר:
אֶת־בְּרַע מֶלֶךְ סֹדֶם וְאֶת־בְּרִשָׁע מֶלֶךְ עֲמֹרָה שְׁנָאָב | מֶלֶךְ עֶשֶׂן מִלְחָמָה
- 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,

- 3 all the latter joined forces at the Valley of Siddim, now the Dead Sea.*Dead Sea Heb. "Salt Sea."
- 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, 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,*retainers Meaning of Heb. anikh uncertain. 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.
- כָּל־אַלֶּה תָּבְרוּ אֶל־עֶמֶק הַשְּׁדִּים הוּא יָם הַמֶּלַח:
- עֲשָׂרָה שָׁנָה עָבְדוּ אֶת־כְּדֻרְלֹאֶמֶר וּשְׁלֹש־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה מָרְדּוּ:
- קָרְנִים וְאַת־הַזּוּזִים בָּהֶם וְאֵת הָאִמִּים בַּשָּׁנָה קִרְיָתִים: בָּא כְּדֻרְלֹאֶמֶר וְהַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ וַיִּכּוּ אֶת־רִפְאִים בְּעַשְׁתָּרֹת וּבְאַרְבַּע עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה
- וְאֶת־הַחֹרִי בְּהָרָם שְׁעִיר עַד אֵיל פָּאָרָן אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַמִּדְבָּר:
- וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶת־כָּל־שְׂדֵה הָעֵמֶלְקִי וְגַם אֶת־הָאֲמֹרִי הַיֹּשֵׁב בְּחֻצְצָן תָּמָר: וַיִּשְׁבּוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־עֵין מִשְׁפָּט הוּא קָדֵשׁ
- וּמֶלֶךְ בָּלַע הוּא־צָעַר וַיַּעֲרֹכוּ אֹתָם מִלְחָמָה בְּעֶמֶק הַשְּׁדִּים: מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם וּמֶלֶךְ עֲמֹרָה וּמֶלֶךְ אַדְמָה (צְבוִיִּים) [צְבוִיִּים] וּמֶלֶךְ בֵּלָא
- מֶלֶךְ שֹׁנֵעַר וְאֲרִיֹחַ מֶלֶךְ אֶלְסָר אַרְבָּעָה מְלָכִים אֶת־הַחֲמֹשֶׁה: אֵת כְּדֻרְלֹאֶמֶר מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם וְתִדְעָל מֶלֶךְ גֹּיִם וְאַמְרָפֶּל
- חָמֵר וַיִּנָּסוּ מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם וְעַמְרָה וַיִּפְלוּ־שָׁמָּה וְהַנִּשְׁאָרִים הָרָה נָסוּ: וְעֶמֶק הַשְּׁדִּים בְּאֶרֶת בְּאֶרֶת
- וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־כָּל־רֶכֶשׁ סֹדֶם וְעַמְרָה וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲכָלָם וַיֵּלְכוּ:
- אֶת־לוֹט וְאֶת־רֶכְשׁוֹ בְּנֵי־אָחִי אַבְרָם וַיֵּלְכוּ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּסֹדֶם: וַיִּקְחוּ
- מִמָּרָא הָאֲמֹרִי אָחִי אֲשָׁכָל וְאָחִי עֶנֶר וְהֵם בְּעֵלֵי בְרִית־אַבְרָם: וַיָּבֹא הַפְּלִיט וַיִּגְדַּל אֶבְרָם הָעֵבֶרִי וְהוּא שָׁכֵן בְּאֵלֵנִי
- אֶת־חֲנִיכָיו יְלִידֵי בֵיתוֹ שְׁמֹנֶה עָשָׂר וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת וַיִּרְדְּף עַד־דָּן: וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם כִּי נִשְׁבָּה אָחִיו וַיֵּרָק
- הוּא וַעֲבָדָיו וַיִּכְּסּוּ וַיִּרְדְּפֻם עַד־חֹבָה אֲשֶׁר מִשְׁמָאל לְדַמְשֶׁק: וַיִּחַלֵּק עֲלֵיהֶם | לָיִלָה

- 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.
- 18 And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. *God Most High Heb. El 'Elyon.
- 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*swear Lit. "lift up my hand." 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."
- וְגַם אֶת־לוֹט אָחִיו וְרָכְשׁוֹ הֵשִׁיב וְגַם אֶת־הַנְּשִׁים וְאֶת־הָעָם:
וַיָּשֶׁב אֶת כָּל־הָרָכָשׁ
- וְאֶת־הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אָתָּו אֶל־עִמְקֵי שׁוֹהַ הוּא עִמְקֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ:
וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם לִקְרֹאתוֹ אַחֲרָיו שׁוֹבֵי מִהָכוֹת אֶת־כְּדֹרְלַעֲמֵר
- וּמֶלֶךְ־צִדְקָה מֶלֶךְ שָׁלֵם הוֹצִיא לָחֶם וַיְזִין וְהוּא כֹהֵן לֵאלֹהֵי עֲלִיוֹן:
- וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר בְּרוּךְ אַבְרָם לֵאלֹהֵי עֲלִיוֹן קִנְהַ שְׁמַיִם וְאָרֶץ:
- וּבְרוּךְ אֱלֹהֵי עֲלִיוֹן אֲשֶׁר־מָנִן צָרִיךְ בְּיָדְךָ וַיִּתְּנוּ־לוֹ מִכָּשָׁר מִכָּל:
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ־סֹדֶם אֶל־אַבְרָם תְּנוּ־לִי הַנָּפֶשׁ וְהָרָכָשׁ קַח־לָךְ:
- אֶל־מֶלֶךְ סֹדֶם הִרְמַתִּי יָדִי אֶל־יְהוָה אֵל עֲלִיוֹן קִנְהַ שְׁמַיִם וְאָרֶץ:
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם
- וְאִם־אֶקַּח מִכָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לָךְ וְלֹא תֹאמַר אֲנִי הִעֲשֵׂיתִי אֶת־אַבְרָם:
אִם־מִחוּט וְעַד שָׁרוּךְ־נֶעַל
- אֲשֶׁר הִלְכּוּ אִתִּי עֲנִי אֲשַׁכֵּל וּמִמָּוָה הֵם יִקְחוּ חֶלֶקם:
בְּלִעְדִּי רַק אֲשֶׁר אָכְלוּ הַנְּעָלִים וְחִלְקָם הָאֲנָשִׁים

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 *lord Heb. 'adonai y-h-w-h, traditionally read aloud as 'adonai 'elohim (rather than 'adonai twice). NJPS "Lord God." See also the Dictionary under "male metaphors for God." what can You give me, seeing that I shall die childless, and the one in charge of my household is Dammesek Eliezer!"*and the one in charge of my household is Dammesek Eliezer Meaning of Heb. uncertain.
- 3 Abram said further, "Since You have granted me no offspring, my steward will be my heir."
- לֹאמַר אֶל־תִּירָא אַבְרָם אֲנִכִּי מִנֵּן לָךְ שְׂכָרְךָ הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד:
אַחֲרַי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הָיָה דְּבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם בְּמַחְזָה
- וְאֲנִכִּי הוֹלֵךְ עִרְרִי וּבֶן־מִשְׁק בִּיחִי הוּא דַּמֶּשֶׁק אֵלִיעֶזֶר:
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה מַה־תִּתְּנוּ־לִי
- וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם הֵן לִי לֹא נִתְּנָה זָרַע וְהָנָה בֶּן־בֵּיתִי יוֹרֵשׁ אֹתִי:

- אליו לאמר לא יירשך זה כי־אם אשר יצא ממעיך הוא יירשך: והנה דברי־הנה 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."
- הכוכבים אם־תוכל לספר אתם ויאמר לו כה יהיה זרעך: ויצא אתו החוצה ויאמר הבט־נא השמימה וספר 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."
- והאמן ביהוה ויחשבה לו צדקה: 6 And he put his trust in הוהי, who reckoned it to his merit.
- הוצאתיך מאור כשלים לתת לך את־הארץ הזאת לרשתה: ויאמר אליו אני יהוה אשר 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."
- ויאמר אדני יהוה במה אדע כי אירשנה: 8 And he said, "O lord הוהי, how shall I know that I am to possess it?"
- קחה לי עגלה משלשת ועז משלשת ואיל משלש ותך וגוזל: ויאמר אליו 9 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."
- אתם בתוך ויתן איש־בתר לקראת רעהו ואת־הצפר לא בתך: ויקח־לו את־כל־אלה ויבתר 10 He brought all these and cut them in two, placing each half opposite the other; but he did not cut up the bird.
- וירד העיט על־הפגרים וישב אתם אברם: 11 Birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.
- ותרדמה נפלה על־אברם והנה אימה חשכה גדלה נפלת עליו: ויהי השמש לבוא 12 As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a great dark dread descended upon him.
- זרעך בארץ לא להם ועבדום וענו אתם ארבע מאות שנה: ויאמר לאברם ידע תדע כי־נר א יהיה 13 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;
- וגם את־הנזי אשר יעבדו הן אנכי ואת־ריכן יצאו ברכש גדול: 14 but I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve, and in the end they shall go free with great wealth.
- ואתה תבוא אל־אבותיך בשלום תקבר בשכיבה טובה: 15 As for you, You shall go to your ancestors in peace; You shall be buried at a ripe old age.
- ודור רביעי ישובו הנה כי לא־שלם עון האמרי עד־הנה: 16 And they shall return here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."
- היה והנה תנור עשן ולפיד אש אשר עבר בין הגזרים האלה: ויהי השמש באה ועלטה 17 When the sun set and it was very dark, there appeared a smoking oven, and a flaming torch which passed between those pieces.
- נתתי את־הארץ הזאת מנהר מצרים עד־הנהר הגדל נהר־פרת: ביום ההוא כרת יהוה את־אברם ברית לאמר לזרעך 18 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—
- את־הקיני ואת־הקנזי ואת־הקדמני: 19 the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,

- 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,
21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites,
and the Jebusites.”

16

- 1 Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.
- 2 And Sarai said to Abram, “Look, הוהי has kept me from bearing. Consort with my maid; perhaps I shall have a child*have a child Lit. “be built up,” play on ben “child” and banah “build up.” See the Dictionary under ben. 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. הוהי 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 הוהי 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 הוהי said to her, “Go back to your mistress, and submit to her harsh treatment.”
- 10 And the messenger of הוהי said to her, “I will greatly increase your offspring, And they shall be too many to count.”
- וְשָׂרַי אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָם לֹא יָלְדָה לוֹ וְלֹה שְׁפָחָה מִצְרִית וְשִׁמָּה הֶגֶר:
בְּאַנָּא אֶל־שְׁפָחָתִי אוּלִי אִבְנָה מִמֶּנָּה וְיִשְׁמַע אַבְרָם לְקוֹל שְׂרִי:
וְתֹאמַר שְׂרִי אֶל־אַבְרָם הִנֵּה־נָא עֲצָרְנִי יְהוָה מִלְדֹת
לְשִׁבֹת אַבְרָם בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַתֵּתֶן אֹתָהּ לְאַבְרָם אִשָּׁה לוֹ לְאַשָּׁה:
שְׂרִי אֵשֶׁת־אַבְרָם אֶת־הֶגֶר הַמִּצְרִית שְׁפָחָתָהּ מִקֵּץ עֶשְׂרֵי שָׁנִים
וַתִּלְחַח
וַיִּבֶא אֶל־הֶגֶר וַתְּהַר וַתֵּלֶד כִּי הָרְתָהּ וַתִּקַּל גְּבוּרָתָהּ בְּעֵינֶיהָ:
בְּחִילָךְ וַתֵּרָא כִּי הָרְתָהּ וַאֲקַל בְּעֵינֶיהָ יִשְׁפֹּט יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ:
וְתֹאמַר שְׂרִי אֶל־אַבְרָם חֲמָסִי עָלֶיךָ אֲנִכִּי נָתַתִּי שְׁפָחָתִי
בְּיָדְךָ עֲשִׂי־לָהּ הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ וַתַּעֲנֶה שְׂרִי וַתִּבְרַח מִפְּנֵיהָ:
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־שְׂרִי הִנֵּה שְׁפָחָתְךָ
מְלֹאךְ יְהוָה עַל־עֵין הַמַּיִם בַּמִּדְבָּר עַל־הָעֵין בְּדֶרֶךְ שׁוּר:
וַיֹּאמֶר וְאַנָּה תִּלְכִּי וְתֹאמַר מִפְּנֵי שְׂרִי גְבוּרָתִי אֲנִכִּי בִרְחֹת:
וַיֹּאמֶר הָרָר שְׁפָחָת שְׂרִי אִי־מִזָּה
וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מְלֹאךְ יְהוָה שׁוּבִי אֶל־גְּבוּרָתְךָ וְהִתְעַנִּי תַּחַת יָדֶיהָ:
וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מְלֹאךְ יְהוָה הִרְבָּה אֲרֻבָּה אֶת־זֶרְעֶךָ וְלֹא יִסְפָּר מִרְבּוֹ:

- 11 The messenger of הוהי said to her further, "Behold, you are pregnant And shall bear a son; You shall call him Ishmael, *Ishmael I.e., "God heeds." For הוהי has paid heed to your suffering.
- 12 He shall be a wild ass of a person; *person Or perhaps "sire" (cf. Josh. 14.15, Gen. 2.22b–4.1, and Phoenician usage). Trad. "man." See the Dictionary under 'adam. His hand against everyone, And everyone's hand against him; He shall dwell alongside of all his kin."
- 13 And she called הוהי*הוהי The messenger who spoke is labeled with the principal's name, to underscore that the message was delivered on the principal's behalf. (A narrative convention in the Hebrew Bible.) who spoke to her, "You Are El-roi," *El-roi Apparently "God of Seeing." by which she meant, "Have I not gone on seeing after my being seen!" *Have I not gone on seeing after my being seen Meaning of Heb. uncertain.
- 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; *Beer-lahai-roi Apparently "the Well of the Living One who sees me." 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.

17

- 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, הוהי appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai. *El Shaddai Traditionally rendered "God Almighty." 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, *Abraham Understood as "father of a multitude." for I make you the father of a multitude of nations.

- והִפְרֵתִי אֹתְךָ בְּמֵאֹד מְאֹד וַנִּתְחַיֶּה לְגוֹיִם וּמַלְכִּים מִמֶּךָ יֵצְאוּ:
- 6 I will make you exceedingly fertile, and make nations of you; and kings shall come forth from you.
- לְדֹרֹתָם לְבְרִית עוֹלָם לִהְיוֹת לְךָ לְאֱלֹהִים וּלְזֶרַעְךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ: וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ וּבֵין זֶרַעְךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ:
- 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.
- מְגִדְּךָ אֶת כָּל־אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן לְאַחֲזָת עוֹלָם וְהִיִּיתִי לָהֶם לֵאלֹהִים: וַנִּתְחַיֶּה לְךָ וּלְזֶרַעְךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ אֶת אֶרֶץ
- 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."
- וְאַתָּה אֶת־בְּרִיתִי תִשְׁמֹר אֹתָהּ וּזְרַעְךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ לְדֹרֹתָם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם
- 9 God further said to Abraham, "As for you, you and your offspring to come throughout the ages shall keep My covenant.
- תִּשְׁמְרוּ בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין זֶרַעְךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ הַמּוֹל לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר: זֹאת בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר
- 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.
- וְנִמְלְתֶם אֶת בָּשָׂר עֶרְלַתְכֶם וְהָיָה לְאוֹת בְּלִית בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם:
- 11 You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.
- יִלֵּיד בַּיִת וּמִקְנֵת־לִסְסָה מְכֹל בֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר לֹא מְזֻרָעָה הוּא: וּבְשָׁמֶנֶת יָמִים יִמּוֹל לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם
- 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,
- יִלֵּיד בֵּיתְךָ וּמִקְנֵת כֶּסֶף וְהִזְיָה בְּרִיתִי בְּבָשָׂרְכֶם לְבְרִית עוֹלָם: הַמּוֹל | יִמּוֹל
- 13 they must be circumcised, homeborn and purchased alike. Thus shall My covenant be marked in your flesh as an everlasting pact.
- עֶרְלָתוֹ וְנִכְרָתָהּ הִנָּפֵשׁ הִהוּא מִעַמִּיהָ אֶת־בְּרִיתִי הִפָּר: וְעָרַל | זָכָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִמּוֹל אֶת־בָּשָׂר
- 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."
- שָׂרִי אֲשֶׁתְּךָ לֹא־תִקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָהּ שָׂרִי כִּי שָׂרָה שְׁמָהּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם
- 15 And God said to Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, you shall not call her Sarai, but her name shall be Sarah.*Sarah I.e., "princess."
- מִמֶּנָּה לְךָ בֵּן וּבִרְכָּתֶיהָ וְהִיְתָה לְגוֹיִם מַלְכֵי עַמִּים מִמֶּנָּה יִהְיוּ: וּבִרְכָּתִי אֱלֹהִים וְגַם נָתַתִּי
- 16 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."
- בִּלְבּוֹ הִלָּבֵן מֵאֶה־שֹׁנָה יוֹלֵד וְאִם־שָׁלָה הִבְתִּישָׁעִים שֹׁנָה תִּלְד: וַיִּפֹּל אַבְרָהָם עַל־פָּנָיו וַיִּצְחַק וַיֹּאמֶר
- 17 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?"
- וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים לוֹ יִשְׁמַעֵאל יִחְיָה לְפָנֶיךָ:
- 18 And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live by Your favor!"

- יִצְחָק וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתּוֹ לְבְרִית עוֹלָם לְזֶרְעוֹ אַחֲרָיו:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֲבֹל שָׂרָה אֲשֶׁתְּךָ יִלְדֶּת לָךְ בֶּן וְקִרְאתָ אֶת־שְׁמוֹ
- 19 God said, “Nevertheless, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac;*Isaac Heb. Yiaq, from aaq, “laugh.” and I will maintain My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring to come.
- אִתּוֹ בְּמֵאֹד מֵאֹד שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר נָשִׁימָא יוֹלִיד וְנִתְּנָיו לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל:
שְׁמַעְתִּיךָ הִנֵּה | בֵּרַכְתִּי אֹתוֹ וְהִפְרִיתִי אֹתוֹ וְהִרְבִּיתִי
וְלִישְׁמָעָאֵל
- 20 As for Ishmael, I have heeded you.*I have heeded you Heb. shema’tikha, play on “Ishmael.” 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.
- אֶת־יִצְחָק אֲשֶׁר תֵּלֵד לָךְ שָׂרָה לְמוֹעֵד הַזֶּה בִּשְׁנָה הָאַחֲרֹת:
וְאֶת־בְּרִיתִי אֲקִים
- 21 But My covenant I will maintain with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.”
- וַיָּכֵל לְדַבֵּר אֹתוֹ וַיֵּעַל אֱלֹהִים מֵעַל אַבְרָהָם:
- 22 Done speaking with him, God was gone from Abraham.
- אֶת־בְּשָׁר עָרְלָתָם בָּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֲתוֹ אֱלֹהִים:
בֵּיתוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־מִקְנֵת כֶּסֶּפוֹ כָּל־זָכָר בְּאֻנְשֵׁי בֵּית אַבְרָהָם וְיָמַל
וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יִשְׁמָעָאֵל בְּנוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־יְלִידֵי
- 23 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.
- וְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן־תִּשְׁעִים וְחָשֵׁעַ שָׁנָה בְּהִמְלֹו בְּשָׁר עָרְלָתוֹ:
- 24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin,
- וַיִּשְׁמָעָאֵל בְּנוֹ בֶּן־שְׁלֹשׁ עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה בְּהִמְלֹו אֵת בְּשָׁר עָרְלָתוֹ:
- 25 and his son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.
- בָּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִמְּוֹל אַבְרָהָם וַיִּשְׁמָעָאֵל בְּנוֹ:
- 26 Thus Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised on that very day;
- בֵּיתוֹ יְלִיד בֵּית וּמִקְנֵת־כֶּסֶף מֵאֵת בֶּן־נֶכֶר נִמְּוֹל אֹתוֹ:
וְכָל־אֻנְשֵׁי
- 27 and all [men of] his household, his homeborn slaves and those that had been bought from outsiders, were circumcised with him.