

This is the Torah Study for Kai-yea Sar-rah, Genesis 23:1 to 25:18.

Welcome to our teaching.

Please be patient with our audio.

Kai-yea Sar-rah means, "life of Sarah." In this portion, Sarah dies at the age of 127 and Abraham buys the cave of Machpelah in Hebron to bury her there. Abraham pays Efron 400 silver shekels for the cave. It is evident that he finds this cave important; perhaps its past connections were meaningful to him. It was supposedly where Adam and Eve were buried. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all end up being buried there.

Abraham says he is a sojourner and a foreigner. He is an alien living among them. He asks to purchase a burial site in Genesis 23:4 NKJV, "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you." This is something that believers in the true God have been able to attach special meaning to. Just like Abraham, we are foreigners to this world as we live out our pilgrimage of life. As we have talked about in the past, Abraham was from the East where they were pagan.

The word, "Hebrew" was given to him by the people in Canaan. Being Hebrew essentially means Abraham came from the pagan East, from beyond the Jordan according to Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon. The meaning "crossed over" was made up by the rabbis, it is an acronym formed from the Hebrew word for Hebrew (which is ee-vreet). We are commanded to confess that we are pagans around the time of Passover. We say that we are pagan Arameans on the day of first fruits which is right after Passover (Deuteronomy 26:5-10). I remember my dad saying this when I was little; we are what!?

We do this out of humility, and we recognize our roots. God has made us His people; we have so much to be thankful for. Like I have said in past teachings, the story of Abraham was important in Jewish culture. Gentiles often do not understand this. They focus on one section of the Gospels where the unbelieving leaders of Yeshua's times identify with Abraham. These Gentiles buy into the misinformation passed down to them and say how messed up the Jews were in Yeshua's time. I tend to think the opposite. Not all lived in sin like some think.

The Jews did not kill Yeshua, the Romans did.

A whole false theology has been developed to discredit the Jews. For example, Yeshua said the Gentiles would put Him to death, the leadership in Israel at the time was installed by the Romans, and the Roman historian Tacitus said that the Roman Empire put Yeshua to death. When the Roman Empire took control of Christianity, they turned the story around on the Jews.

The early believers kept God's commandments and there were tens of thousands of early believers in Yeshua. The word "myriads" in Acts 21:20 means tens of thousands according to Strong's Dictionary. Acts 21:20 NKJV says, "And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have

believed, and they are all zealous for the law." They glorified God because there were tens of thousands who were keeping the law, God's commandments. God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding (see Deuteronomy 4:6) and they are "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). False teachers turn the scripture around and say they were messed up spiritually for keeping the law. It is crazy isn't it? The law gives us wisdom and understanding and is right and good. These false teachers are the ones who are messed up spiritually.

The Jewish culture was trying, even if it was misguided at times, to follow God. This misguided focus by some Christians about the Jews comes from a few people who are thinking wrong and do not see the obvious connections in the Bible in its original understanding. After talking about Abraham, in the book of Hebrews 11:13-16 NKJV it says:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

The Jews properly came up with the understanding that we are no longer pagan foreigners, but we are now strangers or foreigners to this pagan world; we look forward to a new heaven and earth where we all do what is right. second peter 3:13 NKJV says, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." It will be a wonderful and amazing time! Isaiah 64:3, 4 NKJV, "No one has ever heard, no ear perceived, no eye seen, any God but you. You work for him who waits for you. ... If we keep your ancient ways, we will be saved." God's work is beyond our ability to comprehend! If people want to be saved, it says we must keep God's ancient ways. So, the people who say that the Bible is old fashioned are wrong.

*The people who say we do not have
to follow God's commandments are wrong.*

Kefa writes to those who live outside of Jewish society and says in first Peter 2:11-12 NKJV, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God;"

"Sojourners" most certainly would have resonated with the people of his time. They were strangers even as Abraham was a stranger; and instead of living a life as a pagan evildoer by not keeping God's commandments, they were to keep God's commandments (good works refers to keeping God's commandments, they are good (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). As a people who are on a pilgrimage like Abraham, they were to seek the future kingdom that God has prepared for them. If they take the right path and keep God's commandments, their walk culminates in the future kingdom of God.

Take some time to think this through. We are grateful that we are no longer pagans who have come from the East. We are now those who will live someday in a different world just as our

father Abraham was not worldly, but looked forward to a future kingdom. Therefore, we are children of Abraham by faith. Probably other scriptures come to mind as well. You can begin plugging them into this understanding the Jews had. Have fun with this instead of making up random studies on numbers and letters as some do. Perhaps some of their studies are good applications. Yeshua said they were mostly just diversions that were off track (see John 5:39).

*Some were so off track with reading man-made ideas into the scriptures
that they did not know the Messiah was here!*

Explanation of what Shah-ool is talking about in Galatians 3 concerning Abraham.

We should take some time to understand what Shah-ool (Paul) is talking about in Galatians. First, we need to understand that there is a major departure from the truth of the Bible by Christianity that has occurred through man-made theology. This false doctrine had its beginnings in the pagan Roman Empire that made up its own doctrine and subverted the Bible to its own false doctrine. The Roman Empire positioned itself against Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus), His followers, and against biblical truth when they created their own version of Christianity.

Because of false doctrine and the inability of Christianity in general to understand Jewish cultural issues and the Jewish roots of our faith, the false doctrines that they have made up from the scriptures by the Roman Empire continue to be taught. Ya'akov said in James 3:1 NKJV, "Brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." Those that teach people to not obey God and send people to the lake of fire will end up in the lake of fire. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone." What does the Bible say about those who live in sin? Do not be deceived, they will not enter God's future kingdom. So, if someone tells you that God's commandments are done away with, do not listen to them.

first Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV

Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 6:7-8 NKJV

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Revelation 21:8 NKJV

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.

The reason we talk about these things frequently (and other issues) is to lovingly help you avoid falling short of God's good eternal kingdom. God must tell us the consequences of not following His commandments or He would not be a good God.

Also, when we read from the Greek translation, there appears to be some deliberate muddling of the scriptures by the heretics of the Roman Empire. For example, Shah-ool quotes from Deuteronomy in Galatians 3:10 which says in Deuteronomy 27:26 NKJV, "A curse on anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah by putting them into practice." **Those that do not keep the Torah are under a curse.** The translation from the Greek seems altered. Psalms 119:21 NKJV says, "You rebuke the proud – the cursed, who stray from Your commandments." When people stray from God's good commandments, they can incur consequences, a curse and even fall short of God's good eternal kingdom.

First, a little background from Chapter 2. Shah-ool (Paul) was chosen by Yeshua to reach the Gentiles. Shah-ool (Paul) talks about an encounter with those who were adding extra stipulations on the Gentiles about receiving the Messiah Yeshua like adult circumcision and not eating with Gentiles and lots more laws. By the way, Shah-ool still teaches circumcision, Galatians 5:11 NKJV, "If I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution." Shah-ool does not teach adult circumcision, which is dangerous. We are created in God's image and therefore we are to protect life. Not protecting life is against the Torah.

Shah-ool shares how Kefa (Peter), and others reacted and stopped eating with Gentiles when **those adding laws** to the Torah were present. Tension was created by a misapplication of the law. It says in Exodus 34:14-16 that they were not to eat with an idolater which at the time meant they were forming a bond with them. We are not to bond with idolaters. But the Gentiles they stopped eating with in the letter to the Galatians were not idolaters.

These Gentile believers were no longer idolaters and Kefa and others should not have stopped eating with them. This happened because of people back then who added laws to the Torah. Since these people were adding laws to the Torah, **they were Torah breakers.** Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God." Yeshua was against the adding and subtracting from God's commandments. In Matthew 15, they were subtracting from God's commandments. Isn't that what a lot of Christian churches are doing in our ear? Matthew 15:9 NKJV says, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Shah-ool makes a point from Galatians 3:6-9 that the Gentiles can have faith and live justly, the scriptures prophesied this, and all those who believe in the true God both Jew and Gentile are blessed through Abraham. Then in Galatians 3:10, Shah-ool quotes Deuteronomy 27:26 NKJV, "A curse on anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah by putting them into practice." Again, **those that don't keep the Torah are under a curse.** The Gentiles were to learn and keep the Torah according to Acts 15:21 NKJV, "For Moses has had throughout

many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

It is not the law that is a curse. It says cursed is anyone who does not keep the Torah, the law. That has been the issue all along. **The Torah breakers** who added the extra man-made laws **were not keeping the Torah right** and even excluding the Messianic Gentiles. Shah-ool made two points in Galatians 2:14-21. He also goes on to say we have to have faith in God and not ritual without faith. He also says we do not want to build another system of man-made laws in Galatians 2:18.

Then Galatians 3:11 means that no one is made just by only doing laws without faith. A person who lives justly (justified means to live justly, namely a person who does what is right) requires that we also have faith in God. It says in Habakkuk 2:4 CJB, "The righteous will attain life through trusting faithfulness." Anyone can keep a law without their heart being in it. We must also have faith in God.

You might want to note. People who start interpreting the Bible wrong apply their wrong thinking to all the scriptures and develop a compete false system understanding of the Bible through their false theology. God's word is not a curse. It is adding and subtracting from God's word that brings a curse. Just like Eve changed what God had said by adding to and subtracting to God's word, they change the meaning of the scriptures and bring a curse on themselves like it says in Deuteronomy 27:26, "A curse on anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah."

It is our responsibility first to do what is right and keep God's commandments. Then, try to help others with humility to also begin doing what is right. Do not expect people to automatically change. It can take a while to unlearn false teaching; be loving, caring, and help them to understand little by little. Just like Eve was deceived, they are deceived, and we need to help them in love (second corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:15).

Galatians 3:12 tells us that the law in itself doesn't require faith, but those who live by them will benefit from them; namely, the law of God's commandments in the Torah. Shah-ool is quoting from Leviticus 18:4-5 NKJV where it says, "You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord." Since he is quoting from this, he obviously does not mean the law is done away with. Anyone who keeps the law will benefit from them (also see Deuteronomy 4:6), even those who do not believe in God.

So, in Galatians 3:13, the Messiah has redeemed us from being cursed by the extra man-made laws. The Jews were living by misapplied laws, and he came to set us free from these misapplied man-made laws **so we could observe the law, the Torah, properly.**

We need to qualify this concept. Setting us free from the man-made laws of the Jewish Sanhedrin by teaching us how to keep the law was not the only thing that Yeshua did for us. Here are a few of the other things that Messiah Yeshua did for us.

Yeshua taught us how to keep God's laws better and not add or subtract from them. Matthew 15:1-9.

Yeshua came as our Messianic King. Jeremiah 23:5-6.

Yeshua came as an advocate for the believer and to appease our sin. first John 2:1-2; Isaiah 53:6.

Yeshua made available the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38-39.

Through Yeshua we can have victory over the devil. first John 3:8; Luke 10:17; James 4:7-8.

Yeshua is our High Priest in heaven. Hebrews 4:14-16.

Yeshua was the final sacrifice for our sin. Hebrews 9:27-28, 10:11-14.

The Torah says that anyone hanged on a tree is cursed (see Deuteronomy 21:23), so Shah-ool sees that Yeshua dying on a tree has removed our curse, the curse of the extra man-made laws that were contrary to the Torah. The extra man-made laws were causing us to not keep the Old Testament commandments properly and making us Torah breakers.

Therefore, it also stands to make sense that Yeshua has removed the man-made laws that were keeping the Gentiles outside the community of believers back then – we can understand this from the context, namely the implied thinking that Shah-ool expects us to have. The context demonstrates that the Gentiles being included in the Jewish community is the main reason for his letter to the Galatians which it seems most of Christianity is blind to.

Therefore, according to Galatians 3:14, since the man-made laws that are keeping the Gentiles outside the community of believers has been removed, the blessing of Abraham can be fully realized through the Messiah Yeshua, and both Jew and Gentile can receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by our faith.

Like Kefa says 3:15-16, Shah-ool's reasoning is sometimes difficult to understand. Those that misinterpret Shah-ool bring destruction on themselves according to Kefa. second peter 3:15-16 NKJV says, "As also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." There was no New Testament at the time so the scriptures he is talking about have to be the Old Testament scriptures. These people who do not understand the Old Testament scriptures and God's good commandments twist the scriptures and will end up in the lake of fire because they are teaching lies (see Revelation 21:8).

Continuing on with the portion.

Abraham then sends his righteous servant Eliezer to find a wife for his son Isaac. We think

that it is Eliezer who ruled Abraham's house for him (see Genesis 15:2 and Genesis 24:2). Just as we have people who provide different services in our era, they had people who served in different functions. He ruled Abraham's house. The name Eliezer means, God will help me. Eliezer is to find a wife for Isaac in Nachor's city in Mesopotamia. Nachor was Abraham's brother. Abraham does this because he does not want Isaac to marry an unbeliever from the land of Canaan. Abraham says that God would send His angel before his servant. When his servant gets to the city it is evening, and it was time for the women to draw water. Abraham's servant prays and asks God for a sign that the woman whom he asks water from will say yes and also offer to water his camels. Before he could finish asking God, Reev-kah the daughter of Nachor came.

This is not just a funny story at a well, but a recording of God orchestrating events to make His will known. Abraham's servant then asks for a drink of water, and she complies and also offers to water his camels. He asked if they had room to stay and she said that they did. When he arrives at the home of Lavan, Reev-kah's brother greets Abraham's servant in the name of Yood-hey-vav-hey, (God's real name, Yě-hō-váh).

Yě-hō-váh, "This is My name forever" Exodus 3:15 NKJV.

Identifying good people.

We see Rebecca being kind and courteous towards Elee-ay-zer. And she took the time to be attentive towards his animals as well. We can identify good people often by how they treat others, by their words and good and clear thinking, and by the kind of people they attract. A good person will do what is "right and good" (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). People often are attracted to other people who are like them.

The portion continues. Before Abraham's servant eats, he explains why he is there and the events that God had orchestrated to bring them together. He lets them know why he is there and asks them if he needs to look elsewhere for a wife for Isaac. They recognize that God has brought them together and he was able to return right away with Reev-kah even though they asked him to stay. Reev-kah and Isaac ended up seeing each other in a field when Reev-kah was almost back. Isaac then takes Reev-kah as his wife. Abraham has another wife named Keturah after Sarah dies and Abraham has six more sons before he dies at the age of 175, and he is gathered to his people. Gathered to his people can only be an idiom meaning to join them in eternal life. Namely, he will join the other believers of his family in the future when they rise from the dead (see Deuteronomy 5:29 and Daniel 12:2-3). You go to be with people who are alive and not those who are dead. Isaac inherits Abraham's possessions. The descendants of Yishmael are listed at the end of this portion; he dies at the age of 137 and was gathered to his people meaning that he also was a believer who will be with other believers for eternity.

This portion records the deaths of both Abraham and Sarah. The Jewish writings say that the cave of Machpelah that Abraham bought for his family's burial is where Adam and Eve were buried. In this portion, the highlight of this portion is when God orchestrates the events to

bring Reev-kah back as Isaac's wife. Abraham sends his servant and trusts that God will bring back a wife for Isaac. Then God works out the details.

We see events like these happening to the prophets in the Tanakh and they also occurred frequently to Yeshua. Yeshua's disciples experienced miraculous events as they followed Yeshua wherever He went. In the case of Abraham's servant and also for Reev-kah's family, it was apparent to them that the LORD - Yě-hō-váh, orchestrated the events to bring back Reev-kah as Isaac's wife. After Yeshua ascended to heaven, his tal-mee-deem recalled many of the events they witnessed and saw how God had orchestrated the events to show them that Yeshua is indeed the Messiah. It should also be evidence to us that God is in control. I have witnessed events that were set up by God, and they were very exciting. God can do what He wants because He is God and He is a good and all-knowing God.

Woe to him who strives with his Maker! ... Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Isaiah 45:9 NKJV.

The Haftarah for Kai-yea Sar-rah is first Kings 1:1-31. This reading takes place just before the death of King David. King David is sick and one of his sons began to claim that he was king. Baht-Sheva asks King David if he hadn't told her that Shlomo would be king. Nathan also comes in and asks King David about Adon-nee-yah's claim to the throne. King David then orders Shlomo to be anointed king. It is through King David that the Messiah Yeshua would ultimately be born. (see second Samuel 7:16).

In the Torah portion, both Sarah and Abraham die. Abraham sticks to what God told him to do about Isaac being the heir of promise. Although men may think that they are the ones who are in power and they are the ones that know how to procure power, it was God who ultimately chose the line of people from whom would come the Messiah. Through Abraham the earth is blessed and also through Yeshua our Messiah.

Abraham lives his life committed to the true God, and God gave him a blessed life. His life was not without trials, but he stood strong. Through Abraham, the entire world has been blessed tremendously. We also can be a people who are committed to God and bring blessings to the world. Never minimize your contribution as a follower of the creator God and our Messiah Yeshua.

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

We should take time to grieve over the death of those close to us. This can be accomplished in many different ways but should not be done in a pagan way. Abraham put Sarah's body in a special cave in memory of her. Genesis 23.

You can make agreements with trustworthy people. Genesis 24:3-4.

We are to marry believers in the true God. Abraham went to extremes in order to ensure this

for his son Isaac. Genesis 24:3.

God will bring to pass miracles on behalf of His people at His discretion. Genesis 24:27.

It was appropriate to use God's real name, Yĕhōváh, and it still is. God's name is used over 6,521 times in the Tanakh according to Strong's Dictionary. God says Exodus 3:15 NKJV, "This is My name forever." We see Nay-hor's son, Beth-ool-el using God's real name. Genesis 24:50.

A man and a woman are to get married and live together as husband and wife. Genesis 24:67.

It is okay to marry again after the death of your spouse. In Jewish understanding, Sarah left Abraham after he took Isaac to sacrifice him. Abraham had to travel to where Sarah was. Abraham then took another wife. Single people are allowed to remarry. Only we should not be yoked with unbelievers. Genesis 23:2, Genesis 25:1; second corinthians 6:14-18.

In closing, let us say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

We need to explain why we use God's real name in the Aaronic blessing. Some believe we are not supposed to use God's name, but they are mistaken. ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yĕ-hō-váh. Yĕ-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yĕ-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yĕ-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb to exist. Yĕ-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Won't you also honor God's and use His true name with respect at times. The ancient rabbis say that Yĕ-hō-váh is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yĕ-hō-váh, once as Yĕ-hō-vĕh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yĕ-hō-váh.

Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yĕ-hō-váh.

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people. What an honor it is to be a people of the creator and true God.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

Yĕ-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yĕ-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.