



**#4 Vayera Genesis 18:1-22:24; 2020  
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Torah Study**

**Names**

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed  
 Moshe – Moses  
 Shaul – Paul  
 S'dom and Amora – Sodom and Gomorrah  
 Yeshua – Jesus' real name  
 Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)  
 Yitz'chak – Isaac  
 Yochanan – John

**Terms**

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible  
 Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible  
 Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah  
 Vayera - 4<sup>th</sup> Torah portion

**Torah Study**

This is the Torah Study part of our teaching for Vayera. We also have an accompanying teaching on this portion of scripture. We cover different portions or sections of the Torah because that method of study was given us by the prophets; probably Nehemiah.

Vayera means, "and He appeared." This portion begins with Abraham greeting three men and offering them rest and food. One of the men says that Sarah will have a child at this time the next year and Sarah laughs. One of the men is יהוה (Yĕ-hō-vāh, the exclusive name for God)<sup>1</sup> and he asks why Sarah laughed and says that there is nothing too hard for Yĕ-hō-vāh.

God appeared as a man to Abraham; He eats and talks with him. Some say God can't come as a man, but that is not true. Jeremiah 23:5-6 NKJV, "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." The word "LORD" is Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey, the exclusive name for God. This clearly says that God will come as a man and be God. God also came in the form of a man as Yeshua our Messiah. We understand these appearances of Yeshua in the Old Testament portion to be pre-incarnate appearances of Yeshua.

Also, in the account, we see that Abraham and Sarah were very generous and hospitable. We should understand that when Shaul tells us to be hospitable in Romans 12:13, he is probably thinking about Abraham's example. Teachings about Abraham are important Jewish teachings. All the early believers were Jewish and we need to understand the Bible in its Jewish context.

The three men and Abraham then set out for S'dom, but יהוה (Yĕ-hō-vāh ) stays with

<sup>1</sup> Pronunciation of God's true name as seen in over 2,363 manuscripts. Once as Ye-ho-veh; never as Yahweh.

Abraham and reveals what He is about to do there. Abraham then intercedes for S'dom and begins asking יהוה (Yě-hō-váh) if He will spare them for only 50 righteous people. Abraham asks several times each time reducing the number and asking if יהוה (Yě-hō-váh) will spare the people there. Then יהוה (Yě-hō-váh) leaves.

The two other men (angels) went to S'dom and Lot met them in town and invited them back to his house to eat and stay over night. The men of the town surrounded the house wanting to abuse the angels. The angels pulled Lot back into the house and blinded the men outside the house. They then told Lot they were going to destroy S'dom for its evil. Lot and his family leave, urged on by the angels. S'dom and 'Amora are destroyed with brimstone and Lot's wife is made a pillar of salt because she looked back. Lot ends up having children from his daughters. Perhaps they thought the world had ended.

Two portions ago, the world was destroyed for its wickedness by a flood. In today's portion, S'dom and 'Amora are destroyed for their wickedness. In the New Testament portion, Kefa talks about God helping those who do what is right and the impending judgment for the wicked.

2 Peter 2:4-10 NKJV:

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed."

We may have to live among ungodly people, but we don't have to live like them; don't live like them. Sadly, they will end up in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 21:8). It says God will help us to live right. If God reminds you that something is wrong; don't do it. God wants us to succeed.

Abraham goes into the Negev and meets Avimelekh. Abraham tells Avimelekh that Sarah is his sister. Avimelekh takes Sarah as his wife, but is warned in a dream that Sarah is Abraham's wife. Avimelekh returns Sarah and also gives Abraham gifts to vindicate himself. In Avimelekh's dream God told him that Abraham is a prophet and that Abraham would pray for him. Abraham prays for him and he and his family are healed so that they can have children.

Yitz'chak was born when Abraham was 100 years old. After Yitz'chak is weaned, Sarah asks

Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. God tells Abraham to listen to Sarah. After Hagar was sent away, Hagar initially became despondent, but an angel encouraged her and she found water. When Ishmael grew up he found a wife from Egypt.

The Bible says that God's tests us to see if we are true believers. Abraham was a great man of faith and an example to us. Here are some of the things Abraham faced:

He lived in an idolatrous land.

God told him to go to Canaan.

There was a famine after he got to Canaan.

Sarah is taken twice.

Lot is taken and Abraham fights to get him back.

He is told that his descendants will go into captivity.

He is circumcised at 100.

Sarah is infertile until she is 90.

He sent Ishmael away.

He went to sacrifice Isaac.

Deuteronomy 8:2 NKJV says, "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not." We should remember that we will also face testing; stand strong and pass your times of testing.

Then, Abraham and Avimelekh make an agreement. Abraham also gives Avimelekh 7 lambs as a witness for the well Abraham dug at Be'er Sheva. After this, God tested Abraham and told Abraham to go to Mt. Moriah and offer up his son. After they got there, just before Abraham was to offer up his son an angel stopped him and God provided a ram to sacrifice. The account is called the Akedah in Jewish tradition and is a picture of the Messiah Yeshua giving Himself for our sins. Isaiah 53:6 NKJV says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." This parashah ends with Abraham going back to Be'er Sheva and he also finds out his brother Nachor had children.

When Shaul says he is bound to go to Jerusalem, it comes from the binding of Isaac. He is thinking about how Isaac allowed himself to be bound and give himself. The rabbis teach he was a grown man and he did this willingly. Theology sometimes says that Shaul disobeyed God because people prophesied that he would be in for trouble when he got to Jerusalem. That is not true. Like Isaac, he was bound and God provided a way out for him and even sent him to where he wanted to go (Romans 15:30-32); just like Isaac! Remember, the biblical context is Jewish.

The Haftarah for Vayera is 2 Kings 4:1-37. The Haftarah contains stories about Elisha. First he multiplies oil for a woman and her two sons to provide for them and then he heals a woman who is barren. When the woman's son dies, Elisha goes to her home and raises the child from the dead. In this Haftarah, we see another example of God using a prophet to heal others.

Abraham (who is a prophet) prays for Avimelekh and Avimelekh's household is healed of infertility. In the Haftarah, the prophet Elisha raises a boy from the dead. Yeshua was a prophet and a healer, and also our Messiah. Most think that a prophetic person only gives words from God, but we also see prophetic people healing others. As believers in the Messiah, God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit and the associated evidences include prophecy and healing.

In the New Testament portion, there are evidences or gifts associated with the Holy Spirit. Shaul gives a list of gifts (where he calls them evidences) of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. Remember, lists in Jewish thought are often representative and are not all inclusive. Shaul also gives other lists in Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 (where he calls them gifts). Prophets are listed in Ephesians 4 and gifts of healing are in 1 Corinthians 12:9. It should be remembered that spiritual gifts are very important, but they are only part of what the Bible teaches us. We are to believe in the whole Bible.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 NKJV:

"Moreover, to each person is given the particular manifestation of the Spirit that will be for the common good. To one, through the Spirit, is given a word of wisdom; to another, a word of knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit; to another, faith, by the same Spirit; and to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit; to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the ability to judge between spirits; to another, the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues; and to yet another, the ability to interpret tongues. One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to each person as he chooses."

### **In Closing**

The exclusive name for God is used in this portion as God appears to Abram as a man. S'dom and Amora are destroyed for their sin. They are still there as a reminder that God hates sin and the harm it causes. For example, because people say it is okay to commit sexual sin, 31 million people have died from the HIV, Aids virus; which in part has been spread by homosexual men. It has been generally accepted that they are the principal carriers of this mostly sexually transmitted disease. It is said that one of every 4 homosexuals have this deadly disease at present and their continued sin continues to spread the sin.

God doesn't like sin because of the harm it brings. So be careful how you view this terrible sin that has killed so many. Are you being complicit with the deaths of all those millions by your beliefs? He will judge those who accept sin the Bible says. We need to be reminded frequently that Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "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."

Abraham is a prophet and he prays for Avimelech and he is healed. Yitzchak is born and Abraham was going to sacrifice him, but an angel stopped him. The rabbis teach

that Isaac was grown up and was willing to give himself. God providing a sacrifice is a prophetic picture of the Messiah Yeshua in the future, willingly giving Himself for our sin. We see that God did miracles and healings in the Old Testament portion, He continues to do the same in our era. Malachi 3:6 NKJV says, "For I am the LORD, I do not change."