**2023 Parashah Reading: #3 Name: Lech Lecha Torah Reading: Genesis 12:1 – 17.27**

 **Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 40:27 – 41:16 Gospel: John 8:51 - 58**

**This Week’s Torah Portion and Outline**

**Chapter 12:1 – 9** “**The Call of Abram” Chapter 12:10 – 20 “Abram and Sarai in Egypt”**

**Chapter 13:1 – 18 “Abram and Lot Separate” Chapter 14:1 – 16 “Abram Rescues Lot”**

**Chapter 14:17 – 24 “Abram Blessed by Melchizedek” Chapter 15:1 – 21 “YHWH's Covenant with Abram”**

**Chapter 16:1 – 16 “Sarai and Hagar” Chapter 17:1 – 14 “Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision”**

**Chapter 17:15 – 27 “Isaac's Birth Promised”**

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**Torah Parashah Questions for Discussion**

1. Why did Abram and Lot separate? What lesson is there to learn from this account and apply to your life today?
2. When we read of Abram rescuing Lot, what do we learn about Abram’s character? What do we learn about family structure and responsibility?
3. Genesis 15:7 states, “And he said unto him, I *am* YHWH that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.” Where is Ur, and what was the culture of the Chaldees? How does this apply to us today?
4. Genesis 15:12 states, “And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, *an horror of great darkness* fell upon him.” What is this horror of great darkness?
5. In Chapters 15 and 17, Abram enters into two covenants with YHWH. What are they, and what do these have to do with us?
6. Gen 15:16: the Israelites will return from Egypt "for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." Where else does YHWH allow a sinful person or society to continue, and for what purpose?
7. What lessons do you learn from the account of Sarai and Hagar? How is this situation affecting the Middle East today?
8. In reading the section of YHWH’s covenant with Abraham and the covenant of circumcision, I am reminded of the old question, “Which came first, the chicken or the egg?” Because, my question for you is, “Which came first, salvation or circumcision?” Why is this important to us today and to the early believers in Yeshua?

**Haftarah and Gospel Portions, Outlines and Questions for Discussion**

 **Haftarah Isaiah 40:27 – 41:16**

**Chapter 40:27 – 31 “The Greatness of YHWH” cont. Chapter 41:1 – 16 “Fear Not, for I Am with You”**

1. Chapter 40 is entitled, “The Greatness of YHWH.” Why should we remember His greatness?
2. Identify in chapter 41 what the reader is encouraged to do *instead* of fearing.
3. Isaiah 41:14 states, “Fear not, thou worm Jacob, *and* ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith YHWH, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.” YHWH repeatedly calls Himself redeemer. Why is that? How can that apply to us today?
4. **Scholar Alert**- Isaiah 41:16 states, “Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt r*ejoice* in YHWH, *and* shalt *glory* in the Holy One of Israel.” Research and discuss the Hebrew words “rejoice” and “glory” in this verse.

**Gospel Hohn 8:51 – 58**

**Chapter 8:51 – 58 “Before Abraham Was, I Am” cont.**

John 8:51 states, “Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone guards My Word, he shall never see death at all.” What does Yeshua mean?

1. When Yeshua is talking to the Jews, why does He call them liars in verse 55?
2. Verse 58 states, “Yeshua said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am**.” What is Yeshua talking about?

**NOTES**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_