**2023 Parashah Reading: #4 Name: Vayera Torah Reading: Genesis 18:1 – 22:24**

 **Haftarah Reading: 2 Kings 4:1 - 37 Gospel: Luke 17:28 - 37**

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

**Chapter 18:1 – 21** “**Isaac's Birth Promised” cont. Chapter 18:22 – 33 “Abraham Intercedes for Sodom”**

**Chapter 19:1 – 22 “God Rescues Lot” Chapter 19:23 – 29 “God Destroys Sodom”**

**Chapter 19:30 – 38 “Lot and His Daughters” Chapter 20:1 – 18 “Abraham and Abimelech”**

**Chapter 21:1 – 7 “The Birth of Isaac” Chapter 21:8 – 21 “God Protects Hagar and Ishmael”**

**Chapter 21:22 – 34 “A Treaty with Abimelech” Chapter 22:1 – 24 “The Sacrifice of Isaac”**

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**Torah Parashah Questions for Discussion**

Once again, this Torah section covers amazing accounts too numerous to discuss in depth each Shabbat. However, it is my hope you will go through each of these chapters as I do with joy, hope and personal growth. May we share as much as time allows during our allotted Torah service, but also on the Band Channel set up for Torah discussion, and over a great oneg meal in the fellowship hall!

1. 18:18 reads, “Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?” What was Abraham’s part to this amazing blessing?
2. Abraham interceding for Sodom is truly a remarkable account, revealing so many truths and insights into YHWH, Abraham, and their relationship. Share some of these which you see during this section in the Torah service at Cornerstone.
3. 19:13 reads, “For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of YHWH; and YHWH hath sent us to destroy it.” Whose cry is this?
4. When YHWH destroys Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities of the plains, why does Lot’s wife die when she looks at them (v. 26) but Abraham lives (v. 28)?
5. **Review question** - What historic ramifications occur from Lot having relations with his two daughters?
6. **Review question** - Why does YHWH protect Hagar and Ishmael?
7. What character qualities of Abraham are revealed in his dealings with Abimelech?
8. Why is the sacrifice of Isaac *central* to our faith today? I mean, I thought it was just an old Jewish story.

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

 **Haftarah Parashah 2 Kings 4:1 -- 37**

**Chapter 4:1 -- 7 “Elisha and the Widow's Oil” Chapter 4:8 – 17 “Elisha and the Shunammite Woman”**

**Chapter 4:18 – 37 “Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son”**

1. Verse one mentions the “sons of the prophets.” (KJV) They are also mentioned in 1 Kings 20:35, 2 Kings 2:3,5 and 2 Kings 4:38. Who are they?
2. Research the heritage of the city and tribe of the Shunammite woman. Does this heritage have any significance in this story?
3. Why was oil used in this account? Regarding how YHWH works, do you see a tie between this account and when Yeshua turned water into wine? (Hint- ponder what these two elements represent in Scripture.)
4. I was often taught growing up that raising the dead was a New Testament concept. If so, how does one explain by what name or power this woman’s son was brought back to life?
5. List Scriptures where people are resurrected from the dead in the Tanach.

**Gospel Parashah Luke 17:28 - 37**

**Chapter 17:28 - 37 “The Coming of the Kingdom” cont.**

1. This is a very interesting section of Scripture to read. Which parts do you think are realistic, and which parts are symbolic? Can you back up your ideas with Scripture?
2. It is interesting that Yeshua draws parallels with the time of Noah, Lot and His second coming. Why does He do that?
3. Verse 31 reads, “In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.” So what should these people do instead of these examples?
4. Verse 33 reads, “Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.” What does Yeshua mean by this?

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