



Message 11-15-08
VaYera-And He Appeared
Genesis 18:1-22:24
2 Kings 4:1-37
Revelation 3:17-4:2

Introduction

In this week's portion God discloses to Abraham that He will destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Also in this week's portion we have the Akeidah or the Binding of Isaac, two well-known Bible stories that echo on down to us through the ages.

Genesis 19:15-26

1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. **2** For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. **3** And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him -- whom Sarah bore to him -- Isaac. **4** Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. **5** Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. **6** And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, *and* all who hear will laugh with me." **7** She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne *him* a son in his old age." **8** So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned. **9** And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. **10** Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *namely* with Isaac." **11** And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son. **12** But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called. **13** "Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he *is* your seed."

In their desire for an heir Abraham and Sarah did not wait on the timing of the Lord to bring about the promise He made to them just before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He had told them that Sarah would conceive and give birth to a son in a year's time. Of course they doubted God, especially Sarah because she knew the way of women as they aged. In this she did not trust in the Lord to bring about a miracle as He has promised them. By Abraham listening to his wife and

taking her servant Hagar Abraham brought into being the ongoing conflict between Ishmael (the Arabs) and Isaac (Israel). Abraham loved both of his sons but the Lord made it very clear to Abraham that the son of promise would be Isaac not Ishmael but He promised that Ishmael would also become a nation and we know from Torah that this did happen and that Ishmael gave birth to twelve sons who would lead twelve nations.

It is the contention of Islam that it was Abraham and Ishmael who started Medina and the Moslem religion. I believe that it is one stretch of the imagination when historical records can prove that Islam only dates back to the time of Mohammed in about the 7th century CE. Ishmael becomes the son of promise while Isaac is relegated to the back pages of history, much in the same way that Ishmael was in the Torah. As interesting as these history lessons can be what we need to know is where our beliefs lay and that we are grounded on the Rock of Messiah through our faith in Him and observance of His Torah. While Islam does believe in a Messiah they believe he will be brought about by war. This is not that far off from the reality that Yeshua's return will also be brought about by a war, a war between good and evil.

War seems to be an inevitable by-product of man and even of God as He has had rebellion and war in the heavenly realm. War plays an important part in God's plan with Armageddon and God and Magog.

Revelation 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Ezekiel 38:2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

Revelation 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. Many believe that Armageddon and Gog and Magog are one and the same event but I don't believe this to be true. I see Armageddon as one event that brings with it the return of the Messiah Yeshua and Gog and MaGog the final battle before the final judgment of mankind before the 8th day of assembly or in the Hebrew Shemini Atzeret, which to me, is the time beyond time or eternity. This does not line up with many in the Church or in Messianic Judaism. Many believe that Messianic Judaism follows right along with what Judaism believes and this is not completely true. For the most part many Messianic Jews keep Jewish customs and traditions much as many Jews do but disregard Torah in much the same way that most Jews do.

Many are not aware that there are sects or denominations in Judaism the same way there are in Christianity. Even within the Messianic Movement we have sects or denominations. These sects or denominations are supposed to define who we are but they usually only bring about division and strife. They do not represent the "**echad**" or compound unity of the Body of Messiah. As Abraham fathering a child with Hagar and with Sarah brought endless strife to Israel, so do our labels. There are core beliefs that most Believers share while many of the differences are with things that are not a salvation issue unless we make them into an issue or how we choose to discuss our differences or if we sit in judgment of our fellow when we are instructed not to do so and that the only one who can judge is God. That will be purpose of the final battle of Gog and MaGog and the time afterwards when God calls all of mankind, the living and the dead, righteous and unrighteous to come and stand before Him to see if their name is in the Lamb's book of Life or are they destined for the lake of fire or whatever punishment God chooses to mete out.

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Many of those in the Messianic Movement believe that the time of the Great White Throne judgment is around Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. I cannot say for sure but as the Spring Festivals came to pass, so too, will the Fall Festivals. As we are beginning a new year of studying the Torah we can see that Messiah has not returned yet because we have left another round of Fall Festivals behind us. Pray that Messiah's return will be sooner than later.

2 Kings 4:8-10

8 Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there *was* a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. **9** And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. **10** "Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

As is the case with most of the women in the Bible this lady was one of faith and belief in God and desired to help His servants. We know that it was the Messiah's female followers who were there as He was dying upon the tree. The only man we are aware of who was there was John. It was into his care that the mother of Yeshua was given over from her eldest Son to this youngest of His followers who had not fled in fear but stayed throughout the passing of his Master.

John 19:26 When Yeshua therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" **27** Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

It is generally accepted that the disciple whom Yeshua loved was John or Yochanan in Hebrew. We know that Yeshua had other siblings so it begs for an explanation as to why Miriam, His mother, went to live with John and not one of her or Joseph's children? We know that James or Yaakov was a brother of Yeshua and that he came to lead the Jerusalem congregation and the young Messianic Body. Perhaps at the time of Yeshua's death His family still did not believe He was the Messiah of Israel and that Yeshua knew His mother was a Believer and He wanted her to be with Believers during this time of sorrow. We know that her sorrow would be replaced with joy not long afterwards and that some of His family would come to believe in Him.

Isn't this what we all want for our families? We desire them to come to know Yeshua as we do and that they would have a relationship with Him as we do. We want them to have an intimate relationship with the Lord just as we do and that the Lord's blessings would come upon them. Every

day my wife and I pray for our family, for our two children that God would bless them and for our daughter's husband and our new baby granddaughter. We pray for our pets and for our two congregations and the work that Messiah has called us to. We lift up people in our congregation's as well as other prayer requests that come in to us or our prayer team. We must become a people who pray if we expect God to move on our behalf. Pray does work people and I am living proof of it. I shared with you what the Lord did for me in healing me from a possible heart problem.

God hears our prayers my friends and we will need Him to pay close attention to our prayers if we are indeed living in the Last Days. If we are in the Last Days or approaching them we will need the Lord to be close by if we are to come through them. The earth belongs to the Lord but Satan has been given temporary dominion over the earth. This will not be good enough for the Adversary. He wants what he started out after in the Garden when he misled our parents. He wants mankind to bow before him and worship him as the king and not God. We know the truth and we must stay the course as many have before us.

Ezra 9:15 "O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!"

Ezra was crying out to God on behalf of the remnant of Israel, in Judah, who had returned from Babylon to re-build Jerusalem. God always has had a remnant that has been His own throughout Scripture. He does not promise that a vast multitude will be saved but that He would keep a remnant much as He did with the prophets in the day of Elijah who had not been killed by Ahab and Jezebel. They would not bow before the rulers of the earth but remained faithful to the Lord God Almighty. Will you be counted among them or will you find your name blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life?

Revelation 12:13-17

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. **14** But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. **15** So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. **16** But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. **17** And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah.

This passage is speaking about Satan and Israel. It is my belief that the Israel being spoken about here is one made up of Judah and Ephraim and those who have chosen one or other to be a part of. This is not all that is needed because the true Body of Messiah will be made of Jewish Believers and their followers and Ephraim and their followers. Instead of continuing to be two separate people groups they will become one as the Bible prophesies about. We read here in the pages of Revelation how Israel is taken into the wilderness where God provides for and protects His people. This is in the same way He brought Israel of old into the Wilderness and took care of them for forty years providing their needs.

We are a blessed people my friends and many of us do not know it. Satan knows his time is growing short and he is becoming desperate. He will do anything and everything he can to come against the Lord's servants who bring the truth of God's Word to the people of the earth. Messiah has been

looked for since the beginning of mankind and when He came 2,000 years ago many missed His first arrival. How many will miss His second coming since He will be arriving as He left coming on the clouds heaven back down to earth setting His feet upon the Mount of Olives splitting it in two. Do you think CNN and Fox will broadcast that?

Mark 14:62 And Yeshua said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN." [Psalm 110:1, Daniel 7:13] **63** Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses?"

Think about what might have been had the Jewish people embraced their Messiah 2,000 years ago? That would have really thrown a twist into the mix. Would we have the Church we have today or would there be something altogether different? There are so many twists and turns we could imagine but why waste our time on what might have been when we can focus in on what will be? Imagine what life would have been like without Messiah and without God. I really do not want to think about the alternatives but desire to be one of God's own chosen people – Israel! It is an Israel not only of the Hebrews, the Jewish people or the Church. It is an Israel of God brought together as one by His hand and not the hand of man. We need to learn to trust in the Lord because only He can bring about His will on earth as it is in heaven.

Hard as the world is to explain with God, it is harder yet without God...Claude G. Montefiore

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Tony Robinson at www.devoted.to/Torah (sign up)

Mark R. Ensign at mrensign@arn.net (request to be added to list)

Ardelle Brody [abrody@mchsi.com](posted on Mordecai's website along with his Torah commentary-an excellent woman's perspective)

May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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