

Parashah 4 - Vayera - וַיֵּרָא “He appeared”



Torah: B'resheet 18:1-22:24

- Aliyah 1 - 18:1 -14 Adonai appears to Avraham, foretells Sarah will have a son
- Aliyah 2 - 18:15 -33 Adonai and Avraham discuss the judgement of S'dom and Amorah
- Aliyah 3 - 19:1 -20 Two angels escort Lot and his family out of S'dom
- Aliyah 4 - 19:21 -21:4 Lot's wife looks back, his daughters have his children, Yitz'chak is born
- Aliyah 5 - 21:5 -21 Hagar and Yishmael sent away
- Aliyah 6 - 21:22 -34 Avraham and Avimelech enter into covenant over water rights
- Aliyah 7 - 22:1 -24 The Akedah: Adonai tests Avraham with the sacrifice of Yitz'chak

Haftarah: 2 Kings 4:1-37

B'rit Hadashah: 2 Peter 2:4-11

1. Who were the three travelers that came to Avraham? What was Avraham's response to the travelers? Have you ever had visitors like this?

2. Why does Sarah laugh when she is told she will have a son? How do you react when God speaks to you?

3. How does Ezekiel 16:49-50 shed light on how S'dom and 'Amora became the way they were? How can this help us in our struggles today?

4. What do we learn about how Lot and his family were taken out of the city? Are we holding on to that from which God has called us out? How do we live the world but not be of it?

5. The sages teach that Sarah symbolically represents Yerushalayim. How is that reflected in history? What does Avraham do for her captors upon her release? What follows immediately after?

6. Why does Avimelech and the commander of his army speak with Avraham?

7. According to Romans 4:17-22, what two specific things did Abraham know and believe about God? How are these two things shown in Messiah?

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8. Scriptures record the failings and shortcomings of our forefathers. Why is this important?

9. Abraham meets his greatest test from God in the Akeidah of Isaac. How did he demonstrate both complete faithfulness to God and love for his only son? Is “faith” a noun or a verb?

10. Psalm 11:5 says, “Adonai tests the righteous...” Do you think God tests the righteous more than the wicked? Why?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (18:1) Has God appeared to you in the pressures and pain of your life? He desires to visit you in the “heat of the day!” (Psa 139:7-12)

2. (18:15) Have you ever been “afraid” when God speaks a possible outcome in your life? Did you laugh? Did you cry? Or did you respond in faith? (Luk 1:8-20)

3. (19:1) Are you responding to His messengers? Is it time to turn from something in your life before it is too late? He desires restoration! (Isa 55:6-7, Amo 5:4-6, 2Pe 3:9, Heb 9:27, 2Co 6:1-2, Psa 69:13-15)

4. (19:24) God is patient, but ultimately judgement will come (Luke 12:20, Acts 5:5). He will come when you are not expecting Him, but you can be ready. Are you? (Mat 24:44-46)

5. (21:6) Are the signs of God’s Kingdom evident around you? Don’t look for flash and hype, but rather the fruit of changed lives!

6. (21:22) Is God “with” you? If He is, who can be against you? (Rom 8:31, Phi 2:13, Zec 8:23)

7. (22:2) What is more important to you, God, or His promises? (Rom 4:19-12, Psa 27:4-5, Mat 22:37-39)