

Torah: B’resheet (Genesis) 18:1-22:24
Haftarah: Malakhim Bet (2 Kings) 4:1-37
B’rit Hadashah: Luke 4:11-17

	<i>year 1</i> 18:1-33	<i>year 2</i> 19:1-20:18	<i>year 3</i> 21:1-24
1	18:1 – 5	19:1 – 11	21:1 – 4
2	18:6 – 8	19:12 – 20	21:5 – 13
3	18:9 – 14	19:21 – 29	21:14 – 21
4	18:15 – 21	19:30 – 38	21:22 – 34
5	18:22 – 26	20:1 – 8	22:1 – 8
6	18:27 – 30	20:9 – 14	22:9 – 19
7	18:31 – 33	20:15 – 18	22:20 – 24

and two messengers came to S’dom in the evening / and Lot [was] sitting in the gate of S’dom and [he] saw Lot / and he stood up to meet them and he bowed down, face to the ground	<p><i>va’yavo’u sh’ney ha’mal’akiym</i> <i>S’dómah ba’érev</i> <i>v’Lot yoshev b’shá’ar-S’dom</i> <i>va’yar’ Lot</i> <i>va’yáqom liq’ra’tam</i> <i>va’yishtakhu apayim ar’tzah</i></p>	<p>וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סָדֹמָה בְּעֶרֶב וְלוֹט יָשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר-סֹדֶם וַיֵּרָא-לוֹט וַיָּקָם לִקְרֹאתָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַפַּיִם אֲרָצָה:</p>
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Aliyah Summaries:

- Gen. 19:1-11** Lot was respected and involved in local public gossip, business and justice, likely because of Avram’s previous efforts to save S’dom (14:14). Lot has moved up from a tent outside of town (13:12) to a house (14:12, 19:2). Yet he still mirrors the hospitality displayed by Avram in Ch. 18, desiring to protect the strangers before the locals are aware of their presence. *All* the inhabitants of S’dom live up to their horrible reputation (Ge. 13:13, 18:20), and Lot discovers when push comes to shove, he is still considered an outsider. His daughters were betrothed to sons-in-law - violators would incur the death penalty (Hammurabi and De. 22:23-27). A blinding light (san-ve-riym – סַנְוֵרִיִּים – only here and 2Ki. 6:18) saves the day.
- Gen. 19:12-20** Lot’s sons-in-law (v.12 mentions sons-in-law before sons, and v.14 indicates betrothal) were blind to the enormity of the evil around them, and even his deliverance was by HaShem’s grace alone. “Flee” (hi-malet – הִמָּלֵט – root occurs 5 times in v.17-21) is a word play on “Lot.”
- Gen. 19:21-29** What occurs is HaShem’s direct intervention to execute justice. Lot’s wife may have looked back to rejoice (Pr. 24:17). The narrative with Avraham resumes with his hastening to discover the outcome of his intercession: alas, not even 10 righteous souls could be found.
- Gen. 19:30-38** The origins of the people of Mo’av (*from my father?*) and Ammon is described (De. 2:9, 19, 23:3, Ps. 83:9). Ironically, Lot would not have consciously participated in such an act, but he was willing to given his daughters to be forcibly defiled.
- Gen. 20:1-8** Sarah is “taken” again. It is possible that the goal was alliance with Avraham for prestige and economic reasons – she’s 90! Avimelekh’s integrity is tested – what will he do knowing the truth? He restores her to her husband. Avraham is the intercessor again as he was in saving Lot. First use of the term, *navi* (נָבִיא), prophet, authorized spokesperson.

Parashah 4-2 Vayera נָוַיַּרָא

6. **Gen. 20:9-14** There is, in fact, fear of HaShem. But “great sin” in Near Eastern legal terminology is adultery. In the bible, it is idolatry (Ex. 32:21, 30f, 2Ki 17:21), in the metaphor of marital infidelity.
7. **Gen. 20:15-18** Avraham and Sarah are no longer considered aliens in Avimelekh’s realm.

Daily Devotional 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)