



**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding a single pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
Mathew 13:45**

Shalom and welcome to this week’s Torah Pearls. This week’s Torah Portion is packed with great pearls, yet we will only be able to examine a few of them. I encourage you to examine the portion further over the coming week to expound upon what has been written here and as you look at the many gems within this weeks parsha.

In this week’s Parsha pearl we will focus on the three trees, that of the terebinth tree, the tamarisk tree and the tree of provision.

Parsha 4: VaYera- And He Appeared, Genesis 18:1–22:24

The Parsha opens with Abraham sat under a tree. Gen. 18:1-5

Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. ² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, ³ and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favour in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. ⁴ Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, in a smuch as you have come to your servant.”

They said, “Do as you have said.”

Here we see Abraham sitting in the entrance to his tent due to the heat of the day, by the terebinth trees of Mamre. However, the Targum of Johnathan opens chapter 18 with *“AND the glory of the Lord was revealed to him in the valley of Mamre; and he, being ill from the pain of circumcision, sat at the door of the tabernacle in the fervour (or strength) of the day.”*

Last week’s parsha closed with informing us about Abraham’s circumcision ²⁶ ***That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael; ²⁷ and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.*** Gen. 17:26-27

Thus, we see here that Abraham was sat in the entrance of his tent under the terebinth trees of Mamre convalescing after his circumcision, which the Rabbis teach that it was while he was convalescing YHVH visited Abraham who was sick. As YHVH in fulfilling one of His commandments visits a sick friend.

We further see in this opening that when the visitors inform Abraham of the pending judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah that Abraham intercedes for the cities, even in his affliction and pain he seeks the wellbeing of others. The question is, when we are going through life’s troubles, be it affliction within the body, within our circumstances, or spiritually do we focus upon the affliction, or do we as Abraham focus upon the task we have been called to do and intercede for the people, for the lost?

Within the Targum of Johnathan we see that each Messenger sent came with a purpose *“And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, three angels in the resemblance of men were standing before him; (angels) who had been sent from the necessity of three things;--because it is not possible for a ministering angel to be sent*

for more than one purpose at a time;--one, then, had come to make known to him that Sarah should bear a man-child; one had come to deliver Lot; and one to overthrow Sodom and Gomorrah."

As stated Rabbis argue that one of the Messengers/visitors was YHVH himself, that this was a theophany. As believers in Messiah we understand that this was Messiah, the voice of the word of YHVH who walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden, who later appears to Moses in the burning bush, who led the children of Israel in the wilderness and who appears to Joshua as the commander of heavens armies, who came to visit Abraham. On a side note, how many times in scripture do we read and the LORD of Hosts? A better translation of this would be "YHVH the commander of the heavenly hosts" which as believers we know this to be Messiah. *Why don't you do a study on finding LORD of Hosts in scripture, it is a great study.*

One thing we see in the quote from the Targum is that YHVH had already dispatched an Angel to lead Lot and his family out of Sodom, as Yah knows our prayers before we ask. Yah knew the heart of Abraham, that he would intercede for his family. YHVH also knew that Abraham had faith in Yah to save. That even when Abraham is convalescing he is concerned about others, that he puts aside what he is going through to seek to be a light in the darkness. AS he puts His faith, his trust and hope in YHVH, because he knows YHVH is a faithful covenant keeping Elohim.

The tamarisk tree - Abraham plants a tree

³² Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba. So Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines. ³³ Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God. ³⁴ And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days. Gen. 21:32-33

The Rabbis teach that it was not called but rather proclaimed as the word קָרָא *qara'* – called can be translated as called or proclaimed, which within rabbinical thought it is that Abraham proclaimed the name of YHVH.

Rashi expounding upon the above thought explains that the word עֶשֶׂל *'eshel* in the text is a PARDES on hospitality for the strangers. That the word ESHEL is an acronym for "ACHILAH, SHETIYAH, LEVIYAH and LINAH." This means Food, Drink, Escort and Lodging.

The sages teach that Abraham would camp here and provide for the strangers, the travellers who came past, as he would provide food, drink and a place to stay while they were on their journey. Thus, after Abraham had provided such hospitality the people who bless him and thank him however, Abraham would inform them that they should not bless him for what he has given them, as it was not his for all he has belongs to YHVH. Therefore, the people would bless YHVH for His provision and kindness shown to them through YHVH' servant Abraham. For while the people had their practical needs met, Abraham would discuss with them concerning YHVH as He sort to reveal/shine the light of YHVH with the gentiles who passed.

It is believed by scholars that Abraham was an evangelist, as last week's parsha testifies, for Abraham had disciples, Gen. 14:14 ***And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.*** Some scholars argue that this should be translated "he armed his disciples" as the Hebrew word here is Hanikh which means trained or educated. Taken that Abraham was not accustomed to going to war, as this is the only battle he fights, it is argued that he would not have had a trained army, but rather that he would have educated his men in the things of YHVH.

It was Abraham's desire to share about YHVH which drove him to offer hospitality, thus enabling the name of YHVH to be proclaimed by the gentiles who passed by, As the gentiles would know the name of YHVH. What a prophetic picture of Abraham, making known the name of YHVH to the gentiles, so that all people can call upon the name of YHVH. Is this not our commission, to make known to the lost the name of YHVH, through declaring/proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom, which in doing so we proclaim the name of YHVH? The question is, what are we doing about this awesome responsibility? Have we given up on this

because we might be persecuted, or because we focus upon the Torah and gaining knowledge, or see it as something the church does? The reality is the church does proclaim the gospel and seek to tell people about God, but they do not disciple them in the truth, but what is the greater sin, to tell people and see them saved, come into the kingdom but not disciple them in the full council of scripture or to not even tell people and seek to share the gospel of the kingdom? I believe it is our responsibility as believers in Messiah to share the Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom to all we meet, especially in these days. As Hebraic believers we have often negated to do this, as we have focus upon telling the Body of Messiah about the Hebrew Roots. Yet, should we share this YES, but the truth is it is the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, scripture testifies to this. It is our commission to go get the lost, the people in the church are not lost, they may be deceived, but not lost. We also need to understand that YHVH is in control, and that the Holy Spirit is poured out in fulfilment of Joel during the Day of YHVH. What we witnessed at Pentecost was a foreshadow. I encourage you to examine what the bible states regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it will greatly challenge you!

The binding of Isaac

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad¹ and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!"

And he said, "Here I am, my son."

Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

So he said, "Here I am."

¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba. Gen. 22: 3-19

Here we have the final account of trees being mentioned in this parsha, in the account of Abraham going to offer Isaac to YHVH. The sages believe that the place Abraham offered the sacrifice, was what later became the alter in the temple.

There is so much imagery which reveals Messiah in this passage which I encourage you to examine. One thing we must understand that at no point did YHVH want Abraham to offer Isaac, as Yah detests human sacrifices, as this is done by the pagans. Yet, what was going through Abraham's mind? We know that Abraham was a man of faith, therefore he knew that YHVH had promised to fulfil His covenant with him through Isaac. Thus, no harm could come to him, yet if Isaac did die, YHVH could bring him back to life. It is my belief that Abraham acted in faith, as we see in Abraham and Isaac's conversation.

⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!"

And he said, "Here I am, my son."

Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Here we see Abraham state God will provide which Yah did. Within this account we can delve deep and ask ourselves crucial questions. Would we lay our family down to follow YHVH? As a parent, I am constantly learning that I have to give my children over to YHVH, even when the situation looks bad. What we need to understand is YHVH loves our children, our families more than we do, it is His desire that they know Him and have a relationship with Him, just as He does with us. Therefore, we have to surrender them to Him and leave them with Him, and not interfere but allow YHVH to move. I know this is difficult, but we need to have the faith of Abraham, but if we seek more faith, Yah will answer us and give us what we need. However, it is our responsibility to exercise the faith we have.

Many of us may have saved family members who reject the Hebrew roots of the faith however, let us not worry about that, as they will in the millennium. Rejoice that they are saved and pray and ask YHVH to move in their lives through His Holy Spirit, as it is the Holy Spirit who leads them in the truth, who writes the commandments upon their hearts. We must focus in these days on the lost, that they will come into a relationship with YHVH through Messiah.

For YHVH has provided the sacrifice for humanities sin, He has paid the price through the Lamb of YHVH who takes away the sin of the world, through Yeshua. Praise YHVH for His provision, for the sacrifice that brought us salvation and restoration! Praise Yah that salvation is not through keeping the commandments, so no man can boast, but through faith made possible by the grace of YHVH.

One final thought

We often focus on the restoration of Israel within prophecy yet what about the tribes of Ishmael?

²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. Genesis 17:20(NKJV)

¹² Now this is the genealogy of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maidservant, bore to Abraham. ¹³ And these were the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, ¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, ¹⁵ Hadar, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. ¹⁶ These were the sons of Ishmael and these were their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations. Genesis 25:12-16(NKJV)

It is a great study to examine the tribes of Ishmael, one of the fascinating facts is that it is from the first born Nebajoth which the Nabataeans descend from. It was the Nabataeans who built Petra and lived in Aqaba. We find accounts concerning the descendants of Ishmael in the writings of Josephus.

It is my belief that during the days ahead YHVH will also restore the House of Abraham and unite the House of Ishmael and Isaac. One final thought, who was it who fed Elijah in the wilderness?

1 Kings 17:6 states ***The ravens would bring him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he would drink from the stream.*** The question is, why would YHVH use an unclean bird to bring food? If the raven brought food, then that food would under the Torah become unclean. For if an object touches something unclean it becomes unclean. Thus, the food would be unclean, which if Elijah ate it he would be defiled and have committed sin. Why would YHVH do that? He wouldn't! Many Jewish Scholars believe that it was not a raven who assisted Elijah but the Arabs who brought Him food. Could the Arabs who brought Elijah food have been descendants of Ishmael?

I pray that the pearls within this week's study will bless you and that they will assist you in studying this weeks parsha. If you only take one thing from this week's study I pray that it is that we need to be active in making known the Name of YHVH in our community, we need to be active in making disciples. Let us not focus on the saved, for even Messiah said this about the Jewish people, that it is the sick who need a doctor, speaking of the Lost Sheep. Thus, let us not make our main focus proclaiming the Gospel to those who are saved but to those who are Lost in their sin without Messiah, who have no relationship with YHVH. I believe it is a deception of HaSatan which has put our focus on educating the church rather than going after the lost. Messiah went after the lost sheep, and has commissioned us to do likewise, therefore let us be about our Masters business until He returns.

May YHVH bless and keep you.

Shabbat Shalom

Nathan – Co Founder of Arrows of Ephrayim Ministry

Links

[Tribes of Ishmael](#)

[Messianic update](#) Monte Judah

UK becoming the tail and not the head – [rise of Islam](#)