

The Periphery of Redemption: The Torah Readings of Rosh haShannah

1. Genesis 11:22-30

<p>22 And Serug lived for thirty years and begat Nachor. 23 And Serug lived after he begot Nachor two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. {S} 24 And Nachor lived nine and twenty years, and begat Terach. 25 And Nachor lived after he begot Terach a hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters. {S} 26 And Terach lived seventy years, and begat Avram, Nachor, and Haran. 27 These are the generations of Terach. Terach begat Avram, Nachor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot. 28 And Haran died in the presence of his father Terach in the land of his birthplace, in Ur Chasdim. 29 And Avram and Nachor took wives for themselves: the name of Avram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nachor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Yiscah. 30 And Sarai was barren; she had no child.</p>	<p>כב ויחי שְׂרוּג, שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה; ויולֵד, אֶת-נָחֹר. כג ויחי שְׂרוּג, אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת-נָחֹר--מֵאֵתִים שָׁנָה; ויולֵד בָּנִים, וּבָנוֹת. {ס} כד ויחי נָחֹר, תִּשְׁעֵ וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה; ויולֵד, אֶת-תְּרַח. כה ויחי נָחֹר, אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת-תְּרַח, תִּשְׁעֵ-עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה, וּמֵאֵת שָׁנָה; ויולֵד בָּנִים, וּבָנוֹת. {ס} כו ויחי תְּרַח, שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה; ויולֵד, אֶת-אַבְרָם, אֶת-נָחֹר, וְאֶת-הָרָן. כז ואלה, תּוֹלְדֹת תְּרַח--תְּרַח הוֹלִיד אֶת-אַבְרָם, אֶת-נָחֹר וְאֶת-הָרָן; וְהָרָן, הוֹלִיד אֶת-לוֹט. כח ויָמַת הָרָן, עַל-פְּנֵי תְּרַח אָבִיו, בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹלְדוֹתוֹ, בְּאוּר כַּשְׁדִּים. כט ויקַח אַבְרָם וְנָחֹר לָהֶם, נָשִׁים: שֵׁם אִשְׁת־אַבְרָם, שָׂרַי, וְשֵׁם אִשְׁת־נָחֹר מִלְכָּה, בַּת-הָרָן אֵבִי-מִלְכָּה וְאֵבִי יִסְכָּה. ל וַתְּהִי שָׂרַי, עֲקָרָה: אֵין לָהּ, וָלֵד.</p>
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2. Genesis Chapter 12

<p>1 God said to Avram: Get up and go from your land, your birthplace, and your father's home, to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 And I will bless those who bless you, and he that curses you, I will curse; and through you shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' 4 Avram went, as God instructed and Lot went with him; and Avram was seventy and five years old when he went out from Charan. 5 And Avram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Charan; and they went forth to</p>	<p>א וַיֹּאמֶר יְקֹנֵן אֶל-אַבְרָם, לֵךְ-לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ צָרָה וּמִמּוֹלְדֹתֶךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ, אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר אֲרַאֲךָ. ב וְאֶעֱשֶׂךָ, לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל, וְאַבְרַכְךָ, וְאֶגְדַּלְךָ שְׁמֶךָ; וְהָיָה, בְּרַכָּה. ג וְאַבְרַכְךָ, מְבָרְכֶיךָ, וּמְקַלְלֶיךָ, אָאֵר; וְנִבְרַכְוּ בְךָ, כָּל מְשֻׁפְחוֹת הָאָדָמָה. ד וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָם, בְּאִשְׁרֵי דָבָר אֱלֹהֵי יְקֹנֵן, וַיֵּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ, לוֹט; וְאַבְרָם, בֶּן-חֲמִישׁ שָׁנִים וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה, בְּצֵאתוֹ, מִחָרָן. ה וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם אֶת-שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת-לוֹט בֶּן-אָחִיו, וְאֶת-כָּל-רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר רָכְשׁוּ, וְאֶת-הַנְּפֹשׁ, אֲשֶׁר-עָשׂוּ בְּחָרָן; וַיֵּצְאוּ,</p>
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go into the land of Canaan; and they arrived at the land of Canaan. 6 And Avram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, to the terebinth of Moreh. And the Canaanite people were then in the land. 7 And God appeared to Avram, and said: ' I will give this land to your descendents'; and [Avram] built an altar to the God who appeared to him.

10 And there was a famine in the land; and Avram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was heavy in the land [of Cannan]. 11 And it came to pass, when he was about to enter into Egypt, that [Avram] said to his wife Sarai: 'Behold now, I know that you are a beautiful woman. 12 And when the Egyptians will see you, they will say: This is his wife; and they will kill me, but they will keep you alive. 13 Please say that you are my sister; that it will be good for me on your account, and that my soul may live because of you.' 14 And when Avram arrived into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And the princes of Pharaoh saw her, and praised her to Pharaoh; and [Sarai] was taken into Pharaoh's house. 16 And [Pharaoh] was good to Avram on [Sarai's] account; and he came to have sheep, and oxen, and donkeys, and men-servants, and maid-servants, and female donkeys, and camels. 17 And the God smote Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Avram's wife. 18 And Pharaoh called Avram, and said: 'What is this that you have done to me? Why didn't you tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say: She is my sister? so that I took her to be my wife; now therefore she is your wife, take her, and go.' 20 And Pharaoh commanded his men; and they sent away [Avram], and his wife, and all that he had.

לָקַחְתָּ אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן, וַיָּבֹאוּ, אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן. ו וַיַּעֲבֹר
אֲבְרָם, בְּאֶרְץ, עַד מְקוֹם שְׂכָם, עַד אֵלוֹן מוֹרֵה;
וַהֲפִנְעֵנִי, אִזְ בְּאֶרֶץ. ז וַיֵּרָא יְקֹוֹק, אֶל-אֲבְרָם,
וַיֹּאמֶר, לְזַרְעֲךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת; וַיִּבְנוּ שָׂם
מִזְבְּחִים, לַיהוָה הַנִּרְאָה אֵלָיו

י וַיְהִי רָעֵב, בְּאֶרֶץ; וַיֵּרֵד אֲבְרָם מִצְרַיִםה לַגּוֹר שָׂם,
כִּי-כָבֵד הָרָעֵב בְּאֶרֶץ. יא וַיְהִי, כַּאֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיב לְבֹוֹא
מִצְרַיִםה; וַיֹּאמֶר, אֶל-שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ, הִנֵּה-נָא יַדְעֵתִי,
כִּי אִשָּׁה יִפְתֹּ-מִרְאָה אָתָּה. יב וְהִנֵּה, כִּי-יֵרָאוּ אֹתְךָ
הַמִּצְרַיִם, וְאָמְרוּ, אִשְׁתּוֹ זֹאת; וְהִרְגוּ אֹתִי, וְאֹתְךָ
חַיִּי. יג אָמְרִי-נָא, אַחֲתִי אָתָּה--לְמַעַן יִטֵּב-לִי
כַּעֲבוּרְךָ, וְחִיֹּתָה נַפְשִׁי בְּגִלְלָה. יד וַיְהִי, כַּבּוֹא
אֲבְרָם מִצְרַיִםה; וַיֵּרָאוּ הַמִּצְרַיִם אֶת-הָאִשָּׁה, כִּי-יָפָה
הוּא מְאֹד. טו וַיֵּרָאוּ אֹתָהּ שָׂרֵי פְרַעֲה, וַיְהִלּוּ אֹתָהּ
אֶל-פְרַעֲה; וַתְּקַח הָאִשָּׁה, בֵּית פְרַעֲה. טז וּלְאֲבְרָם
הֵיטִיב, בַּעֲבוּרָה; וַיְהִי-לוֹ צֹאן-וַיִּבְקָר, וַחֲמֹרִים,
וְעַבְדִּים וְשִׁפְחֹת, וְאֹתָנֹת וְגַמְלִים. יז וַיִּנְגַע יְקֹוֹק
אֶת-פְרַעֲה נְגַעִים גְּדֹלִים, וְאֶת-בֵּיתוֹ, עַל-דִּבְרֵי שָׂרֵי,
אִשְׁתֵּי אֲבְרָם. יח וַיִּקְרָא פְרַעֲה, לְאֲבְרָם, וַיֹּאמֶר,
מַה-זֹּאת עָשִׂיתְ לִי; לָמָּה לֹא-הִגַּדְתָּ לִי, כִּי אִשְׁתְּךָ
הוּא. יט לָמָּה אָמַרְתָּ אַחֲתִי הוּא, וְאֶקַּח אֹתָהּ לִי
לְאִשָּׁה; וְעַתָּה, הִנֵּה אִשְׁתְּךָ קַח וְלֵךְ. כ וַיִּצְוּ עָלָיו
פְרַעֲה, אֲנָשִׁים; וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ,
וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ.

3. Genesis Chapter 16

1 Now Sarai Avram's wife bore him no children; and she had a handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Avram: 'Behold

א וּשְׂרַי אִשְׁתֵּי אֲבְרָם, לֹא יָלְדָה לוֹ; וְלָהּ שִׁפְחָה
מִצְרַיִת, וּשְׁמָהּ הַגָּר. ב וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל-אֲבְרָם,

now, the God has stopped me from bearing children; please come to my handmaid; perhaps I will be built up through her.' And Avram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 And Sarai Avram's wife took Hagar the Egyptian, her handmaid, after Avram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Avram her husband to be his wife. 4 And he went to Hagar, and she became pregnant; and when she saw that she was pregnant, her mistress was lowered in her eyes. 5 And Sarai said unto Avram: 'My wrong is upon you: I gave my handmaid into your bosom; and when she saw that she became pregnant, I was lowered in her eyes: May God judge between me and you. 6 Avram said to Sarai: Your maid is in your hand; do to her as you wish. And Sarai oppressed her, and [Hagar] fled from her presence. 7 And the angel of God found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain on the way to Shur. 8 And [the angel] said: 'Hagar, Sarai's handmaid, Where are you coming from and where are you going? And she said: I am running away from my mistress Sarai.' 9 And the angel of God said to her: 'Return to your mistress, and be oppressed by her.' 10 And the angel of God said to her: 'I will greatly multiply your descendants, there will be too many to count.' 11 And the angel of God said to her: You are pregnant and will give birth to a son; and you shall call him Yishmael, because God has heard your oppression. 12 And he shall be a wild man: his hand shall be with everyone, and everyone's hand shall be with him; and he shall live with all of his brothers.' 13 And she called the name of God who spoke to her, You are a God of Seeing; for she said: 'Have I even here seen after seeing?' 14 That is why the well was called Beer-lachai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bared. 15 And Hagar gave birth to a son for Avram; and Avram called the name of his son, whom Hagar birthed, Yishmael. 16 And Avram was eighty six years old, when Hagar gave birth to Yishmael for Avram.

הַגֵּה-נָא עֲצָרְנִי ה' מִלְדֹת--בְּאֵ-נָא אֶל-שְׁפָחָתִי,
אולי אבנה ממנה; וישמע אבכם, לקול שְׂרִי. ג
ותקח שְׂרִי אִשָּׁת-אֲבָרָם, אֶת-הַגֵּר הַמִּצְרִית
שְׁפָחָתָהּ, מִקֶּזַע עֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים, לְשִׁבְתֵּי אֲבָרָם בְּאֶרֶץ
כְּנָעַן; וַתִּתֵּן אֹתָהּ לְאֲבָרָם אִשָּׁה, לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה. ד
וַיָּבֵא אֶל-הַגֵּר, וַתְּהַר; וַתֵּרָא כִּי הָרְתָהּ, וַתִּקַּל
גְּבִרְתָּהּ בְּעֵינֶיהָ. ה וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂרִי אֶל-אֲבָרָם, חֲמָסִי
עָלֶיךָ--אֲנֹכִי נִתְּמִי שְׁפָחָתִי בְּחִיקָהּ, וַתֵּרָא כִּי הָרְתָהּ
וַאֲקַל בְּעֵינֶיהָ; וְיִשְׁפֹט יְקֹוֹ, בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ. ו וַיֹּאמֶר
אֲבָרָם אֶל-שְׂרִי, הַגֵּה שְׁפָחָתְךָ בְּיָדְךָ--עֲשִׂי-לָהּ,
הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ; וַתַּעֲנֶה שְׂרִי, וַתִּבְרַח מִפְּנֵיהָ. ז
וַיִּמְצְאָהּ מִלְאֲכָה ה', עַל-עֵין הַמַּיִם--בְּמִדְבָּר:
עַל-הָעַיִן, בְּדֶרֶךְ שׁוּר. ח וַיֹּאמֶר, הַגֵּר שְׁפָחָת שְׂרִי
אֵי-מִזֶּה בָאת--וְאָנֹכִי תַלְכִּי; וַתֹּאמֶר--מִפְּנֵי שְׂרִי
גְּבִרְתִּי, אֲנֹכִי בִרְחַת. ט וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִלְאֲכָה ה',
שׁוּבִי אֶל-גְּבִרְתְּךָ, וְהִתְעַנִּי, תַּחַת יָדֶיהָ. י וַיֹּאמֶר
לָהּ מִלְאֲכָה יְקֹוֹק, הֲרַבָּה אַרְבָּה אֶת-זֶרְעֶךָ, וְלֹא
יִסְפָּר, מְרַב. יא וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִלְאֲכָה ה', הִנֵּה הָרָה
וַיִּלְדֶּת בּוֹ, וְקָרָאת שְׁמוֹ יִשְׁמָעֵאל, כִּי-שָׁמַע ה'
אֶל-עֲנָנֶךָ. יב וְהוּא יִהְיֶה, פָּרָא אָדָם--יָדוּ בְכָל,
וְיָד כָּל בּוֹ; וְעַל-פְּנֵי כָל-אָחִיו, יִשְׁכֵּן. יג וַתִּקְרָא
שֵׁם-ה' הַדֹּבֵר אֵלֶיהָ, אֹתָהּ אֵל רֹאֵי: כִּי אָמְרָה,
הַגֵּם הֵלֶם רֹאִיתִי--אֲחֵרֵי רֹאֵי. יד עַל-כֵּן קָרָא
לְבָאָר, בְּאֶר לַחֵי רֹאֵי--הַגֵּה בֵּין-קַדְשׁ, וּבֵין בְּרָד.
טו וַתִּלְדֵּ הַגֵּר לְאֲבָרָם, בּוֹ; וַיִּקְרָא אֲבָרָם שֵׁם-בְּנוֹ
אֲשֶׁר-יָלְדָהּ הַגֵּר, יִשְׁמָעֵאל. טז וַאֲבָרָם,
כֹּן-שְׁמֹנִים שָׁנָה וְשֵׁשׁ שָׁנִים, בְּלִדְתֵי-הַגֵּר
אֶת-יִשְׁמָעֵאל, לְאֲבָרָם.

4. Bereisheit Rabbah 45:5

<p><i>And Sarai said to Avram, my wrong is upon you. R. Yudan in the name of R. Yudah [said]: You wrong me with words. Why? Since you hear my humiliation and are silent. R. Berechiah in the name of R. Abba [said]: I ask for judgement against you. It is like two people incarcerated in prison. It happened that the king passed by. One of the prisoners said, "Execute judgment for me!" [The King] said, "Let him out." His fellow prisoner said, "I ask for judgment against you – if you had said, 'Execute judgment for us!' as you were let out, I would have been let out. And since you said, 'Execute judgment for me!', you were let out and I was not let out." So too, [Sarai said], "If you had said, <i>We are infertile</i>, as God gave you [a child], so God would have given me [a child]. And since you said, <i>I am infertile</i> (Genesis 15:2), you were given [a child] and I was not given [a child]."</i></p>	<p>[ותאמר שרי אל אברם חמסי] וגו' ר' יודן בשם ר' יודה חומסני את בדברין, למה שאתה שומע ביזיוני ושותק. ר' ברכיה בשם ר' אבא יבעי דיני גבך, לשני בני אדם שהיו חבושים בבית האסורים נמצא המלך עובר, אמר ליה חד תבוע דיקי דידי, אמר אפיקותיה, אמר ליה חבריה יבעי דיני גבך, אילו אמרת תבוע דיקי דידן כמה דאפקך כן אפקי, וכדו דאמרת תבוע דיקי דידי לך אפיק ולי לא אפיק, כך אילו אמרת הולכים אנו ערירים כמה דיהב לך כן יהב לי, וכדו דאמרת ואנכי הולך ערירי (בראשית טו ב) לך יהב ולי לא יהב</p>
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5. Genesis 15:1-6

<p>After these things the word God came to Avram in a vision, saying: 'Do not fear Avram, I am your shield, your reward shall be exceeding great.' 2 And Avram said: 'Oh Lord God, what will you give to me, as I am childless, and the possessor of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' 3 And Avram said: 'You have not given me a descendent, and a household servant will be my heir.' 4 And, the word of God came to [Avram], saying: 'This one will not inherit you; but rather one from your own body will inherit you.' 5 And God brought [Avram] outside and said: 'Please look up to the sky and count the stars, if you can count them; and God said to him: 'So shall your descendents be.' 6 And Avram believed in God; and it was counted to him as righteousness.</p>	<p>א אחר הדברים האלה, הנה דבר-יקנוק אל-אברם, במחנה, לאמר: אל-תירא אברם, אנכי מגן לך--שכרך, הרבה מאד. ב ויאמר אברם, אדני-יקנוק מה-תתן-לי, ואנכי, הולך ערירי; וכן-משק ביתי, הוא דמשק אליעזר. ג ויאמר אברם--הן לי, לא נתתה זרע; והנה בן-ביתי, יורש אתי. ד והנה דבר-יקנוק אליו לאמר, לא יירשך זה: כי-אם אשר יצא ממעיך, הוא יירשך. ה ויוצא אתו החוצה, ויאמר הִבט-נא השמימה וספר הכוכבים--אם-תוכל, לספר אתם; ויאמר לו, כה ינה ורעה. ו והאמן, ביקנוק; ויחשבה לו, צדקה</p>
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6. Genesis 17:1-27; 18:1-15

1 And when Avram was ninety-nine years old God appeared to Avram, and said to him: 'I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be whole. 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will make of you, many.' 3 And Avram fell on his face; and God talked with him, saying: 4 ' My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 And your name shall no longer be Avram, but rather your name shall be Avraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations 6 And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall descend from you. 7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendents after for generations, an eternal covenant to be a God for you and for your descendents after you. 8 And I will give to you and to your descendents after you. the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.' 9 And God said to Avraham: 'You shall keep My covenant, you and your descendents after for generations 10 This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendents after you - every male among you shall be circumcised. . . . 15 And God said unto Avraham: ' Sarai your wife, shall not be called Sarai, but rather Sarah is to be her name. 16 And I will bless her, and I will give you a son from her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall descend from her.' 17 Avraham fell on his face, and laughed, and said in his heart: 'Shall one who is a hundred years old beget a child? and shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth?' 18 And Avraham said to God: 'Would that Yishmael might live before You!' 19 And God said: But your wife Sarah shall give birth to a son for you; and you shall call his name Yitzchak; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendents after him. 20 And as for Yishmael, I have heard you; I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and

א ויהי אברהם, בן-תשעים שנה ותשע שנים; וירא
 יקנוק אל-אברהם, ויאמר אליו אני-א-ל-ש-די--התהלה
 לפני, והיה תמים. ב ואתנה בריתי, ביני ובינך;
 וארבה אותך, במאד מאד. ג ויפל אברהם, על-פניו;
 וידבר אתו אלקים, לאמר. ד אני, הנה בריתי אתך;
 והיית, לאב המון גוים. ה ולא-יקרא עוד את-שמה,
 אברהם; והנה שמה אברהם, כי אב-המון גוים נתתיה.
 ו והפרתיה אתך במאד מאד, ונתתיה לגוים; ומלכים,
 ממה יצאו. ז והקמתי את-בריתי ביני ובינך, ובין
 ירעה אתריה לדרתם--לברית עולם: להיות לה
 לאלהים, ולירעה אתריה. ח ונתתי לה ולירעה
 אתריה את ארץ מגררה, את כל-ארץ כנען, לאחזת,
 עולם; והייתי להם, לאלקים. ט ויאמר אלקים
 אל-אברהם, ואתה את-בריתי תשמר--אתה וירעה
 אתריה, לדרתם. י זאת בריתי אשר תשמרו, ביני
 וביניכם, ובין ירעה, אתריה: המול לכם, כל-זכר.
 . . . {ס} טו ויאמר אלקים, אל-אברהם, שרי
 אשתך, לא-תקרא את-שמה שרי: כי שרה, שמה.
 טז וברכתי אתה, וגם נתתי ממנה לה בן; וברכתיה
 והיתה לגוים, מלכי עמים ממנה יהיו. יז ויפל
 אברהם על-פניו, ויצחק; ויאמר בלבו, הלקח
 מאה-שנה יולד, ואם-שרה, הבת-תשעים שנה תלד.
 יח ויאמר אברהם, אל-האלקים: לו ישמעאל, יחיה
 לפניך. יט ויאמר אלקים, אכל שרה אשתך ילדת לה
 בן, וקראת את-שמו, יצחק; וקמתי את-בריתי אתו
 לברית עולם, לירעו אתריו. כ ולישמעאל,
 שמעתיך--הנה ברכתי אתו והפריתי אתו והרביתי
 אתו, במאד מאד: שנים-עשר נשיאם יוליד, ונתתיו
 לגוי גדול. כא ואת-בריתי, אקים את-יצחק, אשר

will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But My covenant will I establish with Yitzchak, whom Sarah shall give birth to at this set time in the next year.' 22 And God finished speaking with him, and God went up from Avraham. 23 And Avraham took Yishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Avraham's house, and circumcised their foreskins on that same day, as God had said to him. 24 And Avraham was ninety-nine years old, when he was circumcised. 25 And Yishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised. 26 On that same day Avraham was circumcised, and Yishmael his son. 27 And all the men of his house, those born in the house, and those bought with money, were circumcised with him.

Chapter 18

1 And God appeared to [Avraham] by the terebinths of Mamre, as he sat in the tent entrance in the heat of the day; 2 and he lifted up his eyes and saw three men standing near him; and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent entrance, and bowed down to the earth, 3 and said: 'My lord, if I have found favor in your eyes, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let now a little water be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest under the tree. 5 And I will fetch a loaf of bread, and eat to your heart's content; after that you can go, having stopped in at my home.' And they said: 'Yes, do as you said.' 6 And Avraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said: 'Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.' 7 And Avraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it to the boy; and he hurried to prepare it. 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the meat which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they ate. 9 And they said to him: 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said: 'She is in the tent.' 10 And he said: 'I will return to you at this time next year and there will be a son for your wife Sarah.' And Sarah heard in the tent entrance, which was behind him.-- 11 Now

תלד לה שרה למועד הנה, בשנה האחרת. כב ויכל, לדבר אתו; ויעל אלקים, מעל אברהם. כג ויחם אברהם את-ישמעאל בנו, ואת כל-ילידי ביתו ואת כל-מקנת פספו--כל-זכר, באנשי בית אברהם; וימל את-בשר ערלתם, בעצם היום הזה, באשר דבר אתו, אלקים. כד ואברהם--בן-תשעים ותשע, שנה: בהמלו, בשר ערלתו. כה וישמעאל בנו, בן-שלוש עשרה שנה: בהמלו--את, בשר ערלתו. כו בעצם היום הזה, נמול אברהם, וישמעאל, בנו. כז וכל-אנשי ביתו יליד בית, ומקנת-קסף מאת בן-נכר--נמלו, אתו. {פ}

פרק יח

א וירא אליו יקוק, באלני ממרא; והוא ישב פתח-האהל, כחם היום. ב וישא עיניו, וירא, והנה שלשה אנשים, נצבים עליו; וירא, וירץ לקראתם מפתח האהל, וישתחו, ארצה. ג ויאמר: אדני, אם-נא מצאתי חן בעיניך--אל-נא תעבר, מעל עבדך. ד יקח-נא מטע-מים, ורחצו רגליכם; והשענו, תחת העץ. ה ואקחה פת-לקחם וסעדו לבכם, אחר תעברו--כי-על-בן עברתם, על-עבדכם; ויאמרו, בן תעשה באשר דברת. ו וימהר אברהם האהל, אל-שרה; ויאמר, מהרי שלש סאים קמח סלת--לוישי, ועשי עגות. ז ואל-הבקר, רץ אברהם; ויחם בן-בקר רח וטוב, ויתן אל-הנער, וימהר, לעשות אתו. ח ויקח חמאה וקלב, ובן-הבקר אשר עשה, ויתן, לפניהם; והוא-עמד עליהם תחת העץ, ויאכלו. ט ויאמרו אליו, איה שרה אשתך; ויאמר, הנה באהל. י ויאמר, שוב אשוב אליך כעת חיה, והנה-בן, לשרה אשתך; ושרה שמעת פתח האהל, והוא אחריו. יא ואברהם ושרה זמנים, באים בימים;

<p>Avraham and Sarah were old, and advanced in years; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.-- 12 And Sarah laughed to herself, saying: 'Now that I am old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?' 13 And God said to Avraham: 'Why did Sarah laugh, saying: Shall I have a child, as I am old? 14 Is any thing too hard for God? I will return to you at this time next year and there will be a son for Sarah' 15 Sarah denied it, saying: 'I did not laugh; because she was afraid. And God said: 'No, you did laugh.'</p>	<p>קדל להיות לשרה, ארח כנשים. יב ותצחק שרה, בקרבה לאמר: אחרי בלתי היתה-לי עדנה, ואדני זקן. יג ויאמר יקוק, אל-אברהם: למה זה צחקה שרה לאמר, האף אמנם אלד--ואני זקנת. יד היפלא מיתה, דבר; למועד אשוב אליה, כעת חיה--ולשרה בן. טו ותכחש שרה לאמר לא צחקתי, כי יראתה; ויאמר לא, כי צחקתי.</p>
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7. Commentary of Yitzchak ben Yehudah Abarbanel on Genesis 17 (b. 1437- d. 1508, Portugal and Italy)

<p>God responded to the question, <i>Would Yishmael live before you</i> by saying, <i>But Sarah your wife</i>, as if to say, 'Avraham, you thought that all of the good that I promised to do for you was for your sake and therefore once you had your son Yishmael, you thought that the birth of Yitzchak was unnecessary, so much so that you asked <i>Would that Yishmael live and be before Me in My covenant</i>. Know that the matter is not so, because Sarah is worthy of bearing you a child and just as you are a necessary parent, so is she, and Yishmael is not her son and therefore from the perspective of Sarah, the birth of Yitzchak is necessary, even though Yishmael will not die.</p>	<p>השיב הקב"ה לשאלת לו ישמעאל יחיה לפניך באמרו אבל שרה אשתך כאומר אברהם אתה חשבת שכל הטובה אשר יעדתי לך לעשות לך יהיה בעבורך ולכן בהיות לך ישמעאל בנך חשבת שתהיה הולדת יצחק ללא צורך עד שמפני זה שאלת אם יחיה ישמעאל ואם יהיה לפני בבריתי. דע כי אין הדבר כן כי שרה ראוי שתלד לך בן וכמו שאתה בהולדה כן תזכה היא והנה ישמעאל אינו בנה ולכן מפאת שרה היתה הולדת יצחק הכרחי אע"פ שלא ימות ישמעאל</p>
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