

Midrashim on the Weekly Parsha:

Lech Lecha

**Genesis 12:11-17:**

וַיְהִי כִּאֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיב לְבֹא מִצְרַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־שָׂרִי אִשְׁתּוֹ הִנֵּה־נָא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אִשָּׁה יְפֵת־מְרֹאֶה אֶתְּ: וְהָיָה כִּי־יִרְאוּ אֹתָךְ הַמִּצְרָיִם וְאָמְרוּ אִשְׁתּוֹ זֹאת וְהָרְגוּ אֹתִי וְאֶתְךָ יַחֲיוּ: אָמְרִי־נָא אֶחָתִי אַתְּ לְמַעַן יִיטְב־לִי בְּעַבְדֶּיךָ וְחַיְתָה נַפְשִׁי בְּגִלְתְּךָ: וַיְהִי כִּבּוֹא אַבְרָם מִצְרַיִם וַיִּרְאוּ הַמִּצְרָיִם אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה כִּי־יְפָה הוּא מְאֹד: וַיִּרְאוּ אֹתָהּ שָׂרֵי פְרָעֹה וַיְהַלְלוּ אֹתָהּ אֶל־פְּרָעֹה וַתִּקַּח הָאִשָּׁה בֵּית פְּרָעֹה: וּלְאַבְרָם הִיטִיב בְּעַבְדֶּיךָ וַיְהִי־לּוֹ צֹאן־וּבָקָר וַחֲמֹרִים וְעַבְדִּים וְשִׁפְחֹת וְאֶתְנֹת וְגַמְלִים: וַיִּנְגַע יְהוָה אֶת־פְּרָעֹה נְגָעִים גְּדֹלִים וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ עַל־דְּבַר שָׂרִי אִשְׁתְּ אַבְרָם:

As [Abram] was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "Now I know that you are a woman of beautiful appearance. If the Egyptians see you, and think, "this is his wife," they will kill me and let you live. Please say that you are my sister, so that it will be good for me due to you, and my soul will live because of you." When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw how very beautiful the woman was, Pharaoh's ministers saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's palace. And because of her, things were good for Abram; he had sheep, oxen, donkeys, servants and maid-servants, female donkeys, and camels. And God struck Pharaoh and his house with mighty plagues regarding the matter of Sarai, the wife of Abram.

**Bereshit Rabba 40:5**

רבי פינחס בשם רבי הושעיא רבה אמר, אמר הקדוש ברוך הוא לאברהם אבינו: צא וכבש את הדרך לפני בניך. את מוצא כל מה שכתוב באברהם כתיב בבניו.  
באברהם כתיב "ויהי רעב בארץ" (י"ב, י), בישראל כתיב "כי זה שנתים הרעב בקרב הארץ" (בראשית מ"ה, ו).

באברהם כתיב "וירד אברם מצרימה לגור שם", ובישראל כתיב "וירדו אבותינו מצרימה" (במדבר כ, טו).  
באברהם כתיב "לגור שם", ובישראל כתיב "לגור בארץ באנו" (בראשית מ"ז, ד).  
באברהם כתיב "כי כבד הרעב בארץ כנען", בישראל כתיב "והרעב כבד בארץ" (בראשית מ"ג, א)...  
באברהם כתיב "והרגו אתי ואתך יחיו", ובישראל כתיב "כל הבן הילוד היארה תשליכהו" [ואת הבת תחיון] (שמות א', כב)...  
באברהם כתיב "ואברם כבד מאד במקנה", ובישראל כתיב: "ויוציאם בכסף וזהב" (תהלים קה, לז)...

Rabbi Pinchas said, in the name of Rabbi Hoshaya the Great: The Holy One, blessed be He, said to Abraham our father: go and conquer the road before your children. You find that everything that's written about Abraham is written about his descendants.

Regarding Abraham it is written, "There was a famine in the land" (Genesis 12:10), and with Israel [i.e., Jacob and his family], it is written, "For there has been a famine in the land for two years" (Genesis 45:6).

Regarding Abraham it is written, “Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there” (Genesis 12:10), and regarding Israel it is written, “Our ancestors went down to Egypt” (Numbers 20:15).

Regarding Abraham, it is written, “to sojourn there” (Genesis 12:10), and regarding Israel it is written [as the Children of Israel tell Pharaoh], “we have come to sojourn in the land” (Genesis 47:4).

Regarding Abraham it is written, “for the famine was heavy in the land of Caanan” (Genesis 12:10), and regarding Israel it is written, “and the famine was heavy in the land” (Genesis 43:1)...

Regarding Abraham it is written “They will kill me and allow you to live” (Genesis 12:12), and regarding Israel it is written, “every boy that is born you should throw into the Nile [but let every girl live]” (Exodus 1:22)...

Regarding Abraham [as he left Egypt] it is written, “Avram was very rich in cattle, [silver, and gold]” (Genesis 13:2), and regarding Israel it is written, “He led Israel out [of Egypt] with silver and gold” (Psalms 105:37)...

#### **Leviticus Rabba 32:5**

רַב הוּנָא אָמַר בְּשֵׁם בַּר קַפְרָא בְּשִׁבְלֵי אַרְבַּעַה דְּבָרִים נִגְאָלוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרַיִם, שְׁלֹא שִׁנּוּ אֶת שְׁמֵם וְאֶת לְשׁוֹנָם וְלֹא אָמְרוּ לְשׁוֹן הָרַע, וְלֹא נִמְצָא בֵּינֵיהֶם אַחַד מִהֵן פְּרוּץ בְּעֵרְוָה.

Because of four things Israel was redeemed from Egypt: [1] They didn't change their names, [2] [they didn't change] their language, [3] they didn't talk badly of one another, and [3] none of them was promiscuous.