

Vayera

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“And He appeared”

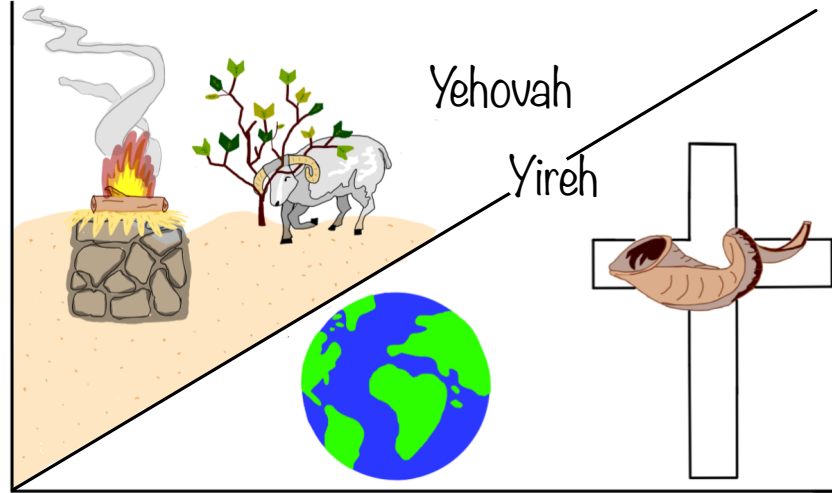
Genesis 18:1- 22:24

In this week's Parasha God appeared to Avraham (Abraham) to announce Sarai's (Sarah) upcoming conception and birth of the promised son, Yitzchak (Isaac). This miraculous birth would take place only after the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were judged by God and completely destroyed with fire and brimstone.

Consistently in this passage of Scripture, Avraham demonstrated belief and trust in God through obedience. He sojourned in Gerar, circumcised Yitzchak on the eighth day after his birth, sent Hagar and Ishmael away, cut a covenant with Abimelech and bound his only son, Yitzchak, for sacrifice to the LORD. Avraham submitted to the will of God even when it did not seem right to him. With each act of submissive obedience, God revealed more of Himself to Avraham with increasingly greater blessings, both physically and spiritually.

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~ Genesis 22

In Genesis 22:1-2 God gave Avraham a test. This test was not given for God to learn how Avraham thought or felt because God already knew Avraham's mind and heart. This test was an opportunity given by God for Avraham to act according to his mind and heart. This type of action is called obedience. We can believe in our mind and trust in our heart, but until we act on that belief and trust we have not obeyed. When we act in a way that demonstrates our belief and trust in God, this is obedience to Him. When we obey God, He blesses us according to His perfect will for our lives. A test of obedience from God is not temptation; rather, it is an opportunity to demonstrate to Him and the world that He is our LORD and our God. Avraham's test was to go to the land of Moriah to the one mountain God would choose. There he was to sacrifice his beloved and only son, Yitzchak, to the LORD.



Genesis 22:14

And Avraham 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.”

First Pray

Father God,

We praise You because You will provide!
Your ways and Your thoughts are perfect. You
want to bless us abundantly when we trust
and obey You. Please help us submit our
thoughts and our desires to Your perfect will
for our lives. With each passing day help us to
know You and agree with You more.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Read Next

Genesis 18:1-22:24



In Genesis 22:3-4 when God gave Avraham this command, he arose early the next morning, eager to honor God through obedience. He prepared everything necessary to complete the task God had commanded. Avraham took two young men, his son-Yitzchak, a donkey and the wood for the sacrifice. They arrived at their **moed**/ destination/appointment with God on the third day.

In Genesis 22:5-6 Avraham instructed the men to stay with the donkey while he and his son went to the mountain of God to worship. His instructions to the men, stating that he and his son would return to them after they worshipped God, demonstrated his trust in God. Notice, the father carried the fire and knife and the son carried the wood for the sacrifice. Both father and son were united, working together.

In Genesis 22:7-8 Yitzchak asked his father about the lamb needed for the sacrifice. Avraham explained that God would provide Himself the lamb for the burnt offering. This testimony of Avraham to his son allowed Yitzchak to trust his father.

In Genesis 22:9-10 Avraham and Yitzchak arrived at the place of sacrifice. Avraham built an altar, placed the wood in the proper order upon the altar, bound Yitzchak and placed him on the altar to be sacrificed. Avraham then raised the knife to slay his son. This act of obedience by Avraham and Yitzchak demonstrated their belief and trust in God. It also demonstrated their unity.

In Genesis 22:11-12 God called Avraham from heaven and told him not to harm his son. God was pleased that Avraham had demonstrated to both heaven and earth by his actions his belief and trust in God. Avraham put God first place in his life! Avraham passed the test!

In Genesis 22:13-14 when God saw Avraham's actions, He immediately responded to his faithful obedience and provided a substitute for the burnt offering. Avraham found behind him a ram caught by his horns in a thicket. A ram is a young male lamb. Avraham offered the ram up as a burnt offering, and he and his son, Yitzchak, worshipped God together. Avraham named this place of worship, The LORD- Will-Provide. By these things we know today that in the Mount of the LORD He will provide.

In Genesis 22:15-18 we learn that God spoke from heaven to Avraham, once again, declaring these blessings: Avraham's descendants will be ever present and remain where God puts them in multitude, just as the stars in heaven and the sand of the seashore are present and remain; Avraham's descendants will be victorious over their enemies; and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by the seed of Avraham. Because Avraham faithfully obeyed God's commands, He abundantly blessed him, according to His perfect will.

In Genesis 22:19-24 Avraham and Yitzchak returned to the two young men and donkey as a testimony of God's provision before they traveled together back to Beersheba. As a result of all these things, God drew Avraham closer to Him. He revealed to Avraham that eight sons had been born to his brother Nahor and wife Milcah. To the youngest of these sons was born a daughter named Rivka. The LORD revealed to Avraham that He had provided Rivka for Yitzchak's future wife.

Recap Review Fun

Directions: Match the statements with the corresponding word. Then write the letters in the correct order in the blanks below.

_____ altar	D. God commanded Avraham to do this to his son.
_____ test	d. Name of Yitzchak's future wife.
_____ obeying	i. Avraham arrived in the land of Moriah on this day.
_____ blessing	L. When we obey God, He delights in giving us this.
_____ Moriah	v. This animal was caught in a thicket by his horns.
_____ Yitzchak	o. When we obey God and receive His blessing, it is a _____ to others.
_____ sacrifice	I. God promised Avraham's descendants would be like this.
_____ nations	e. Avraham passed God's test by doing this.
_____ third	l. This animal traveled with Avraham.
_____ donkey	O. God commanded Avraham to travel to this land.
_____ wood	R. This is the name of Avraham's promised son.
_____ fire	w. Who will be blessed by the seed of Avraham?
_____ moed	t. Avraham built this on the mountain.
_____ testimony	l. Avraham arranged this in order upon the altar.
_____ ram	e. God promised Avraham's descendants would have this over their enemies.
_____ stars and sand	h. God gives this as an opportunity to demonstrate obedience to Him.
_____ Rivka	p. Avraham carried this to the mountain.
_____ victory	r. This word means destination or appointment.

Answer: The LORD will provide.

When the LORD sees our obedience, _____ !

“Out of the Thicket”

Then she came, and told the man of God. And he said,
“Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your
sons live on the rest.”
2 Kings 4:7

Haftarah: 2 Kings 4:1-37

New Testament: 2 Peter 2:4-11

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~
2 Kings 4:1-37

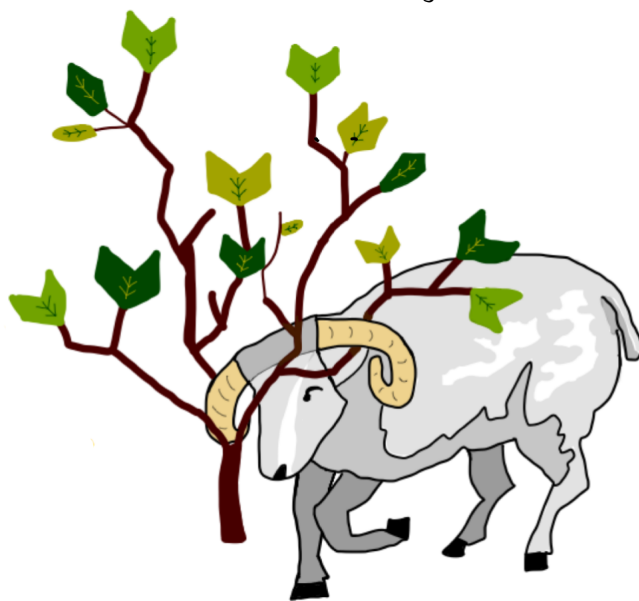
In this week's Haftarah we learn of five miracles God performed through Elisha the prophet. Let's take a look at one of these miracles to see what we can pull out of the thicket.

Elisha was a descendant of Avraham. He lived in the land God promised to give Avraham's descendants even though he was born about 1,200 years after Avraham died. God always keeps His promises (Genesis 2:2:17). Elisha - just like Avraham - was a Prophet of God. This means God spoke truth to him clearly and Elisha trusted and obeyed God just as Avraham had.

In 2 Kings 4:1-7 we learn of a widow who was in danger of losing her two sons to slavery because of her inability to pay her debt. The only thing of value she had access to was a jar of oil in her home. Elisha told her to borrow empty vessels/containers from all her neighbors everywhere. She obeyed the prophet's command, and the oil in the jar miraculously filled all the empty vessels her sons brought to her. The moment the last empty vessel was filled the oil from the jar stopped flowing. The widow reported these things to Elisha and he instructed her to go, sell the oil, pay her debts and live on the profit with her sons.

Just as God had not revealed the outcome of blessing to Avraham, who was willing to sacrifice his only son, God did not reveal the outcome of abundant blessing given to the widow who relied on the one jar of oil. In both these situations God knew the mind and heart of the individual and presented a test to them. The test was an opportunity to demonstrate obedience to the word of God, even if they did not understand. As a result of obedience, God abundantly blessed them, according to His perfect will for their lives.

In this passage of Scripture the oil represents the Holy Spirit, and the empty vessels, which were filled miraculously by the oil of one jar, represents all those who believe, trust and obey God. The one jar that was able to fill all the empty vessels represents God! He gives the Holy Spirit to every empty person brought to Him by His Son, Messiah Yeshua. This person's debts are then paid in full because of the birth, death and resurrection of Messiah Yeshua. They now have all they need for abundant, eternal life. Think now about these things and see what you can pull out of the thicket.



Pray First

Father God,

We praise You because You keep Your promises and desire to save us from our debt of sin. You are the only God and have the power and desire to bless us with abundant life when we trust and obey You. Thank You and please help us obey You more. In Yeshua's Name we pray.

Amen

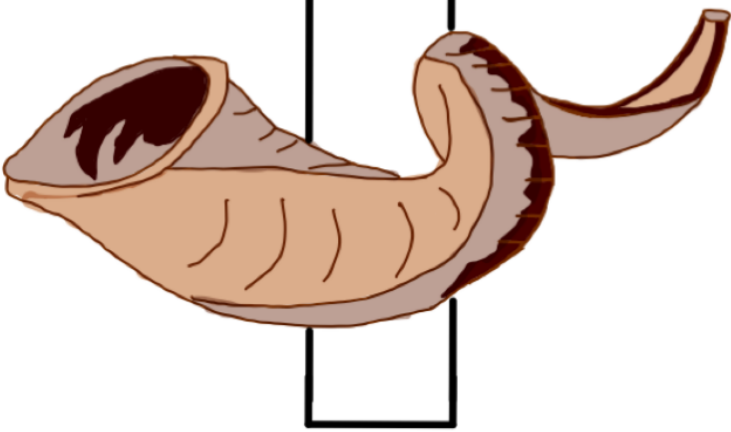
Read Next

2 Kings 4:1-37

Then the LORD knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment. 2 Peter 2:9

New Testament

2 Peter 2:4-11



Pray First

Father God in Heaven, Holy is Your Name. We praise You because You have provided the way to salvation. We thank You for redeeming us and allowing us to come to You by Your way, Messiah Yeshua, to be saved from Your coming wrath.

Please help us by the power of the Holy Spirit not to sin against You.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Read Next

2 Peter 2:4-11

In this New Testament passage of Scripture we find a summary of God's salvation for all who believe and trust in Him. While the ungodly in their generations perished and were reserved for eternal condemnation, both Noach and Lot were saved from God's judgment of sin.

God never tempts anyone! It is Satan who tempts everyone, with our own worldly desires of the flesh.

God is able and ready to deliver all believers out of temptation by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. As believers, we must be alert and on guard at all times because it is Satan and our connection to him in the flesh that leads us to sin against God.

Let's take a look at these similarities between Noach and Lot:

- Both men were saved because they followed God's instruction for the only way to salvation.
- Both men were saved from God's judgment of sin.
- Both men, having been saved, got drunk.
- Both men were unaware and vulnerable in their drunken state.
- Both men sinned against God in this condition because they were unable to recognize and resist the evil schemes of Satan.

As believers, we must work to know the truth of God's word and remain alert and on guard at all times. In this state when we are tempted in our flesh, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us. He sees our need and is able and ready at all times to deliver us from any form of temptation. The Holy Spirit always provides a way out for us!

Recap Review Fun

Directions: Fill in the blank using the word bank below.

1. To understand what is right in the sight of God, we must _____ Scripture.
2. To have a relationship with God we must _____ to Him daily.
3. When we pray to God, we must _____ for His response.
4. As believers, we must be _____ and on _____ against temptation at all times.
5. When we feel _____ to _____ against God, we can ask the Holy Spirit to _____ us.
6. God _____ our need and is _____ to respond.
7. God always _____ an _____ from temptation.
8. By the _____ of the Holy Spirit, we can trust and obey God.

Word Bank

Power

Sees

Provides

Help

Guard

Escape

Faithful

Talk

Listen

Tempted

Alert

Sin

Study

