
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Gen. 12	Yahweh appears to <u>A</u> bram; Sarai is taken to Pharaoh's house
Tuesday:	Gen. 13	<u>A</u> bram and Lot separate
Wednesday:	Gen. 14 -15	The battle between the 4 kings and the 5 kings; Lot's captivity and rescue; Malkit <u>s</u> edeq and <u>A</u> bram's tithe; Yahweh establishes His covenants with <u>A</u> bram
Thursday:	Gen. 16	Yishma'el is born to Hagar
Friday:	Gen. 17	Yahweh reestablishes His covenant with <u>A</u> bram; Circumcision

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will be looking at the covenants that Yahweh made with Abram and his seed. First we will read about His promise to give Abram his heir Yitshaq. Then we will see how He makes a covenant with Abram, promising to give his seed the land of Kena'an as an inheritance. Last, we will watch Yahweh introducing a physical sign of entering His covenant: the requirement of circumcision for all males. We will also learn the new names that Yahweh gave Abram and Sarai. Now, let's read Gen. 15 & 17:1-21.

PARSHA POINTS

- After the events of Lot's captivity and rescue, the word of Yahweh came to Abram in a vision to reassure him that He would be his shield, and to remind Abram that his reward would be abundant - 15:1
- Abram expressed his concern to Yahweh that he had no offspring (**zera**) yet except for his servant Eli'ezer of Dammeseq, who was born in his household - 15:2
- Yahweh confirmed His promise that Abram would indeed have his own offspring, who would be as the stars of the heavens - 15:5
- Abram believed what Yahweh told him, and Yahweh counted his belief as righteousness - 15:6
- Yahweh asked Abram to bring an offering to establish the covenant between them, which included a (15:9):
 - 3-year (**shalosh**) old heifer
 - 3-year old female goat
 - 3-year old ram
 - turtledove
 - young pigeon



- Abram took the animals and split them down the middle, except for the birds - 15:10
- Birds of prey attempted to devour the offering, but Abram drove them away - 15:11
- After a deep sleep that frightened Abram, Yahweh foretold of a 400 (**arba me'ot**) year slavery that would come to Abram's seed in a foreign land - 15:13
- Yahweh let Abram know that He would judge the nation that enslaved them, and afterward He would let them come out from there with great possessions - 15:14
- Yahweh reassured Abram that he would die in peace at a good old age - 15:15
- Yahweh sealed the covenant by burning the offerings - 15:17
- As part of this covenant (**brit**), Yahweh established the land boundaries—from the river of Mitsrayim to the Euphrates river—and lists the nations that would be dispelled (15:18-21):

- Qeynite
- Qenizzite
- Qadmonite
- Hittite
- Perizzite
- Repha'im
- Amorite
- Kena'anite
- Girgashite
- Yebusite



- Yahweh appeared to Abram when he was 99 (**tish'im ve tesha**) years old and revealed that He was El Shaddai. He told Abram to walk before Him and to be perfect - 17:1
- Yahweh reestablished His covenant with Abram, stating that he would be a father of many nations, be exceedingly fruitful, and that many sovereigns would come from him - 17:2-6
- Yahweh gave Abram a new name, Abraham, because he would be a father of many nations - 17:5
- Yahweh also established His covenant with Abraham's seed—an everlasting covenant to be their Elohim - 17:7
- Yahweh promised to give Abraham and his seed after him the land of Kena'an as an everlasting possession, reiterating His promise to be their Elohim - 17:8
- Elohim told Abraham to guard His covenant—he and his seed after him—throughout their generations - 17:9
- The covenant included the requirement that every male child undergo circumcision (**brit milah**) - 17:10
- A son of 8 (**shmoneh**) days was to be circumcised, whether one born in Abraham's house or any foreigner bought with silver - 17:12
- This everlasting covenant is in their flesh - 17:13
- Any male child not circumcised in their flesh was to be cut off from his people, because uncircumcision is a breaking of His covenant - 17:14

- Yahweh told Abraham that his wife Sarai would now be called Sarah - 17:15
- Yahweh told Abraham that Sarah would be blessed with a son, and that many nations and sovereigns would come from her - 17:16
- Abraham found this promise hard to grasp, and questioned Yahweh how a man of 100 (**me'ah**) years old and a woman of 90 (**tish'im**) years old could bear a child - 17:17
- Yahweh told Abraham that his son would be named Yitshaq, and that this covenant was an ever-lasting covenant, which would be established with him and also with his seed after him - 17:19
- Yahweh reassured Abraham that Yishma'el would be blessed and be fruitful. He would bring forth 12 (**shtem esre**) princes, who would greatly increase and be made into a great nation - 17:20
- However, Yahweh made it clear that the covenant would not be established through Yishma'el, but with the boy Yitshaq, who would be born to Sarah in the next year - 17:21
- The very same day that Elohim spoke of these things, Abraham took Yishma'el, along with himself, all those born in his house and all those bought with silver, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins, as Elohim had told him - 17:23, 27
- Abraham was 99 years old when he was circumcised, and Yishma'el was 13 (**shalosh esre**) years old - 17:24-26



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Chapter 15 starts off with Yahweh stating that He is Abram's shield. Find Scripture verses that confirm that Yahweh is our shield.
- Discuss the significance of having a male heir to carry on the family line.
- In the covenant ceremony between Yahweh and Abram, what is the meaning of the birds of prey? Could it be indicative of HaSatan trying to disrupt and prevent the covenant?
- Yahweh requires that all males be circumcised in order to be in covenant with Him. Discuss the ramifications of not being circumcised. Find other passages in Scripture that talk about circumcision. What is 'circumcision of the heart?' What is Colossians 3:11 talking about if circumcision is an everlasting covenant? What is Acts 15 talking about?
- Note that Yishmael's line would have 12 princes and also be blessed. How are the Arabs blessed?