
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

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

Monday:	Gen. 18	Yahweh visits <u>A</u> braham; Sarah is going to have Yitshaq; <u>A</u> braham bargains with Yahweh
Tuesday:	Gen. 19	The story of <u>S</u> edom and <u>A</u> morah; The origin of <u>M</u> o'ab and <u>A</u> mmon
Wednesday:	Gen. 20	Sarah and <u>A</u> bimele <u>k</u>
Thursday:	Gen. 21	The birth of Yitshaq; <u>A</u> braham sends Hagar and Yishma'el away; <u>A</u> braham and <u>A</u> bimele <u>k</u> make a covenant
Friday:	Gen. 22	Elohim tests <u>A</u> braham, <u>A</u> braham offers up Yitshaq; The covenant is re-established

As we continue our journey through the book of Genesis, the theme of covenant also continues. This week we will witness the birth of the long awaited son of promise, Yitshaq to Sarah and Abraham. Yishma'el and Hagar will be sent away, but Yahweh will provide and protect them and restate his covenantal promise to Yishma'el that he will become a great nation. Abraham will be tested when he is asked to offer Yitshaq as a sacrifice to Yahweh. Then Yahweh will make a renewed promise to Abraham to increase his seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand on the seashore. Now, let's read Gen. 21:1-21 & 22:1-19.

PARSHA POINTS

- As Yahweh had promised earlier (15:1-6), Sarah gave birth to **Yitshaq** (meaning, 'he laughs') - 21:1-3
- Abraham circumcised Yitshaq when he was 8 (**shmoneh**) days old, just as Elohim had commanded him - 21:4; 17:10-13
- Abraham was 100 (**me'ah**) years old when his son Yitshaq was born - 21:5
- Sarah acknowledges that Elohim has made her laugh as her son's name means and that everyone will laugh with her because of her advanced age in bearing a child - 21:6-7
- After Yitshaq is weaned, Abraham hosted a feast celebration for him and Sarah observed that Yishma'el is mocking Yitshaq - 21:8-9
- Sarah requested that Abraham send Hagar and Yishma'el away stating that he will not share the inheritance with Yitshaq her son - 21:10



- Abraham was not happy with Sarah's demand but Yahweh confirmed that Abraham should listen to her for through Yitshaq's line, his seed will increase - 21:11-12
- Yahweh reassured Abraham that Yishma'el will become a nation - 21:13; 17:20
- The next morning Abraham sent Hagar and Yishma'el out with provisions of bread and skins of water - 21:14
- During their wandering in the Wilderness of Be'ersheba, the water was used up. Hagar placed her son under a shrub, thinking that he will die and so she goes off to a distance to cry for him - 21:14-16
- Elohim heard her cry and the boy's voice and told Hagar to lift her boy up for he will not die but become a great nation - 21:16-18
- After this Hagar saw a well of water and filled her water skins to give to Yishma'el - 21:19
- Elohim was with Yishma'el and he grew up in the Wilderness of Paran and became an archer and took a wife from the land of Mitsrayim - 21:20-21
- Elohim decided to test Abraham's faith and called out to him. Abraham answered, "Here I am" (**Hineni**) - 22:1
- Elohim told Abraham to take his only son whom he loves and to go to the land of Moriyah to offer him there as a burnt/ascending offering (**olah**) - 22:2
- Abraham obeyed Yahweh and saddled his donkey, and took 2 (**shtayim**) of his young men and Yitshaq with him - 22:3
- Abraham split the wood for the burnt/ascending offering on which Yitshaq would be offered - 22:3
- After a 3 (**shalosh**) day's journey, Abraham sees the place where he is to offer Yitshaq and tells his men to stay behind with the donkey while he and his boy go to worship - 22:5
- Abraham had Yitshaq carry the wood while he took the fire and a knife, and the 2 (**shtayim**) of them left together - 22:6
- Yitshaq asked his father where was the lamb for the burnt/ascending offering - 22:7
- Abraham reassured his son that Elohim would provide the sacrifice and they left together - 22:8
- Abraham built the altar/slaughter place in the place which Elohim had chosen and placed the wood on it. He then bound his son Yitshaq and laid him on the wood - 22:9
- As Abraham stretched out his hand with the knife to slay his son, the Messenger of Yahweh called to him from the heavens and Abraham responded again, "Here I am" - 22:10-11
- The Messenger told him to not lay his hand on his son because Abraham had passed the test that he feared Elohim in not withholding his only son - 22:12
- Yahweh provided a ram caught in a bush by its horns and Abraham took it and offered it as the burnt/ascending offering - 22:13
- Abraham called the name of the place, **Yahweh Yireh** (meaning, 'Yahweh provides') - 22:14



- The Messenger then called out from the heavens a second time and told Abraham that he will certainly be blessed and his seed would certainly increase as the stars of the heavens and as the sand on the seashore, and that his seed would possess the gates of their enemies - 22:17
- Abraham's seed would bless all the nations of the earth because Abraham obeyed Yahweh's voice - 22:18
- After this Abraham returned to his 2 (**shtayim**) young men and they went to Be'ersheba where they dwelt - 22:19

DIGGING DEEPER

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

- Discuss the ramifications of allowing Yishma'el and Hagar to stay vs. them leaving. For example, if Yishma'el had stayed he would have legal right to Abraham's inheritance as a first born. If Hagar had stayed, she would have felt more prestigious in her role.
- Notice the similarities between the promise to Yishma'el and to Yitshaq and the differences. For example, both were to have 12 (**shtem esre**) nations however only Yitshaq was promised the land.
- What does Yishma'el and Yitshaq's names mean? (16:11; 21:6)
- Read verses pertaining to the promises made by Yahweh regarding Yishma'el (16:10-12; 17:20; 21:13, 18; 25:12-17).
- Research which nation Yishma'el's descendants are.
- Discuss Abraham's faith and obedience as he was told to send 1 (**achat**) son away and to kill the 1 (**achat**) left.
- What does 'Hineni' mean? Find other Scriptural passages that use this phrase.
- Research where modern-day Mt. Moriyah (Mt. Moriah) is located.
- In what ways were Yeshua's crucifixion and Yitshaq's story parallel? For example, they both had to carry the item they were to be killed on. Was Yitshaq a shadow of a type of Yeshua?
- Most movies depict Yitshaq as a young boy when he was going to be killed. Is this accurate?
- Would Abraham have understood that Yahweh would not have wanted Yitshaq truly sacrificed when all the nations around him did it regularly to their gods?

