

פרשת לך לך / Parashat Lekh Lekha

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32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d
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Stewardship and Commitment

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 12:1-17:27
הפטרה: Isaiah 40:27-41:16
הברית: Romans 4:1-25
החדשה

10 One of the most important ingredients to studying the Scriptures is to study and read with comprehension and to pay attention to the details. This week we look at how G-d exhibits emotions we can relate to in His question and response with Hagar. A recurring theme can help us gain understanding on what G-d wants from us by His interaction with others in the Scriptures.

15 The “Angel of the Lord” is first mentioned here in the story of the maidservant Hagar fleeing from her mistress Sarai in *Bereshit / Genesis 16*. What I find interesting when the Angel of the Lord found Hagar near the spring on the way to Shur, He asked her from where she had come and to where she was going. Since G-d knows the past, present, and future, why would He ask the question of
20 Hagar where she was from and where she was going?

בראשית 16:6-10

6 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל-שָׂרַי הֲנֵה שִׁפְחָתְךָ בְיָדְךָ עֲשִׂי-לָהּ
7 הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ וְהַעֲנֵה שָׂרַי וְהִתְבָּרַח מִפְּנֵיהָ: וַיִּמְצְאֶהָ
מִלְאֲכָה יְהוָה עַל-עֵין הַמַּיִם בְּמִדְבָּר עַל-הַעֵין בְּרָרָה
8 שׁוּר: וַיֹּאמֶר הָגָר שִׁפְחַת שָׂרַי אֵי-מִזָּה בָּאת וְאָנֹכִי תִלְכִּי
9 וְהָאֵמֶר מִפְּנֵי שָׂרַי נִבְרַתִּי אֲנֹכִי בָרַחְתִּי: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ
מִלְאֲכָה יְהוָה שׁוּבִי אֶל-נִבְרַתְךָ וְהִתְעַנִּי תַּחַת יְדֵיהָ:
10 וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִלְאֲכָה יְהוָה הֲרַבָּה אֲרַבָּה אֶת-זַרְעֲךָ וְלֹא
11 יִסְפָּר מִרְבִּי: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִלְאֲכָה יְהוָה הֲגֵנֶךָ הָרָה וַיִּלְדֶּתָ

25 The “Angel of the Lord” could have told her that she should return to Sarai and submit to her authority, and that He will increase her seed by blessing her son’s children. However, He speaks first by asking her what is going on. The Lord is demonstrating to us His concern for Hagar by giving her the opportunity to talk while He listens. Hagar left Sarai and fled into the desert because she felt she had nothing left and nowhere to go. The Lord asking Hagar to return
30 illustrates a recurring theme teaching a key principle on commitment and stewardship. By asking Hagar to return, the Lord was asking her to recommit

Bereshit / Genesis 16:6-10

16:6 But Abram said to Sarai, ‘Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight.’ So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence. 16:7 Now the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. 16:8 He said, ‘Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from and where are you going?’ And she said, ‘I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.’ 16:9 Then the angel of the Lord said to her, ‘Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority.’ 16:10 Moreover, the angel of the Lord said to her, ‘I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.’ 16:11 The angel of the Lord said to her further, ‘Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has given heed to your affliction. 16:12 ‘He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone’s hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers.’ 16:13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, ‘You are a God who sees’; for she said, ‘Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?’ 16:14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered. (NASB)

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35 herself to what has been given to her (i.e. serving Avram and Sarai). Hagar's gift was to take care of and serve Avram and Sarai. Stewardship is the personal responsibility for taking care of another person's property or finances. If we are to understand that everything we have, including our own lives, is a gift of G-d then we too have a personal responsibility to use our gifts for the Lord.

40 While Yeshua was teaching, he sat down near the area where the worshipers could deposit their temple tax and freewill offerings (see *Mark 12:41-44*). Here Yeshua sat to watch the people make their offerings. In all of the Ketuvei Shelachim, this is the only place where we see Yeshua sitting and watching while people bring their money in giving it to the Lord. After watching for a while, a widow came and placed in the offering out of the few resources she had. In contrast to the wealthier who probably deposited their money, Yeshua pointed out that the widow, out of her few resources for making money, gave all she had. Here, Yeshua taught that the value of a gift is not determined by the amount but by the spirit in which it is given. Here the widow demonstrated both a commitment to G-d and stewardship of what she was given her.

50 It is interesting to note here, in this week's parsha, that G-d told Hagar to return to her mistress. Surely our G-d is the G-d of abundance, just as the Lord promised to bless the seed of Hagar (i.e. Ishmael). HaShem telling Hagar to return to Avram and Sarai indicates that He expected both commitment and stewardship on Hagar's behalf. After appearing to Hagar, she had to walk in faith by listening and obeying. Similarly, the Lord wants to accomplish his vision through our faithful commitment and stewardship of time, talent, and treasure if we are willing.

55 I challenge you today to renew your commitment to G-d and to Yeshua. Our purpose here on earth is to build the kingdom of G-d through commitment and stewardship. One area to begin is to commit to studying the Word of G-d, learn the Word, follow the Word, do the Word, and to not be ashamed of the Word of G-d or your faith.

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Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

70 הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever