

Beit Chachamin

PARSHAT VAYERA

7TH NOVEMBER, 2025

COME & LEARN

THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]⁴ (cont.) – Lot leaves Zoar and lives in a cave with his two daughters; thinking there is no one left, they get their father

1 - God appears to Abraham in Mamre as he sits at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looks up, sees three men, runs to greet them, bows, and offers water, shade, and a homemade meal. He and Sarah quickly prepare fresh bread and a calf with curds and milk, and Abraham serves them. They say Sarah is will have a son. Sarah, listening from the tent, laughs to herself at the idea of having a child at her age, and God asks why she laughed and insists that nothing is beyond Him.

2 - The visitors go towards Sodom, and God lets Abraham in on His plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham argues for the city asking if God will really destroy the righteous along with the wicked. He asks if God would save the city for fifty righteous men and brings the number down until God agrees not to destroy it if ten righteous are found.

3 - Two messengers arrive in Sodom and Lot is sitting at the city gate. He greets them, insists they stay at his house, and makes them a meal. The men of Sodom surround the house and demand that Lot bring the guests out. The visitors pull Lot back inside, shut the door, and strike the men outside. They tell Lot to gather his family to leave before the destruction. Lot goes to his sons-in-law, but they don't join. At dawn, when Lot hesitates to leave, the messengers grab him, his wife and two daughters, and bring them out of the city. They tell him not to look back. Lot begs to be allowed to flee to a nearby town, Zoar, instead of the hills, and they agree.

4 – As the sun rises, God rains fire on Sodom and Gomorrah and destroys the cities and everyone there. Lot's wife looks back and turns into a pillar of salt.

drunk on two consecutive nights and each becomes pregnant by him, giving birth to Moab and Ben-ammi. Abraham moves to the region of the Negev. He says Sarah is his sister, and King Abimelech takes her, but God appears to Abimelech in a dream and warns him. Abimelech returns Sarah, confronts Abraham, and gives him gifts and the right to live in the land. God heals Abimelech's household, and then God "remembers" Sarah, and she becomes pregnant.

5 – Abraham is one hundred when Isaac is born, and Sarah laughs. At Isaac's weaning feast, Sarah sees Hagar's son and demands that Abraham send Hagar and her boy away. God tells Abraham to listen to her. Abraham sends Hagar and the boy into the wilderness with bread and water, and when the water is gone she distances herself, unable to watch him die. God hears the boy, an angel tells Hagar not to fear, shows her a well, and promises to make him a great nation.

6 – Abimelech and his army chief Phicol approach Abraham, saying they see that God is with him, and ask for a sworn agreement of fair dealing. Abraham agrees, protests that Abimelech's servants seized his well, and then gives Abimelech sheep and cattle as they make a covenant; seven ewes mark Abraham's claim to the well, and the place is named Beersheba.

7 – God tells Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering in the land of Moriah. Abraham travels there, leaves the servants behind, and goes up the mountain with Isaac. Isaac asks where the sheep is and Abraham answers that God will provide. Abraham builds the altar, binds Isaac, and is about to slaughter him when an angel stops him, saying now it's clear he fears God; Abraham then sacrifices a ram caught in a thicket. The angel restates God's promise to bless Abraham and multiply his offspring. Abraham returns to Beersheba. It lists the genealogy of Nahor, listing Bethuel, Rebekah's father.

PARSHAT VAYERA

Parshat Vayeira is full of strange figures who deliver messages. Whether called “מַלְאָךְ” (messenger/angel) or simply “אֲנָשִׁים” (people), they continue to appear and share their messages.

THE THREE VISITORS COME TO ABRAHAM (GENESIS 18:2):

וַיֵּשֶׁא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיֵּרָא וַיֵּרָץ לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֵהָל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אֲרָצָה:

Looking up, he saw three figures standing near him. Perceiving this, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the ground,

Message: Sarah will have a child and God’s promise to Abraham will be fulfilled.

THE TWO ANGELS SENT TO SODOM (GENESIS 19:1):

וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סְדֹמָה בְּעֶרְב וְלוֹט יוֹשֵׁב בַּשַּׁעַר־סְדֹם וַיֵּרָא־לוֹט וַיָּקָם לְקִרְאתָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אִפְּיָם אֲרָצָה:

The two messengers arrived in Sodom in the evening, as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to greet them and, bowing low with his face to the ground

Message: Sodom is about to be destroyed and Lot and his family need to leave – they ultimately save Lot and his family.

A MESSENGER VISITS HAGAR & ISHMAEL (GENESIS 21:18):

וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹקִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנָּעִר וַיִּקְרָא מַלְאָךְ אֱלֹקִים אֶל־הַגֵּר מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מִהֲלָךְ הַגֵּר אֶל־תִּירָאִי כִּי־שָׁמַע אֱלֹקִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנָּעִר בְּאֶשֶׁר הוּא־שָׁם:

God heard the cry of the boy, and a messenger of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heeded the cry of the boy where he is.

Message: God will still protect Hagar and Ishmael and Ishmael make a great nation.

A MESSENGER ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE OF ISAAC (GENESIS 22:11-12):

וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו מַלְאָךְ ה' מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִרְהָם אֲבִרְהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי

Then a messenger of God called to him from heaven: “Abraham! Abraham!” And he answered, “Here I am.”

Message: Tells Abraham to stop and not harm Isaac and reiterates the covenant of blessings through Isaac's descendants

Through these messengers the character’s in each instance are told something that is ultimately life changing.