

Vayera, Torah, November 12, 2022

Genesis 18:1-33

appeared to him by the יהוה (1) terebinths of Mamre; he was sitting at the entrance of the tent as the day grew hot. (2) 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, (3) he said, “My lords! If it please you, do not go on past your servant. (4) Let a little water be brought; bathe your feet and recline under the tree. (5) And let me fetch a morsel of bread that you may refresh yourselves; then go on—seeing that you have come your servant’s way.” They replied, “Do as you have said.” (6) Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quick, three *seahs* of choice flour! Knead and make

בראשית י"ח:א'-ל"ג

(א) וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה בְּאֵלֵי מְמָרָא
וְהוּא יָשָׁב פֶּתַח־הָאֵהָל כְּחֹם
הַיּוֹם: (ב) וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה
שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְצִים עָלָיו וַיֵּרָא
וַיֵּרֶץ לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֵהָל
וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אֶרְצָה: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי
אִם־נָא מְצֹאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֵל־נָא
תֵּעָבֶר מֵעַל עַבְדְּךָ: (ד) יִקַּח־נָא
מֵעֵט־מַיִם וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁעֲנוּ
תַּחַת הָעֵץ: (ה) וְאָקַח פַּת־לֶחֶם
וְסַעְדוּ לְבָבְכֶם אַחַר תֵּעָבְרוּ
כִּי־עַל־כֵּן עֲבַרְתֶּם עַל־עַבְדְּכֶם
וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵּן תַעֲשֶׂה פֶּאֶשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:
(ו) וַיִּמְהַר אַבְרָהָם הָאֵהָלָה
אֶל־שָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר מִהֲרִי שְׁלֵשׁ
סָאִים קָמַח סֹלֶת לּוֹשִׁי וַעֲשִׂי
עֲגוֹת: (ז) וְאֶל־הַבָּקָר רָץ אַבְרָהָם

cakes!” (7) Then Abraham ran to the herd, took a calf, tender and choice, and gave it to a servant-boy, who hastened to prepare it. (8) He took curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared and set these before them; and he waited on them under the tree as they ate. (9) They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he replied, “There, in the tent.” (10) Then one said, “I will return to you next year, and your wife Sarah shall have a son!” Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind him. (11) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years; Sarah had stopped having her periods. (12) And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “Now that I’ve lost the ability, am I to have enjoyment—with my husband so old?” (13) Then said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I in truth bear a child, old as I am?’ (14) Is

וַיִּקַּח בֶּן-בְּקָר רֶךָ וְטוֹב וַיִּתֵּן
אֶל-הַנְּעָר וַיַּמְהָר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ: (ח)
וַיִּקַּח חֻמָּאָה וְחֶלֶב וּבֶן-הַבְּקָר
אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן לְפָנֵיהֶם
וְהוּא-עֹמֵד עֲלֵיהֶם תַּחַת הָעֵץ
וַיֹּאכְלוּ: (ט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו אֵיךְ
שָׂרָה אֲשַׁתְּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בְּאֶהְלִי:
(י) וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוּב אָשׁוּב אֵלֶיךָ כְּעֵת
חַיָּה וְהִנֵּה-בֵן לְשָׂרָה אֲשַׁתְּךָ וְשָׂרָה
שָׁמְעֶת פֶּתַח הָאֵהָל וְהוּא אַחֲרָיו:
(יא) וְאַבְרָהָם וְשָׂרָה זָקְנִים בָּאִים
בַּיָּמִים חֲדָל לְהַיּוֹת לְשָׂרָה אֶרֶח
כַּנְּשִׁים: (יב) וַתִּצְחַק שָׂרָה בְּקִרְבָּהּ
לֵאמֹר אַחֲרַי בְּלֹתִי הֲיִתְהַלְּלִי עַדְנָה
וְאֵדְנִי זָקֵן: (יג) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה
אֶל-אַבְרָהָם לְמָה זֶה צִחְקָה שָׂרָה
לֵאמֹר הֲאֵף אֲמַנָּם אֵלֶּךָ וְאֲנִי
זָקְנָתִי: (יד) הֲיִפְלֵא מִיְהוָה דְּבַר
לְמוֹעֵד אָשׁוּב אֵלֶיךָ כְּעֵת חַיָּה
וְלִשְׂרָה בֵן: (טו) וַתִּכְחַשׁ שָׂרָה |
לֵאמֹר לֹא צִחְקָתִי כִּי | יִרְאֶה

I ? anything too wondrous for יהוה will return to you at the same season next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” (15) Sarah lied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was frightened. Came the reply, “You did laugh.” (16) The agents set out from there and looked down toward Sodom, Abraham walking with them to see them off. (17) had said, “Shall I hide יהוה Now from Abraham what I am about to do, (18) since Abraham is to become a great and populous nation and all the nations of the earth are to bless themselves by him? (19) For I have singled him out, that he may instruct his children and his posterity to keep by doing what is יהוה the way of יהוה just and right, in order that may bring about for Abraham what has been promised him.” (20) Then said, “The outrage of Sodom יהוה and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave! (21) I will go

וַיֹּאמֶר | לֹא כִי צָחַקְתָּ: (טז) וַיִּקְמוּ
מִשֵּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיִּשְׁקְפוּ עַל-פְּנֵי
סֹדֶם וְאַבְרָהָם הִלִּיף עִמָּם לְשַׁלְּחָם:
(יז) וַיְהִי וַיֹּאמֶר הַמַּכְסָּה אֲנִי
מֵאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה: (יח)
וְאַבְרָהָם הָיָה יְהִיָּה לְגֹי גְדוֹל
וְעָצוּם וְנִבְרָכוּ-בּוֹ כָּל גּוֹי הָאָרֶץ:
(יט) כִּי יִדְעֻתּוֹ לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יִצְוָה
אֶת-בָּנָיו וְאֶת-בֵּיתוֹ אַחֲרָיו וְשִׁמְרוּ
דֶּרֶךְ יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט
לְמַעַן הִבְיֵא יְהוָה עַל-אַבְרָהָם אֵת
אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר עָלָיו: (כ) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה
זַעֲקֵת סֹדֶם וְעַמָּהּ כִּי-רַבָּה
וַחֲטָאתָם כִּי כָבְדָה מְאֹד: (כא)
אַרְדָּה-נָא וְאַרְאֶה הַכְּצַעֲקוּתָהּ
הַבָּאָה אֵלַי עֲשׂוּ | כֹּלָה וְאִם-לֹא
אֲדַעָה: (כב) וַיִּפְּנוּ מִשֵּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים
וַיֵּלְכוּ סְדֹמָה וְאַבְרָהָם עֹדְנָו עֹמֵד
לְפָנָי יְהוָה: (כג) וַיִּגַּשׁ אַבְרָהָם
וַיֹּאמֶר הֲאֵף תִּסְפָּה צְדִיק
עִם-רָשָׁע: (כד) אוֹלֵי יֵשׁ חַמְּשִׁים

down to see whether they have acted altogether according to the outcry that has reached Me; if not, I will take note.” (22) The agents went on from there to Sodom, while Abraham remained standing Abraham came (23) יהוה before forward and said, “Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty? (24) What if there should be fifty innocent within the city; will You then wipe out the place and not forgive it for the sake of the innocent fifty who are in it? (25) Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty, so that innocent and guilty fare alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” answered, “If I find יהוה (26) And within the city of Sodom fifty innocent ones, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” (27) Abraham spoke up, saying, “Here I venture to speak to my lord, I who

צַדִּיקִם בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר הָאֵלֶּה תִּסְפָּה
וְלֹא־תִשָּׂא לְמָקוֹם לְמַעַן חַמְשִׁים
הַצַּדִּיקִם אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּהּ: (כה)
חָלְלָה לְךָ מִעֲשֵׂת | כַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה
לְהַמִּית צַדִּיק עִם־רָשָׁע וְהִיא
כַּצַּדִּיק כַּרָּשָׁע חָלְלָה לְךָ הַשִּׁפְט
כָּל־הָאָרֶץ לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט: (כו)
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אִם־אֶמְצָא בְּסֹדֹם
חַמְשִׁים צַדִּיקִם בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר
וְנִשְׂאתִי לְכָל־הַמָּקוֹם בְּעִבּוֹרָם:
(כז) וַיַּעַן אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה־נָא
הוֹאֵלְתִּי לְדָבָר אֶל־אֲדֹנָי וְאֲנֹכִי
עָפָר וָאֵפֶר: (כח) אֲוִלִּי יַחְסְרוּן
חַמְשִׁים הַצַּדִּיקִם חַמְשָׁה
הַתְּשִׁחִית בְּחַמְשָׁה אֶת־כָּל־הָעִיר
וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁחִית אִם־אֶמְצָא שָׁם
אַרְבָּעִים וְחַמְשָׁה: (כט) וַיִּסָּף עוֹד
לְדָבָר אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲוִלִּי יִמָּצְאוּן
שָׁם אַרְבָּעִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֶעֱשֶׂה
בְּעִבּוֹר הָאַרְבָּעִים: (ל) וַיֹּאמֶר
אֶל־נָא יַחַר לְאֲדֹנָי וְאֲדַבְּרָה אֲוִלִּי

am but dust and ashes: (28) What if the fifty innocent should lack five? Will You destroy the whole city for want of the five?" "I will not destroy if I find forty-five there." (29) But he spoke up again, and said, "What if forty should be found there?" "I will not do it, for the sake of the forty." (30) And he said, "Let not my lord be angry if I go on: What if thirty should be found there?" "I will not do it if I find thirty there." (31) And he said, "I venture again to speak to my lord: What if twenty should be found there?" "I will not destroy, for the sake of the twenty." (32) And he said, "Let not my lord be angry if I speak but this last time: What if ten should be found there?" "I will not destroy, for the sake of the ten." (33) Having finished speaking to Abraham, יהוה departed; and Abraham returned to his place

יִמְצְאוּן שָׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא
אֶעֱשֶׂה אִם-אֶמְצָא שָׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים:
(לא) וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנֵה-נָא הוּאֲלֹתִי
לְדַבֵּר אֶל-אֲדֹנָי אוֹלָי יִמְצְאוּן שָׁם
עֶשְׂרִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁחֵת בְּעֶבֶר
הָעֶשְׂרִים: (לב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-נָא יְהִר
לְאֲדֹנָי וְאֲדַבְּרָה אֶדְ-הַפְּעַם אוֹלָי
יִמְצְאוּן שָׁם עֶשְׂרֵה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא
אֲשַׁחֵת בְּעֶבֶר הָעֶשְׂרֵה: (לג) וַיֵּלֶךְ
יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר כָּלָה לְדַבֵּר
אֶל-אַבְרָהָם וְאַבְרָהָם שָׁב לְמִקְוֹ: