

Chayei Sara, Torah, November 11, 2023

Genesis 24:10-52

(10) Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and set out, taking with him all the bounty of his master; and he made his way to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. (11) He made the camels kneel down by the well outside the city, at evening time, the time when women come out to draw water.

(12) And he said, "O יהוה, God of my master Abraham's [house], grant me good fortune this day, and deal graciously with my master

Abraham: (13) Here I stand by the spring as the daughters of the townspeople come out to draw water; (14) let the maiden to whom I say, 'Please, lower your jar that I may drink,' and who replies, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels'—let her be the one whom

בראשית כ"ד:י'-נ"ב

(י) וַיִּקַּח הָעֶבֶד עֶשְׂרֵה גַמְלִים
מִגְּמַלֵי אֲדֹנָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ וְכָל־טוֹב אֲדֹנָיו
בִּידוֹ וַיִּקָּם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־אֲרָם נְהַרְסִים
אֶל־עִיר נַחֹר: (יא) וַיִּבְרָךְ הַגְּמָלִים
מִחוּץ לְעֵיר אֶל־בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם לְעֵת
לְעֶרֶב לְעֵת צֵאת הַשָּׂאֲבֹת: (יב)
וַיֹּאמֶר | יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנָי אֲבִרְהָם
הַקָּרֵה־נָּא לְפָנַי הַיּוֹם וַעֲשֵׂה־חֶסֶד
עִם אֲדֹנָי אֲבִרְהָם: (יג) הֲנֵה אָנֹכִי
נֹצֵב עַל־עֵין הַמַּיִם וּבְנוֹת אַנְשֵׁי
הָעֵיר יֵצְאוּ לְשָׂאֵב מַיִם: (יד) וְהָיָה
הַנִּעֲרָ אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֵלַיָּה הַטִּי־נָּא
כַּדָּךְ וְאִשְׁתָּהּ וְאָמְרָה שְׂתָהּ
וְגַם־גַּמְלֵיךָ אֲשַׁקֶּה אֹתָהּ הַכַּחֲתִי
לְעֶבְדְּךָ לְיִצְחָק וּבָהּ אֲדַע כִּי־עָשִׂיתָ
חֶסֶד עִם־אֲדֹנָי: (טו) וַיְהִי־הוּא טָרֵם
כִּלְהָ לְדַבֵּר וְהָנָה רַבָּקָה יֵצְאָת

You have decreed for Your servant Isaac. Thereby shall I know that You have dealt graciously with my master.” (15) He had scarcely finished speaking, when Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, the son of Milcah the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. (16) The maiden was very beautiful—[and] a virgin, no man having known her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. (17) The servant ran toward her and said, “Please, let me sip a little water from your jar.” (18) “Drink, my lord,” she said, and she quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and let him drink. (19) When she had let him drink his fill, she said, “I will also draw for your camels, until they finish drinking.” (20) Quickly emptying her jar into the trough, she ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. (21) The man, meanwhile, stood gazing

אֲשֶׁר יִלְדָה לְבִתּוֹ אֵל בְּנֵי מִלְכָּה
אִשְׁתֵּי נָחוֹר אָחִי אַבְרָהָם וְכַדָּה
עַל־שִׁכְמָה: (טו) וְהִנֵּעַר טַבַּת
מִרְאָהּ מְאֹד בְּתוֹלָהּ וְאִישׁ לֹא
יָדָעָה וַתֵּרֶד הָעַיִנָּה וַתִּמְלֵא כַדָּהּ
וַתַּעַל: (טז) וַיִּרְץ הָעֶבֶד לְקִרְאתָהּ
וַיֹּאמֶר הַגְּמִיאֵינִי נָא מֵעֵט־מַיִם
מִכַּדָּךְ: (יז) וַתֹּאמֶר שְׁתֵּה אֲדֹנָי
וַתִּמְהַר וַתֵּרֶד כַּדָּהּ עַל־יָדָהּ
וַתִּשְׁקֶהוּ: (יח) וַתִּכַּל לְהַשְׁקֹתוֹ
וַתֹּאמֶר גַּם לְגַמְלֶיךָ אֲשָׂאב עַד
אִם־כָּלוּ לְשֵׁתֶת: (יט) וַתִּמְהַר וַתַּעַר
כַּדָּהּ אֶל־הַשִּׁקְתָּ וַתֵּרֶץ עוֹד
אֶל־הַבְּאֵר לְשָׂאב וַתִּשְׂאֵב
לְכָל־גַּמְלָיו: (כ) וְהָאִישׁ מִשְׁתַּאֲהָ
לָהּ מִחֲרִישׁ לְדַעַת הִהְצַלְיָתָ יְהוָה
דַּרְכּוֹ אִם־לֹא: (כא) וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר
כָּלוּ הַגַּמְלִים לְשֵׁתוֹת וַיִּקַּח הָאִישׁ
נַזֵּם זָהָב בְּקַע מִשְׁקָלוֹ וַשְׁנֵי
צְמִידִים עַל־יָדָיִהּ עֲשָׂרָה זָהָב
מִשְׁקָלָם: (כב) וַיֹּאמֶר בֶּת־מִי אַתָּה

at her, silently wondering whether יהוה had made his errand successful or not. (22) When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold nose-ring weighing a half-shekel, and two gold bands for her arms, ten shekels in weight. (23) “Pray tell me,” he said, “whose daughter are you? Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?” (24) She replied, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” (25) And she went on, “There is plenty of straw and feed at home, and also room to spend the night.” (26) The man bowed low in homage to יהוה (27) and said, “Blessed be יהוה, the God of my master Abraham’s [house], who has not withheld steadfast faithfulness from my master. For I have been guided on my errand by יהוה, to the house of my master’s kin.” (28) The maiden ran and told all this to her mother’s household. (29) Now

הַגִּידִי נָא לִי הַיֵּשׁ בֵּית־אָבִיךָ מָקוֹם
לָנוּ לָלֵיִן: (כד) וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו
בֵּת־בְּתוּאֵל אֲנֹכִי בֶן־מִלְכָּה אֲשֶׁר
יִלְדָה לְנָחוֹר: (כה) וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו
גַּם־תִּתְּבוּ גַם־מִסְפּוֹא רַב עִמָּנוּ
גַּם־מָקוֹם לָלוֹן: (כו) וַיִּקַּד הָאִישׁ
וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לַיהוָה: (כז) וַיֹּאמֶר בְּרוּךְ
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנָי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר
לֹא־עָזַב חֶסְדּוֹ וְאַמְתּוֹ מֵעַם אֲדֹנָי
אֲנֹכִי בַדְרֹךְ נִחַנִּי יְהוָה בֵּית אָחִי
אֲדֹנָי: (כח) וַתֶּרֶץ הַנְּעִרָה וַתִּגַּד לְבֵית
אִמָּהּ כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: (כט)
וַלְרַבֵּקָה אָח וּשְׁמוֹ לָבֵן וַיֶּרֶץ לָבֵן
אֶל־הָאִישׁ הַחוּצָה אֶל־הָעֵינַן: (ל)
וַיְהִי | כִּרְאֹת אֶת־הַנְּזֻם
וְאֶת־הַצְּמָדִים עַל־יְדֵי אָחִתּוֹ
וּכְשָׁמְעוּ אֶת־דְּבָרֵי רַבֵּקָה אָחִתּוֹ
לֹא־אָמַר כָּה־דָבָר אֵלָי הָאִישׁ וַיָּבֹא
אֶל־הָאִישׁ וְהִנֵּה עֹמֵד עַל־הַגְּמָלִים
עַל־הָעֵינַן: (לא) וַיֹּאמֶר בּוֹא בְרוּךְ
יְהוָה לָמָּה תַעֲמַד בַּחוּץ וְאֲנֹכִי

Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out to the man at the spring— (30) when he saw the nose-ring and the bands on his sister's arms, and when he heard his sister Rebekah say, "Thus the man spoke to me." He went up to the man, who was still standing beside the camels at the spring. (31) "Come in, O blessed of יהוה," he said, "why do you remain outside, when I have made ready the house and a place for the camels?" (32) So the man entered the house, and the camels were unloaded. The camels were given straw and feed, and water was brought to bathe his feet and the feet of the entourage under him. (33) But when food was set before him, he said, "I will not eat until I have told my tale." He said, "Speak, then." (34) "I am Abraham's servant," he began. (35) "יהוה has greatly blessed my master, who has become rich—giving him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and

פְּנֵי־יָדָי הַבַּיִת וּמִקּוֹם לְגַמְלִים: (לב)
וַיָּבֵא הָאִישׁ הַבַּיְתָה וַיִּפְתַּח
הַגַּמְלִים וַיִּתֵּן תֶּבֶן וּמִסְפּוֹא לְגַמְלִים
וּמַיִם לְרַחֵץ רַגְלָיו וְרַגְלֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים
אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ: (לג) (וַיִּישֶׁם) [וַיִּוְשֶׁם]
לְפָנָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא אֲכַל עַד
אִם-דִּבַּרְתִּי דְבָרִי וַיֹּאמֶר דְּבַר: (לד)
וַיֹּאמֶר עֲבַד אֲבֹרָהִם אָנֹכִי: (לה)
וַיְהִי בֵּרֶךְ אֶת-אֲדֹנָי מְאֹד וַיִּגְדַּל
וַיִּתֵּן-לוֹ צֹאן וּבָקָר וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב
וַעֲבָדָם וּשְׁפָחָת וּגְמָלִים וַחֲמָרִים:
(לו) וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה אִשְׁתׁ אֲדֹנָי בֵּן
לְאֲדֹנָי אַחֲרֵי זְקֻנָתָהּ וַיִּתֵּן-לוֹ
אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ: (לז) וַיֵּשְׁבְעֵנִי
אֲדֹנָי לֵאמֹר לֹא-תִקַּח אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי
מִבְּנוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי יֹשֵׁב
בְּאֶרְצוֹ: (לח) אִם-לֹא אֶל-בֵּית-אָבִי
תֵּלֶךְ וְאֶל-מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי וְלִקַּחְתְּ אִשָּׁה
לְבָנִי: (לט) וַאֲמַר אֶל-אֲדֹנָי אֵלַי
לֹא-תֵלֶךְ הָאִשָּׁה אַחֲרָי: (מ) וַיֹּאמֶר
אֵלַי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר-הִתְּהַלַּכְתִּי לְפָנָיו

female slaves, camels and asses. (36) And Sarah, my master's wife, bore my master a son in her old age, and he has assigned to him everything he owns. (37) Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I dwell; (38) but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' (39) And I said to my master, 'What if the woman does not follow me?' (40) He replied to me, 'יהוה', whose ways I have followed, will send a messenger with you and make your errand successful; and you will get a wife for my son from my kindred, from my father's house. (41) Thus only shall you be freed from my adjuration: if, when you come to my kindred, they refuse you—only then shall you be freed from my adjuration.' (42) "I came today to the spring, and I said: 'O יהוה, God of my master Abraham's [house], if

יִשְׁלַח מֵלֶאכֹוֹ אֶתְךָ וְהִצְלִיחַ דְרָכְךָ
וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לְבְנִי מִמִּשְׁפַּחְתִּי
וּמִבֵּית אָבִי: (מא) אִז תִּנָּקֶה מֵאֲלֹתַי
כִּי תָבוֹא אֶל־מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי וְאִם־לֹא
יִתְנוּ לְךָ וְהָיִיתָ נָקִי מֵאֲלֹתַי: (מב)
וְאָבִא הַיּוֹם אֶל־הָעֵינַן וְאָמַר יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנָי אַבְרָהָם אִם־יִשְׁדָּנָא
מִצְלִיחַ דְרָכֵי אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי הֵלֵךְ
עֲלֶיךָ: (מג) הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי נֹצֵב עַל־עֵינַן
הַמַּיִם וְהָיָה הָעֲלָמָה הַיִּצְאָת
לְשָׂאֵב וְאָמַרְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ הַשְּׂקִינִי־נָא
מֵעַט־מַיִם מִכֶּדֶךָ: (מד) וְאָמַרְהָ אֵלַי
גַּם־אַתָּה שְׂתֵה וְגַם לְגַמְלִיךָ אֲשָׂאֵב
הוּא הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־הִכִּיתָ יְהוָה
לְבֶן־אֲדֹנָי: (מה) אָנִי טָרָם אֲכַלָּה
לְדַבֵּר אֶל־לְבָבִי וְהִנֵּה רַבָּקָה יִצְאָת
וְכִדָּהָ עַל־שְׂכָמָהָ וְתֹרַד הָעֵינָה
וְתִשָּׂאֵב וְאָמַר אֵלֶיךָ הַשְּׂקִינִי נָא:
(מו) וְתַמְהָר וְתֹרַד כַּדָּהָ מֵעֲלֶיךָ
וְתֹאמַר שְׂתֵה וְגַם־גַּמְלִיךָ אֲשָׂקֶה
וְאִשְׁתָּ וְגַם הַגַּמְלִים הַשְּׂקָתָה: (מז)

You would indeed grant success to the errand on which I am engaged! (43) As I stand by the spring of water, let the young woman who comes out to draw and to whom I say, “Please, let me drink a little water from your jar,” (44) and who answers, “You may drink, and I will also draw for your camels”—let her be the wife whom יהוה has decreed for my master’s son.’ (45) I had scarcely finished praying in my heart, when Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew. And I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ (46) She quickly lowered her jar and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. (47) I inquired of her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ And she said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.’ And I put the ring on her nose and the bands on her arms. (48) Then I

וְאֶשְׂאֵל אֶתְּהָ וְאֹמַר בְּתַמִּי אֶתְּ
וְתֹאמַר בְּתַבְתּוֹאֵל בֶּן־נְחֹר אֲשֶׁר
יִלְדֶה־לּוֹ מִלְכָּה וְאֲשֶׁם הַנְּזֹם
עַל־אֶפְסָה וְהִצְמִידִים עַל־יְדֵיהָ: (מח)
וְאֶקַּד וְאֶשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לַיהוָה וְאֶבְרַךְ
אֶת־יהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנָי אַבְרָהָם
אֲשֶׁר הִנְתַּנִּי בְּדֶרֶךְ אֲמַת לְקַחַת
אֶת־בֵּת־אָחִי אֲדֹנָי לְבָנוֹ: (מט)
וְעַתָּה אִם־יִשְׁכַּח עֵשָׂיִם הַסֵּד וְאֲמַת
אֶת־אֲדֹנָי הִגִּידוּ לִי וְאִם־לֹא הִגִּידוּ
לִי וְאֶפְנֶה עַל־יָמִין אֹו עַל־שְׂמָאל:
(נ) וַיַּעַן לָבֹן וּבְתוֹאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ
מִי־הוּא יֵצֵא הַדָּבָר לֹא נוֹכַל דְּבַר
אֱלֹהִיךָ רַע אוֹ־טוֹב: (נא) הִנֵּה־רַבֶּקָּה
לְפָנֶיךָ קָח וְלָךְ וּתְהִי אִשָּׁה
לְבֹן־אֲדֹנָיךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּר יְהוָה: (נב)
וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁמַע עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם
אֶת־דְּבָרֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אֶרְצָה
לַיהוָה:

bowed low in homage to יהוה and blessed יהוה, the God of my master Abraham's [house], who led me on the right way to get the daughter of my master's brother for his son. (49) And now, if you mean to treat my master with true kindness, tell me; and if not, tell me also, that I may turn right or left." (50) Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "The matter was decreed by יהוה; we cannot speak to you bad or good. (51) Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be a wife to your master's son, as יהוה has spoken." (52) When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed low to the ground before יהוה.