

THE LIGHTHOUSE FELLOWSHIP

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Last week's Torah portion (i.e., parashat Vayera) recounted how the LORD proved faithful to Abraham and Sarah by miraculously giving them a son (Isaac) in their old age. Nonetheless, Abraham faced his greatest test of all by being asked to offer up his promised child as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah, the place of the future Temple. On account of Abraham's willingness to obey, the LORD promised that He would multiply his offspring as the stars of heaven and that in his seed (singular) all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

This week's portion, Chayei Sarah - the "life of Sarah"- begins (paradoxically) with the account of her death, and retells how the first great matriarch of the Jewish people was buried in the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron, a burial site which Abraham had legally purchased from Ephron the Hittite for four hundred shekels of silver.

After Sarah was buried, Abraham's servant, Eliezer of Damascus (whom Abraham had originally thought would be his heir), made a solemn promise to Abraham to help find his son Isaac a wife from among his relatives living in Mesopotamia - and not from among the Canaanites. Eliezer then set out on the 550 mile journey to Haran (also called the City of Nahor and the place where Abraham's father died), taking ten camels laden with gifts in search of a bride.

Read Genesis 24:15-25. How is Rebecca described in Genesis 24:15-16? Her lineage is obviously important because Abraham made the servant promise to only obtain a wife for Isaac from his relatives. Now normally, we may gloss over her description of being beautiful. However, in the past we have learned that if we can make thematic connections to other portions of Scripture, we will see more of God's wisdom unfold before us. Can you think of any passages thematically related to the statement that Rebecca was beautiful?¹¹ Could God be making a connection between these two women? I think so. The Torah makes this one statement in hopes that we see the connection between Sarah and Rebecca. Why? God wants us to see that

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Rebecca has the same outward beauty as Sarah. Think I'm stretching this too far? Watch this.

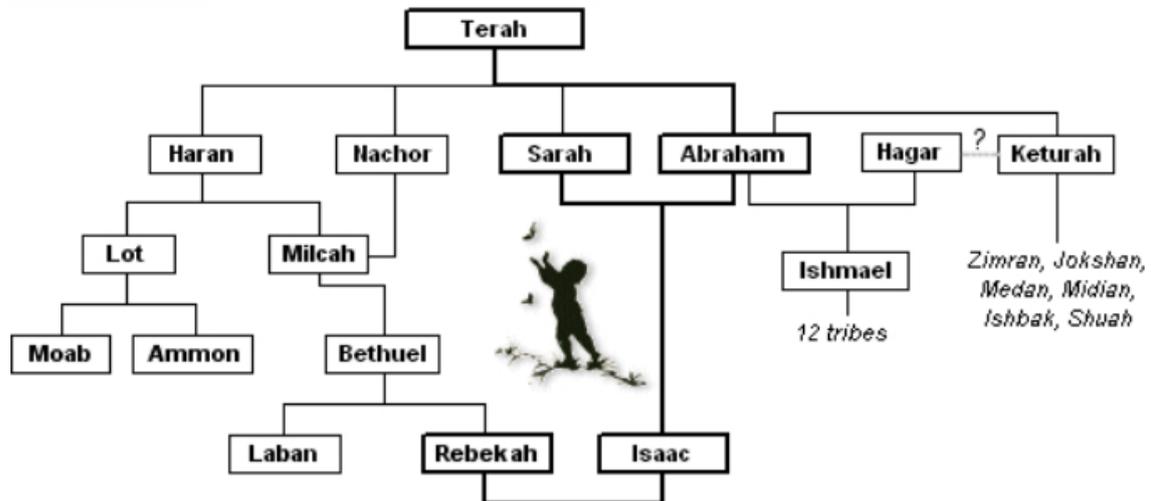
C. Read Genesis 24:17-25. Is there any common theme related to Rebecca's actions in these few verses? As you can see, the Torah repeatedly emphasized how quickly she acted. Can you think of any passage thematically related to Rebecca's actions? That's right. In the description of Abraham's actions when he entertained the three men (Genesis 18:4-8), Abraham's actions were described as follows: "... Abraham hastened; Hurry!; ran; hurried." As you can see, both Rebecca and Abraham had an opportunity to show hospitality to a stranger! Both of them moved with quickness, humility and servanthood to look to the needs of the visitors. Do you think it is a coincidence that the Torah describes Abraham and Rebecca's actions with the same terms? Do you think it's a coincidence that both of them had an opportunity to display hospitality to a stranger? Of course not.

Let's backtrack for a moment. Read Genesis 24:12-14 to understand the test the servant proposed so that he could discern whom Isaac's bride should be. The test the servant proposed may seem trite until you realize that 1) the servant brought ten camels and 2) a thirsty camel can drink up to twenty five-gallons of water! Now can you see the enormity of Rebecca's act of hospitality? Remember, she continued to run and fill the jugs until all the camels had finished drinking! Note, she did this for a complete stranger! Now that's hospitality! So why does the Torah thematically connect Rebecca and Abraham through their acts of hospitality? Because, God is teaching us that Rebecca has the same inner beauty of character as did Abraham. Through the obvious thematic connections to Abraham, we see that these few verses are teaching us about the lovely character of Rebecca. She is walking in the steps of Abraham. How appropriate that she should be the mother of the future nation.

Below you can see for context – the family tree of Terah to see the family ties

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of Sarah to Rebecca.



Connecting The Prophets / Writings

The Haftarah (Prophets/Writings) reading is found in I Kings 1:1-31. I will list some verses from the Haftarah reading. Your job will be to relate them thematically to the Parashat HaShavuah reading.

- I. How is I Kings 1:1 thematically related to the Torah portion?
- II. Read Genesis 25:1-7. Explain why Abraham sent his sons (through Keturah) away from Isaac?
- III. Explain how Genesis 25:1-7 is thematically connected to I Kings 1:5-10?

If you would like to explore more information about connections between the Torah portion and the Haftarah reading, then go to the Haftarah Connections link on our website under The Weekly Torah Portion. You will be able to download a document that will show you numerous Scriptures from the Haftarah reading so that you can determine how they are thematically connected to the Torah portion. The answers are provided as endnotes. This is an excellent exercise to help you begin thinking thematically.

<https://www.restorationoftorah.org/haftarah-connection>

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Messiah in the Torah

Remembering that the lives of the Fathers are prophetic shadows of the future of their descendants (especially the Messiah), see if you can understand how Isaac's life is thematically connected to Yeshua's.

- What event occurred the last time the Torah specifically mentioned Isaac? When is the next time Isaac is specifically mentioned? Note, after the binding of Isaac in Genesis 22, he isn't mentioned again until the end of Genesis 24. This silence is intentional, as we soon shall see!
- Do you recall the prophetic significance of the Akeida (binding of Isaac)? What activity was Isaac involved in when he reappears in Genesis 24:63? What was the next big event that occurred in Isaac's life?
- Please note the following thematic flow concerning all of the verses that explicitly pertain to Isaac in Genesis 22-24.
 - Genesis 22—The Akeida
 - Genesis 24:63—Intercession
 - Genesis 24:64-67—Marriage

Now, thematically relate the events listed above to the work of the Messiah. If you need help, use this hint—the answer has something to do with the 1st and 2nd coming of Messiah Jesus(Yeshua) and His ministry in the interim. Do you see it? So, through this

Midrash on Isaac's life, we see that the Torah is actually teaching us about the ministry/work of the Messiah! The thematic connections help us see the prophetic shadow. Once again, we see that the events in the lives of the Patriarchs are prophetic shadows of events to occur in the lives of their descendants, especially the Messiah.