


# Kanaan Ministries

[www.kanaanministries.org](http://www.kanaanministries.org)



A ministry  
dedicated to  
preparing the Bride  
of the Messiah

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# VAYERA

- Genesis 18:1 to
- Genesis 22:24

Den Haag, Netherlands  
November 2019





# **Abraham's role as servant-leader**



# ויירה Parashah

- **“He Appeared”**
- **The Torah portion for this week covers from Genesis 18:1 ...**
- **all the way through to Genesis 22:24.**



**What do we find in  
this portion?**



# Abraham is sitting by the oaks of Mamre when 3 angels appear





# **Abraham's role as servant-leader**

- **They will also inform him of the coming judgement of Sodom.**
- **Abraham will intercede arguing all the way down to a number of 10 righteous men.**
- **The angels arrive in Sodom – meet up with Lot.**



# Abraham's role as servant-leader

- The men of Sodom will attempt to unspeakable things with these “men”
- but Lot will provide the security needed in his house.





# Abraham's role as servant-leader

- Early in the following morning Lot is advised to take his wife and two daughters and flee for the mountains.





# **Abraham's role as servant-leader**

- **Abraham moves to Kadesh and Shur**
- **Abraham, fearing Abimelech, pretends that Sarah is his sister**
- **and allow her to be taken away by him**
- **after a vivid dream, Abimelech returns Sarah.**



**Isaac is born**



# Isaac is Born



- An incident occurs between Ismael and Isaac after which Hagar is sent away into the wilderness.
- Here they are saved near a well.

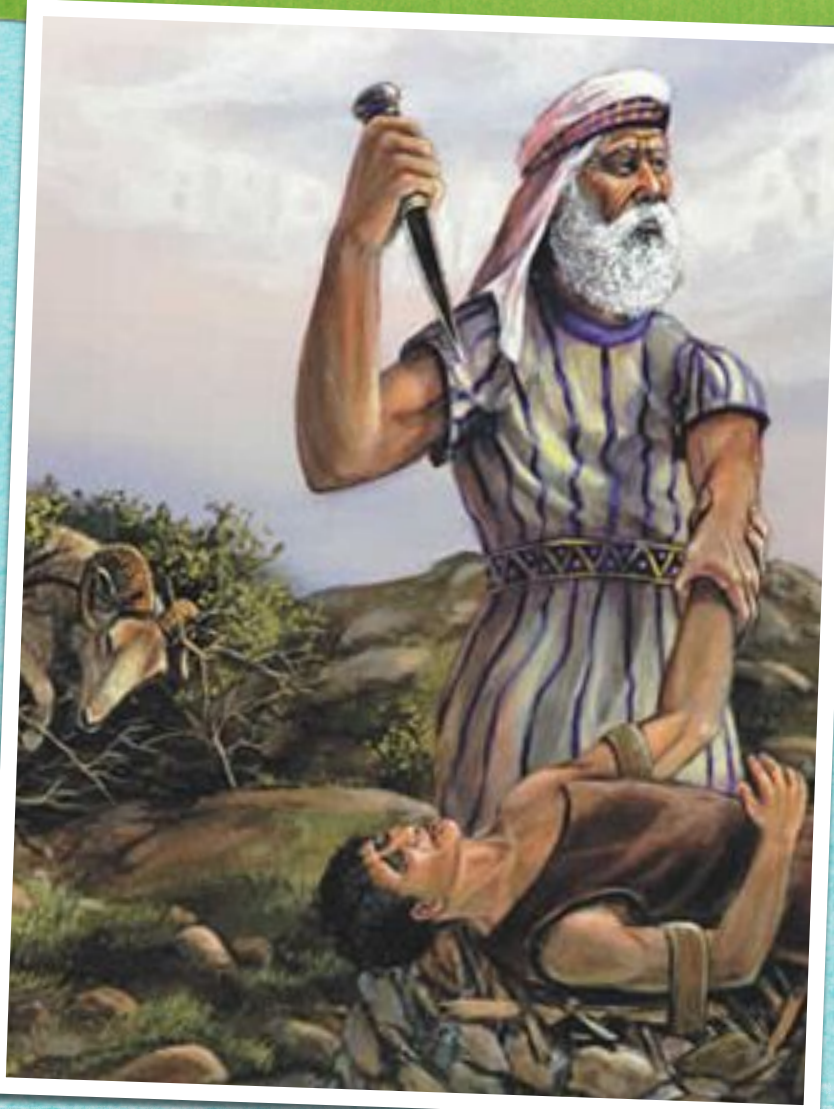


# Isaac is Born

- **Abimelech and Abraham men fight over a well**
- **but after a discussion, they make covenant at Beersheba.**
- **Abraham plants a Tamarisk tree.**



# Isaac is Born



- Finally the portion ends with the Command to sacrifice Isaac
- and the intervention of YHWH with the substitute ram.



# Thoughts for this Shabbat



# Thoughts for this Shabbat

- Are all of these just stories ... are they separate,
- or is there a relationship or parallel between some that we should see?
- These stories all concern Abraham,
- what sort of a servant-leader / father he really is.

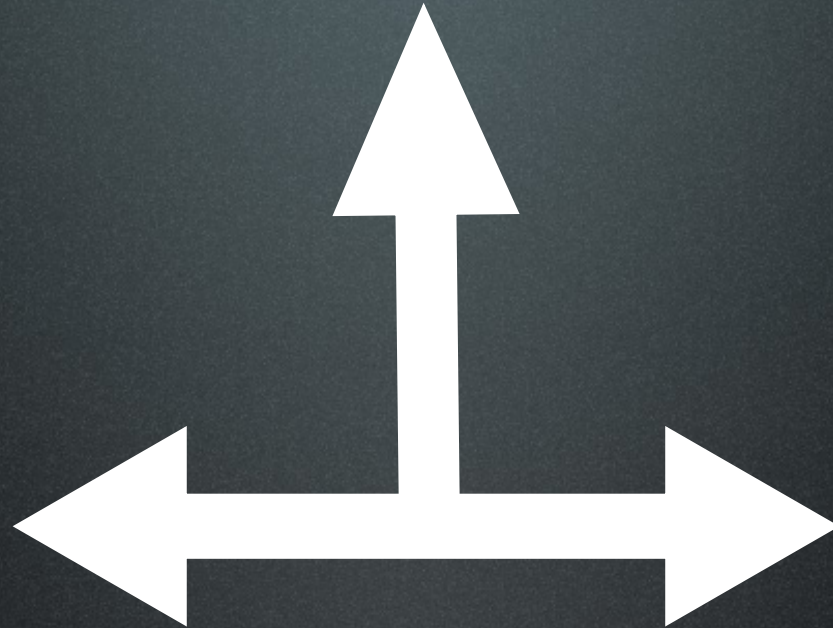


# **We are taught that we should:**

- **love YHWH with all of our heart, and**
- **love our neighbour as ourself.**



# Love YHWH



**Don't do anything to  
harm my neighbour**

**Do good deeds  
towards my neighbour**



# Thoughts for this Shabbat

- May I suggest that the most critical story to understand is the one that we have come to know as the “binding of Isaac”,
- and it’s the one that we need to get to grips with fully to understand those principles.



# Background

- **The Canaanites practice sacrificing of children.**
- **God hates this practice – the prophet Jeremiah is quick to tell us so.**



# **Jeremiah 19 : 5**

- **“They have built the high places of Ba’al, in order to burn up their children in the fire as burnt offerings to Ba’al –**
- **something I never ordered or said; it never even entered my mind.**



# **Jeremiah 19 : 6**

- **Therefore the time is coming," says ADONAI, "when this place will no longer be called either Tofet or the Ben-Hinnom Valley,**
- **but the Valley of Slaughter."**



**In a rhetorical  
question, Micah also  
asks how this idea can  
possibly fit into Gods  
idea of justice ...  
and rejects it outright.**



# Micah 6 : 7

- **Would ADONAI take delight in thousands of rams with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?**
- **Could I give my firstborn to pay for my crimes, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?**



- And finally, we will learn in time that YHWH Says -
- **“the first born are mine” ...**
- How would he therefore sacrifice that which is His,
- unless there is a long term message for us.



# **Abrahams interaction with mankind**



# Abrahams interaction with mankind

- A number of instances are described where Abraham's interaction with his neighbour's **leave one with a sense of discomfort.**
- We are taught that he understands the art of hospitality – evidenced in the manner with which he moves to provide for 3 complete strangers;





- **He runs to meet them.**
- **He offers them water.**
- **He asks them to rest.**



# Abraham's hospitality

- But what he provides,
  - is fresh milk,
  - fresh bread, and
  - the meat from a tender calf





**BUT!!!**



# **1. Abraham dishonour's his wife**

- **They have moved from Mamre where they have just been promised**
- **this time next year you will have a son ... his name will be Isaac, down into the Negev, near Kadesh/Shur ... no reason for the move is provided.**
- **Abraham has moved there out of freedom of choice.**



# How Abraham dishonours Sarah

- Now he meets up with Abimelech – who likes the beauty of Sarah and takes her to be part of his harem ...
- simply because Abraham cannot stand up for himself, (she is my sister and not my wife) or believe that YHWH would protect them, especially after that amazing promise just a little while back.



# **How Abraham dishonours Sarah**

- **Abraham action cause damage not only to Sarah but also to Abimelech –**
- **we read later that all of Abimelech's wives and slave girls have been made infertile as a result of this lie.**



## **2. Abraham treats Hagar badly**

- **While they had been waiting for a child ... and nothing had happened, Sarah came up with the idea of a surrogate mother, offering up Hagar as a substitute wife.**
- **Abraham accepts this idea, Hagar has a son Ismael, who at the age of 13 is circumcised before Isaac is born.**



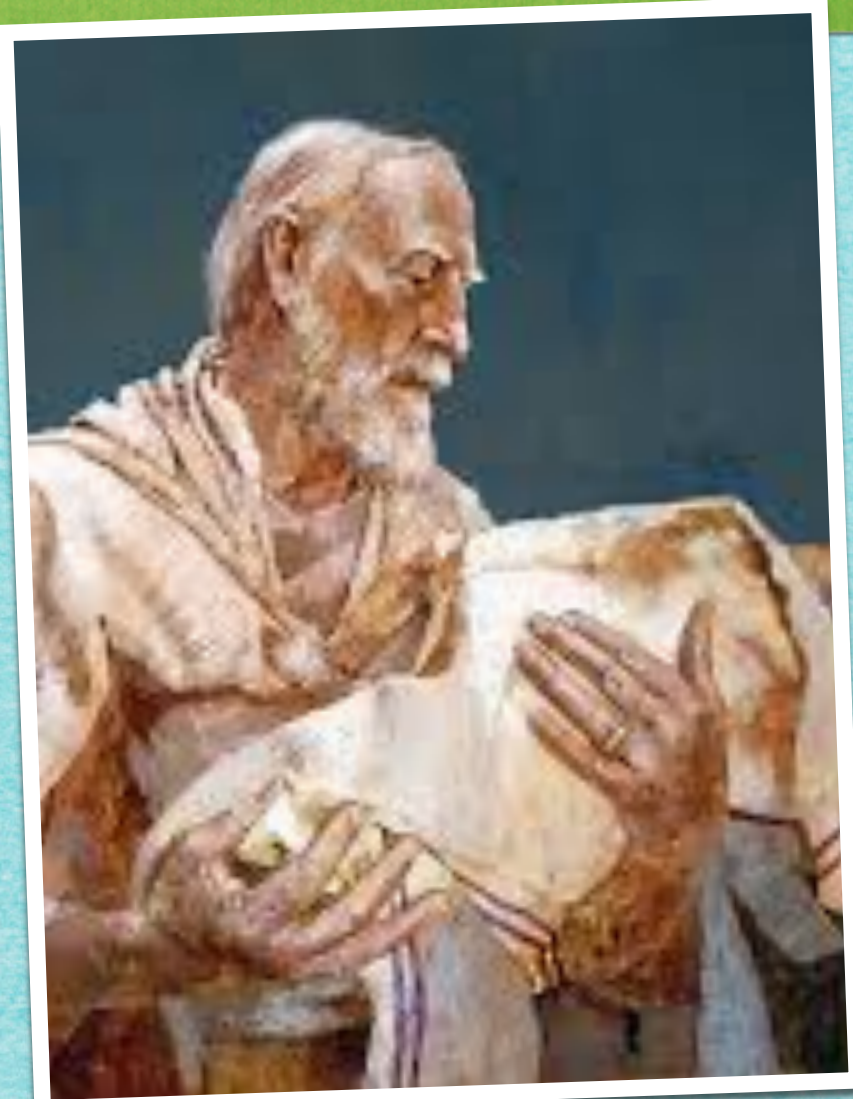
## **2. Abraham treats Hagar badly**

- **For all of this time Hagar has some sort of status in the house,**
- **and the son gets to learn from his father ... even accepting the ritual of circumcision.**



# Isaac son of laughter

- the only son of the promise is born.





**Strife in the family!!**



**Remember they  
are in the desert.**





- **Abraham gives them (a woman and a 13–14 year old boy) bread and a skin of water ... how long would that last?**
- **No donkey or camel to ride on.**



## **2. Abraham treats Hagar badly**

- **No map to use to find out where to go ... no directions for a safe haven**
- **(compare this to the treatment of 3 total strangers), and**
- **we read that Hagar wandered around (i.e. got lost) in the desert near Beersheba.**



**3. Abraham does not appear  
to inform Sarah about the  
request to sacrifice Isaac**



### **3. Abraham does not appear to inform Sarah about the request to sacrifice Isaac**

- **We will read the Abraham, Isaac and the 2 young men that helped – all journeyed together to the mountain ... however,**
- **when Abraham comes back we read clearly that Isaac did not travel back with them –**
- **what had happened between father and son?**



# **Genesis 22 : 19**

- **“So Avraham returned to his young men. They got up and went together to Be’er-Sheva,**
- **and Avraham settled in Be’er-Sheva.”**



**4. Abraham will have a fight  
with Abimelech over a well at  
Beersheba**



# **Water in the desert is a scarce commodity ...**

- **People share water in the desert.**
- **Abraham is living as a sojourner in the land.**
- **Years before Abimelech had said ... “here is my land, live where you like”**
- **... not take ownership where you like.**



# Strife in the family

- **All of these interactions involving Abraham impact in one way or another on the life of Isaac and the tribes that will follow ...**
- **the actions of a father are imprinted / have an effect on the next generation children.**



**A. Hagar's walk in the wilderness and Abraham trip to the mountain - the binding of Isaac.**



# **Abraham's trip to the mountain**

- **We learn from the WORD that Abraham is "tested".**
- **You will see that there is an almost perfect fit to the two stories.**
- **We will at the end have to ask ourselves why,**
- **and what could this mean to us today.**



# Genesis 22 : 1

- **“And it was after these things that God tried (Strong’s Hebrew 5254) Abraham...”.**



**The Hebrew word is “na-sa”  
and Conveys these messages;**

**i) To try / to prove anyone**

**ii) To attempt a venture / to make a trial**



# Abraham's trip to the mountain

- Abraham was NOT tested in the case of Hagar/Ismael,
- but his actions, within the context of loving you neighbour,
- raise concern and what we end up seeing is that there is a strange parallel in both events;



# **Abraham's trip to the mountain**

- **1. God Commands Abraham to sever his relationship with each of his sons.**
- **2. Both entail a trial of obedience to an unethical demand of sacrifice.**



# **Genesis 21 : 14**

- **3. Abraham acts with speed in both episodes, with the words ...**
- **“So Abraham rose early in the morning...**

**Genesis 22:3, repeated verbatim in the next scene.**



# **Genesis 21 : 14**

- **4. Both describe bearing a burden, using the same verbs “to take” and “to place”;**
- **... And [he] took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder with the child and sent her away”.**



# **Genesis 22 : 6**

- **“Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac”.**



# **Abraham's trip to the mountain**

- **5. Both sons experience near death.**
- **6. Both use of the verb ("to send").**
- **He sent Hagar away and he sends out his hand to take the knife.**
- **7. They will both travel some distance.**
- **Ishmael goes to Paran, and Issac to Mout Moriah.**



# **Genesis 21 : 19**

- **9. God provides a solution:**
- **“Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water.**
- **So she went, filled the skin with water and gave the boy water to drink.”**



# Genesis 22 : 13

- 9. God provides a solution:
- "Abraham sees the ram ..."



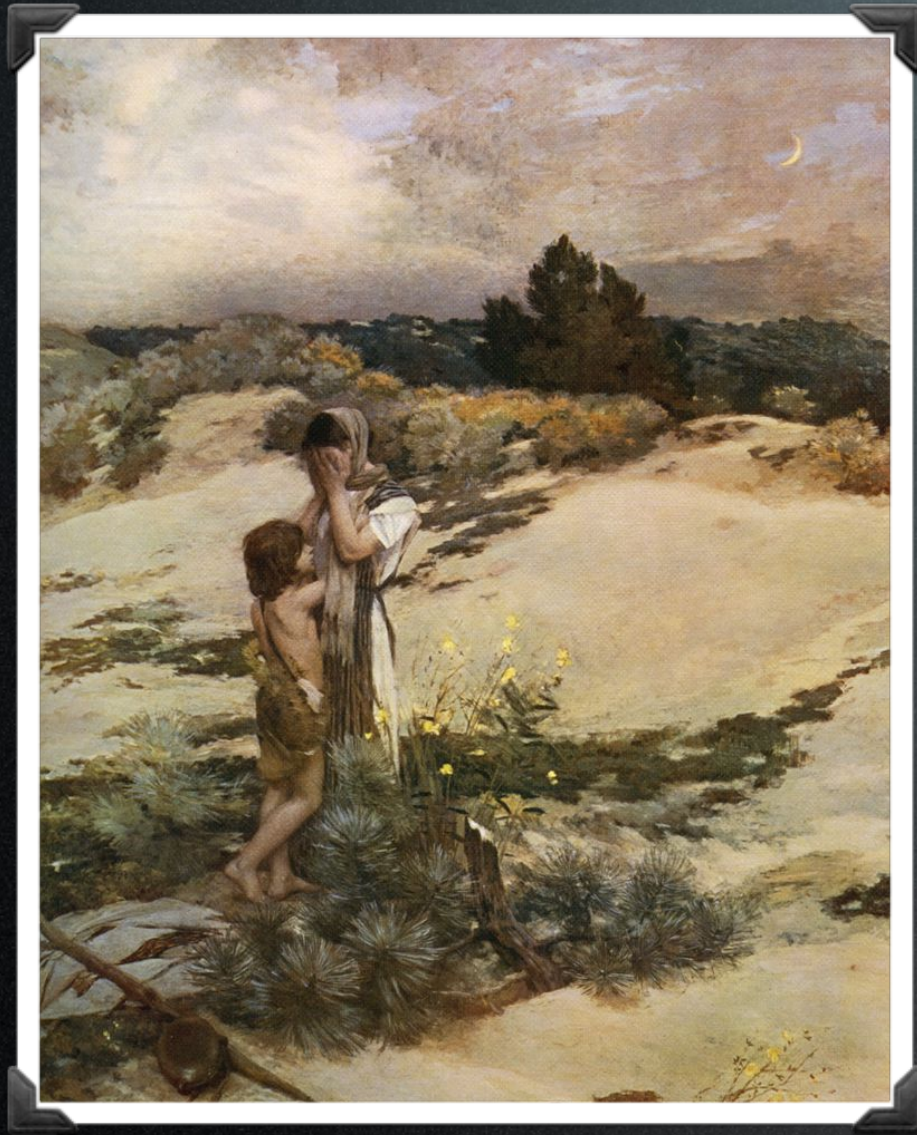
# **Abraham's trip to the mountain**

- **God swears on oath (irrevocably) that Isaac's descendants will be heir to the covenant as a reward for Abraham's obedience.**
- **In both cases the parents go about finding of a wife for the son.**
- **For Isaac, it is Rebekah, descendant of Nahor, Abraham's family.**
- **Both Isaac and Ishmael establish a "great people"**



**Some points of  
difference.**

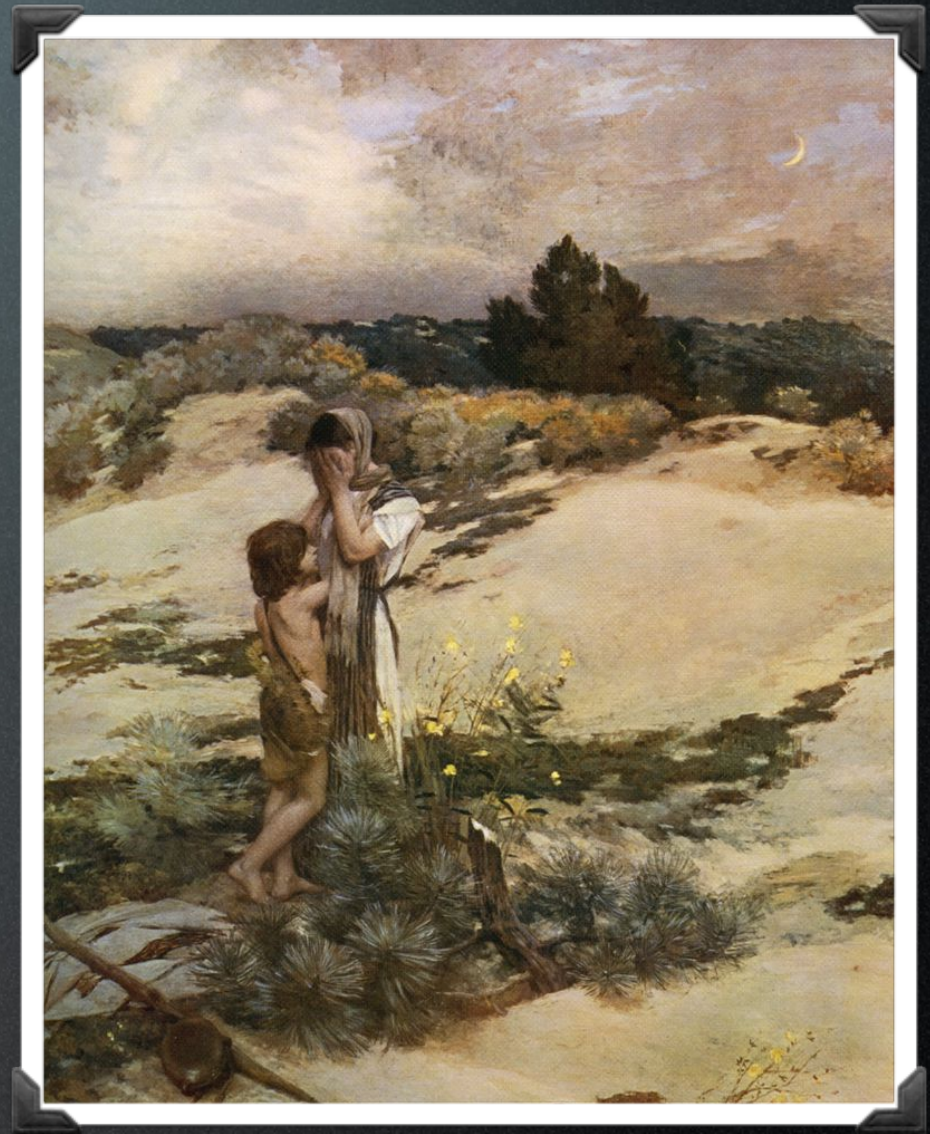




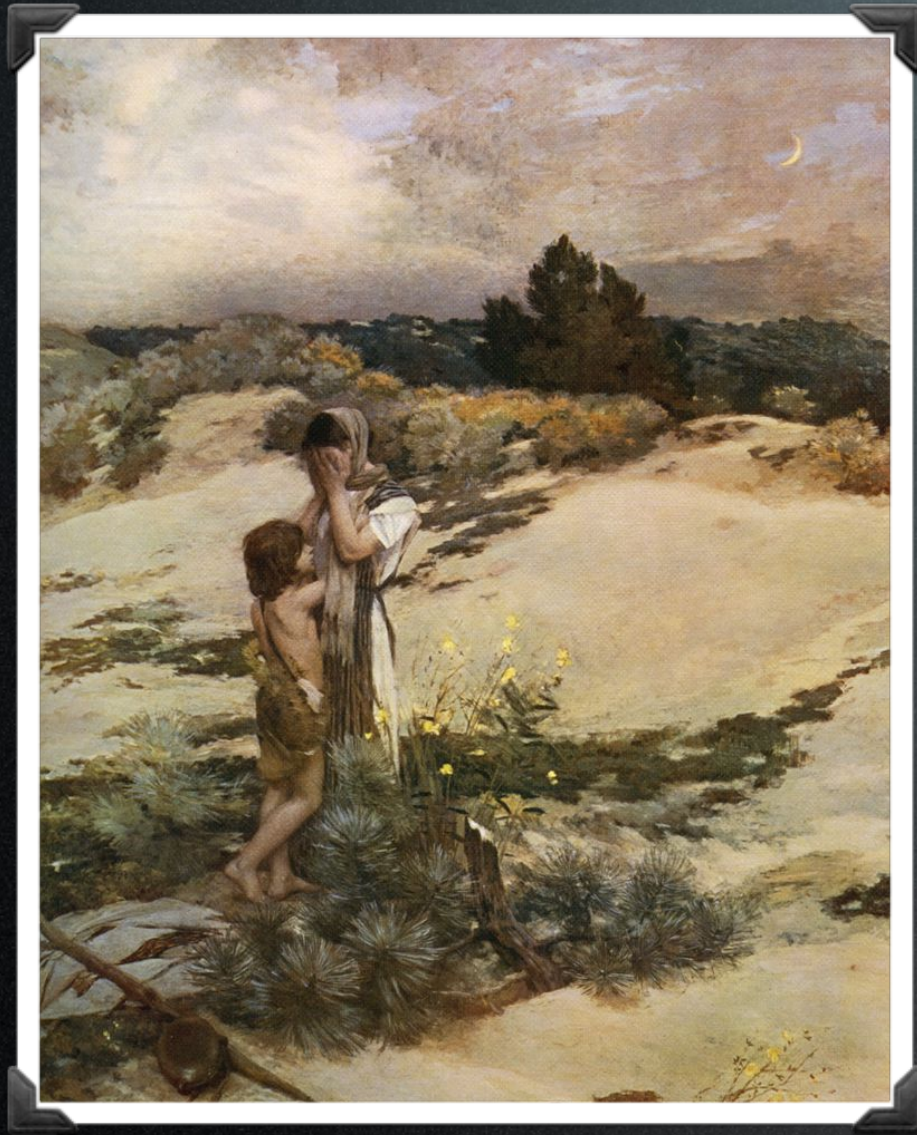
- Hagar “wanders” in the wilderness ... it seems to suggest that she was lost!
- ... while Abraham goes directly to the right place –
- ‘they came to the place that YHWH had told him about’.



- Both Hagar and Ismael are crying out in the desert ...
- where God says He “heard the boys voice” Genesis 21:17
- - while we see no mention of any sound from either Abraham or Isaac.







- In Ismael's case the solution is material provision in the form of water i.e. **PHYSICAL ...**
- while in the case of Isaac the substitution of the ram for his life i.e. **SPIRITUAL.**



**B. Hagar's walk in the  
wilderness and the children  
of Israel 40 years  
wandering in the  
wilderness.**



# Hagar's banishment from Abraham

- Hagar carries bread on her shoulder.
- She goes into the wilderness.
- She wanders there.
- There is no water there.
- She and Ishmael almost die there.



# Hagar's banishment from Abraham

- They cry, but it is not said they cry to YHWH
- YHWH hears their cry
- YHWH appears to her there and provides water.
- YHWH assures them of His love.
- Ishmael marries an Egyptian, but lives in Paran.



# **Israel EXODUS from Egypt**

- **Israel carries bread on their shoulders**
- **They go into the wilderness.**
- **They wander there.**
- **There is no water there.**
- **They almost die there.**
- **They cry, but seldom to YHWH**



# Israel EXODUS from Egypt

- **YHWH hears their cry.**
- **YHWH appears to them and provides water.**
- **YHWH makes covenant with them at Sinai.**
- **Israel “marries” with the Egyptian mixed multitude, but lives in the wilderness close to Paran, a staging ground for the conquest of Canaan.**



**Does Abraham's  
treatment of his  
"neighbour" foreshadow  
the treatment that his  
grandchildren will  
suffer?**



**Is there a  
consequence due  
to his behavior?**



**What are the  
lessons that we  
need to learn?**



**Failure by Abraham to treat both Sarah and Hagar with justice, compassion and in humility resulted in at least three negative consequences.**



# **Abraham's failure to treat Sarah & Hagar with respect**

- **Abraham has to walk down the same path of pain and loneliness that Hagar does. However,**
- **Abraham has hope that YHWH will deliver him – after all he has heard these words before ...**



# **Genesis 12 : 1 / Gen 22 : 2**

- **Go ye forth from this land ...**
- **Go ye forth to Mount Moriah ...**



## **2. Abraham's failure to treat Sarah & Hagar with respect**

- **Abraham descendants will also have to walk through the wilderness for 40 years**
- **... dependent on YHWH for food and water.**



### **3. Abraham's failure to treat Sarah & Hagar with respect**

- **The close family of Abraham will live on earth with the blessing of the PHYSICAL ... in Hagar's case we saw that it was a well of never ending water.**
- **Later on we will see in the haftorah portion that this changes to oil.**



**What have the sons  
of Ishmael been  
blessed with ? ...**

**Oil !!!**



# **Some positives for this week**

- **While Ishmael receives the physical benefits/blessings we should remember that Isaac is circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day ... he alone is the Son of the Covenant**
- **We look for the SPIRITUAL meaning of the physical things...**
- **Water, and oil ....**



**Water ...  
the water of the  
WORD  
OIL ...  
Fruit of the Holy  
Spirit ...**



# The Shunamite woman reveals a Godly Lifestyle



- **Justice**
- **Humility**
- **Compassion and mercy**



# BIBLICAL HOLIDAYS

## SPRING HOLIDAYS

Passover

Jesus' Death

Unleavened Bread

BURIAL

First Fruits

Resurrection

50 DAYS

Pentecost

Holy Spirit

## FALL HOLIDAYS

Trumpets

Tabernacles

Day of Atonement

Historically fulfilled during  
Jesus' first coming

The Church

To be fulfilled during the  
second coming of Jesus



# Bride walking down the aisle







**Final thought**



**AMEN!!**