

## Parashah 22

B'reshet 24:42-67; Isaiah 12:3-14:2 ; James 4:12-17

Summary by Claudio Ramos

In this *parashah* we encounter the beautiful story of the wedding together of Isaac and Rivka. In the early stages of the history of Israel, before the nation was constituted a *bona fide* nation with covenant and possession of the Promised Land, marriage was brought about and overseen entirely by the family or clan. Here, in an abbreviated fashion, we get a glimpse of the very early view of marriage as God had ordained it and given it to mankind as a gift of His grace. Though the text is silent on a number of matters, we can surmise from what the text does say those elements which were considered essential in the eyes of Abraham as he trusted HaShem to carry out the promise of the covenant to the next generation.

The first question which arises is why Abraham thought a spouse for his son Isaac would better be found among his own kindred rather than from the peoples which surrounded him in Canaan.

Quote from Tim Hegg Parashah 22

**Was Abraham more selective & expended extra efforts for only Isaac?**

1

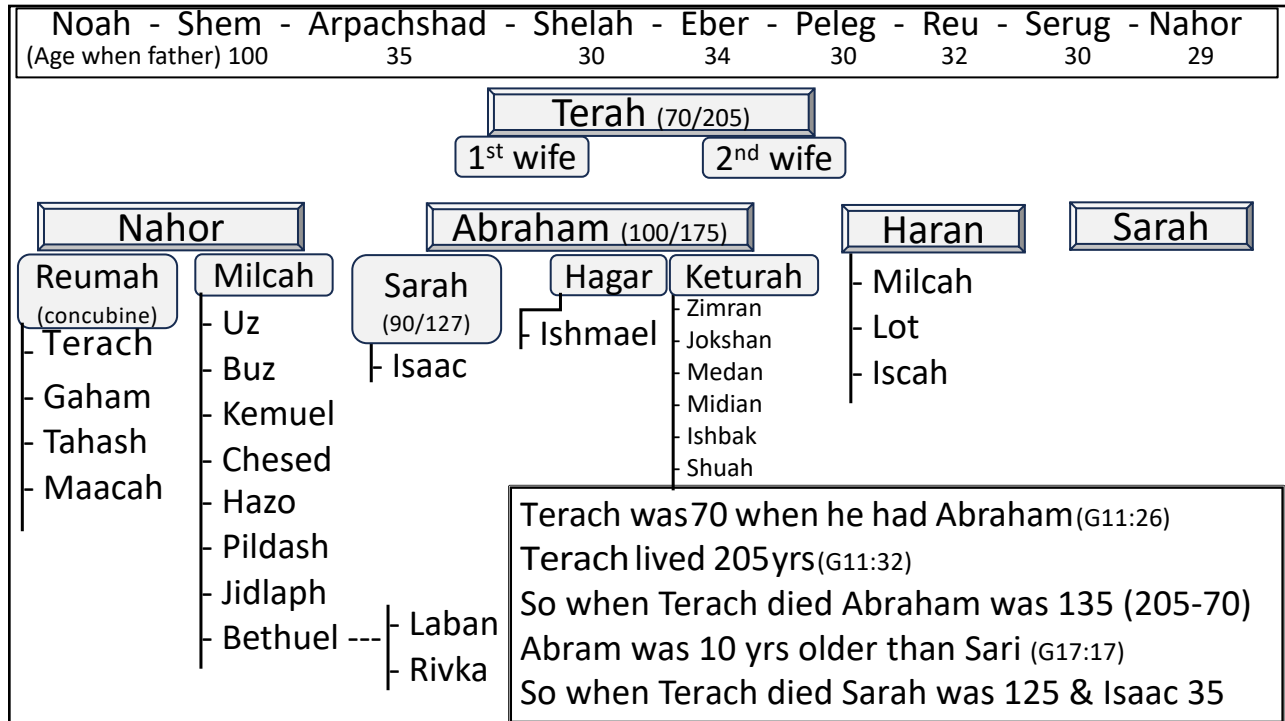
## Abraham Extends All His Love to Isaac

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 22 CR notes

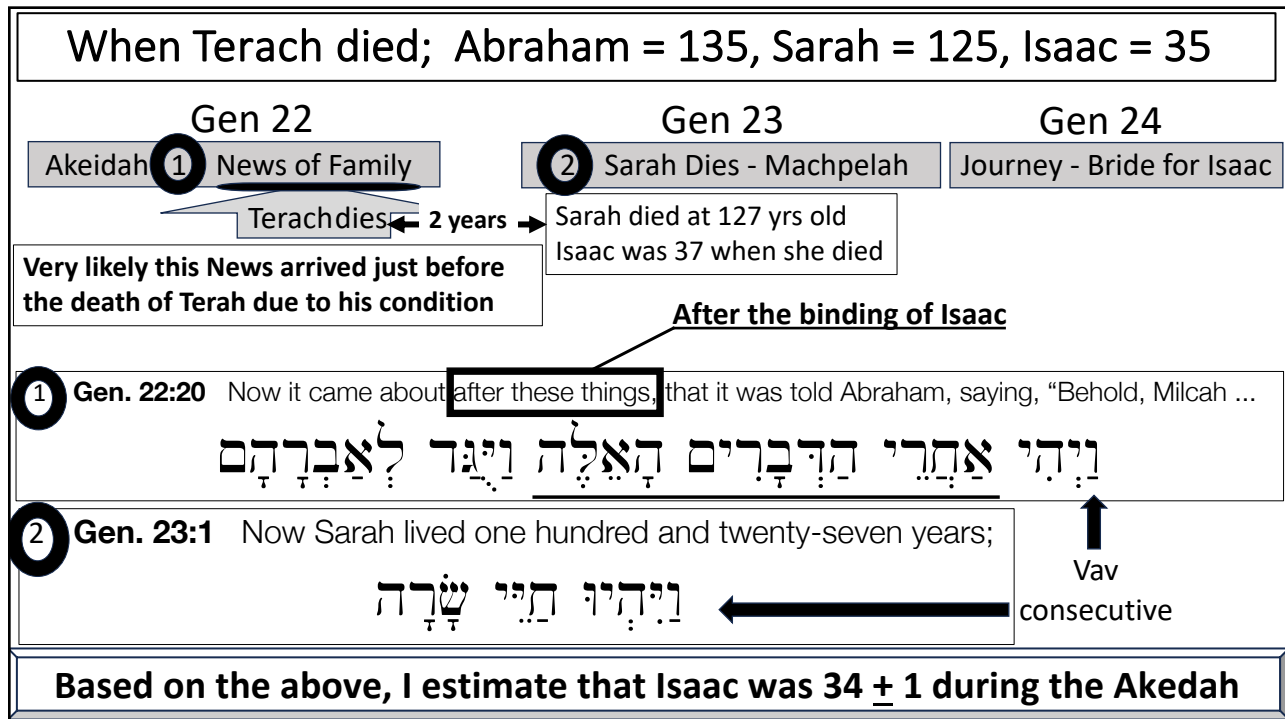
- Ishmael's wife: "his mother took a wife for him from Egypt" (Gen 21:21)
- Abraham's other children received a gift (Gen 25:5-6)
  - <sup>5</sup> Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac; <sup>6</sup> but to the sons of his concubines, Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the east.
- But for Isaac, Abraham sends his servant to secure Isaac's wife
  - Distance from Hebron to Haran is approximately 450 miles
    - About a 17 day journey by camel (one way)
    - Egypt (Pithon) was only about 225 miles from Hebron
  - Select a bride for Isaac Specifically from Abraham's family (Gen 24:3-4)
    - "... you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, <sup>4</sup> but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

**HaShem has Chosen Isaac and Abraham's Actions Align**

2



3



4

## **Meeting the Family to ask for the Bride**

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 22 CR notes

- Bethuel's family very generously welcomes Eliezar
  - Providing straw and feed for 10 camels
  - Providing room and board for Eliezar and his men
  - They sit together ready to have a meal together (v33)
- Eliezar pauses the festivities to talk "business"
 

(v33) When food was set before him to eat, He said,  
"I will not eat until I have told my business."
- Eliezar then asks a very direct question expecting a YES or NO
  - <sup>49</sup> "So now if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, let me know, that I may turn to the right hand or the left."

### **Eliezar knows he's on an Important Mission from HaShem**

5

## **The Spirit of HaShem is in Motion According to His Plan**

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 22 CR notes

- Laban & Bethuel recognize the Hand of HaShem in Work
  - <sup>51</sup> "Here is Rebekah before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."
- Eliezer "bowed himself to the ground to HaShem"
- The next day Rivka shows no hesitation to go w/o delay: "I will go"

### **Then the 17 day Journey to Isaac**

- They both lifted their eyes toward one another
  - Captures their anticipation of loving whom HaShem has chosen
- Rivka covers herself with her veil
  - Expressing her acceptance as bride, and a symbol of her pious virtue
- Another step closer to the birth of Messiah

### **The Two Shall Become One**

6

## A few thoughts from Parashah 22

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 22 CR notes

- Emphasizes the importance and value of finding a good wife
- Both Isaac & Rivka submit to HaShem and to their parents
- Eliezar is walking in the spirit, in full submission to HaShem
  - He is in constant prayer
  - Relying upon HaShem for each step
  - Giving thanks to HaShem
  - He knows that his role is in support of God's mission
- God's Immediate Mission – Continuing The lineage to Messiah

### God's Promise of Redemption Will Come to Fruition

7

## Lessons

Belt Hallel Congregation – Parashah 22 CR notes

- **Be Equally Yoked** (2Cor 6:14)
  - Your future spouse, your circle of friends – ensure they submit to God
  - What if already married but not equally yoked or have unbelieving kids
    - We are to be a light to others (Is 42:6-7, Matt 5:14-16, 1Pet 3:15)
- **We want the best for our children, but what is the best?**
  - "The world" thinks of Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers... = "Good Life"
  - Our goal and priority should be to raise a Zedek – a Righteous one!
- **Yield to the Empowerment of HaShem**
  - How do we know that God is preparing us?
    - God starts us in small matters, then raises the trust before giving us more

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Josh 1:9

8