

# Stollen Moments – Vayera – October 23, 2021

## PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- Abraham welcomes three visitors, who announce that Sarah will soon have a son. (18:1-15)
- Abraham argues with God about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. (18:16-33)
- Lot's home is attacked by the people of Sodom. Lot and his two daughters escape as the cities are being destroyed. Lot's wife is turned into a pillar of salt. (19:1-29)
- Lot impregnates his daughters, and they bear children who become the founders of the nations Moab and Ammon. (19:30-38)
- Abimelech, king of Gerar, takes Sarah as his wife after Abraham claims that she is his sister. (20:1-18)
- Isaac is born, circumcised, and weaned. Hagar and her son, Ishmael, are sent away; an angel saves their lives. (21:1-21)
- God tests Abraham, instructing him to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah. (22:1-19)

---

### Chapter 18

<sup>1</sup> The Lord appeared to him by the terebinths of Mamre; he was sitting at the entrance of the tent as the day grew hot. <sup>2</sup> Looking up, he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them and, bowing to the ground, <sup>3</sup> he said, “My lords, if it please you, do not go on past your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought; bathe your feet and recline under the tree. <sup>5</sup> 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.”

Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quick, three seahs of choice flour! Knead and make cakes!” <sup>7</sup> Then Abraham ran to the herd, took a calf, tender and choice, and gave it to a servant-boy, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he replied, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years; Sarah had stopped having the periods of women. <sup>12</sup> And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “Now that I am withered, am I to have enjoyment—with my husband so old?” <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I in truth bear a child, old as I am?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too wondrous for the Lord? I will return to you at the time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>15</sup> Sarah lied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was frightened. But He replied, “You did laugh.”

<sup>16</sup> The men set out from there and looked down toward Sodom, Abraham walking with them to see them off. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord had said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, <sup>18</sup> since Abraham is to become a great and populous nation and all the nations of the earth are to bless themselves by him? <sup>19</sup> For I have singled him out, that he may instruct his children and his posterity to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is just and right, in order that the Lord may bring about for Abraham what He has promised him.” <sup>20</sup> Then the Lord said, “The outrage of Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave! <sup>21</sup> I will go down to see whether they have acted altogether according to the outcry that has reached Me; if not, I will take note.”

<sup>22</sup> The men went on from there to Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Abraham came forward and said, “Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty? <sup>24</sup> 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? <sup>25</sup> 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?” <sup>26</sup> And the Lord answered, “If I find within the city of Sodom fifty innocent ones, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup> Abraham spoke up, saying, “Here I venture to speak to my Lord, I who am but dust and ashes: <sup>28</sup> What if the fifty innocent should lack five? Will You destroy the whole city for want of the five?” And He answered, “I will not destroy if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup> But he spoke to Him again, and said, “What if forty should be found there?” And He answered, “I will not do it, for the sake of the forty.” <sup>30</sup> And he said, “Let not my Lord be angry if I go on: What if thirty should be found there?” And He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup> And he said, “I venture again to speak to my Lord: What if twenty should be found there?” And He answered, “I will not destroy, for the sake of the twenty.” <sup>32</sup> And he said, “Let not my Lord be angry if I speak but this last time: What if ten should be found there?” And He answered, “I will not destroy, for the sake of the ten.”

<sup>33</sup> When the Lord had finished speaking to Abraham, He departed; and Abraham returned to his place.

## **Chapter 19**

<sup>1</sup> The two angels arrived in Sodom in the evening, as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to greet them and, bowing low with his face to the ground, <sup>2</sup> he said, “Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant’s house to spend the night, and bathe your feet; then you may be on your way early.” But they said, “No, we will spend the night in the square.” <sup>3</sup> But he urged them strongly, so they turned his way and entered his house. He prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

<sup>4</sup> They had not yet lain down, when the townspeople, the men of Sodom, young and old—all the people to the last man—gathered about the house. <sup>5</sup> And they shouted to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may be intimate with them.” <sup>6</sup> So Lot went out to them to the entrance, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, “I beg you,

my friends, do not commit such a wrong. <sup>8</sup> Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you please; but do not do anything to these men, since they have come under the shelter of my roof.” <sup>9</sup> But they said, “Stand back! The fellow,” they said, “came here as an alien, and already he acts the ruler! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” And they pressed hard against the person of Lot, and moved forward to break the door. <sup>10</sup> But the men stretched out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And the people who were at the entrance of the house, young and old, they struck with blinding light, so that they were helpless to find the entrance.

<sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot, “Whom else have you here? Sons-in-law, your sons and daughters, or anyone else that you have in the city—bring them out of the place. <sup>13</sup> For we are about to destroy this place; because the outcry against them before the Lord has become so great that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.” <sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city.” But he seemed to his sons-in-law as one who jests.

<sup>15</sup> As dawn broke, the angels urged Lot on, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two remaining daughters, lest you be swept away because of the iniquity of the city.” <sup>16</sup> Still he delayed. So the men seized his hand, and the hands of his wife and his two daughters—in the Lord’s mercy on him—and brought him out and left him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> When they had brought them outside, one said, “Flee for your life! Do not look behind you, nor stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, lest you be swept away.” <sup>18</sup> But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lord! <sup>19</sup> You have been so gracious to your servant, and have already shown me so much kindness in order to save my life; but I cannot flee to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> Look, that town there is near enough to flee to; it is such a little place! Let me flee there—it is such a little place—and let my life be saved.” <sup>21</sup> He replied, “Very well, I will grant you this favor too, and I will not annihilate the town of which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Hurry, flee there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” Hence the town came to be called Zoar.

<sup>23</sup> As the sun rose upon the earth and Lot entered Zoar, <sup>24</sup> the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah sulfurous fire from the Lord out of heaven. <sup>25</sup> He annihilated those cities and the entire Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities and the vegetation of the ground. <sup>26</sup> Lot’s wife looked back, and she thereupon turned into a pillar of salt.

<sup>27</sup> Next morning, Abraham hurried to the place where he had stood before the Lord, <sup>28</sup> and, looking down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the Plain, he saw the smoke of the land rising like the smoke of a kiln.

<sup>29</sup> Thus it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the Plain and annihilated the cities where Lot dwelt, God was mindful of Abraham and removed Lot from the midst of the upheaval.

<sup>30</sup> Lot went up from Zoar and settled in the hill country with his two daughters, for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar; and he and his two daughters lived in a cave. <sup>31</sup> And the older one said to the

younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to consort with us in the way of all the world. <sup>32</sup> Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him, that we may maintain life through our father.” <sup>33</sup> That night they made their father drink wine, and the older one went in and lay with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she rose. <sup>34</sup> The next day the older one said to the younger, “See, I lay with Father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go and lie with him, that we may maintain life through our father.” <sup>35</sup> That night also they made their father drink wine, and the younger one went and lay with him; he did not know when she lay down or when she rose.

<sup>36</sup> Thus the two daughters of Lot came to be with child by their father. <sup>37</sup> The older one bore a son and named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. <sup>38</sup> And the younger also bore a son, and she called him Ben-ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.