

Rosh HaShanah

Genesis 21 & 22, Numbers 29:1-6
I Samuel 1:1 – 2:10, Jeremiah 31:2-20
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Complete Jewish Bible

Genesis 21

1 ADONAI remembered Sarah as he had said, and ADONAI did for Sarah what he had promised. **2** Sarah conceived and bore Avraham a son in his old age, at the very time God had said to him. **3** Avraham called his son, born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Yitz'chak. **4** Avraham circumcised his son Yitz'chak when he was eight days old, as God had ordered him to do. **5** Avraham was one hundred years old when his son Yitz'chak [laughter] was born to him. **6** Sarah said, "God has given me good reason to laugh; now everyone who hears about it will laugh with me." **7** And she said, "Who would have said to Avraham that Sarah would nurse children? Nevertheless, I have borne him a son in his old age!" **8** The child grew and was weaned, and Avraham gave a great banquet on the day that Yitz'chak was weaned.

9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom Hagar had borne to Avraham, making fun of Yitz'chak; **10** so Sarah said to Avraham, "Throw this slave-girl out! And her son! I will not have this slave-girl's son as your heir along with my son Yitz'chak!" **11** Avraham became very distressed over this matter of his son. **12** But God said to Avraham, "Don't be distressed because of the boy and your slave-girl. Listen to everything Sarah says to you, because it is your descendants through Yitz'chak who will be counted. **13** But I will also make a nation from the son of the slave-girl, since he is descended from you."

14 Avraham got up early in the morning, took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child; then he sent her away. After leaving, she wandered in the desert around Be'er-Sheva. **15** When the water in the skin was gone, she left the child under a bush, **16** and went and sat down, looking the other way, about a bow-shot's distance from him; because she said, "I can't bear to watch my child die." So she sat there, looking the other way, crying out and weeping. **17** God heard the boy's voice, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What's wrong with you, Hagar? Don't be afraid, because God has heard the voice of the boy in his present situation. **18** Get up, lift the boy up, and hold him tightly in your hand, because I am going to make him a great nation." **19** 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. **20** God was with the boy, and he grew. He lived in the desert and became an archer. **21** He lived in the Pa'ran Desert, and his mother chose a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

22 At that time Avimelekh and Pikhoh the commander of his army spoke to Avraham. They said, "God is with you in everything you do. **23** Therefore, swear to me here by God that you will never deal falsely with me or with my son or grandson; but according to the kindness with which I have treated you, you will treat me and the land in which you have lived as a foreigner. **24** Avraham said, "I swear it." **25** Now Avraham had complained to Avimelekh about a well which Avimelekh's servants had seized. **26** Avimelekh answered, "I don't know who has done this. You didn't tell me, and I heard about it only today." **27** Avraham took sheep and cattle and gave them to Avimelekh, and the two of them made a covenant. **28** Avraham put seven female lambs from the flock by themselves. **29** Avimelekh asked Avraham, "What is the meaning of these seven female lambs you have put by themselves?" **30** He answered, "You are to accept these seven female lambs from me as witness that I dug this well." **31** This is why that place was called Be'er-Sheva [well of seven, well of an oath] - because they both swore an oath there. **32** When they made the covenant at Be'er-Sheva, Avimelekh departed with Pikhoh the commander of his army and returned to the land of the P'lishtim.

33 Avraham planted a tamarisk tree in Be'er-Sheva, and there he called on the name of ADONAI, the everlasting God. **34** Avraham lived for a long time as a foreigner in the land of the P'lishtim.

Genesis 22

1 After these things, God tested Avraham. He said to him, "Avraham!" and he answered, "Here I am." **2** He said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Yitz'chak; and go to the land of Moriyah. There you are to offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain that I will point out to you."

3 Avraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with Yitz'chak his son. He cut the wood for the burnt offering, departed and went toward the place God had told him about. **4** On the third day, Avraham raised his eyes and saw the place in the distance. **5** Avraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go there, worship and return to you." **6** Avraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on Yitz'chak his son. Then he took in his hand the fire and the knife, and they both went on together. **7** Yitz'chak spoke to Avraham his father: "My father?" He answered, "Here I am, my son." He said, "I see the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" **8** Avraham replied, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son"; and they both went on together. **9** They came to the place God had told him about; and Avraham built the altar there, set the wood in order, bound Yitz'chak his son and laid him on the altar, on the wood. **10** Then Avraham put out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

11 But the angel of ADONAI called to him out of heaven: "Avraham? Avraham!" He answered, "Here I am." **12** He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy! Don't do anything to him! For now I know that you are a man who fears God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." **13** Avraham raised his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in the bushes by its horns. Avraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son. **14** Avraham called the place ADONAI Yir'eh [ADONAI will see (to it), ADONAI provides] - as it is said to this day, "On the mountain ADONAI is seen."

15 The angel of ADONAI called to Avraham a second time out of heaven. **16** He said, "I have sworn by myself - says ADONAI- that because you have done this, because you haven't withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will most certainly bless you; and I will most certainly increase your descendants to as many as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will possess the cities of their enemies, **18** and by your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed - because you obeyed my order." **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.

20 Afterwards, Avraham was told, "Milkah too has borne children, to your brother Nachor - **21** 'Utz his firstborn, Buz his brother, K'mu'el the father of Aram, **22** Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Yidlaf and B'tu'el. **23** B'tu'el fathered Rivkah. These eight Milkah bore to Nachor Avraham's brother. **24** His concubine, whose name was Re'umah, bore children also: Tevach, Gacham, Tachash and Ma'akhah.

I Samuel 1:1

1 There was a man from Ramatayim-Tzofim, in the hills of Efrayim, whose name was Elkanah the son of Yerocham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tochu, the son of Tzuf, from Efrat. **2** He had two wives, one named Hannah and the other P'ninah. P'ninah had children, but Hannah had no children. **3** This man went up from his city every year to worship and sacrifice to ADONAI-Tzva'ot in Shiloh. The two sons of 'Eli, Hofni and Pinchas, were cohanim of ADONAI there. **4** One day, when Elkanah was sacrificing, he gave a portion of the sacrifice to his wife P'ninah and portions to each of her sons and daughters; **5** but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved Hannah, even though ADONAI had kept her from having children. **6** Her rival taunted her and

made her feel bad, because ADONAI had kept her from having children. **7** He did the same every year; and each time she went up to the house of ADONAI, she taunted her so much that she would cry and not eat. **8** Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why are you crying, and why aren't you eating? Why be so sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

9 So Hannah got up after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. 'Eli the cohen was sitting on his seat by the doorpost of the temple of ADONAI. **10** In deep depression she prayed to ADONAI and cried. **11** Then she took a vow; she said, "ADONAI-Tzva'ot, if you will notice how humiliated your servant is, if you will remember me and not forget your servant but will give your servant a male child, then I will give him to ADONAI for as long as he lives; and no razor will ever come on his head." **12** She prayed for a long time before ADONAI; and as she did so, 'Eli was watching her mouth. **13** Hannah was speaking in her heart - her lips moved, but her voice could not be heard -so 'Eli thought she was drunk. **14** 'Eli said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Stop drinking your wine!" **15** But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a very unhappy woman. I have not drunk either wine or other strong liquor; rather, I've been pouring out my soul before ADONAI. **16** Don't think of your servant as a worthless woman; because I have been speaking from the depth of my distress and anger." **17** Then 'Eli replied, "Go in peace. May the God of Isra'el grant what you have asked of him." **18** She replied, "May your servant find favor in your sight." So the woman went on her way, and she ate, and her face was no longer sad.

19 They got up early in the morning and worshipped before ADONAI, then returned and came to their house in Ramah. Elkanah had sexual relations with Hannah his wife, and ADONAI remembered her. **20** She conceived; and in due time she gave birth to a son, whom she named Sh'mu'el, "because I asked ADONAI for him." "Sh'mu'el" is derived from shem El, "name of God," but sounds like sha'ul me'el, "asked from God." **21** The husband, Elkanah, went up with all his household to offer the yearly sacrifice to ADONAI and fulfill his vow. **22** But Hannah did not go up, explaining to her husband, "Not till the child has been weaned. Then I will bring him, so that he can appear before ADONAI and live there forever." **23** Her husband Elkanah answered her, "Do what seems good to you; stay here until you have weaned him. Only may ADONAI bring about what he said." So the woman stayed behind and nursed the child, until she weaned him. **24** After weaning him, she took him up with her, along with three young bulls, a bushel of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of ADONAI in Shiloh, even though he was just a child. **25** After the bull had been slaughtered, the child was brought to 'Eli; **26** and she said, "My lord, as sure as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here near you, praying to ADONAI. **27** I prayed for this child, and ADONAI has granted the request I asked of him. **28** Therefore, I too have loaned him to ADONAI - as long as he lives, he is on loan to ADONAI. "And he prostrated himself there before ADONAI.

I Samuel 2:1-10

1 Then Hannah prayed; she said: "My heart exults in ADONAI! My dignity has been restored by ADONAI! I can gloat over my enemies, because of my joy at your saving me. **2** "No one is as holy as ADONAI, because there is none to compare with you, no rock like our God. **3** "Stop your proud boasting! Don't let arrogance come from your mouth! For ADONAI is a God of knowledge, and he appraises actions. **4** The bows of the mighty are broken, while the feeble are armed with strength. **5** The well-fed hire themselves for bread, while those who were hungry hunger no more. The barren woman has borne seven, while the mother of many wastes away. **6** "ADONAI kills and makes alive; he brings down to the grave, and he brings up. **7** ADONAI makes poor, and he makes rich; he humbles, and he exalts. **8** He raises the poor from the dust, lifts up the needy from the trash pile; he gives them a place with leaders and assigns them seats of honor. "For the earth's pillars belong to ADONAI; on them he has placed the world. **9** He will guard the steps of his faithful, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. For it is not by strength that a person prevails - **10** those who fight ADONAI will be shattered; he will thunder against them in heaven ADONAI will judge the ends of the earth. He will strengthen his king and enhance the power of his anointed."

Jeremiah 31:2-20

2 Here is what ADONAI says: "The people escaping the sword found favor in the desert I have brought Isra'el to its rest." **3** From a distance ADONAI appeared to me, [saying,] "I love you with an everlasting love; this is why in my grace I draw you to me. **4** Once again, I will build you; you will be rebuilt, virgin of Isra'el. Once again, equipped with your tambourines, you will go out and dance with the merrymakers. **5** Once again, you will plant vineyards on the hills of Shomron, and those doing the planting will have the use of its fruit. **6** For a day will come when the watchmen on Mount Efrayim will call, 'Come, let's go up to Tziyon, to ADONAI our God.'" **7** For here is what ADONAI says: "Sing with joy for Ya'akov! shout for the chief of the nations! Proclaim your praise, and say: 'ADONAI! You have saved your people, the remnant of Isra'el!' **8** Look! I am bringing them from the land in the north, gathering them from the far ends of the earth; among them are the blind and lame, women with children, women in labor, all together, a vast throng returning here. **9** They will come weeping and praying as I bring them back. I will lead them by streams of water on smooth paths, so that they won't stumble. For I am a father to Isra'el, and Efrayim is my firstborn son."

10 Nations, hear the word of ADONAI! Proclaim it in the coastlands far away. Say: "He who scattered Isra'el is gathering him, guarding him like a shepherd his flock." **11** For ADONAI has ransomed Ya'akov, redeemed him from hands too strong for him. **12** They will come and sing on the heights of Tziyon, streaming to the goodness of Adonai, to the grain, the wine, the olive oil, and the young of the flock and the herd. They themselves will be like a well-watered garden, never to languish again. **13** "Then the virgin will dance for joy, young men and old men together; for I will turn their mourning into joy, comfort and gladden them after their sorrow. **14** I will give the cohanim their fill of rich food, and my people will be satisfied with my bounty," says ADONAI. **15** This is what ADONAI says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and bitter weeping. It is Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no longer alive." **16** This is what ADONAI says: "Stop your weeping, and dry your eyes, for your work will be rewarded," says ADONAI. "They will return from the enemy's land; **17** so there is hope for your future," says ADONAI. "Your children will return to their own territory."

18 "I hear Efrayim bemoaning himself: 'You disciplined me, and I took your discipline like a young ox not used to a yoke. Let me return, and I will return, for you are ADONAI, my God. **19** Yes, I turned away; but later I repented. When I had been made to understand, I struck my thigh in shame and remorse, bearing the weight of the disgrace acquired when I was young.' **20** "Isn't Efrayim my very dear son, a child who delights me so? I speak about him all the time, I can't help but recall him to mind. In sum, I deeply yearn for him; I will surely show him favor," says ADONAI.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 Now, brothers, we want you to know the truth about those who have died; otherwise, you might become sad the way other people **14** do who have nothing to hope for. For since we believe that Yeshua died and rose again, we also believe that in the same way God, through Yeshua, will take with him those who have died. **15** When we say this, we base it on the Lord's own word: we who remain alive when the Lord comes will certainly not take precedence over those who have died. **16** For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a rousing cry, with a call from one of the ruling angels, and with God's shofar; those who died united with the Messiah will be the first to rise; **17** then we who are left still alive will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord. **18** So encourage each other with these words.