

Vayera
“And He appeared”

Torah: Genesis 18:1-22:24
Haftarah: 2 Kings 4:1-37
Brit Chadasha: Romans 9:6-9, Galatians 4:21-31, Hebrews 6:13-20, 11:13-19,
James 2:14-24, 2 Peter 2:4-10

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Genesis 18

The Promise of a Son

1 Then *Adonai* appeared to him at Mamre’s large trees while he was sitting in the entrance of his tent during the heat of the day.

2 When he lifted up his eyes to see, suddenly, three men were standing right by him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed down to the ground.

3 Then he said, “My Lord, if now I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by your servant.

4 Please let a little water be brought so you can wash your feet, and make yourselves comfortable under the tree.

5 And let me bring a bit of bread so that you can refresh yourselves—then you can pass on—since you have passed by your servant. They said, “Do just as you have said.”

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Knead three measures of fine flour and prepare bread loaves!”

7 Then to the herd Abraham ran and took a young ox, tender and good, and he gave it to the servant, who prepared it quickly.

8 Then he took butter and milk and the young ox that he had prepared and set it before them. While he was standing by them under the tree, they ate.

9 Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” “There, in the tent,” he said.

10 Then He said, “I will most surely return to you in about a year’s time, surprisingly, Sarah your wife will have a son.” Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind Him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years—Sarah had stopped having the way of women.

12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I’ve grown decrepit, can I have desire—and my lord so old?”

13 Then *Adonai* said to Abraham, “Why is it that Sarah laughed, saying, ‘Can I really give birth when I am so old?’

14 Is anything too difficult for *Adonai*? At the appointed time I will return to you—in about a year—and Sarah will have a son.”

15 Sarah denied it saying, “I didn’t laugh!” For she was afraid. But He said, “No—for you did laugh.”

Abraham intercedes

16 Then the men got up from there and looked down over Sodom. Abraham was walking with them to send them off,

17 when *Adonai* said, “Should I keep secret from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 seeing that Abraham will most certainly become a great and mighty nation and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?

19 For I have made myself known to him so that he will command his sons and his household after him to keep the way of *Adonai* by doing righteousness and justice, so that *Adonai* may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

20 Then *Adonai* said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great indeed, and their sin is very grievous indeed.

21 I want to go down now, and see if they deserve destruction, as its outcry has come to Me. And if not, I will know.”

22 Then the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham was still standing before *Adonai*.

23 Abraham drew near and said, “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you really sweep away and not spare the place for the sake of fifty righteous who are in it?

25 Far be it from You to do such a thing—to cause the righteous to die with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked share the same fate! Far be it from You! Shall the Judge of the whole world not exercise justice?”

26 Then *Adonai* said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous people within the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

27 Then Abraham answered and said, “Look, pray, I have decided to speak to my Lord, though I am dust and ashes.

28 Suppose the fifty righteous people are lacking five. Will You destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

29 So he spoke to Him yet again and said, “Perhaps forty will be found there?” And He said, “I will not do it for the sake of the forty.”

30 Then he said, “Please, let my Lord not be angry, so I may speak. Perhaps thirty will be found there?” And He said, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

31 Then he said, “Look, pray, I have decided to speak to my Lord: Perhaps twenty will be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty.”

32 Then he said, “Please, let not my Lord be angry, so I may speak once more. Perhaps ten will be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.”

33 Now when He had finished speaking to Abraham, *Adonai* left, and Abraham returned to his place.

Genesis 19

Sodom and Gomorrah

1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, while Lot was sitting at the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he got up to meet them, and bowed down with his face to the ground.

2 Then he said, “Here, please my lords, please turn aside to your servant’s house, spend the night and wash your feet. Then you can get up early and go on your way.” But they said, “No. We will spend the night in the open plaza.”

3 But he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and they came into his house. He prepared a feast for them and baked *matzot* , and they ate.

4 They had not yet lain down when the men of the city (the men of Sodom) surrounded the house—from youth to elderly, all the people without exception.

5 And they called out to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have relations with them!”

6 But Lot went out to them at the doorway and shut the door behind him,

7 and said, “Please, my brothers, don’t act wickedly.

8 Look, I have two daughters who haven’t been intimate with a man. Please let me bring them out to you—do to them whatever is good in your eyes! However, do nothing to these men—since they have come under the protection of my roof.”

9 “Get out of the way!” they said, and they said, “This one came as an outsider and dares to judge! Now we’ll treat you worse than them!” So they strongly pressed against the man, Lot, and moved in close to break the door down.

10 But the men reached out their hands, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

11 Then they struck the men at the doorway of the house with blindness—from youth to elderly—so that they gave up trying to find the doorway.

12 Then the men said to Lot, “Who else related to you is still here? A son-in-law, your sons and your daughters, whoever else is related to you in the city—bring them out of the place!

13 For we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before *Adonai* that *Adonai* has sent us to destroy it.”

14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law who were going to marry his daughters, “Get up!” he said, “Get out of this place! For *Adonai* is about to destroy the city!” But in the eyes of his sons-in-law, he was like a joker.

15 So when morning dawned the angels rushed Lot, saying, “Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be swept away with the city’s iniquity!”

16 But he hesitated. So the men grabbed his hand, his wife's hand and his two daughters' hands—because of *Adonai's* compassion for him—and they brought him out and left him outside the city.

17 When they brought them outside, one said, “Flee for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stop anywhere in the surrounding area! Escape to the hills, or else you'll be swept away!”

18 But Lot said to them, “No, my Lord, please!

19 Look, please, your servant has found favor in Your eyes and You have magnified Your merciful loyalty, which You have shown me by letting me live. But I can't escape to the hill country—for the disaster will overtake me and I'll die!

20 Look, please, this city is close enough to flee there, and it's little. Please let me escape there. Isn't it small? And let me live!”

21 So He said to him, “Behold, I will grant your request concerning this matter too—not to demolish the city of which you have spoken.

22 Hurry! Flee to safety there, because I cannot do anything until you arrive there.” (This is why the town is named Zoar.)

23 The moment the sun rose upon the land, Lot entered Zoar,

24 and *Adonai* rained sulfur and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah from *Adonai* out of the sky.

25 So He demolished these cities and the whole surrounding area, all the inhabitants of the cities and the vegetation of the ground.

26 But his wife looked behind him and she turned into a pillar of salt.

27 Now Abraham rose early in the morning to the place where he had stood before *Adonai*,

28 and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward the entire land of the surrounding area, and saw, behold, the smoke of the land ascended like smoke from a furnace.

29 So it was, as God destroyed the cities of the surrounding area, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the upheaval, when He demolished the cities where Lot had dwelt.

Lot Fathers Moab and Ammon

30 Then Lot went up from Zoar and dwelled on the mountain, his two daughters with him, because he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. So he lived in a cave—he and his two daughters.

31 Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man in the land to come to us as is the custom of the whole land.

32 Come on! Let’s make our father drink wine so that we can lie with him and keep the seed from our father alive.

33 So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn came and lay down with her father. Yet he did not know that she lay down and got up.

34 On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, “See! I slept with my father last night. Let’s make him drink wine tonight as well. Come on! Sleep with him so that we’ll keep the seed from our father alive.”

35 So they made their father drink wine that night as well, and the younger got up and lay down with him and he did not know that she lay down and got up.

36 So Lot’s two daughters become pregnant by their father.

37 Then the firstborn gave birth to a son and named him Moab: he is the ancestor of the Moabites to this day.

38 The younger also gave birth to a son and named him Ben-Ammi: he is the ancestor of the sons of Ammon to this day.

Genesis 20

Sarah Renewed

1 Then Abraham journeyed from there to the land of the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was dwelling as an outsider in Gerar,

2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” So King Abimelech of Gerar sent for and took Sarah.

3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream at night and said to him, “Behold, you are as good as dead, because of the woman whom you have taken—since she is a married woman.”

4 Now Abimelech had not come near her. So he said, “My Lord, will You slay a nation, even though innocent?”

5 Didn't he say to me, 'She's my sister'? And she herself even said, 'He's my brother.' I did this with integrity of my heart and guiltlessness of my hands."

6 Then God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I myself knew that you did this with integrity of your heart, so I, yes I Myself prevented you from sinning against Me. That is why I did not allow you to touch her.

7 So now, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet. And let him pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, know that you will surely die—you and all who are yours."

8 Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants and spoke all these words in their ears—and the men were very frightened.

9 Then Abimelech called to Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us, and how have I sinned against you, that you brought great sin upon me and my kingdom? You've done to me things that should not be done!"

10 Abimelech also said to Abraham, "What motivated you to do this thing?"

11 Abraham said, "Because I thought, 'There is certainly no fear of God in this place, so they'll kill me, because of my wife.'

12 And besides, she really is my sister. She's my father's daughter, though not my mother's daughter. Then she became my wife.

13 So when God made me wander away from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is your loyalty that you must show me: in every place we go, say of me, 'He is my brother.'"

14 Then Abimelech took sheep, cattle, male slaves and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and returned his wife Sarah to him.

15 Then Abimelech said, "Look, my land is before you. Dwell wherever it pleases you."

16 At the same time he said to Sarah, "Look, I've given a thousand shekels to your brother. Look, it is compensation for everything that happened—so to everyone with you, you are vindicated."

17 Then Abraham prayed to God and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his female slaves so that they could bear children.

18 For *Adonai* had completely locked up every womb in Abimelech's household because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Genesis 21

Birth of Isaac

1 Then *Adonai* visited Sarah just as He had said, and *Adonai* did for Sarah just as He had spoken.

2 So Sarah became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time that God had told him.

3 Abraham named his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore for him—Isaac.

4 Then Abraham circumcised Isaac, his eight-day-old son, just as God had commanded him.

5 Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac his son was born to him.

6 So Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me! Everyone who hears will laugh with me.”

7 She also said, “Who would have said to Abraham, ‘Sarah has nursed children’? For I have given birth to a son in his old age!”

Ishmael Banished, Yet Delivered

8 The child grew and was weaned—Abraham made a big feast on the day Isaac was weaned.

9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian whom she had born to Abraham—making fun.

10 So she said to Abraham, “Drive out this female slave and her son, for the son of this female slave will not be an heir with my son—with Isaac.”

11 Now the matter was very displeasing in Abraham’s eyes on account of his son.

12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be displeased about the boy and your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, listen to her voice. For through Isaac shall your seed be called.

13 Yet I will also make the son of the slave woman into a nation, because he is your seed.”

14 So Abraham got up early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away. She went and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

15 When the water from the skin was finished, she abandoned the child under one of the bushes.

16 Then she went and sat herself down opposite, about a bowshot away, for she had said, "I can't bear to see the child dying!" So she sat down opposite and lifted up her voice and wept.

17 Then God heard the boy's voice and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and He said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, because God has heard the boy's voice where he is.

18 Get up! Lift the boy up, and hold on to him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water, and she went and filled the water skin, and gave the boy a drink.

20 God was with the boy and he grew. He dwelled in the wilderness and became an archer.

21 He dwelled in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Covenant of Abimelech and Abraham

22 Now it came about at that same time that Abimelech—with Phicol the commander of his army---said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do.

23 So now, make a pledge to me here, by God, that you will not violate your word with me or with my descendants or with my offspring. As I have shown loyalty to you, show the same to me, and to the land in which you have lived as an outsider."

24 Abraham said, "I make a pledge."

25 Now Abraham had rebuked Abimelech because of the well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized.

26 So Abimelech said, "I don't know who did this thing. Nor did you tell me, nor did I hear about it until today."

27 Then Abraham took a flock of sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.

28 Abraham set seven young ewe-lambs apart from the flock of sheep by themselves.

29 Abimelech said to Abraham, “What do these seven ewe-lambs that you’ve set by themselves mean?”

30 He said, “You are to accept the seven ewe-lambs from my hand, so that they may be a witness for me that I dug this well.”

31 That is why that place is named Beer-sheba, because there both of them made a pledge,

32 and they made a covenant in Beer-sheba. Then Abimelech got up, with Phicol the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines.

33 Then he planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba and called there on the Name of *Adonai*, the Everlasting God.

34 He lived as an outsider in the land of the Philistines for many days.

Genesis 22:1-24

The Binding of Isaac

1 Now it was after these things that God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham.” “*Hineni*,” he said.

2 Then He said, “Take your son, your only son whom you love —Isaac—and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains about which I will tell you.”

3 So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. He split wood for the burnt offering, and got up and went to the place about which God had told him.

4 On the third day, Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

5 Abraham said to his young men, “Sit yourselves down here with the donkey. As for me and the young man, we’ll go over there, worship and return to you.”

6 Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on Isaac his son. In his hand he took the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

7 Then Isaac said to Abraham his father, “My father?” Then he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Look. Here’s the fire and the wood. But where’s the lamb for a burnt offering?”

8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself a lamb for a burnt offering, my son." The two of them walked on together.

9 Then they came to the place about which God had told him, and Abraham built the altar there, laid out the wood, bound up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

11 But the angel of *Adonai* called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" He said, "*Hineni!*"

12 Then He said, "Do not reach out your hand against the young man—do nothing to him at all. For now I know that you are one who fears God—you did not withhold your son, your only son, from Me."

13 Then Abraham lifted up his eyes and behold, there was a ram, just caught in the thick bushes by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

14 Abraham named that place, *Adonai Yireh*,—as it is said today, "On the mountain, *Adonai* will provide."

15 The angel of *Adonai* called to Abraham a second time from heaven

16 and said, "By myself I swear—it is a declaration of *Adonai*—because you have done this thing, and you did not withhold your son, your only son,

17 I will richly bless you and bountifully multiply your seed like the stars of heaven, and like the sand that is on the seashore, and your seed will possess the gate of his enemies.

18 In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed—because you obeyed My voice."

19 Then Abraham returned to his young men and they got up and went together to Beer-sheba. Then Abraham dwelled in Beer-sheba.

20 Now it was after these things that it was told to Abraham, "Look, Milcah has also borne sons to Nahor your brother:

21 Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

22 Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Yidlap and Bethuel."

23 Then Bethuel fathered Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

24 His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash and Maacah.

HAFTARAH

2 Kings 4:1-37

Miracle of Multiplying Oil

1 Now a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha saying, “Your servant my husband is dead—you know that your servant feared *Adonai*. Now the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.”

2 “What should I do for you?” Elisha asked her. “Tell me, what do you have in the house?” She replied, “Your handmaid has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”

3 Then he said, “Go borrow for yourself vessels from all your neighbors—empty jars—not just a few.

4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and behind your sons, and pour into all those vessels, setting aside what is full.”

5 So she left him and shut the door behind her and behind her sons. They kept bringing the vessels to her and she kept pouring.

6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” But he said to her, “There isn’t another vessel.” So the oil stopped.

7 Then she came and told the man of God. So he said, “Go sell the oil and pay your debt, then you and your sons can live on the rest.”

Shunammite Hospitality

8 One day when Elisha passed through Shunem, where there was a prominent woman who persuaded him to eat some food. And so it was, whenever he passed through, he would stop for a meal.

9 Then she said to her husband, “Behold now, I realize that this man who often passes through is a holy man of God.

10 Please, let’s make a little walled room on the roof, and let’s put there a bed, a table, a chair, and a lampstand for him. Then whenever he comes to us, he can stay there.”

11 One day he came there, and retired to the upper chamber and lay down

there.

12 Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him.

13 He said to him, "Tell her: Behold, you have gone to all this trouble for us. What can be done for you? Can something be communicated to the king or to the commander of the army for you?" She answered, "I am living among my own people."

14 So he asked, "Then what should be done for her?" Then Gehazi answered, "In fact, she has no son, and her husband is old."

15 "Call her," he said. And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway.

16 Then he said, "At this season next year, you will be embracing a son." But she said, "No, my lord, do not lie to your handmaid, man of God."

17 Nevertheless, the woman conceived and bore a son during that season the following year, just as Elisha had told her.

18 Now when the child was grown, one day he went out to his father among the reapers.

19 Then he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

20 So he picked him up and brought him to his mother. The child sat on her lap until noon, and then died.

21 She then went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door on him and went out.

22 Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys that I may run to the man of God and come back."

23 But he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither New Moon nor Shabbat." But she said, "It will be well."

24 Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Move on! Don't slow down riding unless I tell you."

25 So she set out and came near the man of God at Mount Carmel. Upon seeing her from a distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, "Look! There's the Shunammite.

26 Please, run now to meet her and ask her: 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the boy?'" She answered, "It is well."

27 But when she arrived at the mountain, up to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. Then Gehazi stepped forward to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone, for her soul is bitter within her, yet *Adonai* has hid it from me and has not told me."

28 "Did I ask my lord for a son?" she said. "Didn't I say, 'Don't deceive me?'"

29 Then he said to Gehazi, "Gird up your loins and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, don't greet him. Or if anyone greets you, don't answer him; and lay my staff on the face of the child."

30 But the mother of the child said, "As *Adonai* lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So he arose and followed her.

31 Gehazi passed on ahead of them and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or response. So he returned to meet him and told him, saying, "The boy has not awakened."

32 When Elisha entered the house, there was the child, dead and laying on his bed.

33 So he entered and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to *Adonai*.

34 Then he got up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hands, and he stretched himself upon him. So the flesh of the child became warm.

35 Then he stepped down and walked in the house to and fro, and then he got up on the bed and stretched himself on him. The child sneezed seven times, then the child opened his eyes.

36 He then called Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." So he called her. When she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son."

37 She came, fell at his feet and bowed down to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

BRIT CHADASHA

Romans 9:6-9

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all those who are descended from Israel are Israel,

7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's seed; rather, "Your seed shall be called through Isaac."

8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God; rather, the children of the promise are counted as seed.

9 For the word of promise is this: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son."

Galatians 4:21-31

Midrash on Abraham's Two Sons

21 Tell me, you who want to be under *Torah*, don't you understand the *Torah*?

22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and one by the free woman.

23 But one—the son by the slave woman—was born naturally; while the other—the son by the free woman—was through the promise.

24 Now these things are being treated allegorically, for these are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, giving birth to slavery—this is Hagar.

25 But this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery along with her children.

26 But the Jerusalem above is free—she is our mother.

27 For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren woman who bears no children. Break forth and shout, you who suffer no labor pains. For more are the children of the desolate than of the one who has a husband."

28 Now you, brothers and sisters—like Isaac, you are children of promise.

29 But just as at that time the one born according to the flesh persecuted the one born according to the *Ruach*, so it is now.

30 But what does the Scripture say? “Drive out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son” of the free woman.

31 So then, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman but of the free woman.

Hebrews 6:13-20

The Promise and the Oath

13 Now when God made His promise to Abraham—since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

14 saying, “Surely I will bless you, and surely I will multiply you.”

15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham reached the promise.

16 For people swear by someone greater; and the oath, as confirmation, is an end to all their disputing.

17 In the same way God, determining to point out more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchanging nature of His purpose, guaranteed it with an oath.

18 So by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

19 We have this hope as an anchor of the soul, both firm and steady—a hope that enters the inner place behind the curtain.

20 *Yeshua* has entered there as a forerunner on our behalf, having become *Kohen Gadol* “forever, according to the order of *Melechizedek* .”

Hebrews 11:13-19

13 These all died in faith without receiving the things promised—but they saw them and welcomed them from afar, and they confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on the earth.

14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

15 If indeed they had been thinking about where they had come from, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they yearn for a better land—that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. Yes, he who had received the promises was offering up his one and only son—
18 the one about whom it was said, “Through Isaac offspring shall be named for you.”
19 He reasoned that God was able to raise him up even from the dead—and in a sense, he did receive him back from there.

James 2:14-24

Show Faith with Works

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith, but does not have works? Can such faith save him?
15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,
16 and one of you says to them, “Go in *shalom*, keep warm and well fed,” but you do not give them what the body needs, what good is that?
17 So also faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.
18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works.
19 You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe—and shudder!
20 But do you want to know, you empty person, that faith without works is dead?
21 Wasn’t Abraham our father proved righteous by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?
22 You see that faith worked together with his works, and by the works his faith was made complete.
23 The Scripture was fulfilled that says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness”—and he was called God’s friend.
24 You see that a man is proved righteous by works and not by faith alone.

2 Peter 2:4-10

4 For God did not spare angels when they sinned, but threw them into *Sheol*. He put them in chains of gloomy darkness, to be held until the judgment.

5 He did not spare the ancient world. He preserved only Noah, a proclaimer of righteousness, along with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

6 He devastated the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, reducing them to ashes—making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

7 He rescued Lot, a righteous man deeply troubled by the shameless immorality of the wicked.

8 (For that righteous man, while living among them, was tormented in his righteous soul day after day by lawless deeds he saw and heard.)

9 Therefore the Lord certainly knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and how to keep the unrighteous being punished until the Day of Judgment—

10 especially those who follow after the flesh in its unclean desires and who despise the Lord's authority. Brazen and arrogant, these people do not tremble while slandering glorious beings;