

November 26, 2022

Yitz'chak, Rebekah and the Aleph Tav - 2

Many years after his father Avraham would be called by Adonai to leave his kinsmen and go to a land Adonai would show him Yitz'chak would experience similar occurrences.

Gen 26:1 A famine came over the land, not the same as the first famine, which had taken place when Avraham was alive. Yitz'chak went to G'rar, to Avimelekh king of the P'lishtim.

As conveyed it was not like the first one

Gen 12:10 But there was a famine in the land, so Avram went down into Egypt to stay there, because the famine in the land was severe.

nor would Adonai instruct Yitz'chak in the same manner.

Where was that but the land Adonai had promised. G'rar is located within the land of promise, just west of what is known as Gaza today.



Yitz'chak, was not born at the time his father went down to Egypt, yet likely heard of their experiences in that family history was not documented on Facebook but done so orally and thus passed down from generation to generation.

Thus one may wonder how much his father would tell him about his experiences prior to his birth. Recall that there were some 25 years of interaction between Adonai and Avraham leading up to the birth of Yitz'chak, so there must have been a great deal, yet we only have snippets of those experiences.

Did Adonai appear to Avraham only the times recorded for our benefit in Scripture. I don't believe so. I believe those accounts are intended for us, while I believe Adonai's interaction with Avraham was far more extensive.

Adonai reveals through the prophet Yeshayahu (Isaiah)...

Isa 41:8 "But you, Isra'el, my servant; Ya`akov, whom I have chosen, descendants of Avraham my friend,

Isa 41:9 I have taken you from the ends of the earth, summoned you from its most distant parts and said to you, 'You are my servant'—I have chosen you, not rejected you.

Reiterating the promise made to Avraham and affirmed through Ya'akov.

Would a friend only appear a few times or would there be more interaction. I firmly believe there was more interaction between Adonai and Avraham than has been revealed to us. We have seen the prominence of Avraham throughout Scripture.

Outside of Genesis, reference of Avraham appears 71 times alone in the Brith Hadoshah and an additional 42 times in the Tanakh.

I convey all of this to make the point of the dynamic of the relationship between Adonai and Avraham and thus what Avraham would have conveyed, passed on to his son Yitz'chak, the son of the promise. Would he have not shared as much as possible about his experiences with the God of all creation who called him out specifically, promised him descendants at a very old age for which they would become a great nation and land provided for that nation to reside in?

Additionally we also see our offspring take on some of our character traits as well. I have mannerisms from both my mother and father that I have seen in them and thus know their origin, ultimately conveying I am their child. Hence we see this in Avraham's child Yitz'chak.

Not only are we witnessing the occurrence of a famine, but we would have likely witness Yitz'chak's response to go to Egypt as his father had done many years before had Adonai not have instructed Yitz'chak specifically,

Gen 26:2 Adonai appeared to him and said, "Don't go down into Egypt, but live where I tell you.

Gen 26:3 Stay in this land, and I will be with you and bless you, because I will give all these lands to you and to your descendants. I will fulfill the oath which I swore to Avraham your father—

If you recall, Adonai instructed Avram to go to Egypt because of the famine, for which I believe Avraham would have shared this experience with his son. I believe this is why Adonai specifically instructed Yitz'chak not to go to Egypt. Yet there is more to this than just not going to Egypt as is revealed in verse three.

Adonai is in the process of fulfilling the oath He made to Avraham in chapters 12, 15 and 17, in other words honoring the covenant He made with Avraham.

Yitz'chak fleeing to Egypt because of a famine would not accomplish what Adonai had intended, starting with Avraham's first descendant, his son.

Gen 15:18 That day Adonai made a covenant with Avram: "I have given this land to your descendants—from the Vadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River—

and was reiterated at the time of the Akedah, the binding of Yitz'chak...

Gen 22:16 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,

Gen 22:17 I will most certainly bless you; and I will most certainly increase (Aleph Tav) your descendants to as many as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants will possess (Aleph Tav) the cities of their enemies,

It is here in verse four that we see the first Aleph Tav that further establishes the connection of the Aleph Tav with the descendants of Avraham.

כִּי־ בָרַךְ אֲבָרְכָךָ וְהִרְבָּה אֲרֵבָה אֶתְּ זֶרְעֶךָ כְּכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכַחֲלוֹל
אֲשֶׁר עַל־ שְׁפַת הַיָּם וְיִרְשׁ זֶרְעֶךָ אֶת שְׁעַר אֵיבֹי

Gen 26:4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, I will give all these lands to your descendants (Aleph Tav), and by your descendants all the nations of the earth will bless themselves.

For which the fulfillment of the promise of the blessing for which the world will experience will come forth. It will be the descendant of Yitz'chak and his offspring that will come forth the one who will bruise the head of the serpent.

Gen 3:15 I will put animosity between you and the woman, and between your descendant and her descendant; he will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel."

It will be the one who was once hidden yet was there in the beginning

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens (Aleph Tav) and the earth (Aleph Tav).

בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

who will be made known through the seed of promise, the descendants of Avraham and his son Yitz'chak.

It is here in Bereshit (Genesis) 26 that we see Adonai establishing his promise by not having Yitz'chak leave the land because of a famine. We ultimately see Adonai fulfilling that promise in sustaining Yitzchak yet at the same time witnessing the connection between the people and the land.

Gen 26:12 Yitz'chak planted crops in that land and reaped that year a hundred times as much as he had sowed. Adonai had blessed him.

Gen 26:13 The man became rich and prospered more and more, until he had become very wealthy indeed.

Yitz'chak would experience animosity from the Philistines of the land as he prospered and it would appear they did not based on their actions...

Gen 26:14 He had flocks, cattle and a large household; and the P'lishtim envied him.

Adonai caused him to prosper in the land while there was a famine for it is here that we truly see the power of the promise and thus Adonai honoring His Word. Go back to verse 4 where the Aleph Tav is and we can draw a direct connection to this power through the words of Yochanan...

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 He was with God in the beginning.

Joh 1:3 All things came to be through him, and without him nothing made had being.

Joh 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.

Through Yitz'chak we are just beginning to see the magnitude that will be revealed to us through Yeshua.

With the promise of Adonai, we see the impact it can have on just one person.

Gen 26:16 Avimelekh said to Yitz'chak, "You must go away from us, because you have become much more powerful than we are."

Through Adonai, he made one man more powerful than a nation. I believe Yitz'chak followed the path of his father when it came to verse 5...

Gen 26:5 All this is because Avraham heeded what I said and did what I told him to do—he followed my mitzvot, my regulations and my teachings."

Yitz'chak did not go to Egypt, but remained in the land. Even where there was contention, no harm came to him or his household.

It was because of Adonai that the Philistine feared him.

Tension grew as the Philistines were threatened by Yitz'chak's presence, countering his progress.

So Yitz'chak went south to the Vadi yet still remained in the land of G'rar.

Gen 26:17 So Yitz'chak left, set up camp in Vadi G'rar and lived there.

Gen 26:18 Yitz'chak reopened the wells which had been dug during the lifetime of Avraham his father, the ones the P'lishtim had stopped up after Avraham died, and called them by the names his father had used for them.

Gen 26:19 Yitz'chak's servants dug in the vadi and uncovered a spring of running water.

Gen 26:20 But the herdsmen of G'rar quarreled with Yitz'chak's herdsmen, claiming, "That water is ours!" So he called the well `Esek [*quarrel*], because they quarreled with him.

Gen 26:21 They dug another well and quarreled over that one too. So he called it Sitnah [*enmity*].

There continued to be quarreling with the Philistines in that they were threatened by Yitz'chak's presence and prosperity.

Gen 26:26 Then Avimelekh went to him from G'rar with his friend Achuzat and Pikhoh the commander of his army.

Gen 26:27 Yitz'chak said to them, "Why have you come to me, even though you

were unfriendly to me and sent me away?"

Gen 26:28 They answered, "We saw very clearly that Adonai has been with you; so we said, 'Let there be an oath between us: let's make a pact between ourselves and you

Gen 26:29 that you will not harm us, just as we have not caused you offense but have done you nothing but good and sent you on your way in peace. Now you are blessed by Adonai.' "

Gen 26:30 Yitz'chak prepared a banquet for them, and they ate and drank.

Gen 26:31 The next morning, they got up early and swore to each other. Then Yitz'chak sent them on their way, and they left him peacefully.

Here we see the promise of Adonai leading to the provision and protection of Yitz'chak.

This will be reiterated and amplified through Moshe...

Deu 28:1 "If you listen closely to what Adonai your God says, observing and obeying all his mitzvot which I am giving you today, Adonai your God will raise you high above all the nations on earth;

Deu 28:2 and all the following blessings will be yours in abundance—if you will do what Adonai your God says:

Deu 28:3 "A blessing on you in the city, and a blessing on you in the countryside.

Deu 28:4 "A blessing on the fruit of your body, the fruit of your land and the fruit of your livestock—the young of your cattle and flocks.

Deu 28:5 "A blessing on your grain-basket and kneading-bowl.

Deu 28:6 "A blessing on you when you go out, and a blessing on you when you come in.

Deu 28:7 "Adonai will cause your enemies attacking you to be defeated before you; they will advance on you one way and flee before you seven ways.

Deu 28:8 "Adonai will order a blessing to be with you in your barns and in everything you undertake; he will bless you in the land Adonai your God is giving you.

Deu 28:9 "Adonai will establish you as a people separated out for himself, as he has sworn to you—if you will observe the mitzvot of Adonai your God and follow his ways.

Deu 28:10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that Adonai's name, his presence, is with you; so that they will be afraid of you.

Deu 28:11 "Adonai will give you great abundance of good things—of the fruit of your body, the fruit of your livestock and the fruit of your land in the land Adonai

swore to your ancestors to give you.

Deu 28:12 Adonai will open for you his good treasure, the sky, to give your land its rain at the right seasons and to bless everything you undertake. You will lend to many nations and not borrow;

Deu 28:13 Adonai will make you the head and not the tail; and you will be only above, never below—if you will listen to, observe and obey the mitzvot of Adonai your God

Deu 28:14 and not turn away from any of the words I am ordering you today, neither to the right nor to the left, to follow after other gods and serve them.

During my discussion with Doug Hershey, in talking about places to go in Israel for which I wanted to make the connections that we have been focused on in this Parshah year, the people and the land, he mentioned going up to the boarder with Jordan. It is there that you will see this very distinction and thus contrast where the promise of Adonai associated with the people is visually seen. On one side a lush green surrounding, fertile and fruitful, while on the other side of the border, barrenness and desert.

The connection of the Aleph Tav and the descendants of Avraham is eternally connected for which no human or principality can undo. It is sealed by the Word of God and can not be undone. His seal, the Aleph Tav is upon it.

Rev 22:12 "Pay attention!" [*says Yeshua,*] "I am coming soon, and my rewards are with me to give to each person according to what he has done.

Rev 22:13 I am the 'Aleph Tav', the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

All authority has been given to Him

Mat 28:18 Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Mat 28:19 Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh,

Mat 28:20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age."

Bless people from all nations with the blessing that originated through the seed of Avraham, where his descendant would be a blessing to all the world...

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Adonai worked through the obedience of Avraham and Yitz'chak...

Gen 26:5 All this is because Avraham heeded what I said and did what I told him to do—he followed my mitzvot, my regulations and my teachings."

Yeshua, the Aleph Tav is conveying the same thing as well.