

Elul Series 5786 – The High Holiday Torah Readings

Class #2 – Breishit chapters 21 & 22

Peshat vs Derash

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Review

Discuss:

Concept of 'once a year celebration' of national purpose –

Then – what that topic should be

When is the best time of year to celebrate

What is the best day of the month to celebrate

I. The two lone (& cryptic) sources that describe what we call RH

. Yom Truah – or Yom ha'zikaron

ותתנו לנו יהוה אלהינו באהבה את יום הזכרון הזה.

יום (זכרון) תרועה – מקרא קדש – זכר ליציאת מצרים:

Vayikra Chapter 23 – One the “moadei Hashem” –in the 7th month!

כג וידבר ה', אל-משה לאמר דבר אל-בני ישראל, לאמר: **בחדש השביעי באחד לחדש, יהיה לכם שבתון-זכרון תרועה, מקרא-קדש** כל מלאכת עבודה, לא תעשו; והקרבתם אשה, לה'.
23 Hashem spoke to Moshe: Speak to Israel: In the **seventh month**, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a **memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns**, a holy convocation. You shall do no work...;

Bamidbar Chapter 29 – Parallel source, note the name of holiday

א ובחדש השביעי באחד לחדש, מקרא-קדש יהיה לכם--כל-מלאכת עבודה, לא תעשו: יום תרועה, יהיה לכם.
1 And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation: you shall do no work; it is a **day of blowing the horn** unto you.

II. Mesechet Megilla 30b ->31a

בראש השנה: "בחדש השביעי באחד לחדש" ויקרא כ"ג:כ"ד...

שנאמר "וידבר משה את מועדי ה' אל בני ישראל" (ויקרא כ"ג:מ"ד)

מצותן שיהו קורין כל אחד ואחד בזמנו.

בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה "בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי" (במדבר כ"ט:א')
 וּמִפְּטִירֵין "הֵבֵן יִקִּיר לִי אֶפְרַיִם" (ירמיהו ל"א:י"ט)
 וַיֵּשׁ אֲוֹמְרִים "וְהָ פָקֵד אֶת שָׂרָה" (בראשית כ"א:א')
 וּמִפְּטִירֵין בְּחִנָּה (שמואל א א').

וְהָאִידָנָא דְּאִיכָא תְּרִי יוֹמֵי יוֹמָא קָמָא כִּישׁ אֲוֹמְרִים
 לְמַחֵר "וְהָאֱלֹהִים נָסָה אֶת אַבְרָהָם" (בראשית כ"ב:א')
 וּמִפְּטִירֵין "הֵבֵן יִקִּיר" (ירמיהו ל"א:י"ט).

III. The word "moed" in Breishit 21

א וַיִּהְיֶה פָקֵד אֶת-שָׂרָה, כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר; וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה
 לְשָׂרָה, כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר.

1 And the LORD remembered Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as He had spoken.

ב וַתֵּהָר וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה לְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן, לְזִקְנֹיו,
 לְמוֹעֵד, אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר אֱלֹהִים.

2 And Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

ג וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שֵׁם-בְּנוֹ הַנּוֹלָד-לוֹ,
 אֲשֶׁר-יָלְדָהּ-לוֹ שָׂרָה--יִצְחָק.

3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.

ד וַיִּמָּל אַבְרָהָם אֶת-יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ, בֶּן-שְׁמֹנֶת יָמִים,
 כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים.

4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

ה וַאֲבָרָהָם, בֶּן-מֵאָת שָׁנָה, בָּהֻלָּד לוֹ, אֶת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ.

5 And Abraham was a hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

ו וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרָה--צַחֵק, עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים: כָּל-הַשֹּׁמְעַ,
 יִצְחָק-לִי.

6 And Sarah said: 'God hath made laughter for me; every one that heareth will laugh on account of me.'

ז ותאמר, מי מלל לאברהם, היניקה בנים, שרה: כי-
ילדתי בו, לזקניו.

7 And she said: 'Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should give children suck? for I have borne him a son in his old age.'

ח ויגדל הילד, ויגמל; ויעש אברהם משתה גדול, ביום
הגמל את-יצחק.

8 And the child grew, and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

ט ותרא שרה את-בן-הגר המצרית, אשר-ילדה
לאברהם--מצחק.

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne unto Abraham, making sport.

י ותאמר, לאברהם, גרש האמה הזאת, ואת-בנה: כי
לא יירש בן-האמה הזאת,
עם-בני עם-יצחק.

10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham: 'Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.'

יא וירע הדבר מאד, בעיני אברהם, על, אודת בנו.

11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight on account of his son.

יב ויאמר אלהים אל-אברהם, אל-ירע בעיניך על-
הנער ועל-אמתך--כל אשר תאמר אליך שרה, שמע
בקלה: כי ביצחק, יקרא לך זרע.

12 And God said unto Abraham: 'Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah saith unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall seed be called to thee.'

יג וגם את-בן-האמה, לגוי אשימנו:
כי ירעד, הוא.

13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.'

The connection to "brit Milah" & Breishit chapter 17

Note the "brit" of "brit Milah" in 17:7-8

Note the word "moed" in 17:21-22 as well 18:14 - Relate to 21:2!

Note the concept of "brit OLAM" - and ETERNAL covenant

Both in brit Keshet (see 9:11-15) & Brit Milah

IV. The theme of "malchiot" in our Rosh ha'Shana prayers

Recall - Aleinu was originally composed as the intro to "malchiot"

OUR duty to praise Hashem, and that's WHY we were chosen

Our HOPE that our behaviour will affect all Nations-

To CALL OUT IN THE NAME OF HASHEM

Discuss - "malchiot" - that we are chosen or WHY we are chosen

Re: our (and Hashem's) relationship with the other nations

Why the Torah records the stories of the Avot -

To know why THEY were chosen, or WHY we are chosen

V. Breishit 21: - Wells & BEER SHEVA

יז וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים, אֶת-קוֹל הַנֶּעֱר, וַיִּקְרָא מִלְאָךְ אֱלֹהִים אֵל-
הָגֵר מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם, וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַה-לָּךְ הָגֵר; אֵל-תִּירָאִי,
כִּי-שָׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל-קוֹל הַנֶּעֱר בְּאֶשֶׁר הוּא-שָׁם.

17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her: 'What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.'

יח קוּמִי שָׂאִי אֶת-הַנֶּעֱר, וְהַחֲזִיקִי אֶת-יָדָךְ בּוֹ:

18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast by thy hand; for I will make him a great nation.'

כִּי-לְגוֹי גָדוֹל, אֲשִׁימְנֶנּוּ.

יט וַיִּפְקַח אֱלֹהִים אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ, וַתֵּרָא בְּאֵר מַיִם; וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּמְלֵא
אֶת-הַחֲמָת, מַיִם, וַתִּשְׁק, אֶת-הַנֶּעֱר.

19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

כ וַיְהִי אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הַנֶּעֱר, וַיִּגְדַּל; וַיֵּשֶׁב, בְּמִדְבָּר, וַיְהִי, רֹבֵה קֶשֶׁת.

20 And God was with the lad, and he grew; and he dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

כא וַיֵּשֶׁב, בְּמִדְבָּר פָּאֲרָן; וַתִּקַּח-לוֹ אִמּוֹ אִשָּׁה, מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם. {פ}

21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt. {P}

כב וַיְהִי, בָּעֵת הַהוּא, וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שֹׂר-צָבָאוּ, אֵל-
אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר: אֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ, בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה.

22 And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Phicol the captain of his host spoke unto Abraham, saying: 'God is with thee in all that thou doest.'

כג וַעֲתָה, הַשְׁבֵּעָה לִּי בְּאֱלֹהִים הֵנָּה, אִם-תִּשְׁקַר לִּי, וּלְנִינִי
וּלְנִכְבְּדִי; בְּחֶסֶד אֲשֶׁר-עָשִׂיתִי עִמָּךְ, תַּעֲשֶׂה עִמָּדִי, וְעַם-הָאָרֶץ,
אֲשֶׁר-גִּרְתָּהּ בָּהּ.

23 Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son; but according to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast sojourned.'

כד וַיֹּאמֶר, אַבְרָהָם, אֲנֹכִי, אֲשָׁבֵעַ.

24 And Abraham said: 'I will swear.'

כה וַהֲזִכַּח אַבְרָהָם, אֶת-אֲבִימֶלֶךְ,
עַל-אֲדוֹת בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם, אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ עֲבָדֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ.

25 And Abraham reproved Abimelech because of the well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away.

כו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ--לֹא יָדַעְתִּי, מִי עָשָׂה אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה;
וְגַם-אַתָּה לֹא-הִגַּדְתָּ לִּי, וְגַם אֲנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי--בְּלַתִּי הַיּוֹם.

26 And Abimelech said: 'I know not who hath done this thing; neither didst thou tell me, neither yet heard I of it, but to-day.'

כז וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם צֹאן וּבָקָר, וַיִּתֵּן לְאֲבִימֶלֶךְ; וַיַּכְרִתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם, בְּרִית.

27 And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them unto Abimelech; and they two made a covenant.

כח וַיַּצֵּב אַבְרָהָם, אֶת-שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׁת הַצֹּאן--לְבִדְהָן.

28 And Abraham set seven ewe-lambs of the flock by themselves.

כט וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, אֵל-אַבְרָהָם: מָה הֵנָּה, שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׁת
הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר הִצַּבְתָּ, לְבִדְנָה.

29 And Abimelech said unto Abraham: 'What mean these seven ewe-lambs which thou hast set by themselves?'

ל וַיֹּאמֶר--כִּי אֶת-שִׁבְעַת כְּבָשֹׁת, תִּקַּח מִיָּדִי: בְּעֵבוֹר תִּהְיֶה-
לִּי לְעֵדָה, כִּי חָפַרְתִּי אֶת-הַבְּאֵר הַזֹּאת.

30 And he said: 'Verily, these seven ewe-lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that it may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well.'

לֹא עַל-כֵּן, קָרָא לַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא--בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע:

כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבָּעוּ, שְׁנֵיהֶם.

31 Wherefore that place was called Beer-sheba; because there they swore both of them.

לָב וַיִּכְרְתוּ בְרִית, בְּבְאֵר שֶׁבַע; וַיָּקָם אַבִּימֶלֶךְ, וּפִיכֹל שֶׁר-

עָבָאוּ, וַיָּשָׁבוּ, אֶל-אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים.

32 So they made a covenant at Beer-sheba; and Abimelech rose up, and Phicol the captain of his host, and they returned into the land of the Philistines.

לֵא וַיֵּטַע אֲשֵׁל, בְּבְאֵר שֶׁבַע;

וַיִּקְרָא-שָׁם--בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה, אֵל עוֹלָם.

33 And Abraham planted a tamarisk-tree in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

לָד וַיֵּגֶר אַבְרָהָם בְּאֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים, יָמִים רַבִּים. {פ}

34 And Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines many days.

VI. Stories in Breishit 'blending' shem Elokim & Hashem

Noting also which Avraham stories carry a moral dilemma

Relate the theme of "tamim" / see 17:1

God's Names in the first nine chapters of Breishit

1 – Elokim

2 - 4 Hashem Elokim

5 – Elokim

6-> 9 a mixture of Hashem & Elokim - /very complicated [reward/punishment]

9 - brit Milah [the last time Elokim speaks until chapter 17 !]

11- Migdal Bavel [shem theme / last story before Hashem chooses Avraham

12 - going down to Egypt during time of famine/ how to treat Sarah...

13 - splitting with / from Lot

14 - getting involved in international war - what to do with the booty

15 - How to engage in conversation with Hashem

16 - How to treat Hagar & Sarah etc.

17 - brit Milah - b'shem Elokim

18-19 Sedom/ prayer - primarily Hashem [Elokim towards the end of chapter 19]

20-22 - mixture of both Names

20 - Avraham & Avimelech [and Sarah] - who has the moral highground

21 - Sending away Hagar & Yishmael.../ listening

22 - the ultimate dilemma - moral conscience or Divine command?

At end of the Akeida story note the covenant/ oath

And the return to BEER SHEVA !

Note - discuss, what is written, vs. what is not written

[relate to Midrash re: what happened to Yitzchak]

Breishit 22

טו וַיִּקְרָא מֵאֵלָּהּ יְהוָה, אֶל-אַבְרָהָם, שְׁנִית, מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם.

15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham a second time out of heaven,

טז וַיֹּאמֶר, בִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נָא-יְהוָה: כִּי, יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה, וְלֹא חָשַׁכְתָּ, אֶת-בְּנִיךָ אֶת-יִחִידְךָ.

16 and said: 'By Myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son,

יז כִּי-בָרַךְ אֲבָרְכְּךָ, וְהִרְבֵּה אֲרֹבָה אֶת-זֶרְעֶךָ בְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְכַחֲלוֹ, אֲשֶׁר עַל-שַׁפַּת הַיָּם; וַיִּרְשׁ זֶרְעֶךָ, אֶת שַׁעַר אֹיְבָיו.

17 that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

יח וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְּזֶרְעֶךָ, כָּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ, עִקָּב, אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹלִי.

18 and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast hearkened to My voice.'

יט וַיָּשָׁב אַבְרָהָם אֶל-נַעֲרָיו, וַיִּקְמוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ יַחְדָּו אֶל-בְּאֵר שָׁבַע; וַיָּשָׁב אַבְרָהָם, בְּבֵאֵר שָׁבַע.

19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba.

VII. Theme of "shem Hashem" in Sefer Breishit

A. Genesis Chapter 4 - Something goes 'wrong'

כו וּלְשֶׁת גַּם-הוּא יָלַד-בֶּן, וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שְׁמוֹ אֱנוֹשׁ; אַז הוּחַל, לִקְרֹא בְּשֵׁם ה'.

26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh; then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

B. Genesis Chapter 9 - Noach & his son 'Shem' [?]

26 כו וַיֹּאמֶר, בָּרוּךְ ה' אֱלֹהֵי שֵׁם...

C. Genesis Chapter 11 - Migdal Bavel - God is 'upset'

ד וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֶבֶה נִבְנֶה-לָּנוּ עִיר, וּמִגְדָּל וְרֹאשׁוֹ בַשָּׁמַיִם, וְנַעֲשֶׂה-לָּנוּ שֵׁם: פֶּן-נִפְּזָ, עַל-פְּנֵי... 4 And they said: 'Come, let us build us a city, and a tower, with its top in heaven, and let us make us a name; lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.'

D. Avraham is chosen; then calls in God's Name / chapters 12,13,21

ח וַיַּעֲתֵק מִשָּׁם הָהָרָה, מִקְדָּם לְבֵית-אֵל--וַיֵּט אָהֶל...וַיִּבֶן-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה, וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם ה' 8 he removed from thence unto the mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west...and he builded there an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD

[See also 13:4 / 21:33 & Yitzchak 26:23-25 & Yaakov's vow in 28:20-22]

