

# How to study Chumash- One book at a time - Breishit class #7

## The theme of 'covenant' in Sefer Breishit

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

### I. Review: Progression of topics in Breishit

the two sections of the book : Universal/ Particular

First 11 chapters setting the stage for the primary story

#### UNIVERSAL

- 1 - Creation -----establishing one Creator of nature & man (in God's image)
  - 2-3 Gan Eden
  - 4 Kayin & Hevel
  - 5-9 The Flood
  - RAINBOW COVENANT**
  - 10 Dispersion of 70 nations
  - 11 Tower of Babel
- God is consistently upset with man's behaviour  
and reacts to man's deeds
- 

#### PARTICULAR

- 11 Genealogy of Shem to Terach
  - 12-24 Stories re: Abraham
  - TWO COVENANTS**
  - 25-27 Stories re: Yitzchak
  - 28-35 Stories re: Yaakov
  - 36 Genealogy of Esav
  - 37-50 Story of Yosef & his brothers
- God chooses a Nation  
& establishes an eternal covenant
- 

### II. The Flood story - it's thematic purpose

#### A. Re-creation?

If so, why?

Is its message 'universal' or 'particular'?

[discuss Sarna's approach in 'Understanding Genesis']

#### B. The parallels between Noah & Moses

1. The word תיבה (ark) / see Br. 6:14, 18 ; Shmot 2:3-5
2. מָצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי ה' Finding 'favor' in God's eyes / Br. 6:8 ; Shmot 33:17
3. Forty days and forty nights / Br. 7:4, 12 ; Shmot 24:18
4. Seven days before the forty days Br. 7:4; Shmot 24:16
5. 120 years - life of man - Br. 6:3 / Devarim 34:7
6. Destroying everyone else, and saving only you / Br. 7:1-4 Shmot 32:10
7. Sin of "hashchata" / corruption וְתִשָּׁחַת הָאָרֶץ, Br. 6:11 ; Shmot 32:7
8. A Covenant - re-defining a relationship with God

### III. BEFORE THE FLOOD – Two reasons/ perspectives:

Hashem – [Gan Eden version of Creation, man at center]

- ה וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה, כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בְּאָרֶץ, וְכָל-יִצָר מַחְשַׁבַת לִבּוֹ, רָק רַע כָּל-הַיּוֹם. 5 And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- ו וַיִּנָּחַם יְהוָה, כִּי-עָשָׂה אֶת-הָאָדָם בְּאָרֶץ; וַיִּתְעַצֵּב, אֶל-לִבּוֹ. 6 And it repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.
- ז וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, אֲמַחֶה אֶת-הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר-בָּרָאתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה, מֵאָדָם עַד-בְּהֵמָה, עַד-רֶמֶשׂ וְעַד-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם: כִּי נִחַמְתִּי, כִּי עָשִׂיתֶם. 7 And the LORD said: 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and creeping thing, and fowl of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them.'
- ח וְנֹחַ, מָצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה. 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. {P}

### Reason b'shem Elokim

- ט אֵלֶּה, תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ--נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה, בְּדַרְתָּיו: אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים, הִתְהַלֵּךְ-נֹחַ. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was in his generations a man righteous and whole-hearted; Noah walked with God.
- י וַיּוֹלֵד נֹחַ, שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנִים--אֶת-שֵׁם, אֶת-חָם, וְאֶת-יָפֶת. 10 And Noah begot three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- יא וַתִּשְׁחַת הָאָרֶץ, לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים; וַתִּמְלֵא הָאָרֶץ, חָמָס. 11 And the earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.
- יב וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָרֶץ, וְהִנֵּה נִשְׁחַתָּה: כִּי-הִשְׁחִית כָּל-בָּשָׂר אֶת-דַּרְכּוֹ, עַל-הָאָרֶץ. 12 And God saw the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. {S}
- יג וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְנֹחַ, קַח כָּל-בָּשָׂר בָּא לִפְנֵי--כִּי-מִלֵּא הָאָרֶץ חָמָס, מִפְּנֵיהֶם; וְהִנְנִי מַשְׁחִיתֶם, אֶת-הָאָרֶץ. 13 And God said unto Noah: 'The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'
- יד עֲשֵׂה לְךָ תֵּבַת עֲצֵי-גֹפֶר, קְנִים תַּעֲשֶׂה אֶת-הַתֵּבָה; וְכִפְרַת אֶתְּהָ מִבַּיִת וּמִחוּץ, בַּכֹּפֶר. 14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; with rooms shalt thou make the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

יז וְאֲנִי, הַנְּנִי מַבִּיא אֶת-הַמַּבּוּל מִיָּם  
עַל-הָאָרֶץ, לְשַׁחַת כָּל-בָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר-בּוֹ  
רוּחַ חַיִּים, מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם :  
כָּל אֲשֶׁר-בָּאָרֶץ, יִגּוּעַ.

17 And I, behold, I do bring the flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; every thing that is in the earth shall perish.

יח וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי, אִתְּךָ ;  
וּבָאתָ, אֶל-הַתֵּבָה--אִתָּהּ, וּבְנֵיךָ  
וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וְנִשְׂי-בְנֵיךָ אִתְּךָ.

18 But I will establish My covenant with thee; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

יט וּמִכָּל-הַחַי מִכָּל-בָּשָׂר שְׁנַיִם מִכֹּל, תָּבִיא  
אֶל-הַתֵּבָה--לְחַיִּית אִתְּךָ : זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה, יִהְיוּ.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

כ מִהָעוֹף לְמִינֵהוּ, וּמִן-הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ, מִכָּל  
רֶמֶשׂ הָאֲדָמָה, לְמִינֵהוּ--שְׁנַיִם מִכֹּל יָבִיאוּ אֵלֶיךָ,  
לְחַיִּוֹת.

20 Of the fowl after their kind, and of the cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

כא וְאָתָּה קַח-לָךְ, מִכָּל-מֵאֲכָל אֲשֶׁר יֵאָכֵל,  
וְאִסַּפְתָּ, אֵלֶיךָ ; וְהָיָה לָךְ וּלְהֵם, לְאֹכֶלָהּ.

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.'

כב וַיַּעַשׂ, כִּן : כָּל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֹתוֹ,  
אֱלֹהִים--כִּן עָשָׂה.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

## IV. AFTER THE FLOOD, TWO REASONS for NEVER AGAIN !

### In Hashem's Name:

[20](#) And Noah built an altar to the Lord, and he took of all the clean animals and of all the clean fowl and brought up burnt offerings on the altar.

בַּיּוֹבֵן נֹחַ מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקַּח מִכָּל |  
הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִכָּל הָעוֹף הַטְּהוֹר  
וַיַּעַל עֹלֹת בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ:

[21](#) And the Lord smelled the pleasant aroma, and the Lord said to Himself, "I will no longer curse the earth because of man, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth, and I will no longer smite all living things as I have done.

כִּי וַיִּרַח יְהוָה אֶת-רֵיחַ הַבְּיֹחֹחַ  
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-לְבָבוֹ לֹא אֲסַף לְקַלֵּל  
עוֹד אֶת-הָאֲדָמָה בְּעֵיבוֹר הָאָדָם כִּי  
יֵצֵר לֵב הָאָדָם רָע מִנְעוּרָיו  
וְלֹא-אֲסַף עוֹד לְהַכּוֹת אֶת-כָּל-חַי  
כָּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי:

## BREISHIT CHAPTER 9 - After Flood – [Elokim – re-Creation]

[1](#) And God blessed Noah and his sons, and He said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

א וַיְבָרַךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-נֹחַ וְאֶת-בְּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם  
פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ:

[2](#) And your fear and your dread shall be upon all the beasts of the earth and upon all the fowl of the heaven; upon everything that creeps upon the ground and upon all the fish of the sea, [for] they have been given into your hand[s].

ב וּמוֹרָאֲכֶם וְחִתְּכֶם יִהְיֶה עַל-כָּל-חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ  
וְעַל-כָּל-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר תִּרְמָשׁ  
הָאֲדָמָה וּבְכָל-דָּגַי הַיָּם בְּיַדְכֶם נִתְּנוּ:

**3** Every moving thing that lives shall be yours to eat; like the green vegetation, I have given you everything.

**4** But, flesh with its soul, its blood, you shall not eat.

**5** But your blood, of your souls, I will demand [an account]; from the hand of every beast I will demand it, and from the hand of man, from the hand of each man, his brother, I will demand the soul of man.

**6** Whoever sheds the blood of man through man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God He made man.

**7** And you, be fruitful and multiply; swarm upon the earth and multiply thereon."

**8** And God said to Noah and to his sons with him, saying:

**9** "And I, behold I am setting up My covenant with you and with your seed after you.

**10** And with every living creature that is with you, among the fowl, among the cattle, and among all the beasts of the earth with you, of all those who came out of the ark, of all the living creatures of the earth.

**11** And I will establish My covenant with you, and never again will all flesh be cut off by the flood waters, and there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

**12** And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant, which I am placing between Me and between you, and between every living soul that is with you, for everlasting generations.

**13** My rainbow I have placed in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Myself and the earth.

**14** And it shall come to pass, when I cause clouds to come upon the earth, that the rainbow will appear in the cloud.

**15** And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and between you and between every living creature among all flesh, and the water will no longer become a flood to destroy all flesh.

**16** And the rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will see it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and between every living creature among all flesh, which is on the earth."

**17** And God said to Noah: "This is the sign of the covenant that I have set up, between Myself and between all flesh that is on the earth."

**ג** כֹּל־רֶמֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר הוּא־חַי לָכֶם יְהִי לְאֹכְלָהּ  
כִּי־רַק עֵשֶׂב נָתַתִּי לָכֶם אֶת־כָּל־:

**ד** וְאֶת־בְּשָׂר בְּנַפְשׁוֹ דָּמוֹ לֹא תֹאכְלוּ:

**ה** וְאֶת־דַּמְכֶם לְנַפְשֵׁיכֶם אֲדַרְשׁ מִיַּד כָּל־חַיָּה אֲדַרְשֶׁנּוּ  
וּמִיַּד הָאָדָם מִיַּד אִישׁ אֶחָיו אֲדַרְשׁ אֶת־נַפְשׁ הָאָדָם:

**ו** שִׁפְךָ דָּם הָאָדָם בְּאָדָם דָּמוֹ יִשְׁפָּךְ  
כִּי בַצֶּלֶם אֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם:

**ז** וְאַתֶּם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ שִׂרְצוּ בָאָרֶץ וּרְבוּ־בָהּ:

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**ח** וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־נֹחַ וְאֶל־בָּנָיו אֲתוּ לְאֹמֶר:

**ט** וְאֲנִי הִנְנִי מִקִּים אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם  
וְאֶת־זִרְעֵכֶם אַחֲרֵיכֶם:

**י** וְאֵת כָּל־נַפְשׁ הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם בְּעוֹף בְּבִהֵמָה  
וּבְכָל־חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ אִתְּכֶם מִכָּל־יֹצְאֵי הַתְּבֵה לְכָל־חַיַּת  
הָאָרֶץ:

**יא** וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְלֹא־יִכָּרֵת  
כָּל־בְּשָׂר עוֹד מִמִּי הַמַּבּוּל וְלֹא־יְהִי עוֹד  
מַבּוּל לְשַׁחַת הָאָרֶץ:

**יב** וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים זֹאת אוֹת־הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר־אֲנִי  
לֹתֵן בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין כָּל־נַפְשׁ חַיָּה אֲשֶׁר  
אִתְּכֶם לְדֹרֹת עוֹלָם:

**יג** וְאֶת־קִשְׁתִּי נָתַתִּי בְּעָנָן  
וְהִיְתָה לְאוֹת בְּרִית בֵּינִי וּבֵין הָאָרֶץ:

**יד** וְהָיָה בְּעָנְנֵי עָנָן עַל־הָאָרֶץ וּנְרָאֲתָה הַקֶּשֶׁת בְּעָנָן:

**טו** וְזָכַרְתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם  
וּבֵין כָּל־נַפְשׁ חַיָּה בְּכָל־בְּשָׂר וְלֹא־יְהִי עוֹד  
הַמַּיִם לְמַבּוּל לְשַׁחַת כָּל־בְּשָׂר:

**טז** וְהִיְתָה הַקֶּשֶׁת בְּעָנָן וּרְאִיתִיהָ לְזָכֹר בְּרִית  
עוֹלָם בֵּין אֱלֹהִים וּבֵין כָּל־נַפְשׁ חַיָּה  
בְּכָל־בְּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָאָרֶץ:

**יז** וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־נֹחַ זֹאת אוֹת־הַבְּרִית  
אֲשֶׁר הִקְמַתִּי בֵּינִי וּבֵין כָּל־בְּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר  
עַל־הָאָרֶץ:

Next we examine “brit milah” – noting the numerous and obvious textual parallels

Afterward, suggest thematic meaning.

## V. BREISHIT chap 17 - the next time ELOKIM speaks to man!

**1**And Abram was ninety-nine years old, and God appeared to Abram, and He said to him, "I am the Almighty God; walk before Me and be perfect.

**א** וְיְהִי אֲבְרָם בֶּן-תְּשָׁעִים שָׁנָה וַתִּשַׁע שָׁנִים וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל-אֲבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי-אל שְׂדֵי הַתְּהֵלֶךְ לִפְנֵי וְהָיָה תָמִים:

**2**And I will place My covenant between Me and between you, and I will multiply you very greatly."

**ב** וְאֶתְנָה בְרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ וְאַרְבֶּה אוֹתְךָ בְּמֵאֵד מְאֹד:

**3**And Abram fell upon his face, and God spoke with him, saying,

**ג** וַיִּפֹּל אֲבָרָם עַל-פָּנָיו וַיְדַבֵּר אֵתוֹ אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר

**4**"As for Me, behold My covenant is with you, and you shall become the father of a multitude of nations.

**ד** דַּעֲנִי הִנֵּה בְרִיתִי אֵתְךָ וְהָיִיתָ לְאָב הַמְּוֹן גּוֹיִם:

**5**And your name shall no longer be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

**ה** וְהָיָה שְׁמִי הַזֶּה אֲבָרָם וְהָיָה שְׁמִי אֲבָרָהָם כִּי אֲב-הַמְּוֹן גּוֹיִם נִתְּתִיךָ:

**6**And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings will emerge from you.

**ו** וְהִפְרִיתִי אֶתְךָ בְּמֵאֵד מְאֹד וְנִתְּתִיךָ לְגוֹיִם וּמְלָכִים מִמֶּךָ יֵצְאוּ:

**7**And I will establish My covenant between Me and between you and between your seed after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be to you for a God and to your seed after you.

**ז** וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ וּבֵין זַרְעֶךָ אַחֲרָיְךָ לְדֹרֹתֶם לְבְרִית עוֹלָם לְהָיוֹת לְךָ לְאֱלֹהִים וְלִזְרַעֲךָ אַחֲרָיְךָ:

**8**And I will give you and your seed after you the land of your sojournings, the entire land of Canaan for an everlasting possession, and I will be to them for a God."

**ח** וְנָתַתִּי לְךָ וּלְזַרְעֶךָ אַחֲרָיְךָ אֶת | אֶרֶץ מִגְדֵיךָ אֶת כָּל-אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן לְאֶחְזַת עוֹלָם וְהָיִיתִי לָהֶם לְאֱלֹהִים:

**9**And God said to Abraham, "And you shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you throughout their generations.

**ט** וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל-אֲבָרָהָם וְאֶתָּה אֶת-בְּרִיתִי תִשְׁמֹר אֶתָּה וְזַרְעֶךָ אַחֲרָיְךָ לְדֹרֹתֶם:

**10**This is My covenant, which you shall observe between Me and between you and between your seed after you, that every male among you be circumcised.

**י** זֹאת בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמְרוּ בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין זַרְעֶךָ אַחֲרָיְךָ הַמּוֹל לָכֶם כָּל-זָכָר:

**11**And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be as the sign of a covenant between Me and between you.

**יא** וְאַיִנְמַלְתֶּם אֶת בָּשָׂר עֲרֻלְתְּכֶם וְהָיָה לְאוֹת בְּרִית בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם:

## VI. Father 'of' or Father 'for' - many nations?

Regarding אֲנִי הִנֵּה בְרִיתִי אִתְּךָ וְהָיִיתָ לְאָב הַמּוֹן גּוֹיִם:

Compare this opening statement with 12:2 – to become a 'great nation'

### בראשית פרק יב

א וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-אַבְרָם, לֵךְ-לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ עֵבֶר וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ, אֶל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר אֲרָאָךְ. ב וְאָעֲשֶׂהָ, לְגוֹי גָדוֹל, וְאַבְרָכָהּ, וְאֶגְדְּלָהּ שְׁמֶךָ; וְהָיָה, בְּרָכָה. ג וְאַבְרָכָהּ, מִבְּרַכְיָהּ, וּמִקְלָלָהּ, אָאָר; וְנִבְרַכְוּ בָךְ, כָּל מְשַׁפְּחֹת הָאֲדָמָה.

See Breishit 4:20-21

כ 20 And Adah bore Jabel; he was the father of such as dwell in tents and have cattle. הָיָה-אָבִי יוֹשֵׁב אֹהֶל וּמִקְנָה. הוּא

כא 21 And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all such as handle the harp and pipe. הוּא הָיָה-- אָבִי כָל-תַּפֵּשׁ כְּנֹור וְעוּגָב. וְשֵׁם אָחִיו, יוּבָל: הוּא הָיָה--

Breishit 45:8 – Yosef to his brothers:

ח 8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God; and He hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and ruler over all the land of Egypt. הִנֵּה, כִּי, הָאֱלֹהִים; וַיִּשְׁיִמְנֵי לְאָב לְפָרְעֹה, וּלְאֲדוֹן לְכָל-בֵּיתוֹ, וּמֹשֶׁל, בְּכָל-אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם. וְעַתָּה, לֹא-אַתֶּם שְׁלַחְתֶּם אֹתִי

Shoftim 17:10 In pesel micha story

י 10 And Micah said unto him: 'Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten pieces of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals.' So the Levite went in. וְהָיָה-לִי לְאָב וּלְכֹהֵן, וְאֶנְכִי אֶתֶן-לְךָ עֶשְׂרֵת כֶּסֶף לַיָּמִים, וְעֵרָךְ בְּגָדִים וּמַחֲיִתָּךְ; וַיֵּלֶךְ, הַלֵּוִי.

Radak - classic approach

והיית לאב המון גוים, כי לא תהיה אב לגוי אחד לבד, אלא להמון גוים שהרי יצאו ממנו יצחק וישמעאל ובני קטורה וכל אחד מהם יהיה לגוי גדול.

Ibn Ezra

אברהם – עם תוספת הרי"ש: אביר המון גוים ( ולא בא השם לחסר את משמו, כי אם להוסיף.



## Ha'emek Davar on 17:4 (the Netziv)

**והיית לאב המון גוים - שעד כה שקרא**  
**אברהם בשם ה'**, וגייר כמה אנשים - לא הי'  
אלא אותם אנשים שנתגיירו לגמרי,  
ונכנסו בכלל עובדי ה' בתורתו שלמדם אברהם.  
ודבר זה א"א בכל העולם,  
ומראש מקדם לא הי' הכונה אלא להציב  
גבולות עמים למספר בניי .  
אבל לא שיהיו כולם בכלל עדת ישראל .  
**אבל זה הי' הרצון והתכלית שיהיו כל**  
**אוה"ע יודעים את ה'.** והאלילים כליל יחליף -  
**ולדבר זה הזהיר הקב"ה את אברהם -**  
שיהי רצונו להשקיע דעתו להיות לאב המון  
גוים - להכירם את ה' .  
**ובזה יהי נקרא אב המון גוים -**  
**כאב המעמיד את בנו על דעת ישרה**  
- ובזה נתבאר דבר ה' הקודם  
התהלך לפני היינו שיפרסם אלהותו אפי' לפני אוה"ע שאינם מוכשרים  
לקבל גירות גמור :

And you shall be the father of many...  
Nations:

For until this point, Abraham had called out the name of God and converted some people, but this was only those people who converted entirely and entered under the category of servants of God in God's Torah that Abraham had taught them.

And from the beginning, the only purpose was to "establish the borders of the nations according to the number of the children of Israel." ([Devarim 32:8](#)). But it was the desire and the goal that all of the nations should know God. "And the idols would entirely disappear" ([Isaiah 2:18](#)) And it was for this thing that God warned Abraham that his desire should be to the depths of his understanding to be a father of many nations, to make them know God. And In this he was called a father of many nations, like a father who establishes his son with correct ideas and by this the previous statement of God is clarified.

## IV. The need to two covenants with Avraham Avinu

Discuss – concept of ‘behavior is contagious’

At personal level, as well as national

Also – concept of learning from mistakes

Relate to the flood story, and God’s attributes

Relate to over-arching theme of Breishit & Chumash re: “bechira”

“brit bein ha’btarim” (Breishit chapter 15) ; shem Hashem

Historical process of how we become a nation

And

“brit Milah” (Breishit chapter 17). b’shem Elokim

Core behavior & concept of being an ‘employee’ / vs. consumer

In next shiur, we will trace how this sets the stage for the covenant at Sinai