

WEEK 3 SCRIPTURE READING

5778 / 2017-18



SHEMA שמע
(shem-ah)

A Hebrew word for “To listen intently with willing anticipation and readiness to do what is heard.”

Shema O Israel

by Roly Buys

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Parashah LECH LECHA | לך לך | “get yourself out”

Week 3

This week’s study covers the portion contained in **Genesis 12.2-17:27; Isaiah 40:27-41; 16: Acts 7:1-8; Rom 3:19-5:6; Gal 3:15-18; Col 2:11-15.**

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP

This series intends to look at the concept of Godly¹ leadership to identify the good, wise and wonderful attributes that we would do well to emulate.

I will “REPEAT” the description of what I believe Godly Leadership, in other words, “servant-leader”, is all about. In that way you can benchmark the attributes of the character that I have selected to analyse for this week.

I submit that our actions, if they are restricted to only Bible study, or spirit worship, will not please the FATHER.

YHVH wants us to reveal His Kingdom to the world and make an impact ... our failure to be obedient to this task, means that YHVH's Glory is limited and the opportunity to present a meaningful alternative to the world model is lost.

OUR GOAL

1 Peter 4:10-11 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of GOD’s varied Grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of GOD; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that GOD supplies—in order that in everything GOD may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Background

We read the Bible every week and study the story and the content with a passion to get to know YHVH better.

Paul tells us that the Bible has lessons for our every day life.

As priests in the **Living Stone Tabernacle**, we are to reveal the Glory of YHVH by the everyday actions that we model in the community.

This calls for Sons / Daughters of Abraham to:



¹ We use the Name **YHVH** instead of GOD, except where it appears in Scriptures.

- ❖ Have a clear vision of our purpose
- ❖ Have a clear understanding of our place in the Body of Messiah
- ❖ Have a sound value system that causes us to strive for JUSTICE, COMPASSION AND HUMILITY



Paul tells us that we must study the lives of the fathers of our faith so that we can follow those role-models where they reveal Godly leadership.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY FATHER-LEADER

The seminal verses that describe a father's role speak to the fact that it is at 24 hour /365 day job ... there is no "off" time, there is no holiday from the commitment.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our GOD, the LORD is One. You shall love the LORD your GOD with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

This fact therefore implies that fathers will ROLE-MODEL the various behaviours / attitudes / values that are acceptable over an extended period of time.

When the child is very small, these examples must be presented as simply as possible.

Over time the same lesson will take on far more complicated scenarios and interplay with others.

Taking this forward in Biblical time means that the basic lessons must be in place, for all possible events, by the age of 13, when other peer groups will begin to implant THEIR VIEWS OF LIFE. When this happens, we need to have the Biblical BENCHMARK set firmly into our character.

(a) A father's role-model of Justice / healing

One of the fundamental building blocks of any human-being value system, is a sound understanding of the concept of **justice**.

Justice is not only the action to be fair in time of dispute, **but rather the principle never to do anything (business / sport / politics) that would give you an unfair advantage over others.**

This includes concepts such as:

- ◆ Paying a fair wage
- ◆ Opposing slavery
- ◆ Opposing abuse

Since many people have suffered abuse at the hands of others, and now carry wounds and hurts that preclude them from a normal healthy life, one of the leadership roles is to identify those hurt, **and to facilitate a process of healing.**



Once people have been made whole ... the servant-leader should go about the process of identifying their YHVH-given gifts / talents.

He should take steps to train people in their specific gifts, empower them to cover the weaknesses of those gifts and then ...

Release them into the appropriate position within the Body of Messiah where they can grow / flourish AND make a difference in other people's lives.

We will know that we cannot do things on our own. Even more surely, we are made for a very specific part of the Body of Messiah.

This implies that we can really only function in that place that we were made for.

Healing / satisfaction comes when I take responsibility for that work / action that is required of that part of the Body of Messiah.

(b) A father's role-model of Compassion / empathy

In a world where the best receive the glory and those last in line are all but forgotten, Biblical leaders should have the wherewithal to see the individual value and special abilities in a person.

Not only should he see these, but he should be focused on further development and training in these areas, and then he should be concerned with finding the right position for that individual to thrive

Such a leader will **value diverse opinion** ... he will **seek to hear alternative views, and he will not be putting people into stereotype boxes** - based on the fact that these people come from a different culture.

Not only will he be able to understand diverse views, but also he will be able to work in a community made up of strangers and still be able to reveal how YHVH expects us to love our neighbour.

(c) A father's role-model of Humility / trust / listening

- i) The first thing that you will realise of a leader, who is humble, is that books, articles and electronic media surround them. They are always searching for the truth and openly express the opinion that they welcome investigation into their thinking in order to test its credibility.

This principle of continuous learning is not only a wonderful means to remain humble; it's a prerequisite from YHVH.

Deuteronomy 17:19 *“And it shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear (and worship) the LORD his GOD (with awe-filled reverence and profound respect) by carefully obeying (keeping foremost in his thoughts and actively doing) all the words of this law and these statutes,”*

It is to remain with him, and he is to read in it every day, as long as he lives; so that he will learn to fear ADONAI his YHVH and keep all the words of this *Torah* and these laws and obey them:

Joshua 1:8 *“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall read (and meditate on) it day and night, so that you may be careful to do (everything) in accordance with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will be successful.”*

Yes, keep this Book of the *Torah* on your lips and meditate on it day and night, so that you will take care to act according to everything written in it. Then your undertakings will prosper, and you will succeed.

- ii) The second attribute of a servant-leader who is humble, is the ability to create a **culture of TRUST**.

The modern world, with its performance-orientated goal creates a web of deceit and mistrust. Simple said, *how can I trust you with a secret or a better plan when both of us want to be recognised as the best in the team?*

Servant-leaders reject all forms of gossip, create opportunities for people with opposing views to face one another and debate the matter, and actively work to ensure transparency and sharing of all information.

- iii) A third attribute of servant leaders is that they are **good listeners**. They will seek clarity on what is said and felt.

They will be able to understand the fears/hopes and dreams of all concerned so that not one of the family / tribe is left behind (this does not mean that we agree with everything being said).

(d) A father's role-model of emotional connectedness

One of the realities of this fast paced world, is that we have all become so very busy. Not only do we have the opportunity to do many and diverse things / activities, we are also faced with the communication era of computers / smart phones / and software that connects people such as Facebook.

In this fast paced world, its very easy not to be aware of the emotional status of some of your family and friends.

In one sense, it's wonderful not be see / be aware of any problems - simply because you don't have to worry about it.

But if you are a parent who is determined to follow their calling, **then you will want to be very tuned in to their fears / concerns / expectations and so on, so that you can react timeously and can offer the support needed.**

Once you are aware that a problem exists, then you can set in motion the action which can work towards a healing.

Importantly, these problems will manifest on many different levels ... it is not only spiritual .. it can also be physical and emotional...

For example:

- ◆ It can be a perceived weight problem for girls,
- ◆ It can be a poor muscle structure for a boy,
- ◆ It can be a lack of ball sense ...

In other words, it can be any thing that the world will use to judge and benchmark someone against as **unacceptable**.



One of the features of a great parent is the **ability to encourage** despite the circumstances – and note the words are: → “let us ...” ...and not “you go and try on your own”.

Fathers, who are emotionally connected, will strive to **delegate responsibility** to others in order to challenge them to grow.

Such Fathers will never be afraid to give up power, because they know that seeing others take up the challenge and succeed is far more significant than being successful at something yourself ... simply because you know that the feat can be multiplied dozens of times even when you are absent.

A Biblical example is Jethro telling Moses what you do trying to keep the entire leadership role for your self → is NOT GOOD.

Exodus 18:14-17 “When Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?” And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of GOD; when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of GOD and his laws.” Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What you are doing is **not good.**”

(e) A father’s role-model of revealing Godly influence

The world system speaks of a system of “command” and obey ... these days the world system tries to modify this by implying that consultation before decision making is an inclusive system.

In fact, this façade creates more unhappiness as people soon realise that there is a hidden agenda at play; the people can then become either:

- ◆ a group that is happy to be disengaged,
- ◆ or a group who is actively seeking to move on.

Influence is the ability to convince others of a need to change - either a burning platform or a common better goal.

Both David and Joshua best display this ability by getting TWELVE tribes of different thinking people to work together.

An influencer thinks of “**you**” ... not “**me**”

- ◆ This can only be true if you truly believe in the people whom you lead
- ◆ They may make mistakes that you have to correct
- ◆ They may disappoint you sometimes,
- ◆ BUT you know that they are mainly giving of their best.

(f) A father's role-model of releasing creativity

Innovation has become the name of the game.

People have dreams that are based on the exploits of others that have gone before them.

There was a time when – to run the mile in under 4 minutes was a huge feat. Today, new records get set at regular intervals.

Fathers are empowered to discern exactly what talents and gifts have been implanted in each child.

To develop those talents requires a concerted effort to plan, not only in the **timing** - how do we expose people to challenges, but also the **pace** at which we do so ... in this case its important to set stiff enough goals without discouraging the individual.

And YHVH knows what the best time is ... listen carefully to the Holy Spirit!!

Numbers 27:16-17 *“Let the LORD, the GOD of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.”*

(g) A father's role-model the art of Strategic planning

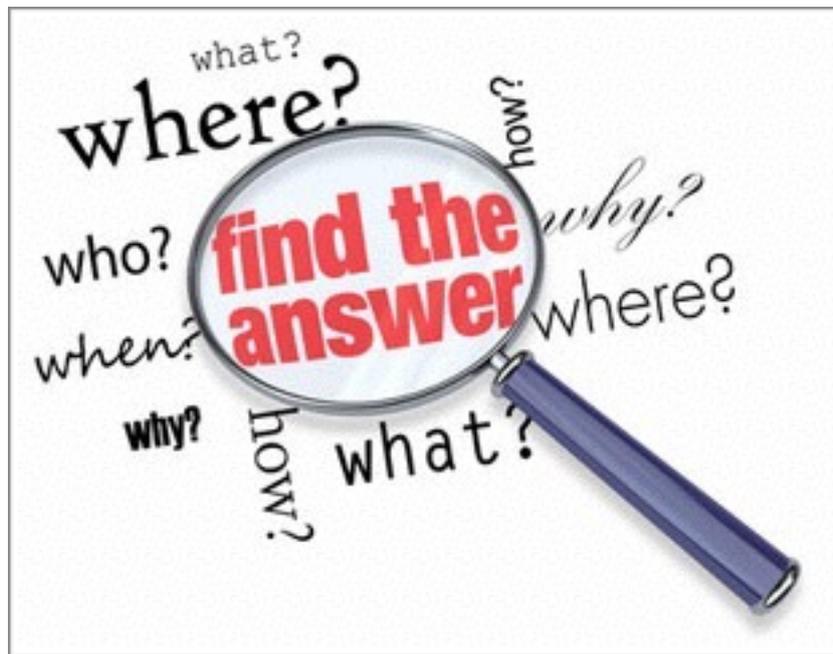
We live in a world that is constantly changing. Consider the fact that 100 years ago most people still used the horse or the donkey / camel, while today any trip of some distance can only be done in an airplane. Think about the concept of the old landline telephone and the new portable cell phone.

But more critically, is the change in the distribution and control of information.

Shops that sold books are now obsolete as people purchase these over the Internet.

You must be **prepared to investigate** strange things!!!

Exodus 3:2-3 "And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was **burning**, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not **burned**."



It's this type of change that can radically make or break a fantastic plan.

For this reason, fathers must teach children the art of scenario planning.

The ability to take note of changes in the environment, of new developments, of new evolving trends, and then commit this to a scenario plan to identify possible alternatives to be investigated.

A father who puts his child on a single track destination without this kind of training, is failing dismally in his leadership role as the likelihood of a dead-end, or a cliff without a bridge.

What do we want to do?

We need to empower the next generation to have the foresight to see various outcomes from a difficult situation and to be able to plan various alternative solutions so that they are not stuck.

What we need is to repeat the lessons of old - every single mistake or Biblical forefathers made, we need to help them identify the current realities for what they are – we need to take the Land (and not what we would want them to be), and we need to build an appreciation for estimating the cost / consequence of any action taken (as for me and my house we will serve the LORD).

We need to teach others to look up and around, while at the same time looking down at the job at hand.

Joshua 2:1 *“And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as **spies**, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.”*

(h) A father’s role-model of function of Stewardship

The Book of Genesis describes clearly ... we have been given a mandate – to **keep and guard** the Garden; to have dominion over the earth and all that is on it (but not on fellow humans), and we have to be accountable to YHVH for what we accomplish with this calling.

Genesis 1:28 *“And GOD Blessed them. And GOD said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Stewardship speaks to an understanding that we have a responsibility ... to leave the Garden in a better state than how we found it, that we have to build more than we utilise.

To this end, the perpetual use of farm land without rest is contrary to YHVH’s Principles and the use of water without a care in the world reflects a belief that we can call on YHVH anytime that we like bring more rain ... that a undesirable level of arrogance **and** shows that we do not value the gift of the Garden. Nor the Giver of the gift!!!

It is within this domain that many of our most precious values are to be discovered.



Integrity

How many of us remember the day when, if two people shook hands on a deal, then it was irrevocable, and everybody understood that.

This concept is a fundamental building block of the principle of Covenant.

The bond of my word was enough to live or die by.

A similar thought is contained in the **salt covenant** idea, Once we had broken bread, together with salt, you as my guest are completely safe from all harm.

You simply cannot be a good steward if you do not have integrity.

Honesty

Honesty, as a value follows closely on that of integrity.

However, honesty includes the understanding that you will make right all possible damage / harm caused under your roof, even if no claim is laid.

Honesty includes the application of fairness, diligence, and justice.

A wonderful quote by RL Stevenson ...

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest that you reap, but by the seeds that you plant,”

(i) A father’s role-model of Community building / citizenship

The world has created large corporations / huge companies that own a great deal of resource or governmental organisations that attempt to control mankind via their influence in the media and the minds of the masses.

The best structure from the Bible is the family; in a clan, in a tribe, and in a community.

Community come together for common purpose i.e. religion / welfare / celebrations; and sometimes to go to war when the group is under attack.

Within this context, the community either grows together or suffers together, and we do not get the huge differentials of wealth, health, etc, that we do today!

While leadership can be stressful and demanding ...

Numbers 11:11-15 “Moses said to the LORD, “Why have You dealt ill with Your servant? And why have I not found favour in Your sight, that You lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,’ to the land that You swore to give their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people?”

For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.' I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. If You will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favour in Your Sight, that I may not see my wretchedness."

... the rewards are great when you see a community respond and start to function for themselves!

(j) A father's role-model of how to be leaving a legacy

The moment that you accept that:

- ◆ every individual is "equal and unique",
- ◆ that people should never be oppressed by anyone,
- ◆ that you realise that you are called to be accountable for your stewardship of the Garden,

... then you will believe in and work towards leaving a legacy.

- ◆ Legacy empowers OTHERS in your lifetime – legacy does not equal inheritance.
- ◆ Legacy is described in these strange words 'It's better to teach a man to fish than to feed him everyday'

But then you will understand that legacy equals hard work and sometimes, for a neighbour that does not even think or believe as you do ... we call that loving your neighbour.

LEADERSHIP IS NOT EASY

We see many examples of Biblical men who thought that they did not have what it takes:

- ◆ **Moses** → who am I?
- ◆ **Isaiah** → I am not a man of words!
- ◆ **Jeremiah** → I am a man of unclean lips!
- ◆ **Jonah** → I cannot speak!

The highest accolade → Moses is a servant ... **he is called YHVH's Servant.**

WAY FORWARD

The point of this short description is not to do an in depth study of Biblical leadership, but to define some of the Godly characteristics of such a role.

We will look at various individuals during this Torah cycle study.

I do not intend to discuss their shortcomings, but to focus on their Godly leadership qualities so that we can learn from these and start to emulate these attributes.

As such, I also do not intend to allocate their attributes under each of the heading described above, merely to reflect on their revealed lifestyle.

LET US RETURN TO THIS WEEK'S PORTION...

The obvious character that we should look at this week is father Abraham.

Since so much of what we do is based on the courage of Abraham to accept YHVH's Word and walk on without fear, we can only expect that we will discover many examples of his servant-leadership

1. Abraham reveals the attribute of Justice and Healing.

What is so amazing is that it is Y'shua Himself that describes this attribute to us.

One day, during His ministry walk on earth He gets into a discussion with some fellow Jews.

John 8:31-37 *"So YESHUA said to the Judeans who had trusted Him, "If you obey what I say, then you are really My talmidim, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered, "We are the seed of Avraham and have never been slaves to anyone; so what do you mean by saying, 'You will be set free'?" YESHUA answered them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin. Now a slave does not remain with a family forever, but a son does remain with it forever. So if the Son frees you, you will really be free! I know you are the seed of Avraham. Yet you are out to kill Me, because what I am saying makes no headway in you."*

They have been free men ever since the days of Exodus, and do not understand that in YHVH's Eyes they are under bondage to this world system.

He tells them:

The only way that I can see that you are free, is if you **DO THE WORKS of Abraham.**

John 8:38-39 *"I say what My Father has shown Me; you do what your father has told you!" They answered Him, "Our father is Avraham. " YESHUA replied, "If you are children of Avraham, then **do the things Avraham did!***

There is a huge lesson for us here!!!

That the blessing of Abraham might
come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus.
-Galatians 3:14

Leaders today, think that because they are in charge / have the position and the power, they feel that they should not get their hands dirty ... you can hear statements such as - "I will ask so-and-so to do it, or, I cannot understand it, don't my people know how to do it, why must I get involved?"

The lesson here, is that Y'shua asks us to DO acts of obedience ourselves ... we have to do things that benefit other people without expecting a reward.

This becomes the question that should drive any person who accepts a leadership role - that of Priests in the Living Stone Tabernacle.

What can you and I DO that will follow the pattern set out by Abraham, that will also reflect YHVH's GLORY?

2. Abraham reveals an understanding of the attribute of Strategic Planning.

There are a number of examples of his ability to adapt here.

A leader that has strategic insight / vision, will welcome the unknown and not be scared of the future.

He will follow the call to leave the land of his birth, and travel to a land that is unknown, and into a destiny that is undefined.

Genesis 12:1-3 *“Now ADONAI said to Avram, “Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father’s house, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. 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.”*

Hebrew 11:8-9 *“By trusting, Avraham obeyed, after being called to go out to a place which GOD would give him as a possession; indeed, he went out without knowing where he was going. By trusting, he lived as a temporary resident in the Land of the Promise, as if it were not his, staying in tents with Yitz’chak and Ya’akov, who were to receive what was promised along with him.”*

He will believe and live on the promises made by YHVH without giving up hope.

Genesis 15:6 *“And he believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness.”*

He will endure through many hardships, while he waits for the fulfilment of YHVH's promise ... how many people would wait years to see some promise come to the light?

Only people with strategic vision can wait through tough times to see a future release in their lives.

Importantly, his strategic ability is realised in the manner that he is able to convince other men (about 380) to travel with him to another land - to make a significant change in their lives, while there appears to be no real reason / need for this change ... it is easy to convince but if there is no apparent need ... why move?

3. Abraham reveals the attribute of Humility.

I find two examples that are at the two extremes of his life, that show his humility as he interfaces with his fellow man.

- i) In the early part of his life walk / ministry he will face the angels that are on their way to destroy Sodom.
- ii) He will feed / take care of these strangers - someone that he cannot possibly think that he knows ... Y'shua will demonstrate the extent of the concept of neighbour.

Abraham, at this early stage, shows us practically how to humble our self and serve others.

Genesis 18:6-8 *“And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.”*

At the other end of his life, his wife Sarah has passed away.

- ◆ He wants to make sure that she is buried properly in this Land that YHVH gave to him.
- ◆ He will meet the people of the Land.
 - i) Firstly, he humbly calls himself a sojourner (while the people themselves consider him, because of his lifestyle, to be a “prince of YHVH”).
 - ii) Secondly, he pays the asking price without bargaining.

Genesis 23:4-6 *“I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.” The Hittites answered Abraham, “Hear us, my LORD; you are a **prince of GOD** among us.”*

4. Abraham role model's the attribute of Compassion.

Without doubt, his interaction with the angels, on behalf of the people of Sodom, is a huge act of Godly compassion.

- ◆ He has lived near to them, but has maintained his distance.
- ◆ He knows what their lifestyle is, how corrupt and full of abomination their daily acts are, and yet he feels the Heart of YHVH to want to intercede on their behalf .

The “negotiation” seems abnormal to us today, but consider how would you go about pleading with YHVH for a people who show no mercy to others, who see people as slaves and goods ... who show no concept of goodness whatsoever?

Times are not so different today. We have people who go to war over so-called rights and in the process, kill innocent people (but especially children), who use hospitals / schools and civilians as a shield for their own underhanded tactics.

What happens when you have to plead on their behalf?

Genesis 18:20-21 *“Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to Me. And if not, I will know.”*

Genesis 18:22-26 *“So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will You then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”*

Genesis 18:27-33 *“Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will You destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” Again he spoke to Him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” And the LORD went His way, when He had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.”*

5. Abraham reflects the attribute of serving the Community.

- ◆ Lot will go off and live on his own near Sodom.
- ◆ The king of Sodom and the kings of some other cities cause trouble for the FIVE kings from the area of Hazor.
- ◆ Lot will be captured in the war that ensues.

Abraham immediately collects his army of 380 men, marches through the night, attacks at dawn, defeats those kings and frees not only Lot, but ALL of the other Sodomites that were also taken captive.

6. Abraham reflects the attribute of Godly Stewardship.

I would like to list THREE examples of this attribute.

- i) He settles the land dispute with Lot by allowing him to choose, knowing that Lot has been enticed by the world system, and gladly accepts the call when he is left with the Promised Land.
- ii) He tithes to Melchizedek as soon as he meets him - he has the spiritual insight to understand that this “man” represents a picture of YHVH.



Genesis 14:18-20 “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of GOD Most High.) And He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by GOD Most High, Possessor of Heaven and earth; and blessed be GOD Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”

- iii) He makes sure that his men get their reward from the spoils of war, while deciding not to take anything for himself.

Genesis 14:24 “I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.”

7. Abraham thinks and plans for the next generation.



He will take the long journey to the mountain to sacrifice Isaac, fully believing that YHVH will provide, because His promise was that his decedents would be as many as the stars in the skies ... how would that happen if Isaac dies?

He will bless Ismail as the seed of his loin, but not as a son of the promise.

A FINAL THOUGHT

The world is in need of a people who are set-apart ... not in an act of exclusivity, but in the character attributes that they will reveal.

Servant-leaders are those who can take these attributes and apply them within the community / within the world system, and demonstrate a Godly Standard.

- ◆ Will you wear such sandals?
- ◆ Will you mentor others to be servant leaders?
- ◆ Will you reflect God's Glory in a dark world?



PRIESTLY BLESSINGS

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.”