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# WEEK 4 SCRIPTURE READING

5779 / 2018-19

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a white, textured robe. They are holding a terracotta jug with both hands, pouring water from its spout. The jug has a light-colored string tied around its middle. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

*by Roly Buys*

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# Parashah Vayera | “And He appeared” | וַיֵּרָא

Week 4

## He planted a Tamarisk tree

The verse that stands out for me this week is:

**Genesis 21:33-34** “Avraham **planted a tamarisk tree** in Be’er-Sheva, and there he called on the Name of ADONAI, the everlasting GOD. Avraham lived for a long time as a foreigner in the land of the P’lishtim.”

## Consider this ...

The story starts with a dispute over a well ...

- ◆ Abraham’s men had dug the well at Beersheba.
- ◆ The king of the Philistines, Avimelekh and his army commander Pikhoh have been dragged into the discussion with Abraham.
- ◆ Abraham offers 7 lambs as proof that his men had in fact, dug the well.
- ◆ This king believes him and makes an oath that there would no longer be any war / problems with their nation.
- ◆ As soon as the covenant has been made, Abraham plants a tamarisk tree.
- ◆ A tree that takes for ages to grow.



**Some people say that you do not plant this tree for your own benefit, but for the generation which will still come.**

- ◆ Another important fact ... this tree will drink about 1,000 L of water every day.
- ◆ It needs to be near the water source.

**Genesis 21:30-32** He answered, "You are to accept these **seven female lambs from me as witness** that I dug this well." This is why that place was called Be'er-Sheva (well of seven, well of an oath) - because they both swore an oath there. When they made the covenant at Be'er-Sheva, Avimelekh departed with Pikhol the commander of his army and returned to the land of the P'lishtim."

**i) We have a well.**

A well is a source of life, it's also an image of the Word of the Living GOD.

**ii) We have a tree ... why this type of tree? ... nobody knows.**

However, we see that certain principles are established at a site with a tree.

- ◆ At the oak of Mamre, Abraham **meets** the three angels and highlights the value of Hospitality.
- ◆ At the same spot, Abraham **pleads for the lives of people** that he does not really associate with - the people of Sodom.
- ◆ **Abraham associates Covenant**, with a symbol ... something that stand as a witness to an agreement.
- ◆ Abraham associates this place with the greatest test of his life - the call to take his only son, the son that he loves, and **sacrifice** him on Mount Moriah.

## **What picture does this form in our minds?**

- (a) We have a source of water / well / life.
- (b) We have a tree planted near the water.

The tree reflects life, an evergreen image in the dry desert sand - clearly an expression of hope / life / colour.

- (c) We have the image of man "calling on the Name of YHVH" as evidence of the Covenant.

James, living on the island of Patmos, records the images which make up the Book of **Revelation**.

In that Book there is a passage where we find;

- ◆ A River of the Water of Life.
- ◆ The Tree of Life, producing 12 kinds of fruit and leaves for healing.
- ◆ The Throne of YHVH where the Covenant is evidenced by the Light of YHVH Himself.

**Revelation 22:1-5** “Next the angel showed me the **river of the water of life**, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Between the main street and the river was the **Tree of Life producing twelve kinds of fruit**, a different kind every month; and the leaves of the tree were for **healing the nations** - no longer will there be any curses. The Throne of GOD and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will Worship Him; they will see His Face, and His Name will be on their foreheads. Night will no longer exist, so they will need neither the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because **ADONAI, GOD, will shine upon them**. And they will reign as kings forever and ever.”

## WHAT SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT THIS WEEK?

1. Have you become a son of the Covenant ... is your covenant based on a living relationship?
2. Is your life a reflection of the Tree of Life ... are your roots grounded deep down into the Torah? Are you drinking the pure Waters of the Holy Spirit - more importantly, is the Fruit of the Holy Spirit evidenced by the daily actions that you do?
3. Are the Corner Stones of the Covenant, namely: **justice, compassion and humility** clearly visible for all to see?

**Will the fruit of your tree bear a witness in the generations to come, of your character?**



## A FINAL THOUGHT

We paid a visit to a German lady, who runs a Prayer Ministry from Jerusalem. They have a small garden. My son-in-law saw fit to donate some trees to them, trees that would reflect light, love and a harvest.

Every year round about now, she sends us some photos - to show that the trees are growing, but more importantly to show that they have fruit.

A tree in the spiritual domain, requires constant care, water of the WORD and the Acceptance that YHVH will prune whenever He thinks fit ... so that we can bear more fruit.



## BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-27

*“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.

