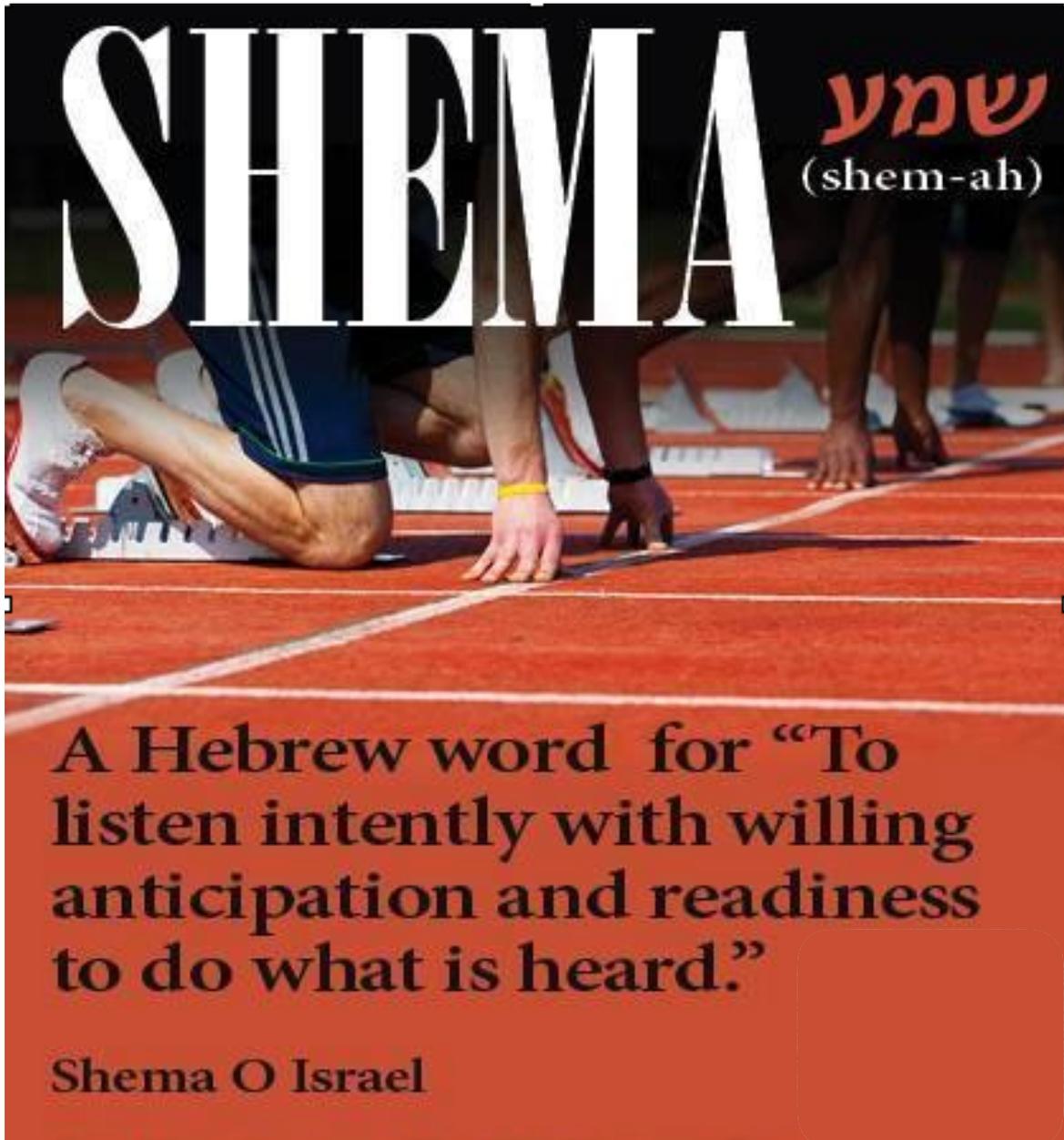


WEEK 6 SCRIPTURE READING

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 Tol'Dot | תולדות | "Family History"

Week 6

This week's reading are taken from the portion described in Gen 25:19 - 28:9; Mal 1:1-2:7; Rom 9: 6-16; Heb 12:14-17.

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 ... "servant-leader" is all about, I that way you can benchmark the attributes of the character that I have selected to analyze 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."

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.

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

Y'shua as Role Model

The prophet Isaiah speaks quite often about the coming Messiah - in many verses we find the reference to: "*My Servant ...*"

I will take those verses and inject them into each one of the attributes that are listed below

Firstly, that verse will validate the specific attribute.

Secondly that verse will give us the understanding that the behaviour defined, is in fact a extremely reachable target

(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 healthily 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.

Y'shua as Role Model (Is 42.1)

(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.

Y'shua as Role Model (Is 42:3)

(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 / Joshua 1:8*).

- 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).

Y'shua, as Role Model (Is 49:3)



(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 doing trying to keep the entire leadership role for your self → is NOT GOOD (**Exodus 18:14-17**).

Y’shua as Role Model (Isaiah 50:5)

(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.

Y’shua as Role Model (Isaiah 42:2)

(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**)

Y'shua as Role Model (Isaiah 49:6)

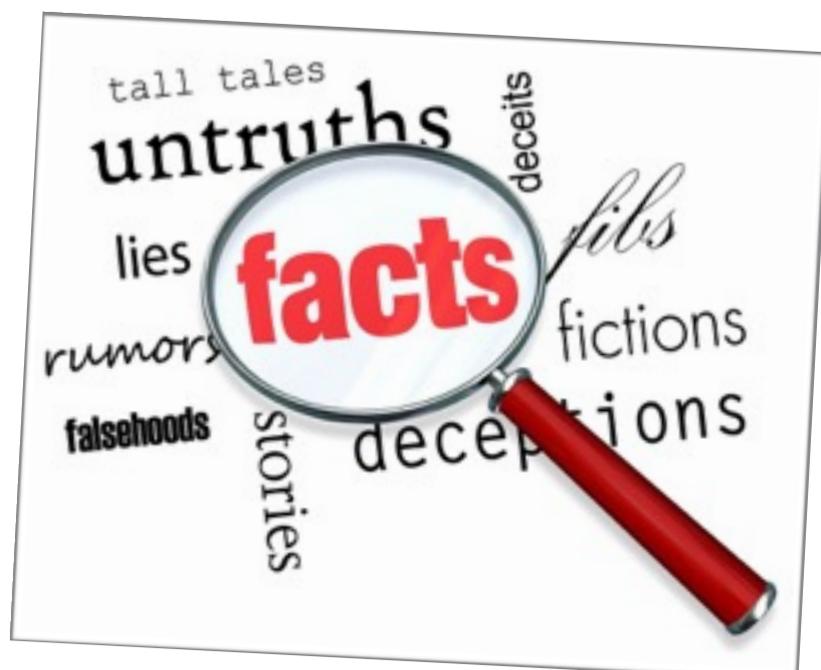
(g) A father's role-model the art of Strategic planning

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**)



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**).

Y'shua as Role Model (Isaiah 49:2)

(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**).

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,”

Y’shua as Role Model (Isaiah 42:4)

(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)**

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

Y'shua as Role Model (Isaiah 50:6)

(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.

Y'shua as Role Model (Isaiah 50:10,11)

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.**

THE 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 portion is called – **history** - and how important it is to walk your walk on earth with this idea in mind - whatever you do in life is recorded in history ..

And the **man Isaac** walks a walk of integrity and diligence in building on Abraham faith, in order to leave a legacy for the chosen son. Many people look at Isaac as someone who did not **do** much!!!

In reality he cements the faith of his father Abraham, into the commitment to the calling - namely to STAY in the Land of Israel—which he does - he NEVER leaves the Land of Promise.

Much of the legacy passed down is the understanding of the value of “obedience to God’s Word”, and the GENERATIONAL POWER from role-modelling, that exists where leaders can fundamentally transform the next generations

Isaac is such a man—someone who serves...

Mark 10:42 *“And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

(a) Isaac reveals the attribute of stewardship.

He will have inherited much livestock from his father Abraham—however his own diligence in using his God-given talents and wisdom, reflects the reward that goes with it.

He will get a 100-fold return on the crops that he plants ...

Genesis 26:12-14 *“And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.”*

(b) Isaac reflects the attribute of creativity.

He will go out and re-dig all of the wells that his father had dug.

In this process, it tells us that he builds on the exact same principles and values that his father had. It tells us that Isaac openly acknowledged to the community that he followed closely in all of his father’s actions.

He is honouring his father ...

He is setting up the foundation of his ministry and life on that Covenant which his father had established.

One of the most difficult things to do is to hand over to the next generation.

One's hope is that a son will arise that will build on the rock that you have fashioned.

All too often though, the leader who takes over refuses to be a **son** - and then one finds the quiet rebellion, where the ministry / business are taken on another path.

Sons, who decide to work in the field that has already been prepared, are able to build exponentially.

This is true in Isaac's case. His well-digging causes them to establish the well at Rechovot and Beer-sheva.

Genesis 26:22-23 *“And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth saying, “For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”*

Genesis 26:32 *“That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, “We have found water.” He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.”*

(c) Isaac walks in the attributes of Humility and Justice.

Isaac settles in a place called Gerar - it is the homeland of the Philistines.

The herdsman from the king of the Philistines and his own herdsmen had many disagreements over water and grazing rights.

In addition, God blesses Isaac so that his cattle, sheep, and camels become many - a wealthy man in his own right.

The local people begin to fear their numbers and strength ...

Isaac shows the wisdom of God in a number of ways:

- ◆ He will not fight about the ownership of a well - **he will bless the locals and move on.**
- ◆ He will **treat strangers fairly** - when this king comes to make peace he will make sure that they understand that they had chosen to be unfriendly - and then he cuts Covenant with them.

Genesis 26:26-31 *“When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?” They said, “We see plainly that the LORD has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us,*

between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.” So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace.”

(d) Isaac reflects God’s Influence in his life.

He is a quiet man.

He prays and communicates with God on a regular basis

He makes mistakes, but has the insight to understand that his wife Rebecca had used the avenues available to her to ensure the correct choice is made.

He handles this stressful situation with sensitivity...you do not see that he become angry with Rebecca, you see that he reaches out to both sons.---he understands that this is all about the future and not about his own needs/desires or ego.

Isaac shows us that the **Birthright and the Blessing are connected**...Esau thought they were unique and separate - but Isaac knew that they went together, and so did Jacob.

Isaac reveals the love of a father - he will bless Jacob with the dew of heaven and riches on earth..

Genesis 27:28 *“May God give you of the **dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth** and plenty of grain and wine.”*

He will bless Esau with the riches on earth and the dew in heaven:

Genesis 27:39-40 *“Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high.”*

Each one can achieve the full blessing – but Jacob’s focus is primarily Heaven, while Esau focus is mainly here and now.

(e) Isaac reflects a deep understanding of the Strategic Attribute of YHVH.

Maybe it is because he experienced the event known as the binding of Isaac that he remains spiritually in tune ...

As soon as the reality dawns on Isaac that Rebecca is correct, and that Jacob is the son of The Promise, he makes the decision that Jacob must go back to the family to get a wife that would be able to walk with him - in other words, he made sure that Jacob does not get involved with one of the local Canaanite women and their occult worship.

Genesis 28:5 *“So Yitz’chak sent Ya’akov away; and he went to Paddan-Aram, to Lavan, son of B’tu’el the Arami, the brother of Rivkah Ya’akov’s and ‘Esav’s mother.”*

(By the way—we spoke earlier of the way that a son honours his parents - Esau knows how his parents feel about marriage to Canaanite women - yet he rebels and does so once again)

Genesis 28:8-9 *“Now Esav saw that Yitz’chak had blessed Ya’akov and sent him away to Paddan-Aram to choose a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he charged him, “You are not to choose a Kena’ani woman as your wife,” and that Ya’akov had listened to his father and mother and gone to Paddan-Aram.”*

Isaac walks through life with a clear vision of what God calls him to do ... an ALTAR built on earth connects God’s Covenant Words with Isaac’s obedience:

Hebrew 11:8 *“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. For he was looking forward to the city with permanent foundations, of which the architect and builder is God.”*

Genesis 26:23-25 *“From there Yitz’chak went up to Be’er-Sheva. ADONAI appeared to him that same night and said, “I am the God of Avraham your father. Don’t be afraid, because I am with you; I will bless you and increase your descendants for the sake of my servant Avraham.” There he built an altar and called on the name of ADONAI. He pitched his tent there, and there Yitz’chak’s servants dug a well.”*

A FINAL THOUGHT

Isaac's greatest gift to us is the tenacity that we see as he stays in the Land—he never leaves the Land of Promise.

Was this a reflection of his experience on the ALTAR ?

Do we too lightly take up the Yoke of Heaven by playing down the requirements that go hand-in-hand with the blessings?

Do we too lightly present the work of Messiah on the cross - namely, all is grace - causing others to think that it is nothing significant?

Isaac's sacrifice was real, harsh, and imprinted forever in his mind - consequently, his commitment to a walk of obedience is unshakable

Whose shoes will you walk in?

Do you have a Godly role-model whom you can follow?

If not, are you looking carefully at the Godly attributes revealed by these Biblical men and women?

In the Second World War, many Jews die by drowning in Hungary at the hands of the Nazi's. (See picture of shoes above)

This monument is a stark reminder of that time ...

If someone follows in your shoes, will they see God's Glory?



PRIESTLY BLESSING

“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.”

