



GRAFTED IN FELLOWSHIP
 KING GEORGE

8-8-5774 / 12 Oct 2013

Lesson

Lech Lecha / “Go out”
 Genesis 12:1 – 17:20
 Isaiah 40:27 – 41:16
 Matthew 1:1-17

All scripture references are Hebraic Roots Bible (HRB) unless otherwise indicated.

My Notes:

Your Notes:

Background:

- King Hezekiah’s story
- Isaiah 38:5 – Go and say to Hezekiah, So says YAHWEH the Elohim of your father David, I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your days.
- Babylonian visit
 - o Hezekiah shows off
 - o Isaiah’s visit
 - o Isaiah 39:6-7 – Behold, days come when all that is in your house, even what your fathers have treasured up until now, shall be borne away to Babylon; nothing shall be left, says YAHWEH.
 And they shall take of your sons who shall come forth out from you, which you shall father; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
- Immediately after this story, Deutero-Isaiah begins
 - o Return from exile
 - o Prophetically speaking of the final Messianic redemption

Summary: Haftarah Lech Lecha

- God tells the exiles He has not forgotten them
 - o Their plight is His concern
 - o He is sending redemption
 - o Isaiah 40:28 – Have you not known? Have you not heard? YAHWEH, the everlasting Elohim, the Creator of the ends of the earth; He is not faint, nor does He grow weary; there is no searching to His understanding.
 - o He chose them
 - o Because of His relationship with Abraham, He will rescue them

- Isaiah 41:8 – But you Israel are My servant, Jacob whom I have elected; the seed of My friend Abraham;
- No hope for those who trust in idols
 - Isaiah 41:6-7 – Each man helps his neighbor, and says to his brother, Be strong. So the carver strengthens the refiner; and he smoothing with the hammer, him who struck the anvil, saying of the soldering, It is good. And he made it strong with nails; it will not totter.
- This portion of Isaiah was chosen for Lech Lecha for three reasons:
 - Directly mentions Abraham, the friend of God (Isaiah 41:8)
 - The idol makers reference (Isaiah 41:6-7)
 - A hero from the east
 - Isaiah 41:2 – Who raised up the righteous one from the east? He called him to His foot; He gives nations before him, and subdues kings; He gives them as dust to his sword, as driven stubble to his bow;
- Debate whether 41:2 refers to Abraham or Cyrus (discussed later)

Hope for the Hopeless:

Isaiah 40:27 – Why will you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel; My way is hidden from YAHWEH, and my judgment is passed over by my Elohim?

- During the last 2,000 years, the children of Israel have suffered many atrocities
- Isaiah 40 answers the feeling of abandonment
- He is constantly looking after His people
- It may appear He is ignoring them (us)
- Isaiah 40:28 – Have you not known? Have you not heard? YAHWEH, the everlasting Elohim, the Creator of the ends of the earth; He is not faint, nor does He grow weary; there is no searching to His understanding.
- Isaiah 55:8 – For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says YAHWEH.
- Romans 11:33 – O the depth of the riches and of the wisdom and the knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
- We must learn to wait!
 - Isaiah 40:31 – but the ones waiting for YAHWEH

shall renew power; they shall go up with wings as the eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint!

- “Wait” – kawah – קוה – also means “hope”
- We are to hope (wait) for God’s salvation (Yeshua)!
- Isaiah 8:17 – And I will wait on YAHWEH, who hides His face from the house of Jacob; and I will look for Him.
- Romans 8:25 – But if we hope for what we do not see, through patience we wait eagerly.
- Psalm 27:14 – Hope in YAHWEH; be strong and He will make strong your heart; yea, hope in YAHWEH!
- Hopeless feelings, strength fails; weakness turned to strength
 - Hebrews 11:34 – quenched the power of fire, escaped the mouths of the sword, acquired power from weakness, became strong in war; made armies of foreigners to yield.
 - 2 Corinthians 12:10 – Because of this, I am pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in dire needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for the sake of Messiah. For when I am physically weak, then I am spiritually strong.
 - Isaiah 40:29 – He gives power to the faint, and to him with no vigor He increases might.
 - Isaiah 40:31 – but the ones waiting for YAHWEH shall renew power; they shall go up with wings as the eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint!

Wings of Eagles:

- Isaiah 40:31 - but the ones waiting for YAHWEH shall renew power; they shall go up with wings as the eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint!
- As we wait and hope for God’s salvation:
 - Isaiah 30:18 –
 - 2 Corinthians 4:1 – For This reason we are not weary of the ministry in which we have engaged, just as we are not weary of the mercies that have been upon us.
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:10 – and to await His Son from Heaven, even Yahshua, whom He raised from the dead, for it is He who will deliver us from the coming wrath.

- Rapture reference (mount up with wings)?
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:17 – Then we who remain alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet with our Master in the air. And so we will always be with our Master.
 - Midrash: "at the redemption [the children of Israel] will soar back to [the land of Israel] as if on eagles' wings. The eagle is specified because it flies higher than all other birds." (Moshe Weissman, The Midrash Says On the Weekly Haftaros, vol. 1 (Brooklyn, NY: B'nay Yaakov Publications, 2003), 79.)

Address to the Nations:

Isaiah 41:1 – Be quiet before Me, O coasts; and let peoples renew their power. They come near; then they speak: Let us draw near together for judgment.

- New oracle to the nations (heathen world)
- "Coastlands": "the expression commonly employed in the Old Testament to designate the continent of Europe." (C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, Isaiah (vol. 7 of Commentary on the Old Testament; trans. James Martin; Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006), 403.)
- Court setting
 - Invitation to assemble to hear His case
 - Predicts rise of a conqueror from the east
 - Challenge to identify which God predicted the event
 - Isaiah 41:4 – Who has planned and done it, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I YAHWEH am the first (Aleph/Tav) and the last; I am He.

Cyrus the Great:

Isaiah 41:2 – Who raised up the righteous one from the east? He called him to His foot; He gives nations before him, and subdues kings; He gives them as dust to his sword, as driven stubble to his bow;

- Debate: Cyrus or Abraham?
 - Cyrus isn't mentioned until Isaiah 44
 - Isaiah 44:28 – 45:1 – He says to Cyrus, You are My shepherd; and he shall complete all My pleasure, even for Me to say to Jerusalem, You are built; and to the temple, your foundation shall be laid.
- So says YAHWEH to His anointed, to Cyrus, whom I have seized by his right hand, to subdue nations before him. Yea, I will open the loins of

kings, to open the two leaved doors before him, and the gates shall not be shut.

- Isaiah 45:4-5 – For My servant Jacob's sake, and for Israel My elect, I even call you by your name. I name you, but you do not know Me.

I am YAHWEH, and there is none else; there is no Elohim except Me. I will clothe you, though you do not know Me,

- Daniel's prophecies:

- Daniel 8:3 – Then I lifted up my eyes and looked. And behold! A ram was standing before the canal, having two horns. And the two horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last.
- Daniel 8:20 – The ram which you saw with two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.
- Daniel 8:4 – I saw the ram butting westward and northward and southward, so that no beasts could stand before him, and none could deliver out of his hand. But he did according to his will and became great.

- Isaiah foresaw as well

- Isaiah 21:2 – A harsh vision is revealed to me; the deceiver betrays, and the plunderer plunders. Go up, O Elam! Besiege, O Media! I have caused all her sighing to cease.

- King Belshazzar, King of Babylon at time of Daniel

- Party, drinking from sacred vessels
- Handwriting on the wall
- Daniel 5:25-28 – And this is the writing that was written: A MINA, A MINA, A SHEKEL, AND HALF MINAS.

This is the meaning of the thing: A MINA: Eloha has numbered your kingdom and finished it.

A SHEKEL: You are weighed in the scales and found lacking.

HALF MINAS: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

- That night, Belshazzar was killed by Cyrus' army

Abraham:

Isaiah 41:2-3 – Who raised up the righteous one from the east? He called him to His foot; He gives nations before him, and subdues kings; He gives them as dust to his sword, as driven stubble to his bow;

He pursues them; he passes on in peace; he does not go by the way with his feet.

- Sages ignore Cyrus reference
- Targum Yonatan: Who openly brought Abraham from the east? He brought the chosen of the righteous in truth to his place, He delivered up nations before him, and broke in pieces mighty kings, he cast the slain down like the dust before his sword, and he pursued them like stubble before his bow.
(Isaiah 41:2)
- Genesis 14: Lot's captivity and rescue
- 318 men against four Kings?
- Talmud uses Isaiah 41:2
 - o Abraham threw dust at the Kings' armies
 - o They turned to swords and arrows
 - o When the kings of the east and west converged upon [Canaan] in battle ... the Holy One, blessed is He, brought Abraham near and seated him at His right side [as it says in Psalm 110:1], "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
[Abraham's men] would throw dust at the enemy and it would turn into swords and weapons in midair [before striking the enemy, as it says in Isaiah 41:2], "He makes them like dust with his sword, as the wind-driven with his bow." (*b.Sanhedrin* 108b)
- Story from Talmud: Nachum Gamzu
 - o "Gam zu letovah" – "This, too, is for the good."
 - o *b.Sanhedrin* 108b-109a

Idol-Makers' Workshop:

Isaiah 41:7 – So the carver strengthens the refiner; and he smoothing with the hammer, him who struck the anvil, saying of the soldering, It is good. And he made it strong with nails; it will not totter.

- Additional connection between Lech Lecha and Isaiah 40-41
- Rabbinic legend: Abraham's father In Ur

Abraham My Friend:

Isaiah 41:8 – But you Israel are My servant, Jacob whom I have elected; the seed of My friend Abraham;

- Prophecy turns from nations to captive Israel
- Israel is still His chosen
- “Descendant of Abraham” – “zera Avraham” –

זרע אברהם – “seed of Abraham”

- Torah Portion Lech Lecha contains several promises about Abraham’s seed:
 - Land: Genesis 12:7 – And YAHWEH appeared to Abram and said, I will give this set apart land to your seed. And he built an altar there to YAHWEH, who appeared to him.
 - Land: Genesis 15:18 – In that day YAHWEH cut a covenant with Abram, saying, I have given this land to your seed, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,
 - Dust: Genesis 13:15-16 – For all the land which you see I will give to you, and to your seed always. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that if a man can count the dust of the earth, then your seed also will be counted.
 - Stars: Genesis 15:5 – And He brought him outside and said, Look now at the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them. And He said to him, So shall your seed be.
 - Covenant: Genesis 17:7 – And I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and your seed after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be a Elohim to you and to your seed after you.
 - Blessed: Genesis 22:18 – And in your Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have listened to My voice.
 - Strangers: Genesis 15:13-14 – And He said to Abram, surely you must know that your seed shall be an alien in a land not theirs; and they shall serve them. And they shall afflict them four hundred years; and I also will judge the nation whom they shall serve; and afterward they shall come out with great substance.
- My Friend
 - Does not mean “close acquaintance” or “intimate companion”
 - Covenant partners
 - God only says this about Abraham!

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- God was invoking the covenant He had made with Abraham
 - Replacement Theology
 - Isaiah 41:9 – whom I have made strong from the ends of the earth, and called you from its sides; and I said to you, You are My servant. I chose you, and have not rejected you.
 - God did NOT reject Israel!
 - Romans 11:28-29 – Indeed, according to the good news, they are enemies toward you, but according to election, they are beloved for the sake of the patriarchs. For Elohim does not withdraw His free gift and His calling.
 - Christians do NOT replace Israel in ANY sense!
 - We share in Israel's status only if we belong to Messiah!
 - Galatians 3:29 – And if you are of Messiah, then you are seeds of Abraham, even heirs according to the promise.
 - Single Seed
 - זרע – collective singular
 - Galatians 3:16 – Now the promises which were made to Abraham and to his seed as a covenant. He did not say, "To your descendants," as many but, "To your descendant", as one, that is Messiah.
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Resources used:
[First Fruits of Zion, Torah Club Volume 3, Voice of the Prophets](#)