



GEULAS YISRAEL

RABBI MOSHE TARAGIN

RAM YESHIVAT HAR ETZION

MAGGID SHIUR ALL PARSHA AND ALL DAF, OU.ORG

Redemption Carved in History

Avraham is summoned to the Promised Land to establish a nation that would embody the presence of Hashem in this world. In a legendary act of courage, he abandons his homeland, family, and culture to step into the great unknown. Guided only by faith and divine command, he journeys toward the Land chosen by Hashem for His people—the future descendants of Avraham.

TRIALS IN THE PROMISED LAND

When Avraham arrives, he discovers that the Promised Land is anything but a fairy-tale paradise. A severe famine grips the Land, forcing him to flee to Egypt in search of sustenance. The Land of Hashem, assumed to be a fertile wellspring of blessing for all nations, seems barren and unyielding. Avraham must leave

the sacred soil of Israel to sustain his family in a foreign empire.

Beyond the famine, Avraham faces a more personal and painful crisis. He had envisioned a radiant future—countless children who would help him spread his revolutionary vision of faith. Yet upon entering the Land, he is quickly drawn into conflict with his nephew Lot. The rift ends with Lot's departure, severing Avraham's only remaining familial bond. Childless and alone, he watches his future and his legacy drift into uncertainty.

Avraham entered the Land of Hashem with soaring hope, but his early experiences shattered any illusion of ease. He faced famine, family strife, and haunting uncertainty about his future. The promised Land, though sacred, would demand struggle before it would yield blessing.

Amid all these trials, Avraham confronts a more subtle challenge, one no less bewildering. A regional war erupts between four kings and five, and for twenty-five years the Land of Israel is convulsed by widespread conflict. The turmoil touches him directly when his nephew Lot is taken captive, compelling him to rally his followers. He wages battle to rescue his wayward relative.

LOYALTY AND PEACEMAKING

On the surface, this episode reveals the depth of Avraham's character. Lot had left abruptly, unwilling to resolve their dispute, and had chosen to dwell among the sinful cities of Sedom and Amorah. Yet Avraham bears no resentment, no thirst for vindication. When his nephew is in danger, he responds not



American Podiatrist
Licensed in America and Israel

- Plantar Fasciitis/Heel Spur Syndrome
- PRP/PRF
- Ingrown Toenails and Warts
- Arthritis
- Foot and Ankle Injuries
- Custom Molded Orthotics
- Diabetic/General Foot Care
- Laser Therapy
- Lymphedema

Erica Sassoon, DPM
☎ 054-325-3109

@sassoon_podiatry **Dr. Erica Sassoon**
Offices in Jerusalem, Ma'ale Adumim and Modi'in

ERICA SASSOON DPM
DIPLOMA OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
FOOT AND ANKLE MEDICINE

with judgment but with devotion. Avraham's willingness to endanger himself for a wayward relative testifies to his loyalty and compassion.

Additionally, this story marks the beginning of Avraham's influence upon his surroundings. By entering the war and triumphing over the powerful alliance of the four kings, he brings an end to the prolonged conflict that had ravaged the region. For a quarter century, the Land of Israel had been drenched in blood and torn by violence. Avraham's victory restores peace and stability to a land weary of war. In doing so, he takes the first step in fulfilling his divine mission—to become a source of blessing for humanity.

MAPPING THE CONFLICT

Yet the story of this world war cannot be about loyalty or peacemaking alone. The Torah includes far too many details for that to be its sole purpose. It lists the names of the four kings and the five kings twice, carefully noting the empires each ruled. The Torah also identifies several battlefields, such as the Valley of Siddim, and mentions the mud pits that trapped the fleeing armies of Sodom.

Beyond the central conflict, the Torah recounts secondary campaigns waged by Kedarlaomer and his allies: their defeat of the Refa'im in Ashterot Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Eimim in Shaveh Kiryatayim, and the Chori in the hills of Seir, bordering the wilderness of Paran. The narrative even describes how they ravaged the fields of Amalek and struck the Emori in Chatatzon Tamar.

Why does the Torah linger on these battles and far-flung campaigns—wars that barely touch Avraham and his family? Why detail every battlefield, every defeated people, every peripheral conflict? By naming the warring powers twice, describing the geography, and chronicling each battle, the Torah conveys a deeper message.

PROPHECY, POLITICS, AND WAR

The Land of Israel—the Land of Hashem—is the Land of divine prophecy. It is a supernatural Land, promised to Avraham through the eternal word of Hashem. Such a sacred Land naturally comes with trials and challenges. Even Avraham Avinu cannot claim it easily; he must endure famine and domestic tension before establishing his place within it.

Yet Avraham assumes that life in the Land, though difficult, will remain untouched by the shifting forces of politics and history. After all, this is the Land promised directly by Hashem—a land beyond time, beyond geography. Beyond the reach of human struggle, it remains sacred.

But the Land he discovers is far from untouched. Powerful empires clash over the soil Hashem promised him. Great kings wage war and impose their will upon this sacred ground. The destiny of the Land seems shaped not by divine promise but by the ruthless currents of geopolitics. While these wars rage and the lands change hands, Avraham himself remains a guest, dwelling among his three allies—Aner, Eshkol, and Mamre—without ownership or control.

Amid these turbulent political crosswinds, it was natural to wonder how divine prophecy could possibly unfold. Could this truly be the Land of Hashem, molded by destiny and divine intent? The fate of Israel appeared to hinge upon the designs of powerful human forces rather than the subtle guidance of divine will.

THE ENCOUNTER AT SHALEM

Furthermore, the encounter with Malki Tzedek—a priest-king—could have deepened

Dr Muriel Metzger MD, MSc
Endocrinologist-Diabetologist

Emek Refaim 64, Jerusalem, 077-5560562
Nahal Tzeelim 6, Ramat Beit Shemesh, 02-9701100

Osteoporosis, Diabetes, Thyroid & Hormonal dysfunctions



Avraham's confusion. He journeyed to a sacred city—destined to become Yerushalayim—where a community devoted to moral refinement had already taken root in a place called Shalem, a name that evokes wholeness and perfection.

It is one thing to face pagan idolaters and barbaric tribes, whose eventual replacement by a moral, monotheistic nation seems assured. It is quite another to encounter a righteous man already exerting spiritual leadership in the very Land Avraham was meant to transform.

Now the Land he had been promised appeared dominated by immense forces beyond his control. Mighty kings ruled the territories, and centers of religion had long been established. The sacred promise seemed enmeshed in human politics—could it ever be fulfilled?

Surviving famine or navigating domestic strife is one kind of test; sustaining faith in a prophetic vision amid vast political powers and the relentless march of history is quite another. Avraham's struggle was not merely physical or familial—it was spiritual: to hold fast to divine promise amid the clamor of human chaos.

To ease these doubts, Hashem, in the Brit Bein HaBetarim, reassured Avraham that this Land—though enmeshed in the struggles of men—would one day belong to his children. To underscore this, Hashem enumerates the ten peoples inhabiting the Land and details

the territories Avraham's descendants would one day inherit. Earlier promises spoke of “this Land” in general terms; now He specifies the current occupants, emphasizing that even amid entrenched human forces, the divine promise would endure. Avraham learned that the workings of human politics can conceal the guiding hand of Hashem. He was shown to look beyond immediate conflicts and perceive Hashem's sovereign authorship at work.

WOVEN THROUGH HISTORY

Like Avraham's journey, the story of our return to Israel has been shaped by powerful political forces. Our settlement and the founding of the State faced relentless opposition. Even when support was offered, it often seemed dictated more by history and geopolitics than by divine providence.

British support for the state of Israel in the post-WWI world, for instance, was shaped by competing interests with France, which held mandates over Syria and Lebanon. By backing a Jewish homeland, Britain could create a friendly population in Palestine and counterbalance French influence.

Similarly, American support for Israel at the end of the 20th century reflected Cold War calculations. As the USSR increasingly aligned with our Arab adversaries, the United States saw strong support for the nascent Jewish state as a way to counter growing Soviet influence in the Middle East.

In this way, the formation of the State of Israel, while miraculous, was deeply entangled with political and strategic currents.

More recently, we have witnessed the return



  **SUNDAYS**
Weekly Webinar
9 pm Israel / 2 pm EDT 

TIPS FOR OLIM
28 minutes of tachlis

paveway
We Get Things Done

Register: olimpaveway.com/all-events

   @olimpaveway



Struggling with Lust
that leads to behaviors you can't control?

You are not alone!

We have been there and today we are free

sanewsenglish@gmail.com 072-2401190
dial 8 for english

of our hostages in efforts to end the current war in Gaza. This ceasefire arrangement emerged from a convergence of interests among several power brokers in the Middle East. Turkey sought access to American arms sales; Saudi Arabia pursued security guarantees; and Egypt aimed to secure continued financial assistance from the United States.

As in the days of Avraham, our challenge is to perceive the hand of Hashem behind the screen of politics. The return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel is not merely a historical event—it is the unfolding of redemption.

Hashem guides this process subtly, through the mechanisms of history and the intricate calculus of world affairs. What appears to be the product of political negotiation or strategic alignment is, in truth, the hidden choreography of divine providence. Behind headlines and beneath diplomacy, Hashem continues to steer

our destiny toward redemption. Behind every clash and calculation, beneath every layer of politics and power, the divine plan unfolds with silent certainty. ■



OU Press is honored to partner with Rabbi Moshe Taragin on his new volume in Hebrew regarding the recent war ('Emunah B'toch Hahastara). This remarkable book is also available in English, **"Dark Clouds Above, Faith Below"**



בס"ד
Using Only High End
Cruelty Free Products

MAKEUP ARTIST

Chavi: 058 3274905

OU Israel Invites the Community to a Special Evening of Torah

In memory & tribute for
Reb Yosef Hillel Brachfeld z"l
on the occasion of his first Yahrzeit



SUNDAY, NOV. 9, 7:30 PM

Bet Knesset HaNasi, 24 Ussishkin Street, Rechavia



♦ Remarks & Personal Reflections **Rabbi Sam Shor**



♦ Shiur: "Reciting Tal Umatar for Travelers Between Israel and the Diaspora - From 7 Cheshvan to Dec. 4" **Rabbi Aschi Dick**

Refreshments will be served

WWW.OUISRAEL.ORG