



STATS

4th of the 54 sedras; 4th of 12 sedras in Bereishit.
 Written on 252 lines in a Torah, rank: 5.
 6 Parshiyot; 4 open, 2 closed.
 147 pesukim - ranks 7th (4th in Bereishit).
 2085 words - ranks 2nd (1st in Bereishit).
 7862 letters - rank: 3rd (2nd in Bereishit).
 Vayeira is actually the 2nd largest sedra in the Torah. (Naso, is #1 with no rival - Bamidbar, Pinchas, and R'ei all take up more lines than Vayeira, but those sedras each have many parshiyot, which means a lot of blank space between parshiyot, which adds to the line-count.)



MITZVOT

None of Taryag (the 613 mitzvot) are found in Vayeira (one of 17 sedras without entries on the list of 613) - however, there are Midot and values and other lessons.

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A SHORT VORT

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"And G-d appeared to him in Elonei Mamre." (18:1) - (יִירָא אֵלָיו ה' בְּאֵלֵי מַמְרֵא יח:א)

Why did G-d choose to appear before Avraham specifically at Elonei Mamre? What was the significance of this place?

Rashi (Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki 1040-1105, France) answers that it was Mamre who gave Avraham counsel with regards to the decision to have a Brit Milah. For this gesture of encouraging and advising Avraham with his Divine challenges, G-d revealed Himself to Avraham in Mamre's land. Rashi's answer presents a difficulty in its understanding. Avraham is portrayed as the one who loyally follows G-d's command and its details. Avraham fulfilled the command of Brit Milah because G-d commanded and not because of Mamre's words of advice, why the need to honor Mamre?

The Vilna Gaon (Kol Eliyahu-Rabbi Eliyahu ben Shlomo, 1720-1797) answers that Avraham was devoting himself to rally others in forsaking idolatry and introduce them to the one and only G-d. Surely Avraham was to follow G-d's command to a circumcision, but he was concerned, not about the Brit itself, but rather the reaction of his neighbors. Perhaps hearing about this new condition to foster intimacy with G-d, the masses would no longer be drawn to the idea of monotheism. Eshkol and Aner tried to convince Avraham to abandon this physical condition on the body. It was Mamre who advised Avraham not to worry and not to waver from G-d's command. For this encouragement to follow G-d's word, G-d blessed his manifestation on Mamre's habitat.
 Shabbat Shalom