

## Chapter 14

*Here is a story about a big war. The area Lot lives in has been taken over. Abram raises an army and comes to Lot's rescue.*

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Amraphel the king of Shinar, Arioch the king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and Tidal the king of Goyim. 2 That they waged war with Bera the king of Sodom and with Birsha the king of Gomorrah, Shineab the king of Admah, and Shemeber the king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar. 3 All these joined in the valley of Siddim, which is the Dead Sea. 4 For twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and for thirteen years they rebelled. 5 And in the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer came, and the kings who were with him, and they smote the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim. 6 And the Horites in their mountain Seir, until the plain of Paran, which is alongside the desert. 7 And they returned and came to Ein Mishpat, which is Kadesh, and they smote the entire field of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazezon Tamar. 8 And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar, came forth, and they engaged them in battle in the valley of Siddim. 9 With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam and Tidal the king of Goyim and Amraphel the king of Shinar and Arioch the king of Ellasar, four kings against the five. 10 Now the valley of Siddim was [composed of] many clay pits, and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled and they fell there, and the survivors fled to a mountain. 11 And they took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food, and they departed. 12 And they took Lot and his possessions, the son of Abram's brother, and they departed, and he was living in Sodom. 13 And the fugitive came and he told Abram the Hebrew, and he was living in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshkol and the brother of Aner, who were Abram's confederates. 14 And Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, and he armed his trained men, those born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and he pursued [them] until Dan. 15 And he divided himself against them at night, he and his servants, and smote them, and pursued them until Hobah, which is to the left of Damascus. 16 And he restored all the possessions, and also Lot his brother and his possessions he restored, and also the women and the people. 17 And the king of Sodom came out toward him, after his return from smiting Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, to the valley of Shaveh, which is the valley of the king. 18 And Malchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was a priest to the Most High God. 19 And he blessed him, and he said, "Blessed be Abram to the Most High God, Who possesses heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be the Most High God, Who has delivered your adversaries into your hand," and he gave him a tithe from all. 21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the souls, and the possessions take for 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I raise my hand to the Lord, the Most High God, Who possesses heaven and earth. yourself." 23 Neither from a thread to a shoe strap, nor will I take from whatever is yours, that you should not say, 'I have made Abram wealthy.' 24 Exclusive of what the lads ate, and the share of the men who went with me; Aner, Eshkol, and Mamre they shall take their share."

## Chapter 15

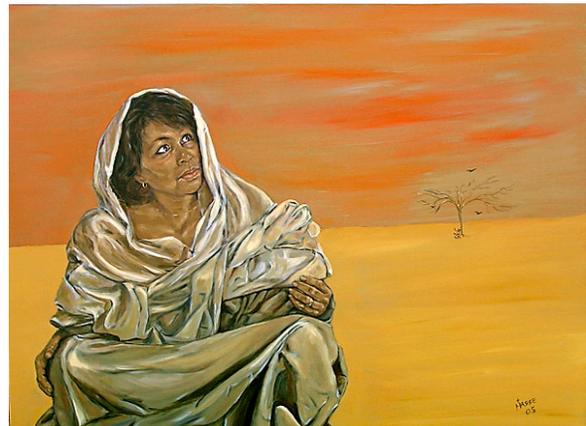
*Here is the Abrahamic covenant.*

1 After these incidents, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Fear not, Abram; I am your Shield; your reward is exceedingly great." 2 And Abram said, "O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am going childless, and the steward of my household is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Behold, You have given me no seed, and behold, one of my household will inherit me." 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one will not inherit you, but the one who will spring from your innards-he will inherit you." 5 And He took him outside, and He said, "Please look heavenward and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So will be your seed." 6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, "I am the Lord, Who brought you forth from Ur of the Chaldees, to give you this land to inherit it." 8 And he said, "O Lord God, how will I know that I will inherit it?" 9 And He said to him, "Take for Me three heifers and three goats and three rams, and a turtle dove and a young bird." 10 And he took for Him all these, and he divided them in the middle, and he placed each part opposite its mate, but he did not divide the birds. 11 And the birds of prey descended upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. 12 Now the sun was ready to set, and a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and behold, a fright, a great darkness was falling upon him. 13 *And He said to Abram, "You shall surely know that your seed will*

*be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and they will enslave them and oppress them, for four hundred years. 14 And also the nation that they will serve will I judge, and afterwards they will go forth with great possessions. 15 But you will come to your forefathers in peace; you will be buried in a good old age. 16 And the fourth generation will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites will not be complete until then.” 17 Now it came to pass that the sun had set, and it was dark, and behold, a smoking furnace and a fire brand, which passed between these parts. 18 On that day, the Lord formed a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your seed I have given this land, from the river of Egypt until the great river, the Euphrates river. 19 The Kenites, the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Rephaim, 21 And the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Girgashites and the Jebusites."*

## Chapter 16

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not borne to him, and she had an Egyptian handmaid named Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing; please come to my handmaid; perhaps I will be built up from her." And Abram hearkened to Sarai's voice. 3 So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her handmaid, at the end of ten years of Abram's dwelling in the land of Canaan, and she gave her to Abram her husband for a wife. 4 And he came to Hagar, and she conceived, and she saw that she was pregnant, and her mistress became unimportant in her eyes. 5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May my injustice be upon you! I gave my handmaid into your bosom, and she saw that she had become pregnant, and I became unimportant in her eyes. May the Lord judge between me and you!" 6 And Abram said to Sarai, "Here is your handmaid in your hand; do to her that which is proper in your eyes." And Sarai afflicted her, and she fled from before her. 7 And an angel of the Lord found her by a water fountain in the desert, by the fountain on the road to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where are you coming from, and where are you going to?" And she said, "From before Sarai my mistress, I am fleeing." 9 And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and allow yourself to be afflicted under her hands." 10 And the angel of the Lord said to her, "I will greatly multiply your seed, and it will not be counted for abundance." 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard your affliction. 12 And he will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be upon all, and everyone's hand upon him, and before all his brothers he will dwell." 13 And she called the name of the Lord, Who had spoken to her, "You are the God of seeing," because she said, "Have I seen[him]here also after I have seen?" 14 Therefore the well was called Be'er Lachai Ro'i; behold it is between Kadesh and between Bered. 15 And Hagar bore a son to Abram, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar had borne, Ishmael. 16 And Abram was eighty-six years old, when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.



*The role of Ishmael within Islam and the Quran is quite prominent, yet the narrative of Ishmael is known to differ greatly between the Islamic and the Jewish and Christian traditions. The significance of Ishmael within Islam is essential to the understanding of “Arab” ness, as the ‘Ishmaelites’ were the Prophet’s link to the **Abrahamic** covenant. Despite there being some doubt as to the veracity of Muhammad’s genealogical descent from Ishmael, it is nevertheless part of the Islamic narrative and must be treated as such.*

*While Ishmael is significant in the Old Testament, he plays a different role and more closely represents the narrative of Isaac within the Quran. In the Old Testament Ishmael is the “other” son, just as Isaac is the “other” in the Quranic retelling. It will be important to call on the story of Isaac to understand Ishmael’s place in the Quran and Islam. The discrepancy between the stories of the Old Testament and the retelling in the Quran are and have been historically points of contention, with theologians Islamic, Christian and Jewish all resolute on their view of the identity of Abraham’s true heir.*

*Within the Old Testament there is a strikingly different portrayal of Abraham’s first son. Rather than the image of an esteemed, righteous prophet, Genesis provides the reader with a more negative outlook on Ishmael. While Ishmael is placed on a far lower plane than Isaac, he is still granted a degree of respect as he is still the son of Abraham, regardless of who is mother is. In the New International Version we find the first mention of Ishmael in Genesis 16:11 with God speaking to Hagar after running away from Sarai.*

## Chapter 17

1 And Abram was ninety-nine years old, and God appeared to Abram, and He said to him, "I am the Almighty God; walk before Me and be perfect. 2 And I will place My covenant between Me and between you, and I will multiply you very greatly." 3 And Abram fell upon his face, and God spoke with him, saying, 4 "As for Me, behold My covenant is with you, and you shall become the father of a multitude of nations. 5 **And your name shall no longer be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham,** for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings will emerge from you. 7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and between you and between your seed after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be to you for a God and to your seed after you. 8 And I will give you and your seed after you the land of your sojournings, the entire land of Canaan for an everlasting possession,



sojourn  
- stay somewhere temporarily

and I will be to them for a God.” 9 And God said to Abraham, "And you shall keep My covenant, you and your seed after you throughout their generations. 10 This is My covenant, which you shall observe between Me and between you and between your seed after you, that every male among you be circumcised. 11 And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be as the sign of a covenant between Me and between you. 12 And at the age of eight days, every male shall be circumcised to you throughout your generations, one that is born in the house, or one that is purchased with money, from any foreigner, who is not of your seed. 13 Those born in the house and those purchased for money shall be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. 14 And an uncircumcised male, who will not circumcise the flesh of his foreskin-that soul will be cut off from its people; he has broken My covenant.”

Circumcised - was the Jewish part of the covenant with God.

15 And God said to Abraham,

**"Your wife Sarai-you shall not call her name Sarai, for Sarah is her name. 16 And I will bless her, and I will give you a son from her, and I will bless her, and she will become [a mother of] nations; kings of nations will be from her. "** 17 And Abraham fell on his face and rejoiced, and he said to himself, "Will [a child] be born to one who is a hundred years old, and will Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth?"

18 And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael will live before You!" 19 And God said, "Indeed, ***your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac, and I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his seed after him.*** 20 And regarding Ishmael, I have heard you; behold I have blessed him, and I will make him fruitful, and I will multiply him exceedingly; he will beget twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.

21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year." 22 And He finished speaking with him, and God went up from above Abraham.

23 And Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house and all those purchased with his money, every male of the people of Abraham's household, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskin on that very day, as God had spoken with him. 24 And Abraham was ninety-nine years old, when he was circumcised of the flesh of his foreskin. 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised of the flesh of his foreskin. 26 On that very day, Abraham was circumcised, and [so was] Ishmael his son. 27 And all the people of his household, those born in his house and those bought with money from foreigners, were circumcised with him.

It does mention that Ishmael was circumcised also.

## Chapter 18

In 18 there are three stories. One of hospitality, one of Sarah's pregnancy and one with Abraham reasoning with God and calling on his kindness and love.

1 Now the Lord appeared to him in the plains of Mamre, and he was sitting at the entrance of the tent when the day was hot. 2 And he lifted his eyes and saw, and behold, three men were standing beside him, and he saw and he ran toward them from the entrance of the tent, and he prostrated himself to the ground. 3 And he said, "My lords, if only I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass on from beside your servant. 4 Please let a little water be taken, and bathe your feet, and recline under the tree. 5 And I will take a morsel of bread, and sustain

your hearts; after[wards] you shall pass on, because you have passed by your servant." And they said, "So shall you do, as you have spoken." 6 And Abraham hastened to the tent to Sarah, and he said, "Hasten three seah ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of a bath or mini bath) of meal [and] fine flour; knead and make cakes." 7 And to the cattle did Abraham run, and he took a calf, tender and good, and he gave it to the youth, and he hastened to prepare it. 8 And he took cream and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and he placed [them] before them, and he was standing over them under the tree, and they ate.

9 And they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "Behold in the tent." 10 And he said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year, and behold, your wife Sarah will have a son." And Sarah heard from the entrance of the tent, and it was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, coming on in years; Sarah had ceased to have the way of the women. 12 And Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have become worn out, will I have smooth flesh? And also, my master is old." 13 And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Is it really true that I will give birth, although I am old?'" 14 Is anything hidden from the Lord? At the appointed time, I will return to you, at this time next year and Sarah will have a son." 15 And Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," because she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you laughed."

16 And the men arose from there, and they looked upon Sodom, and Abraham went with them to escort them, 17 And the Lord said, "Shall I conceal from Abraham what I am doing? 18 And Abraham will become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations of the world will be blessed in him. 19 For I have known him because he commands his sons and his household after him, that they should keep the way of the Lord to perform righteousness and justice, in order that the Lord bring upon Abraham that which He spoke concerning him." 20 And the Lord said, "Since the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah has become great, and since their sin has become very grave, 21 I will descend now and see, whether according to her cry, which has come to Me, they have done; [I will wreak] destruction [upon them]; and if not, I will know." 22 And the men turned from there and went to Sodom, and Abraham was still standing before the Lord. 23 And *Abraham approached and said, "Will You even destroy the righteous with the wicked?"* 24 Perhaps there are fifty righteous men in the midst of the city; will You even destroy and not forgive the place for the sake of the fifty righteous men who are in its midst? 25 Far be it from You to do a thing such as this, to put to death the righteous with the wicked so that the righteous should be like the wicked. Far be it from You! Will the Judge of the entire earth not perform justice?" 26 And the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous men within the city, I will forgive the entire place for their sake." 27 And Abraham answered and said, "Behold now I have commenced to speak to the Lord, although I am dust and ashes. 28 Perhaps the fifty righteous men will be missing five. Will You destroy the entire city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy if I find there forty-five." 29 And he continued further to speak to Him, and he said, "Perhaps forty will be found there." And He said, "I will not do it for the sake of the forty." 30 And he said, "Please, let the Lord's wrath not be kindled, and I will speak. Perhaps thirty will be found there." *And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."* 31 And he said, "Behold now I have desired to speak to the Lord, perhaps twenty will be found there." And He said, "I will not destroy for the sake of the twenty." 32 And he said, "Please, let the Lord's wrath not be kindled, and I will speak yet this time, perhaps ten will be found there." *And He said, "I will not destroy for the sake of the ten."* 33 And the Lord departed when He finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

In the world at the time many others had many different gods. Mostly gods from nature, fire god, water god, etc. The God of Abraham was a moral God and over all other gods. This negotiating story is a good example of that.

## Chapter 19

I am squeezing this chapter in as it is one I want to get over with. We can talk about why it is in the Bible at all after a quick re-cap.

**Hospitality -** 1 And the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom, and Lot saw and arose toward them, and he prostrated himself on his face to the ground. 2 And he said, "Behold now my lords, please turn to your servant's house and stay overnight and wash your feet, and you shall arise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will stay overnight in the street." 3 And he urged them strongly, and they turned in to him, and came into his house, and he made them a feast, and he baked unleavened cakes, and they ate.

**Here a gang from town comes to rape the visiting men and Lot offers his daughters instead -** 4 When they had not yet retired, and the people of the city, the people of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, the entire populace from every end[*of the city*]. 5 And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, and let us be intimate with them." 6 And Lot came out to them to the entrance, and he shut the door behind him. 7 And he said, "My brethren, please do not do evil. 8 Behold now I have two daughters who were not intimate with a man. I will bring them out to you, and do to them as you see fit; only to these men do nothing, because they have come under the shadow of my roof." 9 But they said, "Back away." And they said, "This one came to sojourn, and he is judging! Now, we will deal even worse with you than with them." And they pressed hard upon the man Lot, and they drew near to break the door. 10 And the men stretched forth their hands, and they brought Lot to them to the house, and they shut the door.

**Here the visitors tell Lot to grab his family and get out of town. A thank you of sorts for saving them from the crowd -** 11 And the men who were at the entrance of the house they struck with blindness, both small and great, and they toiled in vain to find the entrance. 12 And the men said to Lot, "Whom else do you have here? A son-in-law, your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, take out of the place. 13 For we are destroying this place, because their cry has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it." 14 So Lot went forth and spoke to his sons-in-law, the suitors of his daughters, and he said, "Arise, go forth from this place, for the Lord is destroying the city," but he seemed like a comedian in the eyes of his sons-in-law. 15 And as the dawn rose, the angels pressed Lot, saying, "Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you perish because of the iniquity of the city." 16 But he tarried, and the men took hold of his hand and his wife's hand, and the hand of his two daughters, out of the Lord's pity for him, and they took him out and placed him outside the city.

**Lot is pokey so now they take him and his family and set them outside and tell them don't look back. Lot doesn't like his new witness protection location and deals for a different one.**

17 And it came to pass, when they took them outside, that he said, "Flee for your life, do not look behind you, and do not stand in the entire plain. Flee to the mountain, lest you perish."

18 And Lot said to them, "Please, do not, O Lord. 19 Behold now, Your servant has found favor in Your eyes, and You have increased Your kindness, which You have done with me, to sustain my soul. But I cannot flee to the mountain, lest the evil overtake me, and I die.

20 Behold now, this city is near to flee there, and it is small. Let me please flee there. Is it not small? And my soul will survive." 21 And he said to him, "Behold I have favored you also as regards this matter, that I will not overturn the city that you have mentioned. 22 Hasten, flee there, for I will not be able to do anything until you arrive there."

Therefore, he named the city Zoar. 23 The sun came out upon the earth, and Lot came to Zoar.

God destroys Sodom and Gormorrah - 24 And the Lord caused to rain down upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire, from the Lord, from heaven. 25 And He turned over these cities and the entire plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and the vegetation of the ground.

Presumably Lot's wife, who should already be in Zoar, looks back and turns to salt - 26 And his wife looked from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

For whatever reason Lot decides against Zoar after all and becomes a cave dweller - 27 And Abraham arose early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. 28 And he looked over the face of Sodom and Gomorrah and over the entire face of the land of the plain, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the earth had risen like the smoke of a furnace. 29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and He sent Lot out of the midst of the destruction when He overturned the cities in which Lot had dwelt. 30 And Lot went up from Zoar, and he dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters were with him, for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar; so he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

This part is not for kids and I just don't like it - 31 And the elder said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on earth to come upon us, as is the custom of all the earth. 32 Come, let us give our father wine to drink, and let us lie with him, and let us bring to life seed from our father." 33 And they gave their father wine to drink on that night, and the elder came and lay with her father, and he did not know of her lying down or of her rising up. 34 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the elder said to the younger, "Behold, last night I lay with my father. Let us give him wine to drink tonight too, and come, lie with him, and let us bring to life seed from our father." 35 So they gave their father to drink on that night also, and the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know of her lying down or of her rising up. 36 And Lot's two daughters conceived from their father. 37 And the elder bore a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of Moab until this day. 38 And the younger, she too bore a son, and she named him Ben-ami; he is the father of the children of Ammon until this day.