

SHABBAT SHALOM

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of blue, purple, and orange. A large, bright sun or moon is on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. A large, dark moon is visible in the upper right portion of the sky. The foreground shows rolling hills and a body of water.

MAY YAH BLESS AND KEEP
YOU ON THIS DAY OF REST !

THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES

Genesis 15 - YHWH's word comes to Avram; YHWH tells Avram the future of his descendants; YHWH makes a covenant with Avram

Genesis 16 - Sarai barren; Hagar given to Avram; Hagar conceives; Hagar flees to wilderness, then returns; Ishmael born to Hagar & Avram

Genesis 17 - Avram becomes Abraham; Sarai becomes Sarah; circumcision introduced to Avram's household

Genesis 18 - Adonai & two angels appear to Avraham; they said Sarah would have a son; Avraham reasoned with YHWH about Sodom

Genesis 19 - Two angels met Lot in Sodom; Lot & family leave Sodom; Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed;

YHWH PROMISES ABRAM'S SEED WILL BE AS NUMEROUS AS THE STARS

After Avram's victory over Chedarlaomer YHWH appeared to him and promised him further protection and great reward. Avram exclaimed, "Of what avail is all my wealth if I go childless, and there be no one to carry on my work after me?"

The answer full of comfort came forthwith, that no stranger should be his heir, but his own child. To enhance the force of these words, YHWH called Avram from his tent and told him to look upwards to the heavens. The next moment Avram was standing at the door of his tent, gazing upwards and listening to the Divine words: "Please look heavenward and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So will be your seed."

The YHWH's Covenant With Abram

- 5 After this, the word of YHWH came to Avram in a vision:
- “Do not be afraid, Avram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”
- 2 But Avram said, “Sovereign Yahweh, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus? ” 3 “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”
- 4 Then the word of YHWH came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir. ” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”
- 6 Avram believed YHWH and he credited it to him as righteousness.
- 7 He also said to him, “I am the Almighty, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”



YHWH MADE A COVENANT WITH AVRAHAM

8 But Avram said, “Sovereign YHWH, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

9 So YHWH said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon. ”

10 Avram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half.



12 As the sun was setting, Avram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then YHWH said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day YHWH made a covenant with Avram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi[e] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates — 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

Early Israelite Settlement in Canaan

Area settled by Israelites

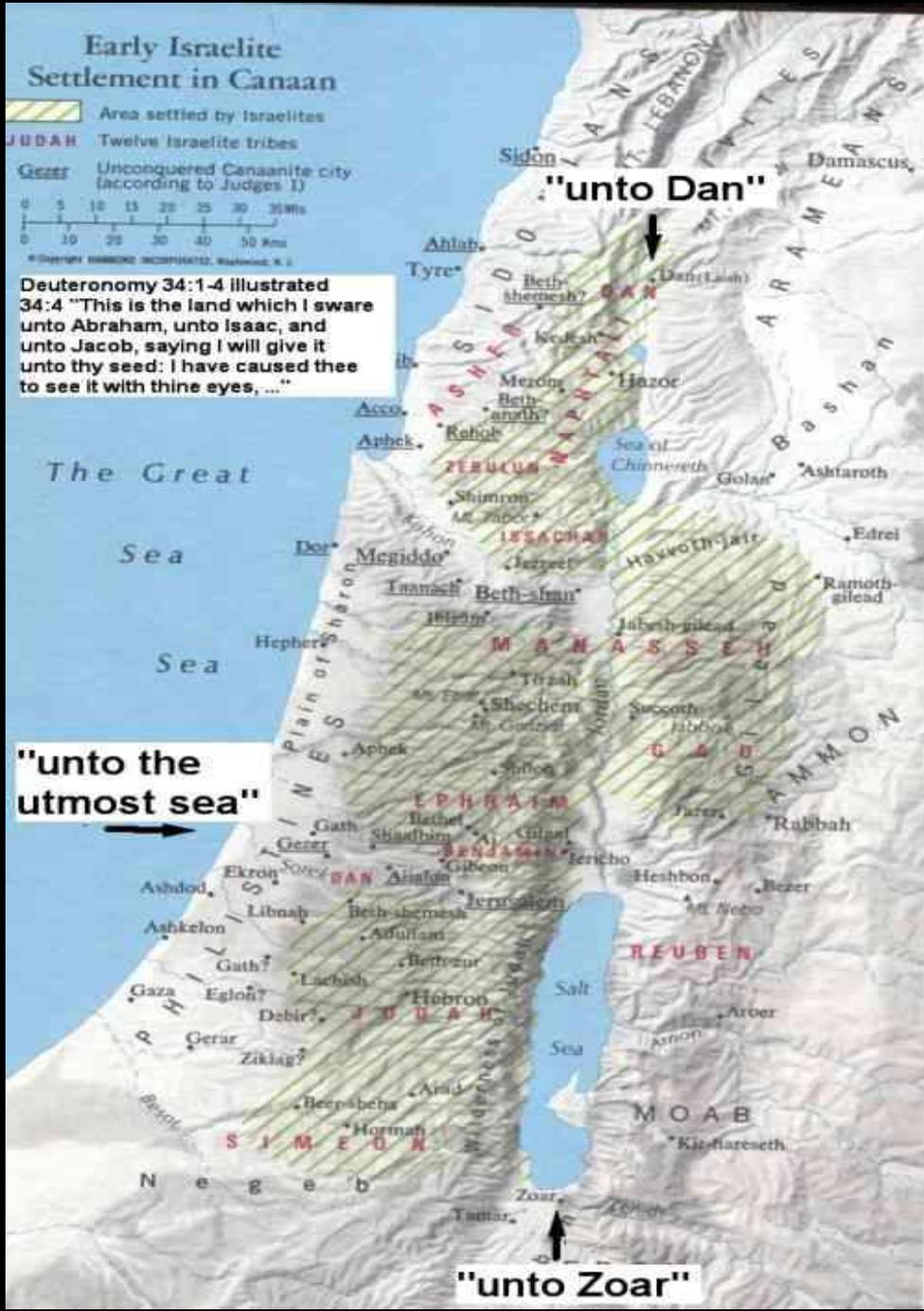
JUDAH Twelve Israelite tribes

Gezer Unconquered Canaanite city (according to Judges 1)

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 Miles
0 10 20 30 40 50 Kms

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Deuteronomy 34:1-4 illustrated 34:4 "This is the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes,..."



"unto Dan"

"unto the utmost sea"

"unto Zoar"

THE STORY OF SARAI AND HAGAR

Though ten years had passed, there was no sign of a son. Sarai felt sorry for Avram because she could not produce a son for him. She felt a strong sense of obligation to produce a son by any means. She became fatalistic about herself, and said, "YHWH has kept me from having children." She could not wait for YHWH's appointed time. She concluded that HE kept her from having children." In a sense she blamed YHWH for her childless problem. She lost her faith in HIS promise and fell into her human thinking. Her impatience turned into unbelief. Instead of waiting for YHWH's time, She began to find a way to give a son to Avram.

Then a brilliant human idea came to Sarah, "Well, as long as a son comes from the body of Abram, it is okay. Hagar seems to be strong and attractive. Why did I not think about this alternative solution before? Let me have a son for Abram through Hagar." In addition, it was the custom of that time to solve a no son problem through a concubine. But her idea was against YHWH'S plan of a family-one wife and one husband. What's wrong with her decision? Sarah did not inquire of YEHOVAH before she made this decision. She tried to have a covenant son through her human effort.

AVRAHAM TAKES HAGAR AS A WIFE

How could YHWH's plan go wrong so quickly?

No sooner than YHWH had made his promise to Avram than Sarai misunderstood it completely. She must have assumed this heir would not be hers since she was quite old. When Avram reached his eighty-fifth birthday, Sarai asked him to marry her maid Hagar. Avram accepted Sarai's advice and took Hagar as wife. She bore him a son, who he called Ishmael, "YHWH will hear."



Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "YHWH has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Avram agreed to what Sarai said. 3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May YHWH judge between you and me."

6 "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

7 The angel of the YHWH found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?”

“I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered.

9 Then the angel of YHWH told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” 10 The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.”

11 The angel of YHWH also said to her:

“You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son.

You shall name him Ishmael, for YHWH has heard of your misery.

He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone’s hand against him,

and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers. ”

LAHAI ROI – THE G-D WHO SEES ME

13 She gave this name to YEHOVAH who spoke to her: “You are the G-d who sees me, ” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi - it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.



When Ishmael was born, Abram thought that Ishmael would be his heir and from him would come the great Jewish nation that YHWH had promised. But YHWH told Abram that not Ishmael, but his son that Sarah would bear him, would be his heir.

Sarah paid great attention to Yitzak's (Isaac's) upbringing. Ishmael was thirteen years older than Isaac, and had already shown some of the "wildness" foretold by the angel. Sarah saw that Ishmael was no suitable companion for Isaac, and so she asked Avram to send away Hagar and her son Ishmael. This was very hard for Avram to do.

However, YHWH said to Abraham: "Whatever Sarai says to you, do."



EL – SHADDAI MEANS YAHWEH ALMIGHTY

After 15 years of silence, YHWH returns to Abram, then 99 years old. HE appeared saying He would confirm His covenant. Abram fell facedown and YAHWEH declared that Abram would now be called a new name Avraham and that his descendants would be kings of many nations and that the whole land of Canaan would be his.

YHWH introduced himself to Avram, “I am G-d Almighty.” which means “El-Shaddai.” It means that YHWH is an all-sufficient mighty G-d. Avram did not know the mighty power of El- Shaddai and he limited HIM to his childless problem.



God's promises to Abraham by James Tissot

Genesis 17:1,5 “When Avram was ninety-nine years old, the El Shaddai appeared to him and said, ‘I am YHWH Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. No longer will you be called Avram; your name will be Avraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.’”

Avram means “noble father”

“Avraham” means “the father of many nations.”

YHWH also said to Avraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

17 Avraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” 18 And Abraham said to El Shaddai, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!”

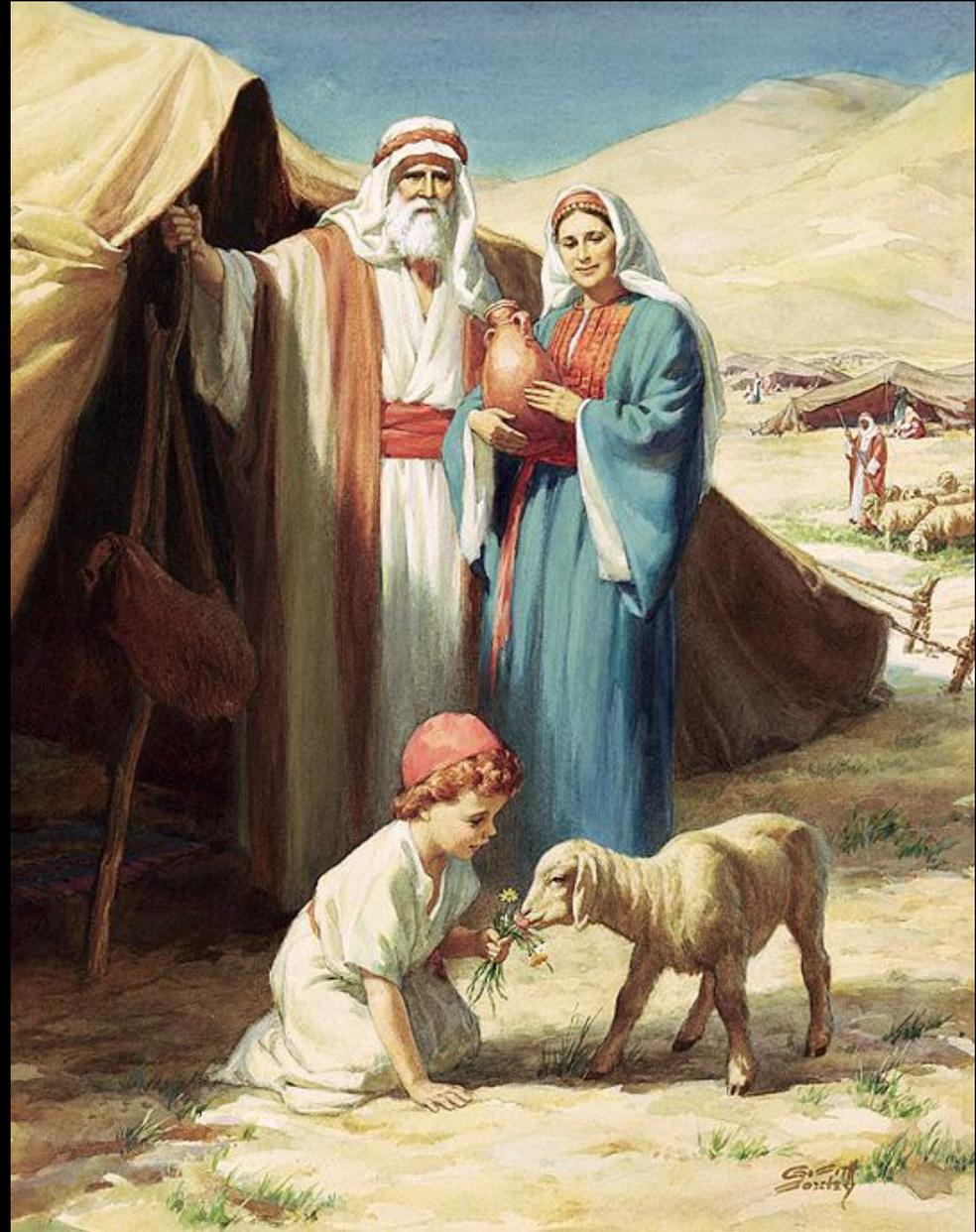
The Circumcision of Avraham

9 Then YHWH said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. 10 This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.

12 For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. 13 Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.

14 Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Genesis 17:19 Then YHWH said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Yitzak (Isaac). I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. 21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.” 22 When he had finished speaking with Avraham, YHWH went up from him.



The names of our Creator and Saviour

El: This most fundamental form of the word "God" in Hebrew appears in the Tanakh or Hebrew bible. It is typically used in the poetic passages, and appears over 200 times in the Old Testament, mostly in Psalms and the Book of Job. (1)

Elohim: This word is a plural noun. It appears over 2,500 times in the Old Testament. It is most associated with God as "The Creator" and appears as the third word in the Hebrew text in Genesis and throughout the Hebrew bible. (2) God as the Creator, Preserver, Transcendent, Mighty and Strong. Jonah use Elohim almost exclusively. (3)

El Elyon: The Most High God. Referenced eight times in the Psalms as well as numerous times in other books of the Old Testament.

El Olam: The Everlasting God, or God Everlasting. Forever. (4)

El Roi: The God Who Sees. Hagar, in Genesis, used this name for G-d.

El Shaddai: The All Sufficient One, or YHWH All Sufficient.

Adonai: Master. Used over 300 times in the Old Testament. (5)

Yehovah (Yahweh or abbreviated YHWH) :LORD (all capitals), the covenant name of God. It occurs over 6,800 times in the Old Testament. (6)

Jehovah-jireh: YHWH will Provide. In Genesis 22:14: Abraham called the name of that place "YHWH Will Provide", as it is said to this day, "In the mount of YHWH it will be provided."

Jehovah-mekoddishkem: YHWH whom Sanctifies. From Leviticus 20:8: You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am YHWH who sanctifies you.

Jehovah-nissi: YHWH is my banner. In Exodus 17:15: Moses built an altar and named it "YHWH is My Banner;"

Jehovah-raah: YAHWEH is my Shepherd. From Psalm 23: YAHWEH is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Jehovah-rapha: YHWH as your Healer. In Exodus 15:26: And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of YHWH your G-d, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, YHWH, am your healer."

Jehovah-sabaoth: YHWH of Hosts. From Psalm 46:7: YHWH of hosts is with us; The G-d of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.

Jehovah-shalom: YHWH is Peace. In Judges 6:24: Then Gideon built an altar there to YHWH and named it YHWH is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Jehovah-shammah: YHWH is There. From Ezekiel 48:35: "The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, 'YAHWEH is there.'"

Jehovah-tsidkenu: YHWH is our Righteousness. In Jeremiah 33:16: 'In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.'

Yesha: (Y'shua) "Savior" Isa. 43:3. Derived from the Hebrew "Joshua" (Y'shua) or "Je-Hoshua" meaning JEHOVAH Is Salvation. THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES!!

Immanual: G-D with Us. From Matthew 1:23: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "G-D WITH US."

The WORD: The WORD is God. In John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with YHWH, and the Word was YHWH.

THREE MESSENGERS VISIT AVRAHAM IN MAMRE



A FRIEND OF YHWH

What does it mean to be somebody's friend? What does it take to develop a friendship? I have heard it said that in order to have friends, you have to be a friend. I think of that in terms of serving others, listening, accepting, challenging, being there when needed. Three times in the Bible Abraham is called the "friend of YHWH". 2Chron.20:7; James 2:23; Isaiah 41:8. Why is Abraham called the friend of YHWH? We know that YHWH had a special relationship with several OT heroes. David was "a man after YHWH's own heart", Enoch walked with YHWH, and Moses communed with YHWH face to face.

The account recorded in Genesis 18 testifies to the very high esteem that Abraham held in the eyes of God. That is why he is called "Abraham My friend" in Isaiah 41:8; why he is called God's "friend forever" in 2Chronicles 20:7; why in James 2:23 it states, ". . . he was called the friend of God". And, as an added twist, Abraham had been circumcised just THREE DAYS before meeting the three visitors!!

Genesis 18:1 The LORD Adonai appeared to Avraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Avraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my master, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

As we read these verses we can see how Avraham imitated YHWH in displaying kindness, by showing hospitality. Avraham discerned that three men, strangers some distance away were actually messengers from Yehovah. These visitors were both unknown and unexpected, by Avraham, but according to the custom in those days, a traveller in a strange place could expect to be cared for. But Avraham did not wait for these strangers to exercise this right, but he took the initiative! Yes, Avraham "began running" to meet these strangers- and "in the heat of the day"- at the age of 99 years old!

In Genesis 18:1, the word "LORD" is Strong's Concordance #3068 Yehovah. (Other pronunciations include Yahweh and Yahveh. The name is so sacred that orthodox Jews will not even attempt to pronounce it. Instead they usually use the term "Hashem" meaning the name or "Adonai".)

We know from previous scriptures such as Genesis 12:1, 15:1, and 17:1 that Avraham had seen YAHWEH appearing to him.



Strongs Concordance (2010) indicates that RA'AH is the Hebrew word used for “appeared” in the following scriptures. It means that Abraham experienced live visions while he was wide awake. RA'AH means that God appeared, presented Himself, was seen or was visible to Avraham in these visions:

And YHWH appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him (Gen 12: 7)

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, YHWH appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty G-D; walk before me, and be thou perfect (Gen 17: 1).

Genesis 17: 22 says that YHWH “left off talking with him, and ... went up from Avraham”. Alah, is the Hebrew word for “went up”, means that YHWH ascended or departed from Avraham.

And YHWH appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day (Gen 18: 1).

YEHOVAH MEANS “THE EXISTING ONE”

This description tells us that YHWH has no beginning or end. King David later confirmed this when he said:

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalms 90:2

Now Abraham says this...“Oh Yahweh if I have found favor in your sight” . It is in the singular, so Avraham is addressing the leader of the three, while later he addresses all three in the plural. The phrasing, “found favor in your sight” has not been used since Noah in chapter 6, therefore linking the two.



WAS ONE OF THE ANGELS YAHSHUA?

Yehovah or Jehovah is the same G-d who fellowshiped with Adam, Eve, Abel, Enoch, Noah and other righteous people in times of old. This is why Yahshua told the Hebrews, “before Abraham was, I am” (Jn 8: 58). In other words, I existed even before Abraham did.

These events relate to a significant point that Yahshua makes in John 3:13. He says that “no man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven.” Yahshua is making the point, long before He was resurrected, that there is only One person who has ascended to heaven and it is that One who came down from heaven. What is significant is that He speaks of this ascension into heaven as though it has happened in the past. And in fact it did – many times - these Old Covenant events we are discussing are some of those times that the One who came down from Heaven ascended back there.

YAHWEH AND YAHSHUA are one.
“I and my Father are one.” John
10:30.

So if you have seen the son you
have seen the father and vice versa.

In the beginning was the Word, and
the Word was with God, and the
Word was God...All things were
made by him...He was in the world,
and the world was made by him, and
the world knew him not...And the
Word was made flesh, and dwelt
among us John 1:1, 3, 10, 14

Yahshua said ...he that has seen me
has seen the Father; and how can
you say then, Show us the Father?
John 14:9



RECOGNIZING THE VOICE OF YOUR MASTER

- Question: How was it that Abraham was able to recognize he was witnessing a manifestation of El Shaddai? What did Yahshua say about the ability of the faithful to recognize YHWH? See Jn 10:27.
- Answer: When you walk with YHWH and live a blameless life, you immediately recognize Him when He calls to you.
- John 10:27 The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.

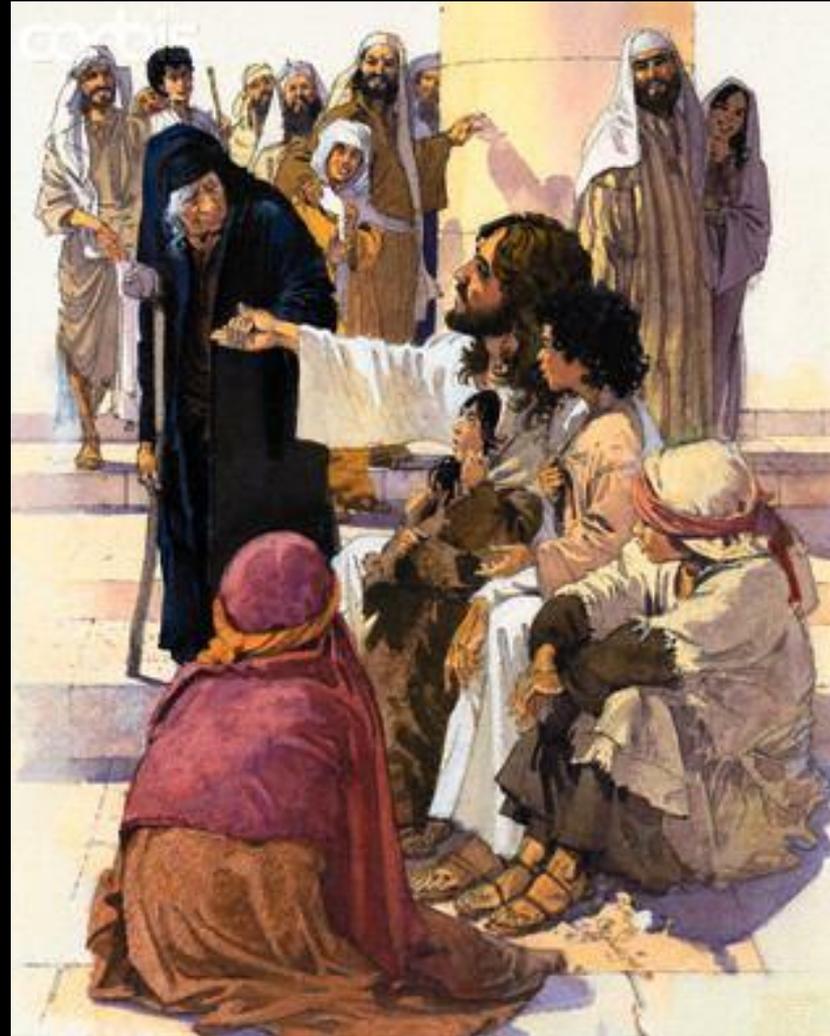


Yahshua said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd" (John 10:14-16).

YAHSHUA, appearing in a visible human form and accepting the hospitality of a man was repeated in the Gospels when the Messiah, fully human and fully divine, ate and drank with saints and sinners.

Because Abraham believed in YHWH and walked in his presence and in covenant with him, the patriarch is ready to welcome a mysterious Guest into his tent. Abraham's remarkable hospitality at Mamre foreshadows the annunciation of the true Son of the promised.

After that, Abraham's heart is attuned to his YHWH's compassion for men and he dares to intercede for them with bold confidence in Sodom.(CCC 2571).

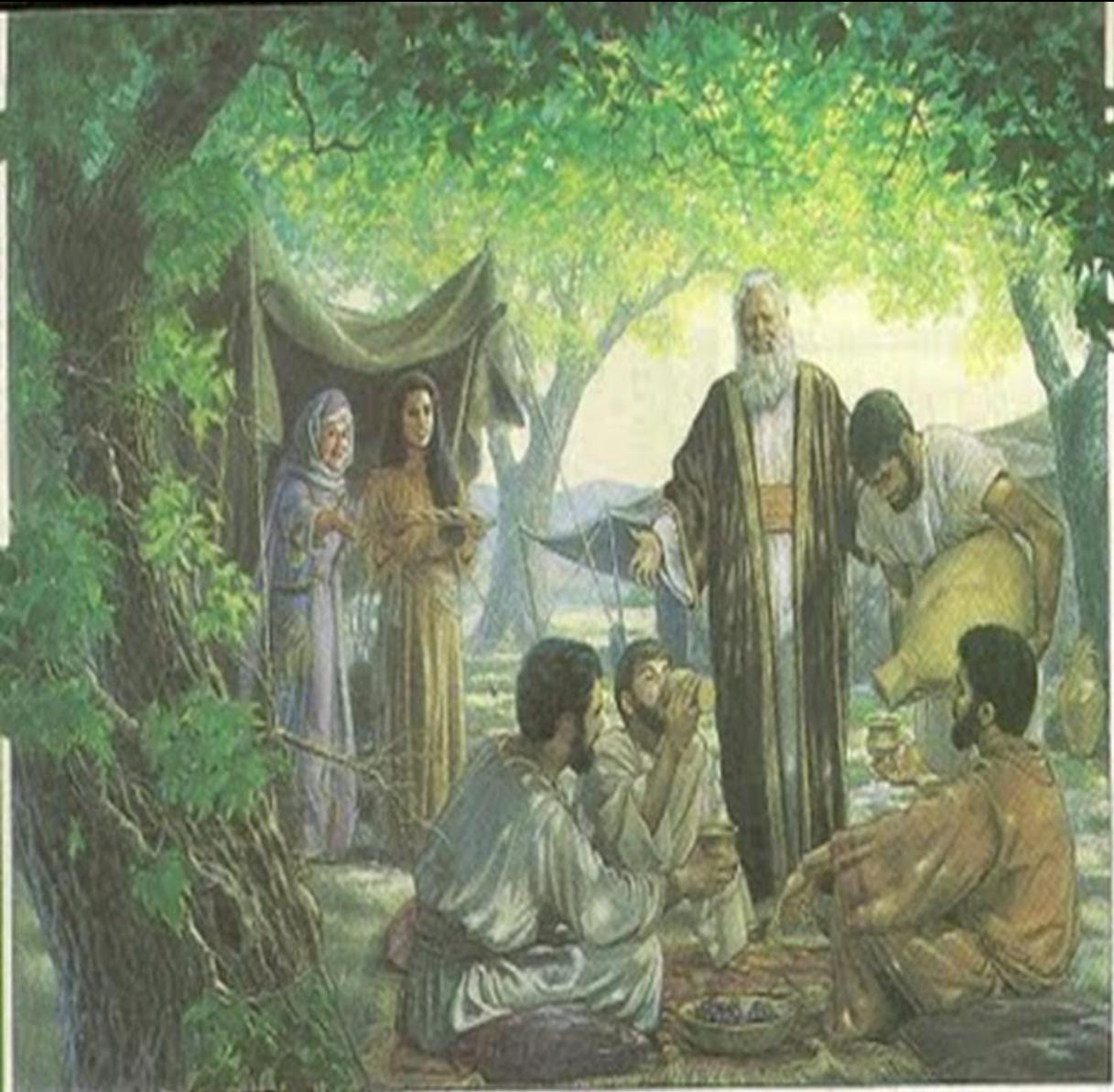


SARAH PREPARES UNLEAVENED BREAD FOR THE 3 GUESTS

Genesis 18:4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.” “Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

6 So Avraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. “Quick,” he said, “get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.



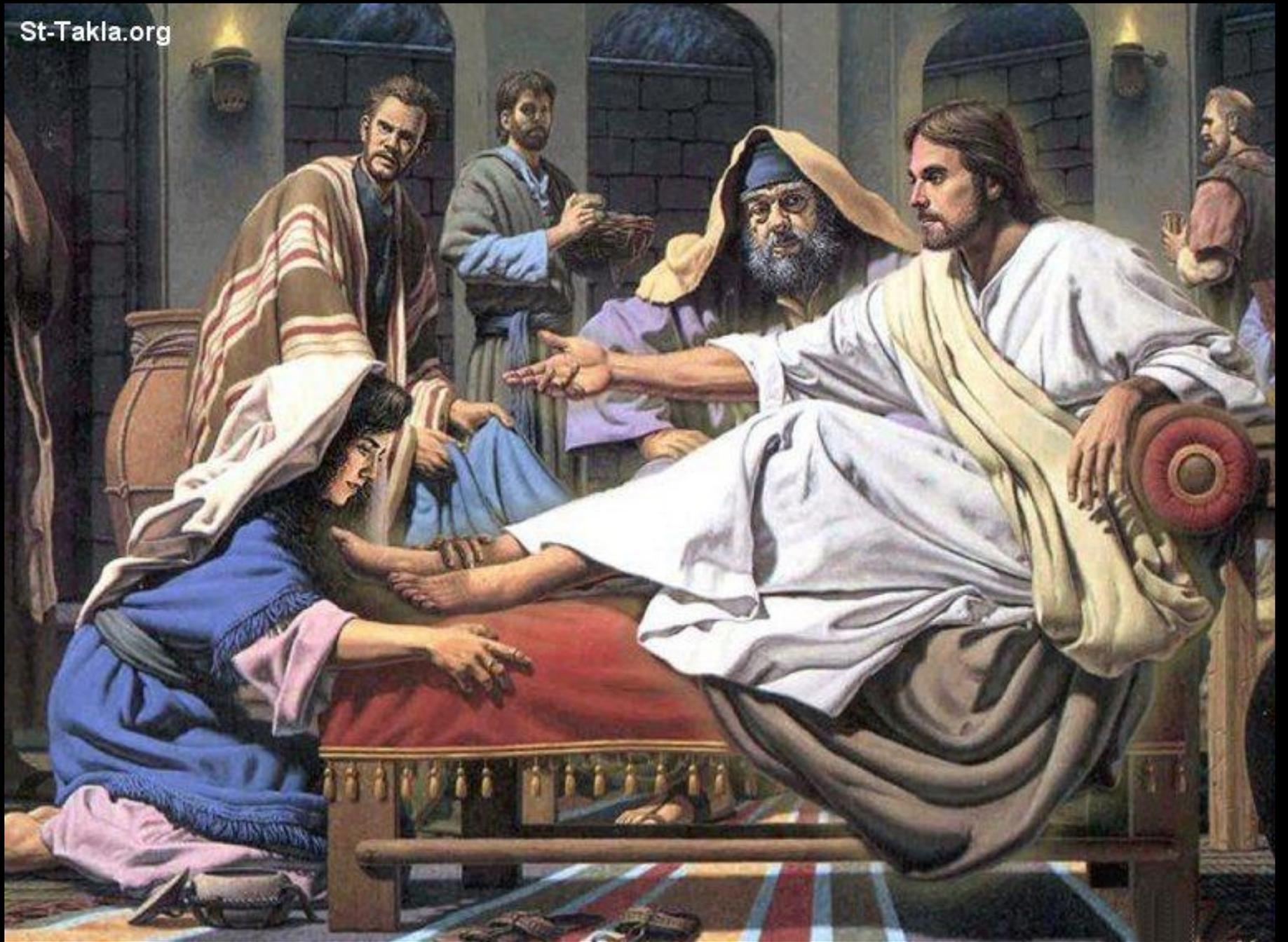
Genesis 18:4-5:4 Let me have a little water brought, and you can wash your feet and have a rest under the tree They replied, 'Do as you say.'

It was the custom to provide water for a guest to wash his feet; it was one of the respectful signs of hospitality. This was also the custom in the 1st century AD (1 Tim 5:10).

WASHING WITH THE WATER AND THE WORD

Can you recall two incidents of feet washing connected to Yahshua? What was the significance of these events? See Lk 7:38-44 and Jn 13:5-16.

Luke wrote of an incident that took place when Yahshua was invited to eat at the home of a wealthy Pharisee. At the dinner a sinful woman approached Yahshua as He was reclining at the banquet table of His host: She waited behind him at his feet, weeping and her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them away with her hair... When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who this woman is and what sort of person it is who is touching him and what a bad name she has.'





Knowing what the Pharisee was thinking, Yahshua chastised His host for his uncharitable thoughts and added: 'You see this woman? I came into your house, and you poured no water over my feet, but she has poured out her tears over my feet and wiped them away with her hair (Lk 7:38-44).

The washing of Yahshua's feet by the sinful woman was a sign of her repentance. The wealthy Pharisee did not show Yahshua's this sign of hospitality, an indication of his lack of respect for the Messiah.

Yahshua washed the feet of His Apostles at the Last Supper in a teaching that illustrated the humility necessary to serve as His emissaries in spreading the Gospel of salvation.

John 13: After Yahshua had washed their feet and put on his outer clothes, he took his place at the table again. Then he asked his disciples, “Do you understand what I’ve done for you? You call me teacher and Master, and you’re right because that’s what I am. So if I, your Master and teacher, have washed your feet, you must wash each other’s feet. I’ve given you an example that you should follow. I can guarantee this truth: Slaves are not superior to their owners, and messengers are not superior to the people who send them.

Mark 10:45 Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



The Sheep and the Goats

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Matthew 25:37-40

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Master, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’



41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

44 “They also will answer, ‘Master, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE MEASUREMENT OF 3 SEAHS OF FLOUR

Abraham's concern for the comfort of the visitors is a typical depiction of Middle Eastern courtesy: washing away the dust of the journey, providing hastily baked cakes of what was probably unleavened bread loaves, milk in two forms, and roasted meat (The International Critical Commentary: Genesis, page 300). Notice the repetition of the number three: three visitors and three measures (seah) of flour. The use of "threes" in the narrative points to something of importance and an event that will impact salvation history.

What was "three measures of meal"? There is a principle of Bible study (the law of first mention) that says, "The first time a thing—a word, a phrase—is mentioned in the Bible influences how it should be interpreted throughout." Here, "three measures of meal" is used in the context of a fellowship meal—giving hospitality, in this case, to YAHSHUA—so it has a spiritual connotation.

ISRAELITE UNIT MEASUREMENTS

The law of grain offerings in Numbers 15:8-9 provides some instruction. We need to learn a little bit about Israelite dry measures. The smallest unit of measure is an omer. Three omers equal one about one seah. This seah is what is translated "measure" in Matthew 13:33, except it is in Greek saton. There is also the ephah, which is ten omers. Three seahs made up of about three omers equal one ephah. These verses show that the smallest meal offering that could be given was one seah, one-third of an ephah. It had to be of fine flour. Abraham gave three seahs, three measures. He went above and beyond what was required for the meal offering.

www.bibletools.org



According to Clarke's Commentary, Sarah baked 56 pounds of dough. Do you know how much bread that makes! A lot! If "3 seahs" represents about over 50 pounds of dough, then the whole point of specifically mentioning this amount is to point to generosity. Sarah baked WAY to much bread for these men. According to Barnes Notes on the Bible, three-tenths of one seah was enough for a man for a day. So three seahs was enough to richly feed this band of men for days and days! Sarah wasn't just providing enough to get by. She wasn't being careful or cautious with her supplies. She was giving them more than enough hospitality for not only that day, but the rest of their journey. That is the heart of the Kingdom. That is why Yahshua says the Kingdom of YHWH is like a hospitable woman!

In the Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21), He forewarns of internal doctrinal distortions.

13:33; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

What does leaven represent? Matthew Luke 13:21.

Commentary: Physically, leaven is a lump of old dough in a high state of fermentation, or a substance that causes dough to rise (yeast). A natural reason for leaven's negative symbolism is the idea that fermentation implies a process of corruption. In the Old Testament, it is generally symbolic of sin and evil. In every instance that leaven appears in the Bible, it represents evil; the only exception, some say, is Jesus' use of leaven in this parable. Knowing its Old Testament significance, however, He would have used the symbol in the same way.

THE NATURE OF LEAVEN

First, let's discuss the nature of leaven. It is another word for yeast, a naturally occurring plant. In ancient times, they didn't know that. What they did know is that if you took flour and water, kneaded it well and left it in a cool place for a long time, the dough would rise. They also knew that this process would speed up if you saved a little dough each time you baked to add to your next batch. This reserve is now called a 'starter.' It was a good way to preserve yeast that made good bread, versus leaving the dough out every night in hope that it would catch a good wild yeast versus a bad one. Once the yeast gets into the lump, it spreads throughout the lump without noticeably changing its colour. Yeast is both invisible and yet visible, since it does change the shape and texture of the dough.

George R. A. Aquaro

If you keep adding flour and water to the same small lump of dough, the dough will become sour with the waste products of the yeast. This is how we get 'sourdough' bread. The sourness comes with the yeast staying in the bread a long time.

So, we can see that yeast bread involves a lot of work and reliance on our past bread making. Making unleavened bread is much easier: once the flour and water are mixed, the bread is ready to bake in a short time. There is no 'starter' from yesterday, so unleavened bread has no past.

We can see the different symbolism that an ancient writer might use from bread baking to represent certain concepts: leavening represents a connection with the past, a flavouring when it becomes old, a force that invisibly spreads, a change that is also unseen, complexity, activity/festivity and involves labour. Dough without leaven represents haste, a break with the past, an absence of extra flavour, simplicity.

George R. A. Aquaro

Judges 6:18-19 shows Gideon's offering to the Lord. How much did he give? Gideon gave an ephah, three measures of meal. I Samuel 1:24 tells of Hannah's thank offering. How much? Hannah's offering was one ephah, three measures of meal. In Ezekiel 45:24 and 46:5, 7, 11 are the offerings given at the Feast during the Millennium. How much is given? An ephah, three measures of meal, is given.

With these examples in mind, we can understand that Yahshua's use of this phrase Matthew 13:33; **“The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened”**; would have made His Jewish audience think immediately of the meal offering in Leviticus 2, 11 **“Every grain offering you bring to YHWH must be made without yeast, for you are not to burn any yeast or honey in a food offering presented to YHWH.”**

They would have been absolutely mortified to find that someone had the audacity, the blasphemy, to put leaven in a meal offering! That was not kosher! It simply was not done! A person who did so could expect to be zapped by the next lightning bolt out of heaven. It was sin. What, then, would the normal Hebrew have thought? He would have understood immediately that the Kingdom of Heaven would be subverted. Something good had been corrupted. **Martin G. Collins.**



The Kingdom spreads like yeast! Think of it: there is no outside change when one repents and becomes a believer, yet it somehow changes not just individuals but the entire world. We can now look back on history to see how the body of believers in Yahshua changed so many people and see the truth here.

"And this is the reason why He called you leaven: for leaven also does not leaven itself, but, little though it is, it affects the whole lump however big it may be. So also do ye: although ye are few in number, yet be ye many and powerful in faith, and in zeal towards YHWH. As then the leaven is not weak on account of its littleness, but prevails owing to its inherent heat, and the force of its natural quality so ye also will be able to bring back a far larger number than yourselves, if you will, to the same degree of zeal as your own."

-St. John Chrysostom

THE KINGDOM OF YHWH IS LOVE AND THE
ETERNAL GIFT OF LIFE



The second way that the Gospels use leaven is symbolic of the doctrines of the Pharisees. These doctrines lead to false works and eventually condemnation. The likening to leaven reveals the strength of attraction in the outwards acts of piety by the Pharisees, something that the Apostle Shaul (Paul) will struggle against later.

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Yahshua, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 YHWH will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

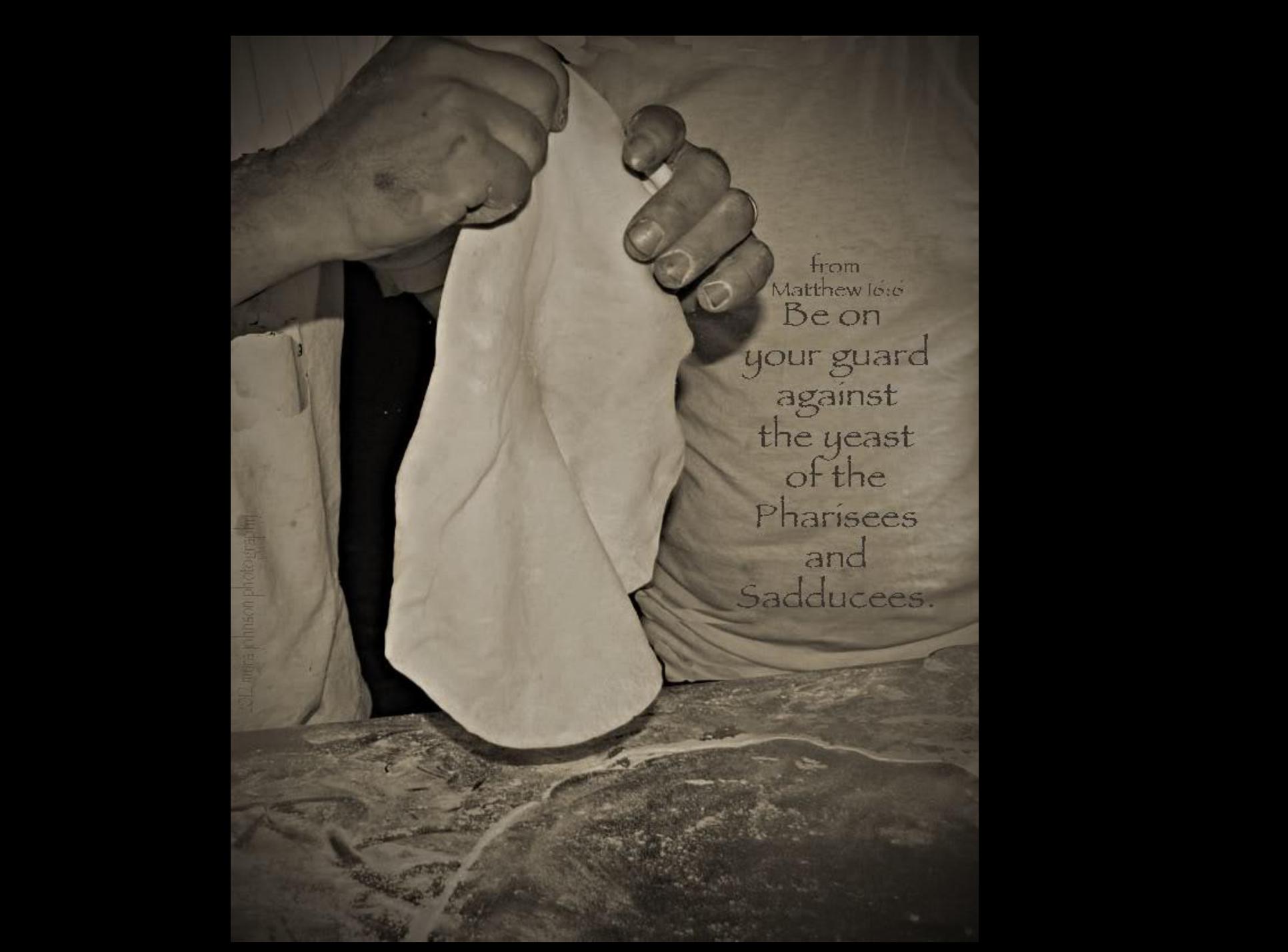
The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees

5 When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. 6 “Be careful,” Jesus said to them. “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 7 They discussed this among themselves and said, “It is because we didn’t bring any bread.”



HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT LITERAL
BREAD BUT OF FALSE DOCTRINE (LEAVEN)
HIDDEN AMONGEST TRUTH

8 Aware of their discussion, Yahshua asked, “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? 9 Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? 11 How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 12 Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.



from
Matthew 16:6
Be on
your guard
against
the yeast
of the
Pharisees
and
Sadducees.

Luke 12: 1 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Yahshua began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

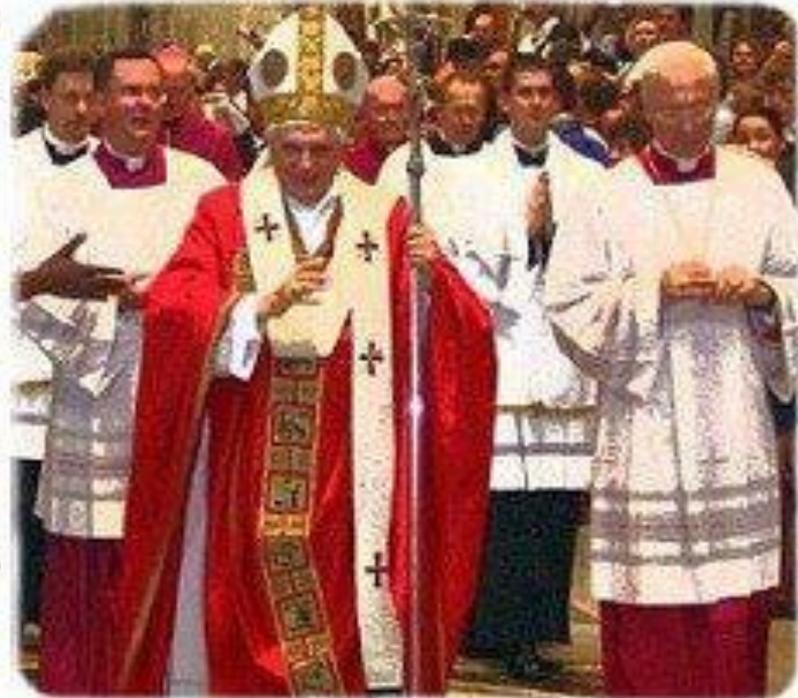


Galatians 5:7-9, 7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” It’s diffusive quality describes the harmful effects of false doctrine. Apostle Paul calls leaven a persuasion, something that exerts a powerful and moving influence, which hinders people from obeying the truth. Such a thing, he declares, is not from Him who calls us, therefore it is our arch enemy and nemesis Satan.

In the parable, the leaven alone is not what relates to the kingdom, but the entire concept in the parable, the progress of the church in history. The leaven is hidden in the meal, representing the way Satan subtly strikes against the truth. Leaven is symbolic of things that disintegrate, break up, and corrupt. The leaven of the Pharisees was hypocritical formality. That of the Sadducees was scepticism. Herod's was of shameful self-indulgence in worldly desires. The leaven of those who have distorted doctrine down through the ages has been greed, pride, control, and worldly desires.

Christian Pagan Customs Still Practiced Today By The Modern Pharisees

Much of the pagan worship of Gods practiced thousands of years ago are still seen today. Customs forbidden by the Holy Prophets, such as Christmas, Halloween, and Easter, were practised long before the Savior was born. Yahweh's Holy Prophets warned both the leaders and the people of the evil.



The Pagan Perversion of Yahweh's name to god and his son Yahshua's name to Jesus is the most obvious form of sin against HIM. Furthermore is the removal of the Sabbath Day to worshipping on the pagan day of Sunday (the day for worshipping the sun god Nimrod). The institution of Christmas to supposedly celebrate the birth of Messiah on December 25th- is really just celebrating Nimrod and all the other pagan deities birthdays. Instituting Easter to worship the goddess Ishtar and removing YHWH's holy feast of Passover. The list of things the Roman Catholic church has instituted over the last 1700 years that are just pure pagan worship are so appalling that you will be horrified. To know in depth what these are please read the power point presentation by Grace Elizabeth Cohen THE PAGIANITY WE INHERITED available to read online or download at www.jonahministries.com.au

To watch a video also on this subject click on this you tube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnepcFOZY0M>

Whenever we find the symbol of a woman in the Bible, she represents a system of beliefs and practices that influence other people. Nations or political groups and religions or churches have specific unique beliefs. All human-based belief systems go contrary to YHWH because "the carnal mind is enmity against YHWH" (Romans 8:7). What the woman does and how she acts determines what belief system she is representing.

The woman in the parable takes leaven and hides it in the meal (Matthew 13:33). Hid is translated from the Greek word enkrupto, from which comes the English word "encrypt." The root word, krupto, means "to conceal" or "to keep secret." Hence, this woman is surreptitiously placing the leaven of false doctrine in the church. She is an opponent of Yahshua and infuses His church with corrupting ideas. Elsewhere she is called "Wickedness" (Zechariah 5:7-8), "Jezebel" (Revelation 2:20), and the "great harlot" (Revelation 17:1).

Yahshua warns in this parable that false doctrines would be infused by stealth into the church, and these evil beliefs would corrupt, erode, and destroy relationships.

**JEZEBEL INFUSES THE CHURCH WITH
WICKNESS, LIES AND FALSE DOCTRINES**



YAHSHUA WILL STRIKE JEZEBEL'S CHILDREN DEAD

Rev 2:18-29 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of YHWH, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. 19 “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. 20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, 23 and I will strike her children dead.



And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. 24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. 25 Only hold fast what you have until I come. 26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL



If we look at Genesis 18:6 it tells of how Abraham instructed Sarah to use THREE seahs of flour to make bread for Yahshua and the two angels who appeared to them.

Notice the urgency? Most importantly she was to , bake it a hurry! It had to be done quickly! It had to be done on time! Why? In other words without yeast nor allowing time for the dough to rise.

Those listening to Yahshua who were Israelites would have understood this allusion to Sarah providing hospitality for HIM and his angels. Sarah here was a symbol (a type) of the Faithful Church in this illustration. But in this 4th letter/parable we see the anti-type in this other woman, who is a symbol of the UNfaithful Church.

So we can't add this yeast. This yeast added to the three measures of flour, otherwise begins affecting "all the dough." At first it may seem harmless, but overtime the results are obvious. The same applies to false doctrine. This is why the Holy Spirit must guide in all matters.

WE MUST BE READY FOR THE RETURN OF YAHSHUA HAMASCHIACH

Think now how different the story would have been in Genesis 18 had yeast been added to the dough - even a little bit. The dough would have grown even larger. The yeast would have completely affected it (as Yahshua points out). It would have taken LONGER to prepare!

The end result would have been that the bread would not have been ready in time for the visitation of her master and heavenly visitors. Sarah otherwise would not have been prepared for that moment.

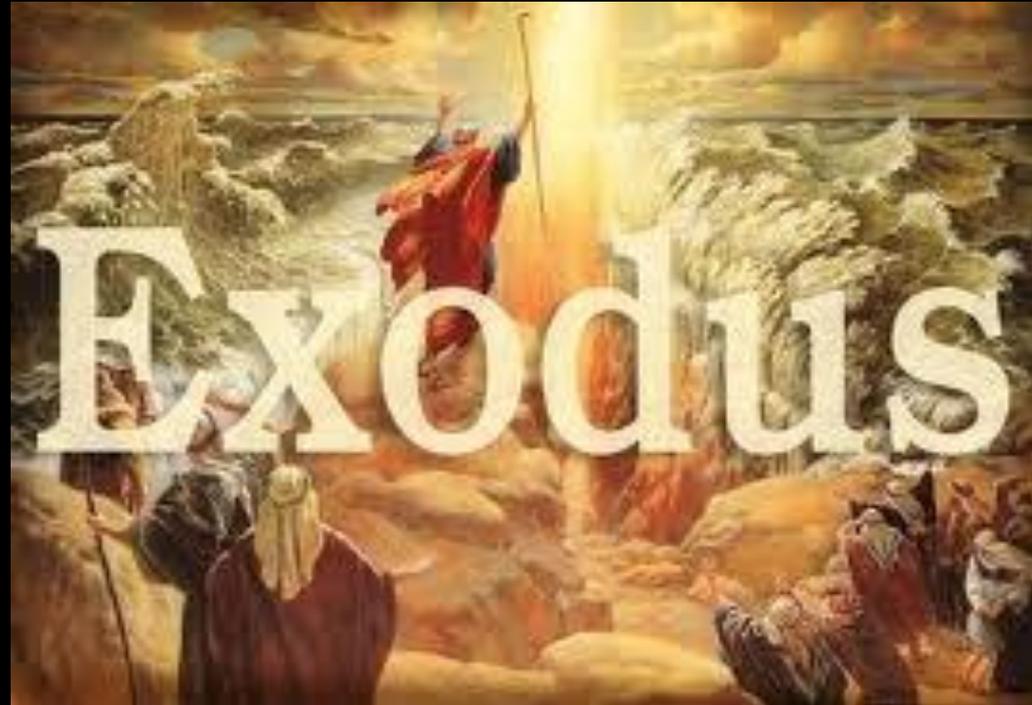
On the other hand, the church of Thyatira was not ready to meet Yahshua. HE even gave them time to repent, but she did not.

The application is that we want to be ready. Timing is so important! We want to be spiritually ready to meet Yahshua when He comes!

Meanwhile the church corrupted by the yeast (the false teachings, hypocrisy, immorality, etc) will not be ready and left behind. Their time will be up.

For further study, be sure to see also Exodus 12:34 & 39. There it also talks about the timing and urgency. It describes how the Israelites had to leave Egypt carrying dough made without yeast. Again, they had to do so because they could leave quickly.

The Exodus is a symbol of having to leave a place urgently. So in short: this yeast is a symbol of NOT being ready for our departure.



BE READY FOR THE SECOND EXODUS



YEHOVAH YIREH PROVIDES SARAH AND AVRAHAM WITH A SON

One other connection with Gen 18 is that YHWH promises to give Sarah a son after she makes the bread with three measures of unleavened bread. Note the opposite in the letter to Thyatira where Yahshua instead promises to “strike her children dead,”. He is referring there to “that woman” “Jezebel.”

One other example in Genesis can be found when Lot also made bread “without yeast” for the angels in **Gen 19:3**. **“But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.”**

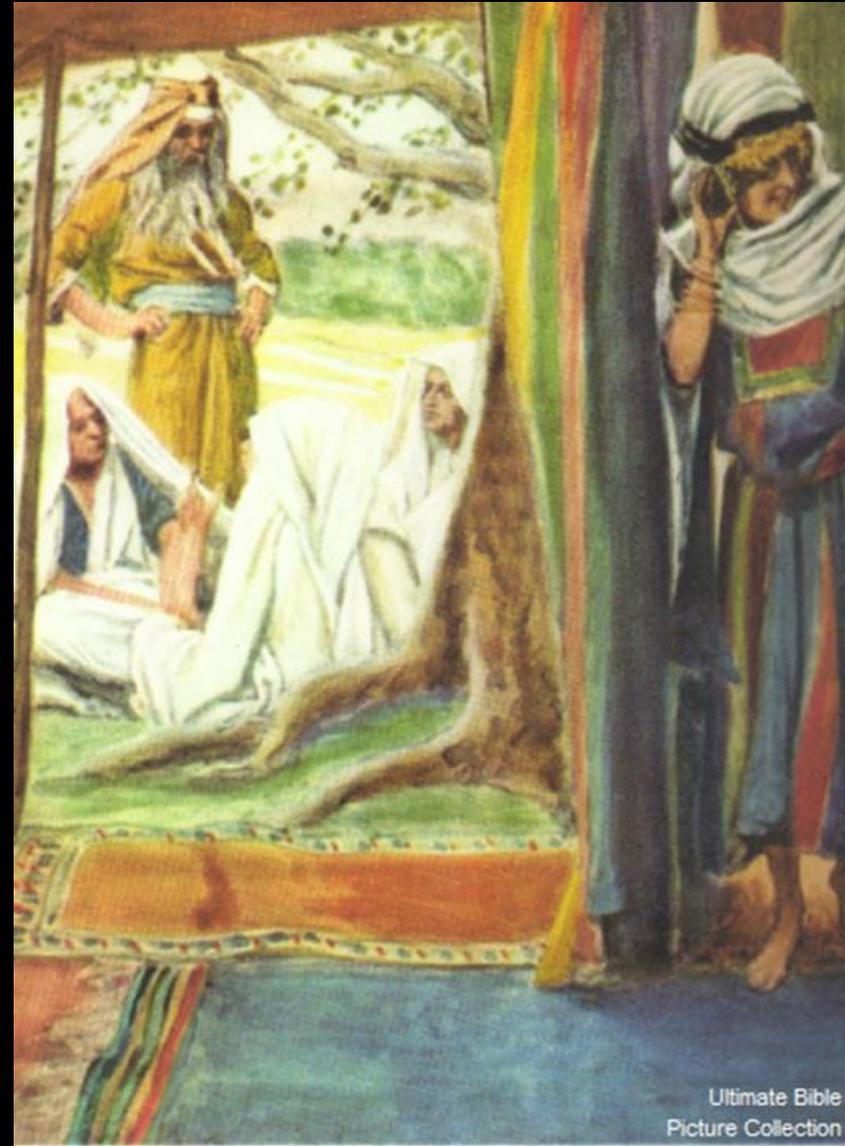
This happened before he was removed from the city to escape its judgment. Again and again, we see the connection with the exodus and departure of the believers, which occurs right before the Great Tribulation.

9 “Where is your wife Sarah?”
they asked him.

“There, in the tent, ” he said.

10 Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

11 Avraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my husband is old, will I now have this pleasure?”



13 Then YHWH said to Avraham,
“Why did Sarah laugh and say,
‘Will I really have a child, now that
I am old?’

14 Is anything too hard for
YHWH.

I will return to you at the
appointed time next year, and
Sarah will have a son.”

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied
and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”



END OF PART 1
FOR PART 2 GO TO
THE PP LOT, SODOM
AND THE END DAYS