

Zerah Torah Limood

## Bereisheit Chapter 16

Be Compassionate! ©

By Dr. Akiva Gamliel and Rebbetzin Revi Belk

This Zerah Torah Limood is in the loving memory of Helen bat Na'amah. Revi's Grandmother Gladys Ethel and father and step father, my mother and my father, Carrie bat Brachah Rivkah, Stephen ben Martha, Sharon bat Vivian, Florence Youman bat Chavah, Jeanne C. W. Pierre, Joseph Adam Pierre, Louella P. Bienvenu, Barbara Pierre, Terrill B. Thomas, Joyce Duff bat Na'amah and Michael and Channah Sakash may they rest in peace.

Dear Ones being Compassionate... understanding... sympathetic... sensitive... loving and warm is really really IMPORTANT. In this weeks Limood we note immediately that Sarai, Avram's wife bore him no children.... What did he do? Did he comfort his wife? Was he understanding? This is only 15 years from Bereisheit 15.3 where *Avram said to the Creator And Abram said, Behold, to me you have given no seed; and, lo, one born in my house is my heir.*

Bereisheit 3.6

וַתֵּרָא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ לְמַאֲכָל וְכִי תֵאֻוָּה־  
הוּא לְעֵינַיִם וְנַחֲמָד הָעֵץ לְהִשְׁכִּיל וַתִּקַּח מִפְּרִי  
וַתֹּאכַל וַתִּתֵּן גַּם־לְאִישָׁהּ עִמָּהּ וַיֹּאכַל:

Bereisheit 2.15

וַיִּקַּח יְהוָה אֶל־הֵימָּוֶת אֶת־הָאָדָם וַיִּנְחֵהוּ בְּגֹן־עֵדֶן  
לְעַבְדָּהּ וּלְשִׁמְרָהּ:

Avram was only 70 years old when he said this prayer. His wife, Sarai was only 60 years old. They had only been married for a short time. Bereisheit 11. 29 establishes the time Avram and Nachor married. This was immediately after the fiery furnaces of Chasidim. It was after the fiery furnaces of Ur Chasidim that Avram and Nachor married. Then Terach took Avram with Sarai & Nachor with Milcah and Lot and traveled towards Eretz Canaan. So what is the point? Avram and Sarai had only been married for months when Avram stated, *Behold, to me you have given no seed.* Avram was expecting children immediately. Can we inquire? How did this make Sarai feel? Five years into their traveling they return to Haran. They are there a short time when the Creator Says 'Get Out!'. Avram was seventy-five and Sarai was sixty-five. They left Eretz Canaan long enough that the custom of Eretz Canaan did not apply. What custom? A woman must provide children to her husband within the first ten years of living in Eretz Canaan.. If she failed then he was to divorce her and to take another wife.... What is the point? Sarai felt the heat! It was actually fifteen years and she had not given Avram children.

THIS IS WHERE being Compassionate... understanding... sympathetic... sensitive... loving and warm is really really IMPORTANT! Avram was there 15 years earlier. He knew what it was like! He knew how it felt! Where do we see his compassion? We don't see his compassion. Simply and crudely put He and Hagar got together and had a child. Sarai was left out. Yet there was a time when Avram basically complained to the Creator *to me you have given no seed.*

We must inquire where was Avram's compassion to his wife Sarai? Maybe it was there... In the year 5772 I do not see HaTorah sharing Avram's compassion. This is not to say it did not exist. It is to say, I don't see his compassion. He took that young pretty princess of Mitzriam and they had a baby. Not Avram had proof that he had seed. The problem the issue had to be with Sarai.. And Sarai was the greater... She was on a higher plan of Spirituality than Avram. Now it was Sarai that could not bear children. Avram so to speak was off the hook!

Our discussion is about being Compassionate... understanding... sympathetic... sensitive... loving and warm. If you have been there as Avram was in Bereisheit 15.3 IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO BE UNDERSTANDING etc...

So what does this mean to fathers? What does this mean to mothers? What does this mean to uncles and aunts? What does this mean to us? There are many **SUPPORT GROUPS!** What do they do? They show compassionate... understanding... sympathetic... sensitive... loving and warm to an individual who is experiencing what they have already experienced. The support groups are a beacon of light - leadership and understanding for those who are facing what they faced.

Each of us have a purpose in life. A part of that purpose is to assist others who are going through what we have already went through!

May HaShem Bless ALL of us in being the kind of individual that will NOT JUDGE but will lend a hand to those we can help!

Blessings and peace,

Dr. Akiva Gamliel and Rebbetzin Revi Belk