

בין רבקה לרחל: צפיית הקורא

Anticipatory Reading: One Generation Sets the Table for the Next

ע"פ שיעורה של ד"ר תמר ורדיגר
לע"נ האשה היקרה רחל רבקה בת ר' מתתיה הכהן ז"ל

In Loving Memory of Anne Samson z"l

(1) בראשית יח, א-ח

(א) וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו ה' בְּאַלְנֵי מְמָרָא וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב פֶּתַח-הָאֵהָל כְּחֹם הַיּוֹם: (ב) וַיֵּשֶׁא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיָּדָע וַיֵּרָץ לִקְרֹאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֵהָל וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ אַרְצָה: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדָנִי אֲסֹנָא מִצָּאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֲלֵנָא תַּעֲבֹד מֵעַל עֲבֹדְךָ: (ד) וַיִּקְחֵנָא מֵעֵט-מִים וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁעֲנוּ תַּחַת הָעֵץ: (ה) וַאֲקַחְהָ פַתִּיחָם וְסַעְדוּ לְבָכֶם אַחֵר תַּעֲבֹדוּ כִּי-עַל־כֵּן עֲבַדְתֶּם עַל-עֲבֹדְכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵּן תַּעֲשֶׂה בָּאִשֶּׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ: (ו) וַיִּמְהַר אַבְרָהָם הָאֵהָלָה אֶל-שָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר מִהֲרִי שְׁלֹשׁ סֵאִים קָמַח סֹלֶת לוֹשִׁי וְעָשִׂי עֲגוֹת: (ז) וְאֶל-הַבָּקָר רֵץ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח בֹּדֶבֶקֶר כֹּךְ וְטוֹב וַיִּתֵּן אֶל-הַנֶּזֶר וַיִּמְהַר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ: (ח) וַיִּקַּח חֲמָאָה וַחֲלָב וּבָרֶה-בָּקָר אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן לַפְּנִיָּהם וְהוּא-עֹמֵד עֲלֵיהֶם תַּחַת הָעֵץ וַיֹּאכְלוּ:

Avraham's hospitality

(2) בראשית יט, א-ג

(א) וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סְדֻמָּה בְּעֶרְב וְלוֹט יֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר-סֹדֶם וַיֵּרָא-לוֹט וַיִּקַּם לִקְרֹאתָם וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ אַפְּסֵי אַרְצָה: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה נָא-אֲדָנִי סוּרוּ נָא אֶל-בֵּית עֲבֹדְכֶם וְלִינוּ וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁכַּמְתֶּם וְהִלַּכְתֶּם לְדֶרֶכְכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִי בְרוּחַב נָלִין: (ג) וַיַּפְצֵר-בָּם מְאֹד וַיִּסְרוּ אֵלָיו וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתָּה וּמִצּוֹת אֲפָה וַיֹּאכְלוּ:

Avraham's nephew's hospitality

(3) בראשית כד, טו-טז

(טו) וַיְהִי-הוּא טֶרֶם כָּלָה לְדַבֵּר וְהִנֵּה רִבְקָה יֹצֵאת אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְבִתּוֹאֵל בְּרִמְלָה אִשְׁתִּי נַחֹר אחי אַבְרָהָם וְכֻדָּה עַל-שִׁכְמָהּ: (טז) וְהִנֵּה עֹד טַבַּח מִרְאֵה מְאֹד בְּתוּלָה וְאִישׁ לֹא יָדָעָה וְתֹרֵד הָעֵינָה וְתִמְלֵא כֻדָּה וְתַעַל: (יז) וַיֵּרָץ הַעֶבֶד לִקְרֹאתָהּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַגְּמִיאִנִי נָא מֵעֵט-מִים מִבְּיָר: (יח) וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂתֵה אֲדָנִי וְתִמְהַר וְתִרְדֵּךְ בְּדָה עַל-יָדָה וְתִשְׁקָהּ: (יט) וְתִכַּל לְהִשְׁקָתוֹ וְתֹאמֶר גַּם לְגַמְלִיךָ אֲשָׂאב עֵד אֲסֹכְלוֹ לְשֵׁתָהּ: (כ) וְתִמְהַר וְתַעַר בְּדָה אֶל-הַשְּׂקָת וְתִרְץ עוֹד אֶל-הַבָּאָר לְשָׂאב וְתִשְׂאֵב לְכָל-גַּמְלָיו: ... (כא) וְתֹאמֶר אֵלָיו גַּם-תִּתֵּן גַּם-מִסְפּוֹא רַב עִמָּנוּ גַּם-מִקּוֹם לָלוֹ: ... (לא) וַיֹּאמֶר בּוֹא בְּרוּךְ ה' לָמָּה תַעֲמֹד בַּחוּץ וְאֲנִי פָנִיתִי הַפִּתִּי וּמִקּוֹם לְגַמְלִים: (לב) וַיָּבֹא הָאִישׁ הַפִּתָּה וּפִתַּח הַגְּמִלִים וַיִּתֵּן תֵּבֶן וּמִסְפּוֹא לְגַמְלִים וּמִים לְרַחֵץ רַגְלָיו וּרְגְלֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ: ... (נא) הִנֵּה-רִבְקָה לְפָנֶיךָ קָח וְלֶךְ וְתָהִי אִשָּׁה לְבֶן-אֲדָנֶיךָ בָּאִשֶּׁר דִּבַּר ה': ... (סז) וַיָּבֹאָה וַיַּחֲקֵה אֶת-רִבְקָה וְתָהִי לִי לְאִשָּׁה וַיֹּאמְרָה וַיִּנָּחַם יַחֲקֵה אַחֲרֵי אִמּוֹ:

It happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher on her shoulder. The young lady was very beautiful to look at, a virgin, neither had any man known her. She went down to the spring, filled her pitcher, and came up. The servant ran to meet her, and said, "Please give me a drink, a little water from your pitcher." She said, "Drink, my lord." She hurried, and let down her pitcher on her hand, and gave him drink. When she had done giving him drink, she said, "I will also draw for your camels, until they have done drinking." She hurried, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again to the well to draw, and drew for all his camels... She said moreover to him, "We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in." ... He said, "Come in, you blessed of Hashem. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and room for the camels." The man came into the house, and he unloaded the camels. He gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ... Behold, Rebekah is before you. Take her, and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as Hashem has spoken." ... Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife. He loved her. Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Observations:

- 1) The intended bride, described as beautiful, appears immediately
- 2) The intended bride works tirelessly for the suitor
- 3) The suitor desires her
- 4) The suitor is invited into the intended's family's house and treated like a royal guest
- 5) The suitor requests – and is given – permission to marry the girl
- 6) She marries the intended groom

Questions:

- 7) What are we set up to anticipate when Yaakov arrives in the same town to find a wife?
- 8) How much are those anticipations met?
- 9) How does this impact on Yaakov's life with his wives? Their children?

(4) בראשית כט, א-ל

(א) וַיֵּשָׂא יַעֲקֹב רִגְלָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶרְצָה בְּנֵי־קָדָם: (ב) וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה בְּאֵר בְּשֹׂדֶה וְהִנֵּה־שָׁם שְׁלֹשָׁה עֹדְרֵי־צֹאן רֹבְעִים עָלֶיהָ כִּי מִן־הַבָּאָר הָהוּא יֹשְׁקוּ הָעֹדְרִים וְהָאֶבֶן גְּדֹלָה עַל־פִּי הַבָּאָר: (ג) וְנֹאסְפוֹ־שָׁמָּה כָּל־הָעֹדְרִים וּגְלָלוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבָּאָר וְהִשְׁקוּ אֶת־הַצֹּאן וְהִשְׁבוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן עַל־פִּי הַבָּאָר לְמַקְמָה: (ד) וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם יַעֲקֹב אֲחֵי מֵאִין אַתֶּם וַיֹּאמְרוּ מִחָרָן אֲנַחְנוּ: (ה) וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הִידְעַתֶּם אֶת־לָבָן בֶּן־נָחוֹר וַיֹּאמְרוּ יָדַעְנוּ: (ו) וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הַשְׁלוֹם לוֹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ שְׁלוֹם וְהִנֵּה רָחֵל בָּתּוֹ בָּאָה עִם־הַצֹּאן: (ז) וַיֹּאמֶר הֵן עוֹד הַיּוֹם גְּדוֹל לֹא־עַתָּה הָאֶסֶף הַמִּקְנֶה הַשֶּׁקֶו הַצֹּאן וּלְכוּ רְעוּ: (ח) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נוֹכַל עַד אֲשֶׁר יֵאָסְפוּ כָּל־הָעֹדְרִים וּגְלָלוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבָּאָר וְהִשְׁקִינוּ הַצֹּאן: (ט) עוֹדְנוּ מְדַבֵּר עִמָּם וְדַחֲלוּ בָּאָה עִם־הַצֹּאן אֲשֶׁר לְאִבְיָהָ כִּי רָעָה הוּא: (י) וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאָה יַעֲקֹב אֶת־דַּחֲלוֹ בַּת־לָבָן אֲחֵי אִמּוֹ וְאֶת־צֹאן לָבָן אֲחֵי אִמּוֹ וַיֵּשֶׁק וַיֵּגֶל אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבָּאָר וַיֵּשֶׁק אֶת־צֹאן לָבָן אֲחֵי אִמּוֹ: (יא) וַיֵּשֶׁק יַעֲקֹב לְרָחֵל וַיֵּשָׂא אֶת־קָלוֹ וַיִּבְדֵּךְ: (יב) וַיִּגֹּד יַעֲקֹב לְרָחֵל כִּי אֲחֵי אִבְיָהָ הוּא וְכִי בֶן־דְּבָקָה הוּא וַתֵּרֶץ וַתִּגְדַּל לְאִבְיָהָ: (יג) וַיְהִי כִשְׁמֹעַ לָבָן אֶת־שִׁמְעוֹ יַעֲקֹב בֶּן־אֲחֵיתוֹ וַיֵּרֶץ לְקִרְיָתוֹ וַיַּחֲבְקֵהוּ וַיִּנְשָׁקֵהוּ וַיְבִיאוּהוּ אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּסְפֹּר לָלָבָן אֶת־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: (יד) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לָבָן אֵךְ עַצְמִי וּבִשְׂרִי אֶתָּה וַיֵּשֶׁב עִמּוֹ חֹדֶשׁ יָמִים: (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לַיַּעֲקֹב הֲכִי־אֲחֵי אֶתָּה וַעֲבַדְתָּנִי חָנָם הִגִּידָה לִּי מִהֲמִשְׁכְּרֶתְךָ: ... (יז) וַיֵּאָהֵב יַעֲקֹב אֶת־רָחֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֶעֱבֹדְךָ שִׁבְעָ שָׁנִים בְּרָחֵל בַּתֶּךָ הַקְּטָנָה: ... (ל) וַיָּבֹא גַם אֶל־רָחֵל וַיֵּאָהֵב גַּם־אֶת־רָחֵל מִלֵּאָה וַיַּעֲבֹד עִמָּה עוֹד שִׁבְע־שָׁנִים אַחֲרֵיהֶן:

Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the children of the east. He looked, and behold, a well in the field, and, behold, three flocks of sheep lying there by it. For out of that well they watered the flocks. The stone on the well's mouth was large. There all the flocks were gathered. They rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again on the well's mouth in its place. Jacob said to them, "My relatives, where are you from?" They said, "We are from Haran." He said to them, "Do you know Laban, the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well. See, Rachel, his daughter, is coming with the sheep." He said, "Behold, it is still the middle of the day, not time to gather the livestock together. Water the sheep and go and feed them." They said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered together, and they roll the stone from the well's mouth. Then we water the sheep." While he was yet speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she kept them. It happened, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban, his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebekah's son. She ran and told her father. It happened, when Laban heard the news of Jacob, his sister's son, that he ran to meet Jacob, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things. Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." He lived with him for a month. Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my brother, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what will your wages be?" ...Jacob loved Rachel. He said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel, your younger daughter." ...He went in also to Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.