

DESPERATION AND FRUSTRATION: AVRAHAM'S SEARCH FOR A SUCCESSOR

LOT AS SUCCESSOR • AVRAHAM FRUSTRATED

1. Genesis 13

¹From Egypt, Abram went up into the Negeb, with his wife and all that he possessed, together with Lot. ²Now Abram was very rich in cattle, silver, and gold. ... ⁵Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds **and tents**, ⁶so that the land could not support them staying together; **for their possessions were so great that they could not remain together.** ⁷And there was quarreling [*rîv*] **between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and those of Lot's cattle.**—The Canaanites and Perizzites were then dwelling in the land.—⁸Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife **between you and me, between my herdsmen and yours, for we are kinsmen.** ⁹Is not the whole land before you? Let us separate: if you go north, I will go south; and if you go south, I will go north.” ¹⁰Lot looked about him and saw how well watered was the whole plain of the Jordan, all of it—this was before the LORD had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—all the way to Zoar, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. ¹¹So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they parted from each other; ¹²**Abram remained in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the Plain,**^A pitching his tents near Sodom. ¹³Now the inhabitants of Sodom were very wicked sinners against the LORD. ¹⁴And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had parted from him, “Raise your eyes and look out from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west, ¹⁵**for I give all the land that you see to you and your offspring forever.** ¹⁶I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, then your offspring too can be counted. ¹⁷Up, walk about the land, through its length and its breadth, for I give it to you.” ¹⁸And Abram moved his tent, and came to dwell at the terebinths of Mamre, which are in Hebron; **and he built an altar there to the LORD.**

1. ספר בראשית פרק יג

אִינְעֵלְ אַבְרָם מִמִּצְרַיִם הוּא וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ וְלוֹט עִמּוֹ הִגְבִּיהָ: יוֹאבְרָם כְּבֹד מְאֹד בַּמִּקְנֶה בַּכֶּסֶף וּבַזָּהָב: ... יוֹגֵם-לָלוֹט הֵהָלֵךְ אֶת-אַבְרָם הָיָה צֹאן-וּבָקָר וְאֹהֲלִים: יוֹלָא-נִשְׂאָ אֹתָם הָאָרֶץ לְשֹׁכֶת יַחְדָּו כִּי-הָיָה רְכוּשָׁם רָב וְלֹא יָכֻלוּ לְשֹׁכֶת יַחְדָּו: יוֹיְהִי-רִיב בֵּין רַעֲי מִקְנֵה-אַבְרָם וּבֵין רַעֲי מִקְנֵה-לוֹט וְהַכְנַעְנִי וְהַפְרָזִי אֲזַי יֵשֵׁב בָּאָרֶץ: יוֹיֵאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל-לוֹט אֵל-נָא תְהִי מְרִיבָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ וּבֵין רַעֲי וּבֵין רַעֲיָךְ כִּי-אֲנִשְׁמִים אֲחִים אֲנַחְנוּ: טְהֵלָא כָל-הָאָרֶץ לְפָנֶיךָ הַפְרָד גָּא מַעְלִי אִם-הִשְׁמָאֵל וְאִימְנָה וְאִם-הִימִין וְאִשְׁמְאִילָה: יוֹיִשְׂא-לוֹט אֶת-עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא אֶת-כָּל-כְּבֹד הָיִרְדֵּן כִּי כָלָה מִשְׁקָה לְפָנָי | שַׁחַת יְהוָה אֶת-סֹדֶם וְאֶת-עִמּוֹרָה כְּגֹן-יְהוָה בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּאֶכָה צֶעַר: יוֹיִבְחַר-לוֹ לוֹט אֶת כָּל-כְּבֹד הָיִרְדֵּן וַיִּסַּע לוֹט מִקֶּדֶם וַיִּפְרְדּוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו: יוֹאבְרָם יֵשֵׁב בָּאָרֶץ-כְּנָעַן וְלוֹט יֵשֵׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכְּפָרָא וַיֵּאֱהָל עַד-סֹדֶם: יג וְאִנְשֵׁי סֹדֶם רָעִים וְחָטָאִים לַיהוָה מְאֹד: יוֹיְהוָה אָמַר אֶל-אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הַפְרָד-לוֹט מַעֲמוֹ שָׂא גָא עֵינֶיךָ וַיֵּרָא מִן-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה שָׁם צִפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְקִדְמָה וַיִּמָּה: טו כִּי אֶת-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה רֹאֶה לָךְ אֶתְנַנֶּה וְלוֹרְעָךְ עַד-עוֹלָם: טז וַיִּשְׁמַתִּי אֶת-זֶרְעֶךָ כְּעֶפֶר הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר | אִם-יִוְכַל אִישׁ לְמַנּוֹת אֶת-עֶפֶר הָאָרֶץ גָּם זֶרְעֶךָ יִמְנָה: יז קוֹם הִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּאָרֶץ לְאַרְכָּהּ וּלְרָחְבָּהּ כִּי לָךְ אֶתְנַנֶּה: יח וַיֵּאֱהָל אַבְרָם וַיָּבֵא גִישָׁב בְּאֵלְנֵי מְמֵרָא אֲשֶׁר בְּחֶבְרוֹן וַיְבָן-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה:

A. Deuteronomy 2

⁹And the LORD said to me: Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war. For I will not give you any of their land as a possession; I have assigned Ar as a possession to the descendants of Lot.— ... ¹⁹You will then be close to the Ammonites; do not harass them or start a fight with them. For I will not give any part of the land of the Ammonites to you as a possession; I have assigned it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.—

2. Genesis 15

¹Some time later, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision. He said, “Fear not, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” ... ⁷Then He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to assign this land to you as a possession.” ... ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I assign this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates: ¹⁹the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

A. ספר דברים פרק ב

טוֹיֹאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי אֶל־תִּצְרֹךְ אֶת־מוֹאָב וְאֶל־תִּתְּגֶר בָּם מִלְחָמָה כִּי לֹא־אֶתֶּן לָךְ מֵאֶרֶצוֹ יִרְשָׁה כִּי לִבְנֵי־לוֹט נָתַתִּי אֶת־עַר יִרְשָׁה: ... יִטְוֹקְרְבֶת מוֹל בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן אֶל־תִּצְרָם וְאֶל־תִּתְּגֶר בָּם כִּי לֹא־אֶתֶּן מֵאֶרֶץ בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹן לָךְ יִרְשָׁה כִּי לִבְנֵי־לוֹט נָתַתִּיהָ יִרְשָׁה:

2. ספר בראשית פרק טו

אֶחָד | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הָיָה דְּבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם בְּמַחְזָה לֵאמֹר אֶל־תִּירָא אַבְרָם אֲנִכִּי מִגֵּן לָךְ שְׂכָרְךָ הָרַבָּה מְאֹד: ... וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאוּר כַּשְׁדִּים לָתֶת לָךְ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: ... יִפְּיֹם הָהוּא כָּרַת יְהוָה אֶת־אַבְרָם בְּרִית לֵאמֹר לְזִרְעֲךָ נָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מִנְהָר מִצְרַיִם עַד־הַנָּהָר הַגָּדֹל נְהַר־פָּרָת: יִטְ אֶת־הַקִּינִי וְאֶת־הַקִּנְזִי וְאֶת־הַקַּדְמוֹנִי: כִּי־אֶת־הַחִתִּי וְאֶת־הַפְּרִזִּי וְאֶת־הַרְפָּאִים: כִּאֲ־אֶת־הָאֱמֹרִי וְאֶת־הַכְּנִעִי וְאֶת־הַגִּרְגָּשִׁי וְאֶת־הַיְּבוּסִי:

3. Genesis 15

¹Some time later, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision. He said, "Fear not, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what can You give me, seeing that I shall die childless, and the one in charge of my household is Dammesek Eliezer!" ³Abram said further, "Since You have granted me no offspring, my steward will be my heir." ⁴The word of the LORD came to him in reply, "That one shall not be your heir; none but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He took him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He added, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And because he put his trust in the LORD, He reckoned it to his merit. ⁷Then He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to assign this land to you as a possession." ⁸And he said, "O Lord GOD, how shall I know that I am to possess it?" ⁹He answered, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young bird." ¹⁰He brought Him all these and cut them in two, placing each half opposite the other; but he did not cut up the bird. ¹¹Birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a great dark dread descended upon him. ¹³And He said to Abram, "Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs, and they shall be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years; ¹⁴but I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve, and in the end they shall go free with great wealth. ¹⁵As for you, You shall go to your fathers in peace; You shall be buried at a ripe old age. ¹⁶And they shall return here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." ¹⁷When the sun set and it was very dark, there appeared a smoking oven, and a flaming torch which passed between those pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I assign this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates: ¹⁹the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

3. ספר בראשית פרק טו

אָחֵר | הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הָיָה דְּבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם בְּמַחְזָה
לֵאמֹר אֶל־תִּירָא אַבְרָם אֲנִכִּי מִגֵּן לְךָ שְׂכָרְךָ הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד:
בִּינְיָאמֶר אַבְרָם אֲדֹנִי יְהוָה מִה־תִּתֶּן־לִי וְאֲנִכִּי הוּלָךְ עֲרִירִי
וּבֶן־מֶשֶׁק בֵּיתִי הוּא דְּמֶשֶׁק אֱלִיעֶזֶר: גִּינְיָאמֶר אַבְרָם הֵן לִי
לֹא נִתְּנָה זֶרַע וְהִנֵּה בֶן־בֵּיתִי יוֹרֵשׁ אֹתִי: יְהִינָה דְּבַר־יְהוָה
אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא יִירָשְׁךָ זֶה כִּי־אִם אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעֶיךָ הוּא
יִירָשְׁךָ: הִיזִיצָא אֹתוֹ הַחוּצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַבֶּט־נָא הַשְׁמִימָה
וּסְפֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים אִם־תּוּכַל לִסְפֹּר אֹתָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה יִהְיֶה
זֶרְעֶךָ: וְהָאֵמֶן בִּיהוָה וַיַּחֲשֹׁבָה לוֹ צִדְקָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי
יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאוּר כַּשְׂדִּים לָתֵת לְךָ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ
הַזֹּאת לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנִי יְהוָה בְּמָה אֲדַע כִּי אִירִשְׁנָה:
טִינְיָאמֶר אֵלָיו קַח־הָ לִי עֶגְלָה מְשֻׁלָּשֶׁת וְעֵז מְשֻׁלָּשֶׁת וְאַיִל
מְשֻׁלָּשׁ וְתֹר וְגֹזָל: וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ אֶת־כָּל־אֵלֶּה וַיְבַתֵּר אֹתָם
בַּתְּוֹךְ וַיִּתֵּן אִישׁ־בְּתֹרוֹ לְקֶרֶת רַעְהוּ וְאֶת־הַצֶּפֶר לֹא בָתֵּר:
יִנְיָרְד הָעֵיט עַל־הַפְּגָרִים וַיִּשָּׁב אֹתָם אַבְרָם: יְהִינָה הַשְׁמֵשׁ
לְבֹא וְתִרְדְּמָה נָפְלָה עַל־אַבְרָם וְהִנֵּה אֵימָה חֲשֵׁכָה גְדֹלָה
נִפְלֶת עָלָיו: גִּינְיָאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדַע תִּדַּע כִּי־גֵר | יִהְיֶה זֶרְעֶךָ
בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם וְעַבְדּוֹם וְעָנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:
וְגַם אֶת־הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ דָן אֲנִכִּי וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֵצְאוּ בְּרַכָּשׁ
גָּדוֹל: טִינְיָאמֶר תְּבֹא אֶל־אַבְרָם בְּשָׁלוֹם תִּקְבֹּר בְּשִׁיבָה
טוֹבָה: טִינְדֹר רְבִיעִי יִשְׁוּבוּ הִנֵּה כִּי לֹא־שָׁלֵם עוֹן הָאֱמֹרִי
עַד־הַנֶּה: וַיְהִי הַשְׁמֵשׁ בָּאָה וְעֹלְטָה הָיָה וְהִנֵּה תְּנֹר עֹשֵׁן
וְלִפִּיד אֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר עָבַר בֵּין הַגּוֹרִים הָאֵלֶּה: כִּי־בָיִים הוּא
כָּרַת יְהוָה אֶת־אַבְרָם בְּרִית לֵאמֹר לְזֶרְעֶךָ נִתְּנָה אֶת־
הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מִנְהַר מִצְרַיִם עַד־הַנָּהָר הַגָּדֹל נְהַר־פָּרָת:
טִינְיָאמֶר הִקִּינִי וְאֶת־הַקִּנְיָ וְאֶת־הַקְּדָמִי: כִּי־אֶת־הַחֲתָנִי וְאֶת־
הַפְּרִזִּי וְאֶת־הַרְפָּאִים: כִּי־אֶת־הָאֱמֹרִי וְאֶת־הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְאֶת־
הַגִּרְגָּשִׁי וְאֶת־הַיְּבוּסִי: