# בחירתו של אברהם – מסורות ומדרשים

#### 1) בראשית יא:כו-יב:ג

## יהושע כד, ב (2

וַיּאמֶר יְהוֹשָׁעַ אֶל־בָּל־הָעָם כְּה־אָמֵרַ הֹ׳ אֱלהַיִּ יִשְׂרָאֵלֹ

ַבְּעֵבֶר הַנָּהָר יִשְׁבִוּ אֲבְוֹתֵיכֶם מֵעוֹלְם <mark>תָרַח אֲבִי אַבְרָהֶם וַאֲבִי נָתוֹר וַיַּעַבְדָוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרָים</mark>:

מתחלה עובדי אבודה זרה היו אבותינו, ואלשו קרבנו המקום ברוד הוא לאבודתו, שנגאמר: וַיֹאבֶר יְהוֹשְׁעַ אֶּל כְּל הָעָם: כֹּה אָבֵּר יי אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל, בְּעֵבֶר הַנָּהָר יָשְׁבוֹ אֲבוֹתִיכֶם מֵעוֹלָם, הָרַח אֲבִי אַבְּרָהָם וַאֲבִי נָחוֹר, וַיַּעַבְּרוֹ אֱלֹהִים אֲחַרִים. וָאֶבִין אָתֹרְ בָּרָשׁת אַבְרָהָם מַעֵּבְר הַנְּהָר, וְאוֹלֵךְ אֹתוֹ בְּכֶל אֶרִץ בְּנָעַן, וָאִרָבָּה אֶת זַרְעוֹ, וָאֶהֶן לוֹ אֶת יִצְּחָק, וָאֲהֵן לְיִצְחָק אֶת יַעֲקֹב וְאָרִ עִשָּׁר

## 3) בראשית טו, ז

וַיָּאמֶר אֵלֶיו אֲנֵי הֹ׳ אֲשֶׁרָ הוֹצֵאתִּיךְ מֵאָוּר כַּשְׁדִּים לְנֶתת לְדְ שֶת־הָאֶרֶץ הַיָּאת לְרִשְׁתְּהּ:

#### 4) בראשית יח, יז-יט

(יז) וַהָּ׳ שָּמֶר הַמְכַפֶּה אֵנִּי מֵאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר אֲנֵי עֹשֶׁה: (יח) וְאַבְרָהָם הָיַּוֹ יִהְיֶה לְגִוּי גָּדְוֹל וְעָצִוּם וְנִבְרְכוּ־בּוֹ כְּל גּוֹיֵי הָאֶרֶץ: (יט) כִּי יְדַשְׁהִיו לְמַעַן אֲשֶּׁר יְצַנָּה אֶת־בָּנָיו וְאֶת־בִּיתוֹ אַחֲלָיו וְשֵּמְרוֹ דֶּרֶךְ הֹ׳ לַעֲשְּוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְּבֵּט לְמַעַן הָבִיא הֹ׳ עַל־אַבְרָהָם אֵת אֲשֶּר־דִּבֶּר עָלֵיו:

#### 5) שופטים ו, כה-לב

(כה) וִיְהִי בַּלְיִלָה הַהוּא וַיְּאֶמֶר לְוֹ הֹ׳ קְח אֶת־פַּר־הַשּוֹר אֲשֶׁר לְאָבִּיךְ וּפַּר הַשֵּנְי שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים וְהָרַסְהָּ אֶת־מִוְבַּח הַבַּעַל' אָפֶר הָשִּירִ וּכוֹ) וּבָנִית מוְבַּח לַהִ׳ אֱלֹהֶיךָ עַל רְאשׁ הַפְּעְיוֹ הַיֶּה בַּפֵּעֲרָכֵה וְלַקַחְהָּ אֲשֶׁר רְבָּבְר הַשֵּנִי וְהַאֲשֶׁר הַבְּעִי עוֹלָה בַּעֲצֵי הָאֲשֶׁר הִבְּרְת: (כוֹ) וַיִּלְּה רְעִלוֹן עֲשְׁרָה וְהַאֲשֶׁר יִוֹאַ שֶּׁר־עָלֶיו תִּכְרִת: (כוֹ) וּבָנִית מוֹבָם הַבְּעֵי הָעִיר בַּבּּעְשִׁי הְעִיר מִצְשִׁוֹת יוֹמֵם וַיַּעֲשׁ לְיִלְה וֹהַאֲשָׁר יִבְא אֶת־בִּיוֹ וְיִּאֲשֶׁר הְצִּי הָעִיר בְּבְּעוֹן בְּבְרְהוֹ בִּיְבְיוֹ בֹּבְרְשׁוּ וַיִּאְמֶר וְבִּעְ וְבְיְשׁוֹ וַיִּאְמְר הְבָּבְע וְבִיְרְשׁוֹ וַיִּאְמְר הְבָּעֵי וְבְיְבְיוֹ בְּבְרְתוֹן עֲשְׁרָבְ הַשְּׁנִי וְבְאָשְׁר בְּעָל אִם־אַבְּין בֹּרְבְעוֹן בְּבְעִי וְבְּבְעוֹן בְּבְעְל וּבְיְבְשְׁוֹ וַיִּאְקְרוֹ בְּבְעוֹן בְּבְעְל וּבְרְבְשִׁוֹ וַיִּאְמְרוֹ בְּבְעוֹן בְּבְעְל וְכִי בָרָת הְצְשֶׁר הְצִּיְיוֹ בִּבְּעְל וִבְיּ בְּעִיוֹן בְּשְׁר וְבִיּבְיוֹן לַבִּעְל אִכּיך הָּבְּיִבְיוֹ בְּבְיִים הִוּא יְרָבוֹן וְבִּבְּעל וְכִי בָרָת הְצְשֶׁר יְרִבְשְׁוֹ וַיְּבְרְשוֹ וַיִּאְתָר אְנִילְ אֵם הוֹצֵא שֶּבְר הַבְּוֹלְיוֹ בִיוֹלְה הַהוּא יִבְּקְשׁוּ וְיִאְקְר הְנִבְיוֹ בְּעִלְיוֹ בְּעְלְיוֹן בְּעִבְיל אִם בּאַבְיוֹ וְבְבְעל אָם בּרְיבְּעְל וְבְבִיּעְ בְּבְיוֹיוֹ הְאָבְייוֹ הַאָּבְעָל אִם בּאַבְיוֹ לְבִּעִל אָם בּוֹבְיוֹ בְּלְיוֹי הַאָּבְיוֹ בְּלְיוֹי בִינְיוֹ הְבִּעְל אֵים בְיוֹבְין וְבִבּעוֹן לְבִּעִיל אָם בִּיוֹבְיוֹ הְאָבְיִי בְּלְיוֹ בִּיוֹבְים הְנִבְיוֹ בְּעְלְיוֹ בִיוֹבְיוֹ הְבָּעְל אִים בּיִבְיוֹן לְבָּעִיל הִיבְיוֹ הְבִּעְל אִיבְין הְאָבְיוֹב הְלְבִי הְבְעְל לְצְיִי הְבְבְעל אִבּיוֹר הְבְיּשְׁבְּתְיוֹ הְבְעל בִּיוֹם הְבָּעל בְיוֹי הְבְעִיל בְּיוֹ הְיִבְיוֹן לְבִּעְל אָם בִיוֹם הַהָּבְּעל וְבִיוֹם הְבְּעְל בִיוֹים הְנִבְיּיוֹ בְיוֹבְעל אִבְים הְעִבְיוֹ הְבְעְל בִּיוֹם הְבְּעל אִבְיוֹם הְבְּבְעל בְיוֹם הַנְיּבְיתְ בְּבְעל אִבְים הְבִיוֹם בְּבְּעְל אִם בִּיוֹם הְבָּעְבְיוֹ בְיוֹבְיוֹ בְיוֹבְיעוֹ בְיוֹם הְּבְּעוֹ בְיוֹבְישְׁבְּתְי בְּיוֹבְיוּ בְּעְבְיוֹ בְּעְבְיוֹם בְּבְעְיוֹי בְּעְבְיל בְּיבְרוּיוֹב

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#### 6) בראשית רבה (תיאודור-אלבק) פרשת נח פרשה לח

[וימת הרן על פני תרח אביו] אמר ר' חייא תרח עובד צלמים הוה, חד זמן נפק לאתר הושיב אברהם מוכר תחתיו, הוה אתי בר נש בעי דיזבון, אמר ליה בר כמה שנין את, אמר ליה בר חמשין, אמר ליה ווי לההוא גברא דאת בר חמשין ותסגוד לבר יומא, והוה מתבייש והולך לו, חד זמן אתת איתתא טעינא חד פינך דסלת אמ' ליה הא לך קרב קדמיהון, קם נסיב בוקלסה ותברהון ויהב ההוא בוקלסה בידוי דרבה דבהון, כיון דאתא אבוה אמר ליה מה עבד להון כדין, אמר ליה מה נכפור לך אתת חדא איתתא טעינא חד פינך דסלת ואמרת לי קרב קומיהון, דין אמר אנא אכיל קדמאי ודין אמר אנא אכיל קדמאי, קם הדין רבה נסיב בוקלסה ותברהון, [אמר ליה] מה את מפלה בי, ידעין אינון, אמר ליה ולא ישמעו אזניך מפיך, נסתיה ומסרתיה לנמרוד, אמר ליה נסגוד לנורא, אמר ליה נסגוד למיא דמובלי עננא, למיא, אמר ליה נסגוד לענני דטעני מיא, אמר ליה ונסגוד לעננא, אמר ליה מלין את משתעי לא נסגוד לאור הריני משליכך בו ויבוא אלהיך שאתה משתחוה לו ויצילך ממנו, הוה תמן הרן קאים פליג אמר מה נפשך אם נצח אברהם אנא אמר מן דאברם אנא, אם נצח נמרוד אמר אנא מנמרוד אנא, כיון שירד אברם לכבשן האש ונוצל אמ' ליה מן דמן את, אמר ליה מן דאברם, נטלוהו והשליכוהו באש ונחמרו מעיו ויצא ומת על פני אביו הה"ד וימת הרן על פני הבין של פני אביו.

#### 7) Gen. R. 38:13

"And Haran died in the presence of his father Terach." Rabbi Hiyya said: Terach was a manufacturer of idols. He once went away somewhere and left Abraham to sell them in his place. A man came in and wished to buy one."How old are you?" Abraham asked the man. "Fifty years old," he said. "Woe to such a man, who is fifty years old and would worship a day old object!" Avraham said. On another occasion a woman came in with a plateful of flour and requested him, "Take this and offer it to them." So he took a stick and broke them, and put the stick in the hand of the largest. When his father returned he demanded, "What have you done to them?" "I cannot conceal it from you. A woman came with a plateful of fine meal and requested me to offer it to them. One claimed, 'I must eat first,' while another claimed, 'I must eat first.' Thereupon, the largest arose, took the stick and broke them." "Why do you make sport of me? Have they any knowledge?" Terach said. "Should not your ears hear what your mouth has said?" Avraham said. Thereupon Terach seized him and delivered him to Nimrod. "Let us worship fire," Nimrod said. "Let us rather worship water which quenches fire," Avraham said. "Let us worship water," Nimrod said. "Let us rather worship the clouds which bear the water," Avraham said. "Let us then worship the clouds," Nimros said. "Let us worship the wind which disperses the clouds," Avraham said. "Let us worship the wind," Nimrod said. "Let us worship human beings which can stand up to the wind," Avraham said. "You are just bandying words, and we will worship nothing but the fire. Behold, I will cast you into it, and let your God whom you adore come and save you from it!" Nimrod said. Now Haran was standing there undecided. "If Avraham is victorious, I will say that I am of Avraham's belief, while if Nimrod is victorious, I will say that I am on Nimrod's side," he thought. When Avraham descended into the fiery furnace and was saved, Nimrod asked him, "Of whose belief are you?" "Of Abraham's," he replied. Thereupon he seized him and cast him into the fire; his innards were scorched and he died in the presence of his father. Hence it is written, "And Haran died in the presence of his father Terach."

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### 8) Jubilees 12

- 1. And it came to pass in the sixth week, in the seventh year thereof, [1904 A.M.] that Abram said to Terah his father, saying, 'Father!'
- 2. And he said, 'Behold, here am I, my son.' And he said,
- 3. 'What help and profit have we from those idols which thou dost worship, And before which thou dost bow thyself?
- 4. For there is no spirit in them, For they are dumb forms, and a misleading of the heart. Worship them not:
- 5. Worship the God of heaven, Who causes the rain and the dew to descend on the earth And does everything upon the earth,
- 6. And has created everything by His word, And all life is from before His face.
- 7. Why do ye worship things that have no spirit in them? For they are the work of (men's) hands,
- 8. And on your shoulders do ye bear them, And ye have no help from them,
- 9. But they are a great cause of shame to those who make them,
  And a misleading of the heart to those who worship them: Worship them not.'
- 10. And his father said unto him, I also know it, my son, but what shall I do with a people who have made me to serve before them?
- 11. And if I tell them the truth, they will slay me; for their soul cleaves to them to worship them and honour them.
- 12. Keep silent, my son, lest they slay thee.' And these words he spake to his two brothers, and they were angry with him and he kept silent.
- 13. And in the fortieth jubilee, in the second week, in the seventh year thereof, [1925 A.M.] Abram took to himself a wife, and her name was Sarai, the daughter of his father, and she became his wife.
- 14. And Haran, his brother, took to himself a wife in the third year of the third week, [1928 A.M.] and she bare him a son in the seventh year of this week, [1932 A.M.] and he called his name Lot.
- 15. And Nahor, his brother, took to himself a wife.
- 16. And in the sixtieth year of the life of Abram, that is, in the fourth week, in the fourth year thereof, [1936 A.M.] Abram arose by night, and burned the house of the idols, and he burned all that was in the house and no man knew it.
- 17. And they arose in the night and sought to save their gods from the midst of the fire.
- 18. And Haran hasted to save them, but the fire flamed over him, and he was burnt in the fire, and he died in Ur of the Chaldees before Terah his father, and they buried him in Ur of the Chaldees.
- 19. And Terah went forth from Ur of the Chaldees, he and his sons, to go into the land of Lebanon and into the land of Canaan, and he dwelt in the land of Haran, and Abram dwelt with Terah his father in Haran two weeks of years.
- 20. And in the sixth week, in the fifth year thereof, [1951 A.M.] Abram sat up throughout the night on the new moon of the seventh month to observe the stars from the evening to the morning, in order to see what would be the character of the year with regard to the rains, and he was alone as he sat and observed.
- 21. And a word came into his heart and he said: All the signs of the stars, and the signs of the moon and of the sun are all in the hand of the Lord. Why do I search (them) out?
- 22. If He desires, He causes it to rain, morning and evening; And if He desires, He withholds it, And all things are in his hand.'

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- 23. And he prayed that night and said,
  'My God, God Most High, Thou alone art my God, And Thee and Thy dominion have I chosen. And Thou hast created all things, And all things that are the work of thy hands.
- 24. Deliver me from the hands of evil spirits who have dominion over the thoughts of men's hearts, And let them not lead me astray from Thee, my God.
- 25. And stablish Thou me and my seed for ever That we go not astray from henceforth and for evermore.'
- 26. And he said, 'Shall I return unto Ur of the Chaldees who seek my face that I may return to them, am I to remain here in this place? The right path before Thee prosper it in the hands of Thy servant that he may fulfil (it) and that I may not walk in the deceitfulness of my heart, O my God.'
- 27. And he made an end of speaking and praying, and behold the word of the Lord was sent to him through me, saying: 'Get thee up from thy country, and from thy kindred and from the house of thy father unto a land which I will show thee, and I shall make thee a great and numerous nation.
- 28. And I will bless thee

And I will make thy name great,

And thou shalt be blessed in the earth,

And in Thee shall all families of the earth be blessed,

And I will bless them that bless thee,

And curse them that curse thee.

- 29. And I will be a God to thee and thy son, and to thy son's son, and to all thy seed: fear not, from henceforth and unto all generations of the earth I am thy God.'
- 30. And the Lord God said: 'Open his mouth and his ears, that he may hear and speak with his mouth, with the language which has been revealed'; for it had ceased from the mouths of all the children of men from the day of the overthrow (of Babel).
- 31. And I opened his mouth, and his ears and his lips, and I began to speak with him in Hebrew in the tongue of the creation.
- 32. And he took the books of his fathers, and these were written in Hebrew, and he transcribed them, and he began from henceforth to study them, and I made known to him that which he could not (understand), and he studied them during the six rainy months.
- 33. And it came to pass in the seventh year of the sixth week [1953 A.M.] that he spoke to his father and informed him, that he would leave Haran to go into the land of Canaan to see it and return to him.
- 34. And Terah his father said unto him; Go in peace:
- 35. May the eternal God make thy path straight.

  And the Lord [(be) with thee, and] protect thee from all evil,

  And grant unto thee grace, mercy and favour before those who see thee,

  And may none of the children of men have power over thee to harm thee;

  Go in peace.
- 36. And if thou seest a land pleasant to thy eyes to dwell in, then arise and take me to thee and take Lot with thee, the son of Haran thy brother as thine own son: the Lord be with thee.
- 37. And Nahor thy brother leave with me till thou returnest in peace, and we go with thee all together.'

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