

Torah Portion #4: Vayera (ויראה) "and He appeared"

Torah ~ Gen. 18:1-22:24 | Haftarah ~ 2 Kgs. 4:1-37 | Brit Chadashah ~ Lk. 1:26-38; Heb. 11:17-19; Js. 2:14-26

Abraham's Faith

Hebrews 11:1 "What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see." NLT

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we live by faith, not by sight." NIV

To have "faith in God" can also be understood as "to believe in God" or "to trust in God."

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding" NKJV

How do we receive faith?

Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." NKJV

Our example of faith

The Hebrew word "Shema" in *Deuteronomy 6:4* is normally translated as "hear or listen", but its full meaning is "to take action on what you have heard." This is exactly what faith is, taking action on what you have heard from the Word of God before there is any visual evidence.

The meaning of Shema is seen in *James 1:22* where it says "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" KJV. Abraham was a man of prayer therefore he heard the Word of the God on a consistent basis. Abraham is the perfect example of *James 1:22* and the word Shema because he constantly took action on what he heard from the Lord.

Genesis 15:6 "And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." KJV

Habakkuk 2:4b "But the righteous will live by his faith." NASB

Abraham's Faith in the Sacrificial Lamb

James 2:17 "In the same way, faith by itself, if it does not prove itself with actions, is dead." ISV

Abraham's greatest proof of faith came in *Genesis 22:1-14* when he trusted in the Lord to provide a lamb to be sacrificed in the place of Isaac. This is a picture of our faith (belief in and trust in) Yeshua as our Sacrificial Lamb, taking our place.

Hebrews 11:17-18 (17) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, (18) of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called" NKJV

Our Faith in the Sacrificial Lamb

John 1:29b "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." KJV

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." KJV

Rom. 6:23 "For sin's payment is death, but God's gracious gift is eternal life in Messiah Yeshua our Lord." TLV

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life. He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." MEV

Romans 10:9-10 (9) that if you will confess with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. MWEB

In Closing

Ephesians 2:8-10 (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God. (9) It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are His workmanship—created in Messiah Yeshua for good deeds, which God prepared beforehand so we might walk in them. TLV