



## *Parshas Chayei Sarah 2021, perpetually blessed*

*This week's Parsha Perspective is in loving memory of Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.*

*This week's Parsha Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, Shaul Ben Berta & Sasson Bezalel Ben Batia. Shlomo Ben Edward. May they have a quick and complete recovery.*

This past week, on the 20th of Cheshvan, was the first Yahrzeit of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of blessed memory. His many teachings and books have inspired me and millions across the globe to deepen their relationship with Hashem. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

Our Parsha begins with the passing of Sarah at 127 years old. Avraham negotiated with Ephron to buy a plot of land in Chevron, known as Mearas HaMachpelah, for 400 shekels. This cave would be a family burial plot for the next generations.

When Avraham finished mourning for Sarah, he sent his most trusted servant, Eliezer, to find a wife for his son Yitzchak. When Eliezer arrived in the city, he prayed to G-d to have mercy on him and show him the future wife of Yitzchak. The test he formulated was if the girl would offer him and his camels water to drink.

Eliezer then headed to the city's well and encountered a young girl carrying a water jug on her shoulder. When he approached her and requested water, she gave him water to quench his thirst. But she also offered to provide his many camels water to drink.

When Eliezer asked who she was, he discovered that her name was Rivkah, and she was a great-niece of Avraham; at that moment, he knew she would marry Yitzchak.

Rivkah ran home to tell her family about Eliezer and his mission to find Yitzchak a wife. Her brother Lavan quickly went outside to greet Eliezer and invited him to stay the night. With her family's blessings, the following day, Eliezer and Rivkah traveled back together to Cana'an.

When Yitzchak met Rivkah, he brought her into his mother's tent to see if the miracles of her tent would return. While Sarah was alive, her candle remained illuminated from Friday afternoon to Friday afternoon. Her dough stayed fresh and miraculously increased as needed. Most importantly, a cloud of G-d hovered over her tent.

But all these incredible Miracles vanished when Sarah passed away. Yet, when Rivkah entered Sarah's tent, all the miracles returned. Once again, the cloud of G-d hovered over the tent. Her candles burned the entire week and her dough never finished. When Yitzchak saw the miracles return, he knew she was one to continue his amazing mother's legacy.

However, a question comes to mind: Immediately following the negotiations for a burial place for his wife, the Torah tells us that Avraham was blessed with everything. The Pasuk writes (24:1), *"Ve'Avraham Zaken Ba Bayamim Va'Hashem Berach Es Avraham Bakol – Avraham was old, advanced in his days; and G-d had blessed Avraham with everything."* Why does the Torah tell us that **"Avraham was blessed with everything"** just after his wife passed away and he had to haggle for a cave to bury her in? How is that considered **"blessed with everything"**?!

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of blessed memory gives us a deep and powerful answer by explaining that **Avraham felt blessed**. As Rashi details, the last word of the Pasuk, *"Bakol – everything,"* has the same numerical value as the word for son in Hebrew, *"Ben."*

The Ramban (*Rav Moshe Ben Nachman, a leading scholar, philosopher, and Kabbalist from Spain*) writes that Avraham had all that man can desire. He had honor, wealth, children, longevity, and a profound relationship with G-d.

Rabbi Sacks explains that the Torah teaches us that **Avraham was thankful for all he had, notwithstanding the loss of his wife.** Since Avraham recognized G-d's oneness over the world, he understood the "why" of his life.

To be an ambassador of G-d and spread His holy name to the entire world. This realization gave Avraham the energy, spirit, and strength to keep thriving during his trials and tribulations. He even felt blessed after his wife passed away because they had a son to continue their legacy.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks exemplified this immensely powerful lesson of blessed memory. His death last week was a great shock to many, as most people didn't know he was sick.

During the initial lockdowns, Rabbi Sacks inspired millions through the web by sharing his thoughts and vision. But what the majority of people did not know was that he was suffering from cancer after beating it twice previously. Yet, the pain did not stop Rabbi Sacks from sharing his message of hope and meaning till the very end.

**“To ask is to believe that somewhere there is an answer...we ask not because we doubt but because we believe.”**

*-Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of blessed memory*

*Have an inspirational Shabbos!*

*Rabbi Sholom Yemini*