



59 Broad Street · Freehold, New Jersey 07728
office@freeholdjc.org · (732) 462-0254 · www.freeholdjc.org

Parashah Vayeira **18 Marcheshvan 5783 – November 12, 2022**

It seems that evil continues to raise its head since the beginning of time. HaShem gives us freedom of choice and it seems that making the wrong choices is more common than making the right choices.

HaShem creates a perfect world and it (humanity) destroys itself. A “do-over” with Noah, and again evil rears its head. Abraham comes along and brings G-d into the world and he has to deal with immorality, debauchery, and worst of all paganism (polytheism). He is successful, even though he had to “fabricate” his relationship with his wife, intimating that Sarah was his sister.

The issue of Sarah being “taken” happens twice. Once in Egypt, and once by Avimelech, King of Gerar. G-d strikes both the Pharaoh and Avimelech with a plague so as not to defile Sarah. The Pharaoh as well as Avimelech blame Abraham and Sarah for the G-dly punishment they received.

Earlier Abraham has to deal with Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Tzevoi'im, and Zoar. HaShem destroys four of the five cities but spared Zoar. Zoar had been spared because it had not fully matured to its immorality.

HaShem does not hide from Abraham what He is going to do to Sodom and Gomorrah. He takes Abraham into his confidence to show Abraham that the attribute of Justice cannot be meted out without the attribute of Mercy.

G-d is instilling in Abraham that future generations need to learn that faith is drawn upon G-d's principles of “Righteousness and Justice”. Without these two principles, there is little, if any balance in the world. Keep the faith and keep the balance.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer

