#5 Chayei Sarah

Parashat Chayei Sarah · Annual Torah Study Cycle

חַיֵּי שָׂרָה

Chayei Sarah

Life of Sarah

Hebrew reads right to left

LETTER IDENTIFICATION AND PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION

י **Yod** y / ee	ִי **Yod** y / ee	חַ **Chet** kh
ה **He** h	רָ **Resh** r	שָׂ **Shin / Sin** sh / s

Combined pronunciation: khai-YAY sah-RAH

Hebrew is read right to left; consonant sounds are approximate. Use the whole-word pronunciation for vowels and stress.

Please use this sheet to note your questions until the discussion period.

After the **FULL** reading of each respective portion, we will open for dialogue.

A LINK ACROSS THE READINGS

Read the Torah and Haftarah together, then consider the Gospel passage as an additional Messianic perspective. The reading headings are landmarks, not prescribed answers.

This Gospel passage is proposed for discussion; compare it with existing class materials before final publication.

Torah — Genesis 23:1–25:18 — Reading 30 min / Discussion 30 min

Genesis 23	Sarah's burial
Genesis 24	A wife for Isaac
Genesis 25	Abraham's final years and family

Haftarah · regular — 1 Kings 1:1–31 — Reading 5 min / Discussion 15 min

1 Kings 1:1–31	The accompanying prophetic reading

Gospels — John 4:3–14 — Reading 2 min / Discussion 13 min

John 4:3–14	Proposed Gospel companion reading

A Place for Your Observations

As the portion is read aloud, make a brief note of anything you want to revisit when the discussion opens. These are observations, not required discussion topics.

An Invitation to Think WITH Him

Throughout our lives, we have been encouraged to study Scripture, examine the wisdom of the sages, and consider what generations before us have discovered about Adonai. These are valuable gifts, but somewhere along the way, we can become so occupied with what others have said about God that we forget to ask what God is saying to us.

This year, I would like us to approach the Torah cycle a little differently.

As we read, let's move beyond simply asking what happened, what it meant then, or what someone else believes it means. Let's begin asking what Adonai's words and actions reveal about His thoughts toward humanity—and toward each of us personally.

And then, let's take another step.

Let's learn to think WITH Him.

Let's begin to see ourselves, one another, and the circumstances of our lives from His perspective rather than merely our own.

In Jeremiah 29:11–14, Adonai reveals that He knows His thoughts toward His people. He invites them to call upon Him, seek Him wholeheartedly, and discover that He will be found.

That is our invitation, too: not to invent what God might be saying, but to seek Him through what He has revealed.

My hope is that, week by week, we will become less concerned with simply knowing *about* God and more intentional about knowing Him—recognizing His character, understanding His heart, and allowing His thoughts to transform our own.



Additional observations / questions

His Thoughts, My Life, My Future

A personal encounter with the Parsha · Our weekly reflection

Let us discover what Adonai thinks about us and toward us—and then learn to think WITH Him. As we study the Torah, Haftarah, and Gospels, let us increasingly see ourselves, other people, and our circumstances from *His* perspective.

JEREMIAH 29:11–14 · KING JAMES VERSION

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

In context, Adonai speaks these promises to His people in Babylonian exile. We consider what they reveal about His character while honoring that original setting.

1. What are Adonai’s thoughts toward humanity?

Considering His words and actions in this Parsha, what does He reveal about His thoughts, intentions, and purposes toward us collectively?

2. What are Adonai’s thoughts toward me?

What do His actions in this Parsha reveal about how He sees me? How might I begin to see myself, others, and their circumstances from His perspective?

3. What are Adonai’s revealed plans for me?

What does this Parsha reveal about His purposes and invitations, and how can I respond to what I discover *today*?

Discover His thoughts. Seek His heart. Learn to think WITH Him.