

# DAF TSAFON

1 November 2025  
10 Cheshvan 5786

Parashat Lech Lecha  
ArtScroll 54 Hertz 45



This week's parasha introduces us to the seminal character of the Bible, Abraham. Abraham is the father of monotheism, the father of the Jewish People. As we read through the story we ask the question, why is Avraham so special? The Torah does not grant him the complimentary adjectives that it lavished upon Noah at the beginning of last week's parasha. We read in the midrash of his willingness to die on behalf of his belief in one God at the test of the furnace of Ur Casdim, but this story is not even mentioned in the Torah text. It was only inferred by the rabbis.

So why is Abraham revered as the father of many nations and generations, the spiritual ancestor and guide to so many millions in the world, 3500 years after his death? The rabbis of Mishna Avot have long ago provided the answer to these questions. They stated that our father, Abraham, was sorely tested by life and the Creator ten times and he rose greater each time from the experience.

Rabbi Berel Wein, of Jerusalem commented that the most remarkable quality of the Jewish people is not necessarily or even mainly its scholarship and its contributions to the betterment of humanity, as much as it is its resilience. This resilience is personified in the life and vicissitudes of Avraham. To a great extent we all pray that we not be tested too often or too severely in our lives. Yet simply being a Jew and not deserting the cause of the Jewish people at the time of its need is a significant test.

Many are the critics and enemies of Avraham. Yet he never loses his faith. His hopes for humanity and his loyalty to the values that have guided his way in life survive all of his experiences in life. That is the Jewish definition of the quality of resilience that has become the hallmark of Jewish life throughout the ages.

Avraham is tested many times, be it through members of his immediate family, war, famine and personal crises. The Torah chooses not to highlight his self-sacrifice to God in Ur. However, it does tell us, in painful detail, of the betrayal of Avraham and his values and lifestyle by his ungrateful nephew, Lot. How does one deal with such a disappointment? Yet Avraham goes to war to save Lot and his wealth, and it is because of Avraham alone that Lot apparently undeservedly survives the destruction of Sdom.

Avraham's son Yishmael behaves like a wild beast in human guise. Parents may be helpless and even blameless regarding the behaviour of their adult children, but the hurt that those adult children can inflict upon their parents with wrongful behaviour is immeasurable. Yet Avraham does not waver, and at the end of his life, he lived to see that Yishmael repented and returned.

It is the unwavering courage and tenacity of Avraham, in the face of all defeats, hurts, hostile enemies and false friends, that most impresses us about our father. This strength of constantly renewing resilience is the legacy that he has bestowed upon us, his generations and descendants.

Shabbat Shalom

## Haftarah

ArtScroll 1133 Hertz 60

**ISRAEL'S FEARS ALLAYED**

**Isaiah XL, 27-XLI, 16**

*The exiles, says the prophet, need not fear that God has forgotten them, for those who trust in Him will renew their strength. Other nations rely on idols to deliver them from attack, but God Himself will lead Israel, the seed of Abraham who loved Me, to victory.*

## מזל טוב

### Wedding anniversaries

Daniel and Leanne Abrahams  
Marianne and Simon Erder  
Robert and Susan Lipman

## מזל טוב

### Bar and Bat Mitzvah anniversaries

Peter Forrester  
Hayden Hendricks  
Adam Kohn  
Leslie Schrieber  
Alexander Traurig  
  
Kayla Brandon

**Our congregation acknowledges the following  
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to those  
who are commemorating a yahrzeit  
during the coming week.**

## חיים ארוכים

|                       |                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Robert Beecher        | father of Judith Misrachi                                                                  |
| Lionel Israel         | grandfather of Susan Marjoram                                                              |
| Susan Kelvin          | grandmother of Alexander Zak                                                               |
| Herman Myers          | father of Mark Myers                                                                       |
| Jack Rapken           | grandfather of Sarah Zukerman                                                              |
| Nona Elaine Rosenbaum | mother of Geoffrey Rosenbaum,<br>grandmother of Michael Rosenbaum                          |
| Bob Shteinman         | husband of Diane Shteinman AM                                                              |
| Michael Winch         | maternal grandfather of Adele<br>Bernard and Ian Bernard                                   |
| Henry Zukerman        | father of Harley Zukerman,<br>grandfather of Zara Zukerman,<br>Leah Kirsner and Lana Oxnam |