

# Parsha Q&A



## Parshas Vayera

For the week ending 18 Cheshvan 5756  
10 & 11 November 1995

### Parsha Questions

1. In the beginning of the *Parsha*, why did Hashem appear to Avraham?
2. Why was Avraham sitting at the entrance to his tent?
3. What were the missions of the three angels?
4. Why did Avraham enjoin the guests to wash the dust off their feet?
5. Why did Avraham ask Yishmael to prepare the food for the guests?
6. The angels asked Avraham where Sarah was. Why?
7. When Hashem related Sarah's thoughts to Avraham, He did not relate them precisely. Why?
8. What "cry" from Sodom came before Hashem?
9. How many angels went to Sodom?
10. Why was Lot sitting at the gate of Sodom?
11. Lot served the angels *matzos*. Why?
12. Why did Lot delay when he left Sodom?
13. Why were Lot and his family not permitted to look back at Sodom?
14. "A pillar of salt." Why was Lot's wife punished in this peculiar way — to be salt?
15. In what merit did Hashem save Lot?
16. Why did Avraham relocate after the destruction of Sodom?
17. Why did Avimelech give gifts to Avraham?
18. Why was Avraham told to listen to Sarah?
19. Why did Hashem listen to the prayer of Yishmael and not to that of Hagar?
20. Who accompanied Avraham and Yitzchak to the *Akeidah* (binding)?

**Bonus Q:**

"And Sarah laughed within herself... Then Sarah denied, saying, 'I didn't laugh'... And he said, 'No, you did laugh'" (18:12, 18:15).  
How could Sarah seemingly lie?

### *I Did Not Know That!*

Avraham had received a command to sacrifice Yitzchak directly from Hashem. Yitzchak had only heard it from his father. Yet, "they went both of them together (22:6)" with the same zeal and determination.

*Rav Menachem Mendel of Kotzk*

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## Recommended Reading List

### Ramban

18:7	The Love of Kindness
18:13	For the Sake of Peace
18:15	Sarah's Laughter
19:8	Lot's Disgrace
22:1	The Meaning of a Trial
22:16	The Promise of Eternity

### Sforno

18:2	The Love of Kindness
18:22	Persistence
19:8	Lot's Reasoning
19:11	The Nature of the Wicked
19:37-8	Meaning Well

## Answers to this Week's Questions

**All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 18:1 - Avraham was sick, so Hashem came to 'visit' him.</li> <li>2. 18:1 - He was looking for guests.</li> <li>3. 18:2 - To announce that Sarah would give birth, to heal Avraham and to destroy Sodom.</li> <li>4. 18:4 - He thought they were Arabians who worshipped the dust, and he didn't want any object of idolatry in his home.</li> <li>5. 18:7 - To train him in the performance of <i>mitzvos</i>.</li> <li>6. 18:9 - To call attention to Sarah's modesty, so as to endear her to her husband.</li> <li>7. 18:13 - For the sake of peace.</li> <li>8. 18:21 - The cry of a girl who was put to death for giving food to a poor man.</li> <li>9. 19:1 - Two; one to destroy the city and one to save Lot.</li> <li>10. 19:1 - He was a judge.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. 19:3 - It was Passover.</li> <li>12. 19:16 - He lingered to save his property.</li> <li>13. 19:17 - Since they too really should have been punished, it wasn't fitting for them to witness the destruction of Sodom.</li> <li>14. 19:26 - She had refused to give the guests salt.</li> <li>15. 19:29 - Lot had protected Avram by concealing from the Egyptians that Sarai was Avram's wife.</li> <li>16. 20:1 - Because travel in the region ceased and Avraham could no longer find guests.</li> <li>17. 20:14 - So that Avraham would pray for him.</li> <li>18. 21:12 - Because she was greater in prophecy.</li> <li>19. 21:17 - Because the prayer of a sick person is more readily accepted than the prayer of others on his behalf.</li> <li>20. 22:3 - Yishmael and Eliezer.</li> </ol> |
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**Bonus**

A:

Sarah didn't lie. She didn't laugh out loud, but only within herself. Still, Hashem chastised her because a person is held accountable even for improper thoughts.

*Tz'ror Hamor*

It changes all the time...



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