

Zoom18: Israel & UAE Deal - A Political and Torah Perspective

Source Sheet by Shmuel Veffter

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LIVE FROM ISRAEL

Special Zoom Study Session
with Rabbi Shmuel Veffter

ISRAEL & UAE DEAL

A Political and Torah Perspective

First we'll take a look at this deal in the context of
the past 40 years since the Egypt Peace Treaty

Then we'll review Torah texts to see how this may,
or may not be moving God's agenda forward.

Wednesday August 19, 2020

Eastern (EDT)..... 12 Noon

Pacific (PDT)..... 9:00 am

London..... 5:00 pm

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OFFICIAL JOINT STATEMENT IN ENGLISH

President Donald J. Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates spoke today and agreed to the **full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates**.

--- bilateral agreements regarding investment, tourism, direct flights, security, telecommunications, technology, energy, healthcare, culture, the environment, the establishment of reciprocal embassies,

As a result of this diplomatic breakthrough and **at the request** of President Trump with the support of the United Arab Emirates, Israel **will suspend declaring sovereignty** over areas outlined in the President's Vision for Peace and **focus its efforts now** on expanding ties with other countries in the Arab and Muslim world. The United States, Israel and the United Arab Emirates are confident that additional diplomatic breakthroughs with other nations are possible, and will work together to achieve this goal.

Along with the United States, Israel and the United Arab Emirates **share a similar outlook regarding the threats and opportunities in the region**

As set forth in the Vision for Peace, **all Muslims who come in peace may visit and pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque**, and Jerusalem's other holy sites should remain open for **peaceful worshippers of all faiths**.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/joint-statement-united-states-state-israel-united-arab-emirates/English>

Global reactions to the Israeli-UAE deal
Selected leaders/organisation

FRANCE "The decision ... to suspend the annexation of Palestinian territories is a positive step" Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian	GERMANY "An important contribution to peace in the region" Foreign Minister Heiko Maas	UNITED NATIONS Hopes the deal would help "realise a two-state solution" Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
UNITED STATES "Historic Peace Agreement between our two GREAT friends, Israel and the United Arab Emirates!" President Donald Trump	PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES The deal is an "aggression" against the Palestinian people and a "betrayal" of their cause President Mahmud Abbas	TURKEY "We could suspend diplomatic relations with the Abu Dhabi administration or withdraw our ambassador" President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
CHINA Hopes the parties will take action "to bring the Palestinian issue back to the track of dialogue and negotiation" Foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian	IRAN An act of "strategic stupidity" Foreign Ministry	AFP bureaux/ AFP photos/pool

Netanyahu: Annexation is still on the table
MBZ: Agreement to stop further annexation



Context

Genesis 2:17

(17) but as for the tree of knowledge of good and bad, you must not eat of it; for as soon as you eat of it, you shall die."

בראשית ב':י"ז

(יז) ומִלֶּעֶץ הַדֵּעַת טוֹב וְרָע לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי בְיוֹם אֲכָלְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת:

Isaiah 60:22

(22) The smallest shall become a clan; The least, a mighty nation. I the LORD will speed it in due time.

ישעיהו ס':כ"ב

(כב) הַקָּטָן יִהְיֶה לְאֵלֶּף וְהַצָּעִיר לְגוֹי עֲצוּם אֲנִי יְהוָה בְּעֵתָהּ אַחִישָׁנָה: (ס)

Rashi on Isaiah 60:22

In its time, I will hasten it.. if they merit it, I will hasten it (miraculously), if they don't merit it, it (redemption) will come in its time (through natural means)

רש"י על ישעיהו ס':כ"ב

(א) בַּעֲתָהּ אַחִישָׁנָה. זְכוּ אַחִישָׁנָה לֹא זְכוּ בַּעֲתָהּ:

Covenant with Avraham

Genesis 15:18

(18) On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your **offspring** I assign this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates:

בראשית ט"ו:י"ח

(יח) ביום ההוא כרת יְהוָה אֶת־אַבְרָם בְּרִית לְאָמֹר
לְזָרְעוֹ נָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מִנְּהַר מִצְרַיִם
עַד־הַנָּהָר הַגָּדֹל נְהַר־פָּרָת:

Egyptian Peace Treaty 1979

Land for Peace -Sinai Desert



Egypt tried to wipe Israel off the face of the earth in 4 wars over 25 years:

1948 - Israel War of Independence

1956 - Sinai Campaign

1967 - Six Day War

1973 - Yom Kippur War

Anwar Sadat who was launched the 1973 war as President of Egypt decided to get the land he wanted through peace rather than war. He was assassinated by Khalid Islamboulli of the Islamic Jihad (Al Qaeda affiliate) at a military parade celebrating the "victory" of the Yom Kippur War!

Cold peace... but no wars in 40 years.

Oslo Accords with Arafat and the PLO - 1993

More Land for Peace - Gaza/Jericho First - Then the Heartland



King Hussein of Jordan applauds as PM Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat shake hands at the Clinton Whitehouse upon signing the Oslo2 Accords.



Among over 1000 Jewish Israelis murdered by Palestinian Terrorists after the Oslo Accords were signed were my cousins who were blown up while eating lunch at the Sbarro Pizzeria in downtown Jerusalem.

Mordechai 43, Tzira 41, Ra'aya 14, Avraham Yitzhak 4, and Hemda Schijveschuurder 2 of Neria

**Jordanian Peace Treaty (Photo-op)
Land and Water for "Peace"**



King Hussein and PM Rabin sign the documents as President Clinton looks on.



King Hussein visits six families in Beit Shemesh in mourning. Their daughters were shot in cold blood by a Jordanian soldier from land "returned" to Jordan under the agreement. They were schoolmates of my niece who were on a school trip.

The Abraham Accords? - Avraham - Abraham - Ibrahim



Standing L-R: Avi Berkowitz, David Friedman, Jared Kushner, Steven Mnuchin

Al Jazeera Friday August 14

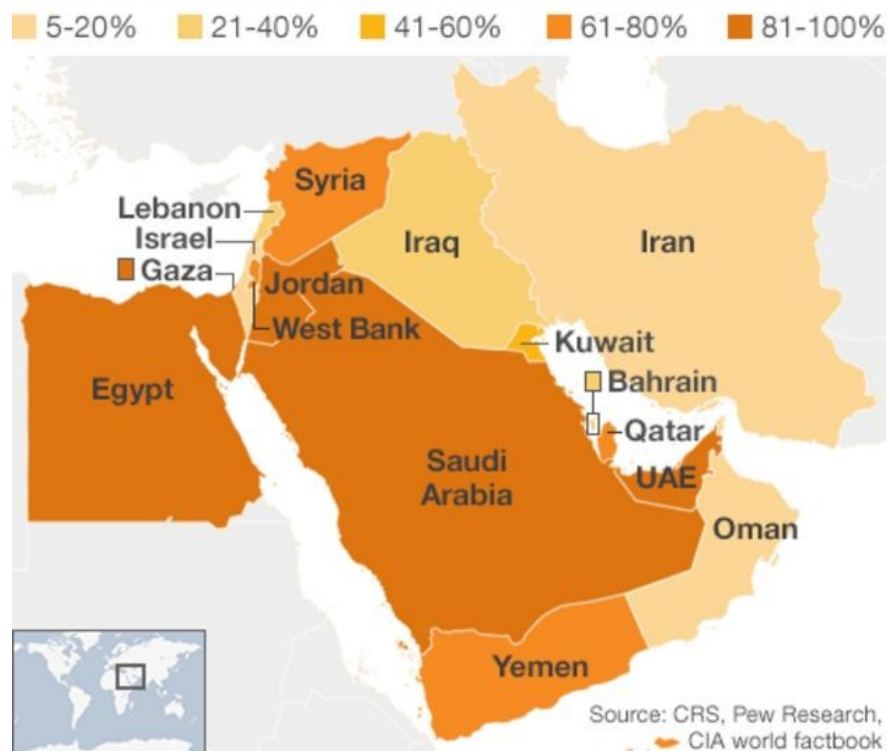
UAE, Israel normalised ties to 'keep US militarily engaged' in Middle East

Trita Parsi, executive vice-president of the Quincy Institute, said the main aim of the UAE-Israel decision to normalise ties was to keep Washington "militarily engaged in the region".

The Iran expert made the comment when asked about what the deal might mean for Tehran and what role the alleged threat from Israel and US's arch foe played in the historic agreement.

Parsi, noting the close business ties between Abu Dhabi and Tehran, said the alliance between Israel, UAE and Saudi Arabia is "more about the fact they are terrified of the idea of the United States leaving the Middle East".

Estimated distribution of Sunni Muslims in the Middle East



Lines in the Sand: Shiites as % of Muslim Population



Abrahamic Faiths Initiative

US Ambassador to the Vatican - Gingrich Remarks

January 16, 2020

On January 14, I was honored to host the opening session of the Abrahamic Faiths Initiative (AFI) at my residence, facilitating discussions among faith leaders to advance peace and mutual respect around the world.

The AFI, which convened 25 senior global religious leaders representing a range of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities for a two-day working dialogue at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome

I commend the statement released today by the AFI participants, which endorses their commitment to “resolutely declare that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility, and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood,” as stated in the Document on Human Fraternity.

<https://va.usembassy.gov/statement-by-ambassador-gingrich-on-the-launch-of-the-abrahamic-faiths-initiative/>

UAE religious official meets Pope Francis in Vatican

► Abdullah bin Bayyah and the pontiff meet on the sidelines of the Abrahamic Faiths Initiative forum



Imam Abdullah bin Bayyah, chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council, and Pope Francis meet in the Vatican City on Wednesday. Wam

Imam Abdullah bin Bayyah, who is also president of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, was in Rome for the Abrahamic Faiths Initiative forum this week.

At the meeting, the religious leaders quoted the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, signed by the Pope during his landmark visit to the UAE in February last year with the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Dr Ahmed Al Tayeb.

Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church, has boosted ties with the Muslim faith in recent years.

Following his visit to the UAE last year, it was also announced that a mosque, church and synagogue were to be built in Abu Dhabi to symbolise the growing ties between the religions in the Emirates.

The Abrahamic Family House - designed by renowned British architect David Adjaye - is to be built on Saadiyat Island.

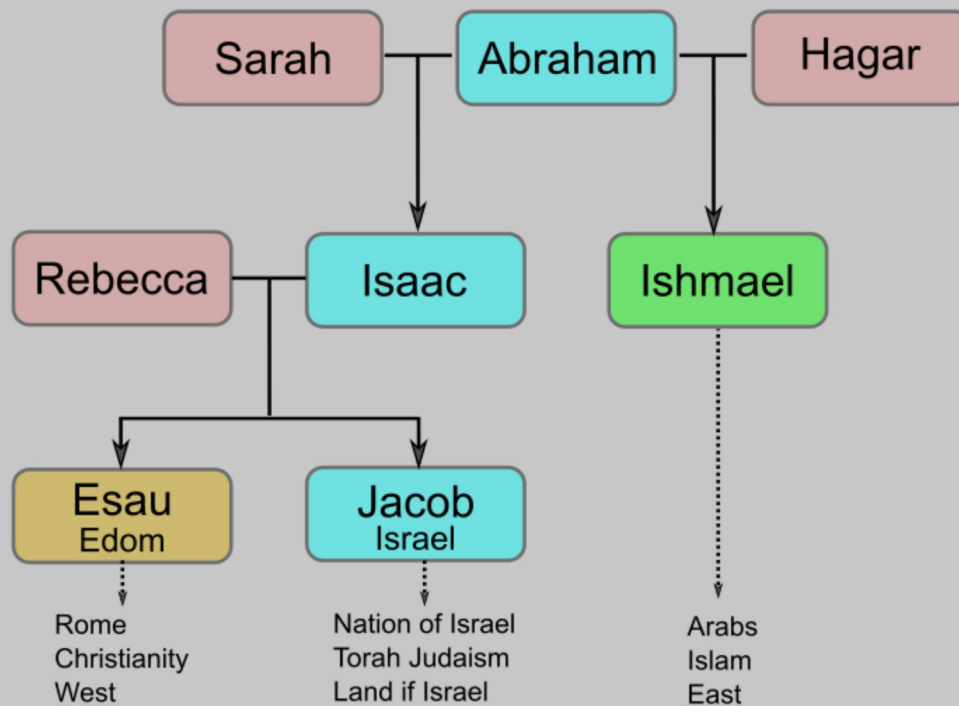
Islam, Christianity and Judaism are the three main Abrahamic religions because Abraham – or Ibrahim – is important to them all. Adherents consider him an important prophet or father figure.



The Abrahamic Family House to be built in Abu Dhabi, UAE. (PRNewsfoto/The Higher Committee for Human Fraternity)

Abraham's Decendants

Covenant of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (Israel)



GalileeGreen.com

Covenant with Isaac - not Ishmael

Genesis 17:19-21

(19) God said, "Nevertheless, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac; and I will maintain My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring to come.

(20) As for Ishmael, I have heeded you. I hereby bless him. I will make him fertile and exceedingly numerous. He shall be the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make of him a great nation.

(21) But My covenant I will maintain with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year."

בראשית י"ז:ט-כ"א

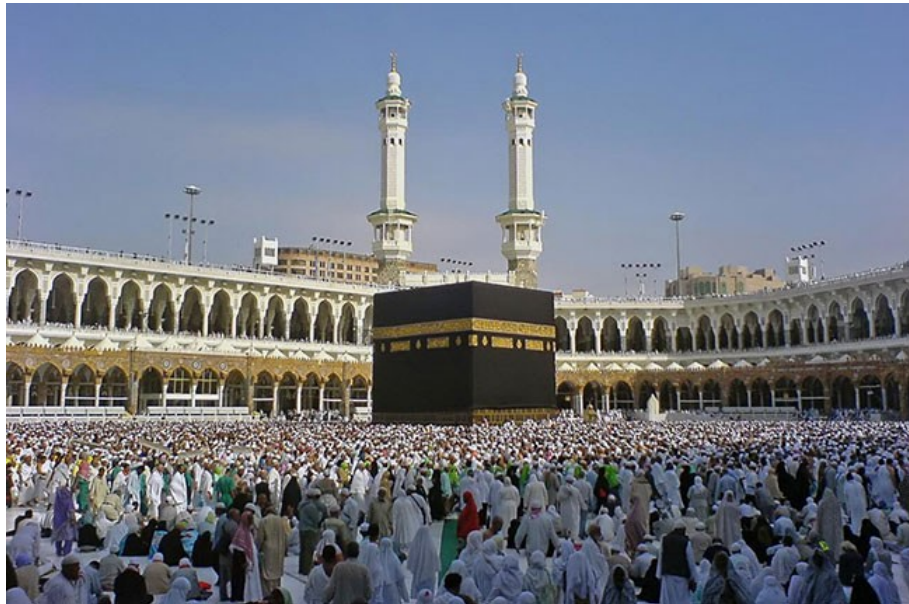
(יט) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֲבֹל שָׂרָה אִשְׁתְּךָ יִלְדָּת לְךָ בֵּן וְקָרָאתָ אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יִצְחָק וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתּוֹ לְבְרִית עוֹלָם לְזֶרְעוֹ אַחֲרָיו:

(כ) וְלִישְׁמָעֵאל שָׁמַעְתִּיךָ הִנֵּה אֲבָרְכְתִּי אֹתוֹ וְהִפְרֵיתִי אֹתוֹ וְהִרְבֵּיתִי אֹתוֹ בְּמֵאד מְאֹד שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר נָשִׂאִם יוֹלִיד וְנִתְּתִיו לְגֹי גָדוֹל:

(כא) וְאֶת־בְּרִיתִי אֶקִּים אֶת־יִצְחָק אֲשֶׁר תֵּלֵד לְךָ שָׂרָה לְמוֹעֵד הַזֶּה בַּשָּׁנָה הָאֲחֵרָת:

Ishmael wants to take back the birthright

Eid El Adha -Feast of the Sacrifice



One of the main trials of Abraham's life was to face the command of God by sacrificing his beloved son.^[24] In Islam, Abraham kept having dreams that he was sacrificing his son Ishmael.

Abraham knew that this was a command from God and he told his son, as stated in the Quran "Oh son, I keep dreaming that I am slaughtering you", Ishmael replied "Father, do what you are ordered to do." Abraham prepared to submit to the will of God and prepared to slaughter his son as an act of faith and obedience to God.^[25]

During this preparation, Shaytaan tempted Abraham and his family by trying to dissuade them from carrying out God's commandment, and Abraham drove Satan away by throwing pebbles at him. In commemoration of their rejection of Satan, stones are thrown at symbolic pillars Stoning of the Devil during Hajj rites.^[26]

Acknowledging that Abraham was willing to sacrifice what is dear to him, God the almighty honoured both Abraham and Ishmael. Angel Jibreel (Gabriel) called Abraham "O' Abraham, you have fulfilled the revelations." and a lamb from heaven was offered by Angel Gabriel to prophet Abraham to slaughter instead of Ishmael. Muslims worldwide celebrate Eid al Adha to commemorate both the devotion of Abraham and the survival of Ishmael.^{[27][28][29]}

This story is known as the Akedah in Judaism (Binding of Isaac) and originates in the Torah,^[30] the first book of Moses (Genesis, Ch. 22). The Quran refers to the Akedah as follows:^[31]

100 "O my Lord! Grant me a righteous (son)!"

101 So We gave him the good news of a boy ready to suffer and forbear.

102 Then, when (the son) reached (the age of) (serious) work with him, he said: "O my son! I see in vision that I offer thee in sacrifice: Now see what is thy view!" (The son) said: "O my father! Do as thou art commanded: thou wilt find me if Allah (God) so wills one practicing Patience and Constancy!"

103 So when they had both submitted their wills (to Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (for sacrifice),

104 We called out to him "O Abraham!

105 "Thou hast already fulfilled the vision!" – thus indeed do We reward those who do right.
 106 For this was obviously a trial–
 107 And We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice:
 108 And We left (this blessing) for him among generations (to come) in later times:
 109 "Peace and salutation to Abraham!"
 110 Thus indeed do We reward those who do right.
 111 For he was one of our believing Servants.
 112 And We gave him the good news of Isaac – a prophet – one of the Righteous.
 — Quran, sura 37 (Aş-Şaffāt), āyāt 100–112^[32]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Adha

The Akeida - Binding of ISAAC

Genesis 22

(1) Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test. He said to him, "Abraham," and he answered, "Here I am."

(2) And He said, "Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you."

(3) So early next morning, Abraham saddled his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and he set out for the place of which God had told him.

(4) On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place from afar.

(5) Then Abraham said to his servants, "You stay here with the ass. The boy and I will go up there; we will worship and we will return to you."

(6) Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. He himself took the firestone and the knife; and the two walked off together.

(7) Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he answered, "Yes, my son." And he said, "Here are the firestone and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

(8) And Abraham said, "God will see to the sheep for His burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

בראשית כ"ב

(א) וַיְהִי אֶחָד מִדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַהֲאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:

(ב) וַיֹּאמֶר קַח־נָא אֶת־בְּנֶךָ אֶת־יִחִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר־אַהֲבָתָּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וְלֶךְ־לְךָ אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרִיָּה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶתֶד הַהוּא אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים:

(ג) וַיִּשְׁכֶּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֶּקֶר וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת־חֲמֹרֹו וַיִּלָּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי נַעֲרָיו אֹתָו וְאֵת יִצְחָק בְּנֹו וַיִּבְקַעַ עֵצִי עֲלֶיהָ וַיִּקֶּם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר־לֹו הָאֱלֹהִים:

(ד) בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיֵּשֶׁא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם מֵרֶחֶק:

(ה) וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נַעֲרָיו שְׁבוּ־לָכֶם פֹּה עִם־הַחֲמֹר וְאֲנִי וְהַנֶּעַר נִלְכֶּה עַד־כֹּה וְנִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וְנִשְׁוֹבָה אֲלֵיכֶם:

(ו) וַיִּלָּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵצִי הָעֹלָה וַיִּשְׁכֶּם עַל־יִצְחָק בְּנֹו וַיִּקַּח בְּיָדֹו אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת־הַמֶּאֱכָלֶת וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

(ז) וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה הָאֵשׁ וְהָעֵצִים וְאַיֶּה הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה:

(ח) וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲלֵהִים יְרָאֵה־לֹו הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה בְנִי וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו:

(9) They arrived at the place of which God had told him. Abraham built an altar there; he laid out the wood; he bound his son Isaac; he laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

(10) And Abraham picked up the knife to slay his son.

(11) Then **an angel of the LORD called to him from heaven: "Abraham! Abraham!"** And he answered, "Here I am."

(12) And he said, **"Do not raise your hand against the boy, or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your favored one, from Me."**

(13) When Abraham looked up, **his eye fell upon a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son.**

(14) And Abraham named that site **Adonai-yireh**, whence the present saying, "On the mount of the LORD there is vision."

(15) The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, (16) and said, "By Myself I swear, the LORD declares: Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your favored one, (17) I will bestow My blessing upon you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore; and your descendants shall seize the gates of their foes. (18) All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, because you have listened to Me."

(ט) ויבאו אל-המקום אשר אמר-לו האלהים ויבן שם אברהם את-המזבח ויערוך את-העצים ויעקב את-יִצְחָק בנו וישם אתו על-המזבח ממעל לעצים:

(י) וישלח אברהם את-ידו ויקח את-המאכלת לשחט את-בנו:

(יא) ויקרא אליו מלאך יהוה מן-השמים ויאמר אברהם | אברהם ויאמר הגוי:

(יב) ויאמר אל-תשלח ידך אל-הנער ואל-תעש לו מאומה כי | עתה ידעתי כי-ירא אלהים אתה ולא חשכת את-בנך את-יחידך ממני:

(יג) וישא אברהם את-עיניו וירא והנה-איל אחר נאטו בסבך בקרניו וילך אברהם ויקח את-האיל ויעלהו לעלה תחת בנו:

(יד) ויקרא אברהם שם-המקום ההוא יהוה | יראא אשר יאמר היום בך יהוה יראה:

(טו) ויקרא מלאך יהוה אל-אברהם שנית מן-השמים: (טז) ויאמר כי נשבעתי נאם-יהוה כי יען אשר עשית את-הדבר הזה ולא חשכת את-בנך את-יחידך: (יז) כי-כרד אברקך ותרבה ארבה את-זרעך ככוכבי השמים וכחול אשר על-שפת הים וירש זרעך את שער איביו: (יח) והתברכו בזרעך כל גוי הארץ לעבד אשר שמעת בקלי:

Covenant with Israel/Jacob - not Esau

Esau sold his birthright to the land and therefore the blessings along with it

Genesis 27:36-41

(36) [Esau] said, "Was he, then, named Jacob that he might supplant me these two times? First he took away my birthright and now he has taken away my blessing!" And he added, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

(37) Isaac answered, saying to Esau, "But I have

בראשית כ"ז:ל"ו-מ"א

(לו) ויאמר הכי קרא שמו יעקב ויעקבני זה פעמים את-בכרתי לקח והנה עתה לקח בכרתי ויאמר הלא-אצלתי לי ברכה:

made him master over you: I have given him all his brothers for servants, and sustained him with grain and wine. What, then, can I still do for you, my son?"

(38) And Esau said to his father, "Have you but one blessing, Father? Bless me too, Father!" And Esau wept aloud.

(39) And his father Isaac answered, saying to him, "See, **your abode shall enjoy the fat of the earth And the dew of heaven above.**

(40) Yet **by your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; But when you grow restive, You shall break his yoke from your neck.**"

(41) Now Esau harbored a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing which his father had given him, and Esau said to himself, "Let but the mourning period of my father come, and **I will kill my brother Jacob.**"

Rashi on Genesis 27:39

(1) משמני הארץ וגו' THE FATNESS OF THE EARTH etc. — This refers to the Greek portions of Italy

(לז) ויזען יצחק ויאמר לעשו הן גביר שמתי לך ואת כל אחיו נתתי לך לעבדים ודגן ויתרש סמכותי ולכה אפוא מה אעשה בני:

(לח) ויאמר עשו אל-אביו הברכה אחת הוא-לך אבי ברכני גם-אני אבי וישא עשו קלו ויברך:

(לט) ויזען יצחק אביו ויאמר אליו הנה משמני הארץ יהיה מושבך ומטל השמים מעל:

(מ) ועל-סרפק תחיה ואת-אחיד תעבד והיה כאשר תריד ופרקת עלו מעל צנארה:

(מא) וישטם עשו את-יעקב על-הברכה אשר ברכו אביו ויאמר עשו בלבו יקרבו ימי אכל אבי ואהרגה את-יעקב אחי:

רש"י על בראשית כ"ז:ל"ט

(א) משמני ארץ וגו'. זו איטליאה נשל יון:

Explicit Covenant with Jacob/Israel

Genesis 28

(1) So Isaac sent for Jacob and blessed him. He instructed him, saying, "You shall not take a wife from among the Canaanite women.

(2) Up, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and take a wife there from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother,

(3) May El Shaddai bless you, make you fertile and numerous, so that you become an assembly of peoples.

(4) **May He grant the blessing of Abraham to you and your offspring, that you may possess the land where you are sojourning, which God assigned to Abraham.**"

בראשית כ"ח

(א) ויקרא יצחק אל-יעקב ויברך אתו ויציחהו ויאמר לו לא-תקח אשה מבנות כנען:

(ב) קום לך פדנה ארם ביתה בתואל אבי אמך וקח-לך משם אשה מבנות לבן אחי אמך:

(ג) ואל שדי יברך אתך ויפרך ויברך והיית לקהל עמים:

(ד) וימתן-לך את-ברכת אברהם לך ולזרעך אתה לרשתה את-ארץ מגריד אשר-נתן אלהים לאברהם:

(ה) וַיִּשְׁלַח יִצְחָק אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וַיֵּלֶךְ פְּדָגָה אֲרָם אֶל־לָבָן בֶּן־בְּתוּאֵל הָאֲרָמִי אֲחֵי רֵבֶקָה אִם יַעֲקֹב וַעֲשׂוֹ:

(5) Then Isaac sent Jacob off, and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, mother of Jacob and Esau.

(ו) וַיֵּרָא עֲשׂוֹ כִּי־בָרַךְ יִצְחָק אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וְשָׁלַח אֹתוֹ פְּדָגָה אֲרָם לְקַח־תָּלוּ מִשָּׁם אִשָּׁה בְּכָרְכּוֹ אֹתוֹ וַיֵּצֵא עָלָיו לֹא־מֶר לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה מִבָּנוֹת כְּנָעַן: (ז) וַיִּשְׁמַע יַעֲקֹב אֶל־אָבִיו וְאֶל־אִמּוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ פְּדָגָה אֲרָם: (ח) וַיֵּרָא עֲשׂוֹ כִּי רָעוֹת בָּנוֹת כְּנָעַן בָּעֵינָיו יִצְחָק אָבִיו: (ט) וַיֵּלֶךְ עֲשׂוֹ אֶל־יִשְׁמָעֵאל וַיִּקָּח אֶת־מַחֲלָתָא בַת־יִשְׁמָעֵאל בֶּן־אַבְרָהָם אֲחֹת גְּבִיּוֹת עַל־נָשָׁיו לֹא־שָׁה: (ס)

(6) When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him off to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, charging him, as he blessed him, "You shall not take a wife from among the Canaanite women," (7) and that Jacob had obeyed his father and mother and gone to Paddan-aram, (8) Esau realized that the Canaanite women displeased his father Isaac. (9) So Esau went to Ishmael and took to wife, in addition to the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, sister of Nebaioth.

(י) וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּעַר שֹׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חֲרָנָה: (יא) וַיִּפְגַּע בַּמָּקוֹם וַיֵּלֶךְ שָׁם כִּי־בָא הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּקַּח מֵאֲבָנֵי הַמָּקוֹם גִּישָׁם מִרְאֲשֵׁיתוֹ וַיִּשְׁכַּב בַּמָּקוֹם הַהוּא:

(10) Jacob left Beer-sheba, and set out for Haran. (11) He came upon a certain place and stopped there for the night, for the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of that place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

(יב) וַיַּחֲלֵם וְהִנֵּה סֹלֶם מַצֵּב אֲרָצָה וְרֹאשׁוֹ מֵגִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְהִנֵּה מַלְאָכֵי אֱלֹהִים עֹלִים וְיֹרְדִים בּוֹ:

(12) He had a dream; a stairway was set on the ground and its top reached to the sky, and angels of God were going up and down on it.

(יג) וְהִנֵּה יְהוָה נֹצֵב עָלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אָבִיךָ וְאֵלֹהֵי יִצְחָק הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה שֹׁכֵב עָלֶיהָ לֹךְ אֶתְנַנֶּה וְלִזְרַעְךָ: (יד) וְהִנֵּה זֶרַעְךָ כֹּפֵר הָאָרֶץ וּפְרָצֹת יָמָה וְקִדְמָה וְצָפֹנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְנִבְרָכוּ בְּךָ כָּל־מִשְׁפָּחוֹת הָאֲדָמָה וּבְזֶרַעְךָ:

(13) And the LORD was standing beside him and He said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac: the ground on which you are lying I will assign to you and to your offspring." (14) Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants.

(טו) וְהִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי עֹמֵד וְשִׁמְרֹתֶיךָ בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־תֵּלֶךְ וְהִשְׁבֹּתֶיךָ אֶל־הָאֲדָמָה הַזֹּאת כִּי לֹא אֶעְזֹבְךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר אִם־עָשִׂיתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי לָךְ:

(15) Remember, I am with you: I will protect you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

(טז) וַיִּיקֶץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אָכֵן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי: (יז) וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מִה־נִּזְרָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם־בֵּית אֱלֹהִים וְזֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם:

(16) Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is present in this place, and I did not know it!" (17) Shaken, he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven."

Angels Ascending and Descending Are the Nations who Conquered Jerusalem

Pirkei de-Rabbi Eliezer (a collection of midrashim mostly on Genesis) cites another homiletical interpretation of our sages:

"And behold the angels of God ascending and descending!': These are the princes of the heathen nations which God showed Jacob our father. The **Prince of Babylon** ascended seventy steps and descended, **Media**, fifty-two and descended, **Greece**, one hundred steps and descended, **Edom** ascended and no one knows how many! In that hour, Jacob was afraid and said: 'Perhaps this one has no descent?' Said the Holy One blessed be He to him: 'Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob ... neither be dismayed, O Israel.' Even if thou seest him, so to speak, ascend and sit by Me, I bring him down! "

King Nebuchadnezzar's Vision

Daniel 2:32-33

(32) The head of that statue was of fine gold; its breast and arms were of silver; its belly and thighs, of bronze; (33) its legs were of iron, and its feet part iron and part clay.

דניאל ב':ל"ב-ל"ג

(לב) הוּא צֶלְמָא רִאשָׁה דִּי־דְקָב טָב תְּזִי וְדִרְעֻזָּה
 דִּי כְסָף מְעֻזָּה וְנִרְכָּתָה דִּי נְחָשׁ: (לג) שְׁקֻזָּה דִּי
 פְּרָזָל רַגְלֻזָּה מְנַהוּן [מְנַהֵין] דִּי פְּרָזָל וּמְנַהוּן
 [וּמְנַהֵין] דִּי חֲסָר:

Gold - Babylon - Iraq
 Silver - Persia and Medai - Iran
 Bronze - Greece
 Iron - Edom/Esau/Rome/Christianity
 Clay - Yishmael/Arabs/Islam



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