**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

On Page 18, Ramban begins to talk about the concubine of Gibeah as he discusses the affairs of Lot. I was impressed that this concerned our haftarah even though he was only overtly familiar with the annual Torah cycle.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 19:1?

**the...angels** – Were these angels?

**in the evening** – Now did the angels tarry so long from Hebron to Sodom?

**and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom** – Why was he sitting in the gate?

**and Lot saw** – What was he looking for? (Was he seeing with his physical eyes or with his internal “eyes”?)

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 19:2?

**Behold now, my lords** – Why did lot call them “lords”?

**please turn** – Why were they turning?

**and stay overnight and wash your feet** - Now is it customary for people to first stay overnight and afterwards to wash?

**And they said, “No...”** – What do we learn from this?

**but we will stay overnight in the street** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: כִּי?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 19:11?

**the entrance** – What is this entrance?

**with blindness** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: בַָּסַנְוֵרִים ?

**both small and great** – Why are they mentioned in this order?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 19:17?

**Flee for your life** – What is implied here?

**do not look behind you** – Why were they forbidden from looking back?

**in the entire plain** – Which plain was this?

**Flee to the mountain** – What is being hinted here?

**Flee** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: הִמָלֵט?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 19:20?

**this city is near** – What do we learn from this statement?

**Is it not small?** – What are the implications of being small?

**And my soul will survive therein** – What is the meaning of this statement?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 19:26?

**And his wife looked from behind him** – Who was she behind?

**and she became a pillar of salt** – Why was she turned into salt?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 19:33?

**And they gave, etc., to drink** – Why was wine available?

**and lay with her father** – Why was the father explicitly mentioned?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 20:12?

**my sister, the daughter of my father** – Was this a permitted marriage?

**but not the daughter of my mother** – What is the meaning of this statement?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 20:15?

**Here is my land before you** – Why was this said?

1. The Targum Pseudo-Jonathan for Gen. 19:1 states: “Two angels came to Sedom at the evening; and Lot ‎sat in the gate of Sedom. And Lot saw, and rose up ‎to meet them from the gate of the tabernacle. And he ‎bowed his face to the ground. ‎What was Lot doing in the Gate of Sedom and what does it mean and “rose up ‎to meet them from the gate of the tabernacle‎"? Is there a pearl of wisdom to be derived from the statement: “‎and Lot ‎sat in the gate of Sedom‎"?

This seems to be a hint that Lot was praying and that he was a judge. It appears that his prayers were his judgment of himself.

The tabernacle was the gate of the building where he was judging.

That Lot was “sitting” in the gate means that he was a judge in that city. Sitting can also be a reference to study. Therefore, we would suggest that Lot was not only a judge but that he was studying halakhah while he “sat “in the gate. Torah Study is also equated with being in the Mishkan where the Shekinah draws near.

Mishkan - neighboring presence of G-d came to visit

His raising up was to offer them hospitality.

Lack of Hospitality is a greater sin than homosexuality.

1. What important lesson in G-dly protocol can we learn from Genesis 19:3? Please explain your answer.

Adon Ezra: As stated in Ramban’s commentary, it is acceptable to “decline an offer from an inferior person but not from a superior person”. The Angles initial decline was an act of ethical conduct.

It is important to have guests for the Pesach seder and to invite all who are hungry. We see that they were served matza and we understood that this was a Pesach custom.

1. What reasons does the Ramban provide as to why Lot’s wife turned into a pillar of salt?

Giberet Elisheva: She looked upon the atmosphere of the intending plague and the fire and brimstone penetrated her mind.

Hakham Haggai: It says, from memory that she gazed at the Shekhinah of G-d, executing justice and no man can see G-d and live.

1. Rashi and the Ramban state that ‎"Wherever it is said, ‘And the Eternal’ it means Him and His Celestial Court.” What is intimated by this phrase (G-d and His Celestial Court)?

It is intimated that this is a time of judgment. The case has been decided and it is now time for action.

HH Adon Eliyahu: The court of the Bate Din is considered a Celestial Court. The earthly Bate Din serves as the Court of the Divine here on earth.

Hakham Haggai: This angel, in the celestial court, is called Metatron and “The Master of the Wings”.

1. What 5 tragedies have occurred on the 17th of Tammuz, and why are these so relevant for us today?

The five tragedies mentioned in the Gemara are:

1. The tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were engraved, were broken by Moshe;

2. The Korban Tamid, the continual daily sacrifice, was discontinued;

3. The wall around the city of Jerusalem was breached;

4. Apostamus burnt the Torah scroll;

5. An idolatrous image was placed in the Bet HaMikdash, the Holy Temple.

These are relevant to us today because we continue to repeat these sins which led to these five things and ultimately the destruction of the Temple.

1. Allegorically speaking, what is a “paralytic”?

One who cannot walk out the Torah.

1. Why is it impossible for His Majesty King Yeshua to forgive sins? Please justify your answer.

Shemot (Exodus) 34:7 and Tehillim (Psalm) 130:4 both teach that HaShem *alone* can forgive sins. This power resides with HaShem so that we will learn to fear Him.

Adon Ezra: It is only within G-d’s power to forgive sins and not that of an emissary or prophet, although H.M Yeshua was a prophet and emissary he would never think that he had the power to forgive sin, but as was the case he knew (DAAT) that the man’s sin had been forgiven and therefore was released from his paralyses.

1. This being so, why then do the Scribes and Pharisees were protesting according to Hakham Tsefet, and Hakham Shaul?

Because Yeshua was acting as one with authority and knowledge which belong to HaShem and had not been exercized by our Hakhamim previously, as HaShem’s agents, because they lacked Yeshua’s daat.

Dr. Elisheva Oakley: They could not see with Da’at. They could only see from the mundane and they though Yeshua was saying he, himself was forgiving of their sins.

1. Hakham Shaul informs us in the Tosefta of Luke: “the P’rushim and Torah teachers were sitting ‎‎(with him), who had come out of every village ‎of the Galil and as far as Yehudah and ‎Yerushalayim.” Why were so many learned men coming to see and hear the Master from all over the Galil and Yehudah and Yerushalayim. Please explain your answer.

First because many people are attracted to miracles. Second, the Nazarean Codicil teaches us that this was the time when Mashiach was expected and everyone wondered if this was the Mashiach.

Luke 3:15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

HH Adon Eliyahu: Firstly, because Yeshua was one of the Chief Hakhamim of the Northern part of Yisrael. Secondly, because of his great halakhic understanding he was sought form every part of Yisrael. Thirdly, it is possible that there was a convention here to discuss the current dilemma of the Temples pending destruction and how to perpetuate Judaism in its absence. Fourthly, it is also possible that this was one of the Kallah sessions held twice-annually where EVERY Rabbi’s knowledge and skill was tested to give him his rank in Yisrael. (Berakot 6b)

In my humble opinion I believe answers #2 and 3 to be most likely. However, answer #3 gives reason to #2, because of these Kallah sessions Yeshua was ranked one of the highest Hakhamim in all of Yisrael.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?‎

Practice hospitality in preparation for our salvation.

Giberet laurie: Be careful to seek council when rendering decisions that are terminal, keep in mind that Hashem has decreed the exile necessary for the perfecting of His people.

HH Adon Eliyahu: We cannot be judges in the civil courts of the earthly regime and remain a Judge in the courts of the Divine. Make talmidim stand and walk.

Dr. Elisheva Oakley: Develop spiritual eyes and ears through the study of Torah and immediately give hospitality to all.

Adon Ezra: Launch into the deep.