

חומש עם רש"י • חיי שרה • שביעי

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CHAYEI SARA • 7TH ALIYAH

CHAPTER PREVIEW

In this final aliyah of Parshas Chayei Sara, the Torah turns its focus to the descendants of Yishmael, the son of Avraham whom Hagar the Mitzri bore to him. We are introduced to the next generation of this family, listing the names of Yishmael's sons in the order of their births as they began to branch out and establish their own lineages.

All introductions, summaries, and contextual notes are the editor's commentary and are not part of the original text.

פסוק א

Pasuk 1

וְאֵלֶּה תִּלְדֹּת יִשְׁמָעֵאל בֶּן אֲבִרְהָם אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה הַגֵּר הַמִּצְרִית שְׁפַחַת
maidservant of the Egyptian Hagar bore whom Avraham son of Yishmael the offspring of And these are
שָׂרָה לְאֲבִרְהָם:
to Avraham Sarah

פסוק ב

Pasuk 2

וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּשֵׁמֹתָם לְתוֹלְדֹתָם בְּכֹר יִשְׁמָעֵאל
Yishmael the firstborn of according to their births by their names Yishmael the sons of the names of And these are
נְבִיט וְקֶדָר וְאַדְבֵּעַל וּמִבְשָׁם:
and Mivsam and Adbeel and Kedar Nevayos

רש"י

בשמותם לתולדותם. סדר לידתן זה אחר זה:
this one after this one their birth the order of according to their progeny by their names

פסוק ג

Pasuk 3

וּמִשְׁמַע וְדוּמָה וּמַשָּׂא:
and Massa and Dumah and Mishma

פסוק ד

Pasuk 4

חֲדָד וְתִמָּא יְטוּר נָפִישׁ וְקֶדְמָה:
and Kedmah Naphish Jetur and Tema Hadad

פסוק ה

אלה הם בני ישמעאל ואלה שמותם בְּחִצְרֵיהֶם וּבְטִירֹתָם שְׁנֵים
 twelve and by their by their villages are their names and these Yishmael the sons of are These
 strongholds

עֲשׂוֹר נְשִׂאָם לְאַמְתָּם:

according to their chieftains
 nations

רש"י

בְּחִצְרֵיהֶם. כְּרָפִים שְׁאִין לָהֶם חוֹמָה, וְתַרְגוּמוֹ בְּפִצְחֵיהוֹן שֶׁהֵם מְפֻצָּחִים,
 open for they are in their open areas and its translation a wall have to them that do not cities By their enclosures

לְשׁוֹן פְּתִיחָה, כְּמוֹ פִּצְחוֹ וְרָנְנוּ תְהִלִּים צ"ח :
 98 Tehillim and sing burst forth like opening an expression of

פסוק 5

ואלה שני חיי ישמעאל מאת שְׁנָה וּשְׁלָשִׁים שְׁנָה וְשִׁבְעַ שְׁנֵים
 years and seven years and thirty years one hundred Yishmael the life of were the years of And these

וַיָּגוּעַ וַיָּמָת וַיֵּאסֶף אֶל עַמּוּיוֹ:

his people to and he was gathered and he died and he expired

רש"י

ואלה שני חיי ישמעאל וגו'. אָמַר רַבִּי חִיָּא בְּרַ אָבָא לָמָּה נִמְנּוּ שְׁנוֹתָיו
 his years were enumerated why Abba son of Chiya Rabbi said etc. Yishmael the life of the years of And these

שֶׁל יִשְׁמָעֵאל, כְּדִי לִיַּחַס בָּהֶם שְׁנוֹתָיו שֶׁל יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנוֹתָיו שֶׁל יִשְׁמָעֵאל, לְמַדְנוּ
 we learned Yishmael of from the years Yaakov of the years through them to trace in order Yishmael of

שֶׁשָּׁמַשׁ יַעֲקֹב בְּבֵית עֶבֶר י"ד שְׁנָה כְּשִׁפְּרָשׁ מֵאָבִיו קִדָּם שָׂבָא אֶצֶל לָבָן,
 Lavan to that he came before from his father when he separated years fourteen Ever in the house of Yaakov that served

שֶׁהָרִי כְּשִׁפְּרָשׁ יַעֲקֹב מֵאָבִיו מֵת יִשְׁמָעֵאל, שְׁנָאֵמַר וַיֵּלֶךְ עֲשׂוֹ אֶל יִשְׁמָעֵאל וְגו'
 etc. Yishmael to Esav and went as it is said Yishmael died from his father Yaakov when he separated for behold

בראשית רבה כ"ה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁמִּפְּרָשׁ בְּסוֹף מְגִלָּה נִקְרָאת:
 Nikraas Megillah at the end of it is explained just as 25 Rabbah Bereishis

רש"י

וַיָּגוּעַ. לֹא נִאֲמְרָה גְּיוּעָה אֶלָּא בְּצַדִּיקִים:

regarding righteous people except expiring is said not And he expired

פסוק 6

וַיִּשְׁכְּנוּ מִחוּלָּה עַד שׁוּר אֲשֶׁר עַל פְּנֵי מִצְרַיִם בְּאַכָּה אֲשׁוּרָה עַל
 before toward Ashur as you go Mitzrayim the face of is before which Shur until from Chavilah And they dwelt

פְּנֵי כָּל אָחָיו נָפַל:

he settled his brothers all the face of

נפל. שָׁכַן, כָּמוֹ וּמִדְיָן וְעַמְלֵק וּבְנֵי קְדָם נִפְלִים בְּעֶמֶק שׁוּפְטִים ז' .
 seven Shoftim in the valley were dwelling the East and the children of and Amalek and Midian like dwelt fell
 כָּאֵן הוּא אוֹמֵר לְשׁוֹן נְפִילָה, וְלֹהֵלּוֹן אוֹמֵר עַל פָּנָיו כָּל אֶחָיו יִשְׁכְּנוּ
 he shall dwell his brothers all the face of upon it says and further on falling an expression of says it here
 בְּרֵאשִׁית ט"ז: י"ב ? עַד שֶׁלֹּא יָמָת אֲבִרְהָם יִשְׁכְּנוּ, מִשְׁמַת אֲבִרְהָם נָפַל:
 Avraham once died he shall dwell Avraham died before until twelve sixteen Bereishis

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The aliyah details the twelve sons of Yishmael, who became twelve distinct chieftains over their respective nations, dwelling in their own villages and encampments. The Torah records that Yishmael lived for one hundred and thirty-seven years before passing away and being gathered to his people, and concludes by describing the geographic boundaries of his descendants' territory, stretching from Havilah near Mitzrayim all the way toward Asshur.

למעשה WHAT TO TAKE HOME

The Torah is telling us the years of Ishmael's life, and Rashi is immediately bothered by a kasha: why does the Torah go out of its way to count the years of a rasha? The teretz Rashi brings from the Chazal in Megillah is beautiful. The Torah is counting his years to help us calculate the timeline of Yaakov Avinu's life, specifically to show us how many years Yaakov spent learning in the yeshivah of Shem and Ever.

Think about the deep chiddush the Torah is teaching us here. Ishmael was a wild man, a person of physical power and vast desert kingdoms. Yet, in the eyes of Hashem, the entire purpose of recording his life story and counting his years is only to serve as a backdrop for a young boy sitting in a tent, shteing over the Torah. The kingdoms of Ishmael, with all their noise and power, are just the scaffolding. The real building, the real focus of the entire creation, is the quiet learning of a Yid.

Sometimes we look at the big, loud world around us and we feel small. We see people building massive empires, running the world's economy, and making headlines, while we are sitting in a bais medrash or at our kitchen table trying to understand a difficult Tosfos or saying a chapter of Tehillim. The yetzer hara tries to make us feel like our quiet avodah is insignificant. But this parsha comes to be mechadesh the exact opposite. The whole world and all its history only exist to support your Torah and your mitzvos.

Today, when you sit down to learn or do a mitzvah, remind yourself of this yesod. Do not let the noise of the world distract you. Realize that the entire world is spinning right now just so you can have the opportunity to connect to Hashem.