

## Lech Lecha

### Genesis 12:1 – 17:27

**Lech Lecha** = Walk, go forth yourself; Get yourself out

According to The Literary Structure of the Old Testament A Commentary on Genesis – Malachi by David A. Doresey (p. 56), Genesis 12:1-21:7 is a chiasm:

- **Introduction:** journey to Canaan and the promise of descendants (12:1-9)
- **Abram lies about Sarai** in Egypt; God protects her in foreign king's court (12:10-20)
- **Lot settles in Sodom** (and Abram settles in Hebron) (13:1-18)
- **Abram intercedes** for Lot and Sodom militarily (14:1-24)
- **Promise of a son:** from Abram himself (15:1-21)
- **Ishmael's birth**, promise to him (16:1-16)
- **CENTER: Yahweh's covenant:** Abram's and Sarai's names changed; circumcision instituted; promise of a son reiterated (17:1-21)
- **Ishmael** and Abraham circumcised (promise to Ishmael) (17:22-27; cf. 17:18-20)
- **Promise of a son;** from Sarah herself (18:1-15)
- **Abraham intercedes** for Sodom and Lot in prayer (18:16-33)
- **Lot flees Sodom**, which God destroys; settles in Moab (19:1-38)
- **Abraham lies about Sarah** in Gerar; God protects her in foreign king's court (20:1-18)
- **Conclusion:** birth of Isaac (and tension resolved) (21:1-7)

**Genesis 12:1-3** Now the Lord had said to Abram: "**Get out** of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a **blessing**. 3 I will **bless** those who **bless** you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be **blessed**."

There is a process to accomplish this. The pattern is repeated many times in Scripture.

Lech Lecha							
Abram Genesis 12-17	Abraham Genesis 20-21	Isaac	Joseph	Moses	Southern Kingdom	Yeshua	Future
An event or serious problem triggers the beginning of the process.							
Famine in the land	The destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah	Famine in the land	Famine in all the lands	The Hebrews were living in the idolatrous land of Egypt as a result of the famine several generations ago.	Idolatry	Joseph went to Judea to be registered with Mary, his pregnant, betrothed wife. Yeshua was born in Bethlehem.	There will be famine during the reign of the Anti-Messiah (wheat & barley - Rev 6:6)  Woes, horsemen, seals, trumpets, etc. could be a trigger but we just don't know the ultimate trigger of the tribulation.
God's people are already in or go to a particular location.							
Abram <b>went to Egypt</b>	Abraham went to <b>Gerar</b>	Isaac <b>went to Gerar</b> (Abimelech was king of the Philistines);	Joseph already <b>in Egypt</b> ;  He was set over the land of Egypt;	Children of Israel were <b>in Egypt</b> ; the land was filled with them.	Ephraim (Northern Kingdom) was carried away <b>to Assyria</b>	Joseph took his family <b>to Egypt</b> .	God's people are <b>in/part of Babylon the Great</b> .

		YHVH told him <b>not to go to Egypt</b>  Covenant promise of the land and of multiplied descendants			Judah (Southern Kingdom) was carried away <b>to Babylon</b>		
<b>**The themes of fear and death exist.</b>							
<b>He feared he would be killed</b> He said Sarai was his sister She was beautiful	<b>He said Sarah was his sister.</b> He thought the fear of God was not in this place and that he'd be killed.	<b>Feared he would be killed</b> Said Rebekah was his sister She was beautiful	Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain <b>so they could live and not die.</b>	The new Pharaoh <b>feared</b> the children of Israel. He began to oppress them and ordered their male children <b>to be killed.</b>	<i>They probably feared <b>death.</b></i>	They went to Egypt because Joseph had been warned in a dream that Herod wanted to <b>destroy</b> Yeshua.	She was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of <b>martyrs</b> (Rev 17:6).
<b>The theme of being taken into/going into/already being in a place is repeated.</b>							
Sarai was <b>taken into Pharaoh's house.</b> Abram was treated well; he received livestock and servants YHVH plagued Pharaoh's house.  Pharaoh	Abimelech <b>took</b> Sarah.  God came to Abimelech in a dream and told him he was a dead man because Sarah was a man's wife.  Abimelech had	Abimelech discovered Rebekah was Isaac's wife; someone could have lain with <b>(taken) her</b> and brought guilt on them.  Abimelech commanded	After questioning his brothers, Simeon was <b>taken prisoner.</b>  Joseph commanded their sacks to be filled with grain, and restore their money to their sacks, and	Moses was <b>taken into Pharaoh's house</b> ; he was not drowned in the Nile.  Pharaoh's daughter realized he was a Hebrew child.	Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) <b>were brought into the king's palace</b> for 3 years of training so	Joseph had another dream in which he was told to return to the land of Israel. <b>He went to Nazareth in a region of Galilee.</b>	God's people <b>are in Babylon the Great</b> , the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth (Rev 17:5).  The woman is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth (Rev 17:18).

realized Sarai was Abram's wife and could have taken her as his wife.	not come near her; God had not allowed it. God commanded Sarah to be returned to Abraham upon penalty of death.	the people not to touch them. Over time, Isaac became prosperous (flocks, herds, and servants).	to give them provisions for the journey.		that they might serve before the king.		
Themes of a change in position/location, strife, food, or drink (real or figurative).							
Pharaoh made them <b>leave</b> with their possessions and commanded his men concerning Abram.  Lot left with them including his possessions.  There was <b>strife</b> between Lot and Abram's herdsmen due to their size.  The land was not able to support them ( <b>food and water</b> ).	Abimelech told his servants what happened; they were afraid.  Abimelech <b>confronted</b> Abraham.  Abimelech gave him sheep, oxen, male and female servants, 1000 pieces of silver, as well as Sarah.  He said his land was before them and <b>to dwell where</b>	Abimelech told Isaac <b>to go away</b> from them due to his might.  Isaac moved to the valley of Gerar.  There was <b>strife over the wells and water</b> .  God made room for them.  <b>He went to Beersheba.</b>	Joseph's brothers <b>left Egypt and returned to</b> Canaan.  Joseph's brothers talked with one another about the past in front of Joseph.  Upon <b>their return</b> they told their father everything that had happened.  This did not go well; there was <b>quarreling</b> twice.	Pharaoh allowed the mixed multitude to <b>leave</b> ; they plundered the Egyptians before <b>they left</b> .  There were <b>complaints</b> over lack of <b>food and water in the wilderness</b> .	These young men wanted their portion of <b>delicacies and wine taken away</b> from them so that they might not defile themselves. The steward was afraid to do this but they eventually conducted a 10 day test which the young men passed.  Daniel's 3	Satan tempted Yeshua to turn the stones into <b>bread</b> ; to throw himself <b>down</b> from the pinnacle of the temple; and to <b>fall down</b> and worship him in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world.	Rev 18:3-4 For all the nations have drunk of the <b>wine of the wrath of her fornication</b> , the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and <b>the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury</b> . And I heard another voice from heaven saying, " <b>Come out of her (Babylon the Great)</b> , my people, lest you

They <b>parted ways</b> : Lot went toward Sodom & Gomorrah; Abram dwelt in Canaan.	<b>they pleased.</b>  Abraham prayed for Abimelech's women to be healed so they could bear children.				friends would not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's statue so he had them cast <b>into the fiery furnace</b> . After seeing a 4 <sup>th</sup> man like the Son of God in the furnace, the king commanded them <b>to come out</b> .  Daniel went into/ <b>came out</b> of the lion's den.		share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.
<b><i>**The above is a picture of the people going into and coming out of Egypt – part of the prophecy that is given during the Covenant of the cutting of the parts.</i></b>							
The theme of covenant, promise, or prophecy.							
<b>Covenant promise</b> of the land	YHVH kept his <b>promise</b> to Sarah and Abraham; she gave birth to Isaac.	YHVH <b>promised</b> to bless & multiply Isaac's descendants.	When it was time to return, Reuben told his father that he could kill his two sons if he didn't bring back Benjamin to him.	God intended to fulfill His <b>covenantal promise</b> but the people sinned by not trusting YHVH when they heard the report of the	These men chose to keep their <b>covenant</b> with YHVH; He gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had	Yeshua called people to repent; to return to the <b>covenant</b> .	The <b>prophecy</b> (is a promise that) indicates that God will avenge his people on her.

			Judah later <b>promised</b> to be surety for Benjamin.	12 spies. This generation did not enter the land of promise.	understanding in all visions and dreams.		
Themes of meeting, eating/drinking, covenant, and fire/smoke.							
<b>War;</b> Rescue of Lot; <b>Meeting</b> with Melchizedek king of Salem including <b>bread and wine;</b> Offering of tithe  <b>Covenant</b> promise of a son; which Abraham believed and was accounted for righteousness  <b>Flaming torch &amp; smoking oven</b> moved between the cut pieces of dead animals ( <b>Covenant Between the Parts</b> was proof that God would	There was a <b>feast</b> on the day Isaac was weaned.  Sarah saw Ishmael scoffing.	<b>Meeting</b> with Abimelech, Ahuzzath, a friend, and Phichol the <b>commander of his army;</b> Oath, <b>covenant</b> of peace;  Had a <b>feast.</b>	<b>Meeting</b> at Joseph's house – discussion with Joseph's steward, then with Joseph.  They shared a <b>meal.</b>	<b>Pillar of Fire and Smoke</b>  <b>Egyptian army</b> drowned in the sea; mixed multitude survived on the other side.  Jethro, Zipporah, and Moses' sons <b>met</b> with Moses.  Jethro offered a burnt offering; Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to <b>eat bread</b> with Jethro before God.  Mt. Sinai was in smoke and YHVH descended upon it with fire. After	After <b>war</b> , Cyrus allowed people to return with Ezra.  Jeremiah 25:11 YHVH promised to punish Babylon, and make the nations <b>drink His wine cup of fury.</b>  Nehemiah, a cup bearer, prays and reminds YHVH of His <b>covenant</b> with His people.	Yeshua warned everyone that was comparable to tares (lawless) would be burned in the <b>lake (furnace) of fire (Matt 13:38-42).</b>  Yeshua compared the kingdom of heaven to a king who arranged a <b>marriage</b> for his son. Not everyone who was invited to the <b>dinner</b> was willing to come (Matt 22).	3 plagues: <b>Fire, brimstone, and smoke</b> came out of the mouths of horses (Rev. 9:18)  Babylon the Great will burn and people will weep when they see the <b>smoke of her burning</b> (Rev 18:9).  Blessed are those who are called to the marriage <b>supper</b> of the lamb (Rev 19:9).  Faithful & True (King of kings & Lord of lords) judges and makes <b>war</b> (Rev 19:11-16).

<p>keep His word to give him the land) Gen. 15:8ff</p> <p>This was accompanied by a prophecy of bringing back his descendants after 400 years in another land they didn't know and giving them the land.</p>				<p>YHVH spoke to Moses on the mountain, He spoke to the people and gave them the 10 Commandments.</p>			<p>He will say to the birds come and gather for the <b>supper</b> of the Great God (Rev 19:17).</p>
<p>Theme of grief, attack, or war.</p> <p>In the end, a chiasm of sorts is formed in which the birds of prey will not be chased off as in the original ritual; instead they will be invited to come and feast on dead flesh.</p>							
<p>Hagar &amp; Ishmael</p> <p>They were a <b>grief</b> to Sarai</p>	<p>Sarah was upset with Hagar and Ishmael; she told Abraham to get rid of them. This <b>displeased</b> Abraham.</p>	<p>Esau married Judith the daughter of a Hittite.</p> <p>They were a <b>grief</b> to Isaac &amp; Rebekah.</p>	<p>Joseph caused them <b>grief</b>...Joseph's cup was put in Benjamin's sack.</p> <p>Judah plead with Joseph for Benjamin's life</p>	<p>The mixed multitude caused <b>grief</b> for Moses and YHVH because of their complaining</p>	<p>The Samaritans caused <b>grief</b> to Nehemiah and the people.</p> <p>The enemies of the Jews conspired to <b>attack</b> those who were building the wall.</p>	<p>Yeshua <b>grieved</b> over Jerusalem, the one who <b>killed</b> the prophets (Matt. 23:37-39).</p>	<p>The dragon was enraged with the woman, and went to <b>make war (cause grief)</b> with the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Yeshua (Rev. 12:17).</p> <p>[**Birds of prey eat here]</p>

							Satan will be released from the abyss; will deceive the nations; and gather them for <b>battle against the saints</b> and Jerusalem (Rev 20:7-9).
Theme of covenant, promise, prophecy...and blessing.							
<p><b>Covenant promise</b> of being father of many nations and of having the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession.</p> <p>This is a <b>blessing</b>.</p> <p>Circumcision is sign of covenant</p>	<p>God <b>promised</b> to make a nation from Ishmael because he was Abraham's seed.</p> <p>Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away.</p> <p>Abraham made a <b>covenant</b> with Abimelech (with Pichol present) concerning the well Abraham dug.</p> <p>Abraham gave him seven ewe</p>	<p>Isaac <b>blesses</b> Jacob = Jacob is Esau's master, all brethren will be his servants, he is sustained with grain and wine.</p> <p>(Esau previously sold his birthright.)</p>	<p>Joseph reveals himself. He tells his brothers to bring their family to Egypt so their lives and possessions can be preserved. <b>He promised them the best of the land of Egypt.</b></p> <p>He provided them with everything they needed and more.</p> <p>Is this not a blessing?</p>	<p>YHVH gave them the <b>covenant</b> on Mount Sinai.</p> <p>If they obeyed, they'd be <b>blessed</b>; if not, they'd be cursed.</p> <p>The Sabbath is the sign of the covenant.</p>	<p>Ezra led the people to make a <b>covenant</b> with YHVH to put away their foreign wives.</p> <p>This is a parallel to putting away their foreign gods.</p>	<p>Before ascending to heaven, Yeshua led them to Bethany; lifted up his hands, and <b>blessed</b> them.</p>	<p>The dead will be judged according to their works. The question being, "did they keep the <b>covenant</b> or not?"</p> <p>Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire; <b>those who are can enter the New Jerusalem.</b></p>



	lambs were offered as witnesses.  He planted a tamerisk tree in Beersheba.						
<i>The prophecy accompanying the covenant of the parts is a picture of this whole pattern – going into another land, being brought out of it, and being given the blessing, as well as a picture of destruction that will happen to those who are not part of the covenant. The repetition of this pattern is a veiled reminder of this covenant throughout the Scriptures.</i>							

## Additional Notes/Scripture

### Custom of Tree Planting

In ancient [Israel](#), a tree was planted when a child was born—a cedar for a boy, a cypress for a girl. As the children grew up, they cared for their own trees. When they were married, the bridegroom and bride stood under a canopy made of branches cut from the trees that had been planted in their honor years before. Thus, the Jewish tradition formed a strong bond between birth and marriage, and helped to develop a love for trees and a sensitivity to the wonders of nature. (See <http://ritualwell.org/ritual/tree-planting-ritual>)

### Genesis 15:4-21

#### Promise of Descendants:

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

### **Promise of Land**

7 Then He said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

8 And he said, "Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

### **Proof That The Promise Will Be Fulfilled**

9 So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.

### **Prophecy of leaving and returning to the land**

13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them **four hundred years**. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the **fourth generation** they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

### **Smoking Oven and Burning Torch ~ Pillar of Cloud and Fire**

17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

### Covenant – Promise of Land ~ Blessing

18 On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying:

"To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates — 19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

<sup>9</sup>וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו קָחָה לִּי  
עֵגְלָה מְשֻׁלָּשֶׁת  
וְעֵז מְשֻׁלָּשֶׁת  
וְאֵיל מְשֻׁלָּשׁ  
וְתָר וְגֹזֵל:  
<sup>10</sup>וַיִּקַּח-לּוֹ אֶת-כָּל-אֵלֶּה  
וַיִּבְתֵּר אֹתָם בְּתוֹךְ  
וַיִּתֵּן אִישׁ-בִּתְרוֹ לְקַרְאֵת רֵעֵהוּ  
וְאֶת-הַצֶּפֶר לֹא בָתָר:

<sup>11</sup>וַיֵּרֶד הָעֵיט עַל-הַפְּגָרִים  
וַיֵּשֶׁב אֹתָם אֲבָרָם:  
<sup>12</sup>וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לְבֹא  
וְתִרְדְּמָה נָפְלָה עַל-אֲבָרָם  
וַהֲנֶה אִימָה חֲשֹכָה גְדֹלָה נִפְלֹת עָלָיו:  
<sup>13</sup>וַיֹּאמֶר לְאֲבָרָם  
יְדַע תִּדַּע כִּי-גֵר | יִהְיֶה זֶרַעְךָ  
בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם  
וַעֲבָדוּם

<sup>14</sup> וְגַם אֶת־הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ דָן אֲנִכִּי  
 וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֵצְאוּ בִּרְכֻשׁ גָּדוֹל:  
<sup>15</sup> וְאַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֶל־אַבְתִּיךָ בְּשָׁלוֹם  
 תִּקְבֹּר בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה:  
<sup>16</sup> וְדֹר רְבִיעִי יָשׁוּבוּ הֵנָּה  
 כִּי לֹא־שָׁלֵם עֲוֹן הָאָמִרִי עַד־הֵנָּה:  
<sup>17</sup> וַיְהִי הַשָּׁמַשׁ בָּאָה  
 וְעָלְטָה הָיָה  
 וְהֵנָּה תִּנּוֹר עֲשֹׂן  
 וּלְפִיד אֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר עָבַר בֵּין הַגְּזָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: