**Previous Parashah – Chayei Sarah. 23:1 – 25:18**

The previous parashah deals with Sarah’s death. The buying of a cave – the cave of Machpelah – to bury her, and hints at the difficult family relations after the Akedah, because Isaac, her favorite son, seems to be absent from her funeral even though we know he is mourning her. Later Avraham sends his servant back to Aram to look for a wife for Isaac. He doesn’t want Issac to marry a Canaanite, but to marry one of his own tribe. The servant goes to Abraham’s brother Nahor in a city called Padan Aram (25:20) and meets Rebecca, Nahor’s daughter, at the well.

Rebecca heads back to Canaan with the servant, meets Isaac on the way, they marry and Isaac takes Rebecca to live with him in Sarah’s tent. We are told that Isaac is 40 years old when he marries Rebekah (25:20). Now it is getting toward the end of Avraham’s life, and he passes all his possessions onto Issac before he dies. At the end of the last Parashah we find Yitzach and Yishmael burying their father in the same cave that Sarah was buried. The end of the older generation.

**Toldot: 25:19 – 28:9**

This week’s Parashah sets out to tell the story of Isaac. This is his Parashah. It begins by reminding us that he married Rebekkah when he was 40, and tells us that they had difficulty having children, but that eventually twins were born – Jacov and Esav – Jacov and Esav grow up. Jacov pretends to be Esav and takes Isaac’s blessings- then leaves. Esav stays with the family.

Now, like years before in Avraham’s time, there is no rain and the result is famine. Isaac prepares to go to Egypt, like Avraham did, but God tells him not to go. So he stays wandering around in the land of the Philistines and God is good to him and he has huge crops and gets wealthy. But the king, Abimelech, becomes jealous of him and his wealth and sends him away.

This is where our text today picks up- packing up all his wealth, his family, his herds of animals and the tribe and moves out into the desert of Gerar where he seems to be walking by the same route that his father before him had travelled.

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