

# Abraham's greatest gift to Isaac

Or-Eitan Ainie  
Former Shaliach, Montreal (2019-2020)  
Currently an Avrech at Yeshivat Machamayim and studying in a Kollel  
Rabbanut



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What is the greatest gift Abraham gave Isaac?

Our Parasha starts with the story of Abraham buying Ma'arat HaMachpela (the Cave of the Patriarchs) at his old age, but quickly moves to discussing Abraham's son – Isaac. Even though most of the parasha discusses Isaac, he isn't active in our parrasha. Eliezer, Abraham's slave, is the one who goes looking for a wife for Isaac, he is the one who devises the test for Rebeca and he negotiates with her family. Abraham has more children later on, but he makes sure to send them away so that Isaac wouldn't need to deal with them after his death.

Similarly, our Haftarah tells us about the last days of King David. It starts by describing his weakened physical condition in his old age. Taking advantage of the situation, Adoniya, David's son, tries to grab the throne, even though it was promised to his brother – Solomon. The prophet Nathan and Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon, find a way to tell King David about the situation and make sure he pronounces Solomon as his successor and not Adonijah. In the end they succeed, and David announces that Solomon will be his successor as king of Israel.

We can see how the haftara describes a process similar to the one we witnessed in the parasha. The Haftarah starts with King David in his last days, but actually focuses on his son - Solomon. Even so, Solomon is passive in during the entire story. Nathan and Bathsheba are the ones talking to King David about Solomon. He doesn't take any action of his own, even though the kingship will be his if they succeed. The haftarah ends with the sending of the rest of the sons and a declaration of the chosen son and successor.

The parasha and haftarah both describe a great man towards the end of his life; he isn't able to take care of everything anymore. In addition, the father is trying to find a heir to replace him in leading the family (or the nation) after his death. But due to his old age, others take command and make sure the correct son assumes the position. Even though this two sons (Isaac and Solomon) eventually became important and independent individuals in thir own right, in this point they were still only their father's son. Even though in both stories the sons remain passive, the announcement in the end of the story gives them the ideal stepping stone to become the great people they were intended to become.

From these two stories we see that parents can give their children beyond what they think. Sometimes a good stepping point is the best gift you can give. If Abraham and King David wouldn't have sent the rest of their sons away, the chosen son wouldn't have succeeded as he did.

comments: [oreitanainie95@gmail.com](mailto:oreitanainie95@gmail.com)