Torah Study Nov. 7, 2026

This week's parasha: Cheyei Sarah (Genesis 23:1-25.18)

Abraham to his servant: "…I will make you swear by Yahweh, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I dwell, but you will go to the land of my birth and get a wife for my son Isaac" (Gen. 24:2-4).

- *Who does Abraham prohibit marriage between?*
- *Why?*
- *Are Prohibitions Against Intermarriage Outdated?*

Deuteronomy 7

כִּ֣י יְבִיאֲךָ֣ יְהוָ֣ה אֱלֹהֶ֗יךָ אֶל־הָאָ֙רֶץ֙ אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּ֣ה בָ֔א־שָׁמָּ֖ה לְרִשְׁתָּ֑הּ וְנָשַׁ֞ל גּוֹיִ֤ם רַבִּים֙ ׀ מִפָּנֶ֔יךָ

הַחִתִּ֧י ׀ וְהַגִּרְגָּשִׁ֛י וְהָאֱמֹרִ֥י וְהַכְּנַעֲנִ֖י וְהַפְּרִזִּ֣י וְהַחִוִּ֑י וְהַיְבוּסִ֗י שִׁבְעָ֤ה גוֹיִם֙ רַבִּ֣ים וַעֲצוּמִ֔ים מִמֶּ֖ךָּ׃

(1) When the ETERNAL your God brings you to the land that you are about to enter and possess, and dislodges many nations before you—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nations much larger than you—

וּנְתָנָם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְפָנֶיךָ וְהִכִּיתָם הַחֲרֵם תַּחֲרִים אֹתָם לֹא־תִכְרֹת לָהֶם בְּרִית וְלֹא תְחָנֵּם׃

(2) and the ETERNAL your God delivers them to you and you defeat them, you must doom them to destruction: grant them no terms and give them no quarter.

וְלֹא תִתְחַתֵּן בָּם בִּתְּךָ לֹא־תִתֵּן לִבְנוֹ וּבִתּוֹ לֹא־תִקַּח לִבְנֶךָ׃

(3) You shall not intermarry with them: do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons.

כִּי־יָסִיר אֶת־בִּנְךָ מֵאַחֲרַי וְעָבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וְחָרָה אַף־יְהוָה בָּכֶם וְהִשְׁמִידְךָ מַהֵר׃

(4) For they will turn your children away from Me to worship other gods, and GOD's anger will blaze forth against you, promptly wiping you out.

כִּי־אִם־כֹּה תַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם מִזְבְּחֹתֵיהֶם תִּתֹּצוּ וּמַצֵּבֹתָם תְּשַׁבֵּרוּ וַאֲשֵׁירֵהֶם תְּגַדֵּעוּן וּפְסִילֵיהֶם תִּשְׂרְפוּן בָּאֵשׁ׃

(5) Instead, this is what you shall do to them: you shall tear down their altars, smash their pillars, cut down their sacred posts, and consign their images to the fire.

כִּי עַם קָדוֹשׁ אַתָּה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּךָ בָּחַר ׀ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לִהְיוֹת לוֹ לְעַם סְגֻלָּה מִכֹּל הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה׃

(6) For you are a people consecrated to the ETERNAL your God: of all the peoples on earth, the ETERNAL your God chose you to be the treasured one.

לֹא מֵרֻבְּכֶם מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים חָשַׁק יְהוָה בָּכֶם וַיִּבְחַר בָּכֶם כִּי־אַתֶּם הַמְעַט מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים׃

(7) It is not because you are the most numerous of peoples that GOD grew attached to you and chose you—indeed, you are the smallest of peoples;

כִּי֙ מֵאַהֲבַ֣ת יְהוָ֔ה אֶתְכֶ֖ם וּמִשָּׁמְרוֹ֙ אֶת־הַשְּׁבֻעָ֔ה אֲשֶׁ֥ר נִשְׁבַּ֖ע לַאֲבֹתֵיכֶ֑ם הוֹצִ֨יא יְהוָ֜ה אֶתְכֶ֗ם בְּיָ֤ד חֲזָקָה֙ וַיִּפְדְּךָ֔ מִבֵּ֖ית עֲבָדִ֑ים מִיַּ֕ד פַּרְעֹ֖ה מֶ֥לֶךְ־מִצְרָֽיִם׃

(8) but it was because GOD favored you and kept the oath made to your fathers that GOD freed you with a mighty hand and rescued you from the house of bondage, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

וְיָדַעְתָּ֗ כִּֽי־יְהוָ֤ה אֱלֹהֶ֙יךָ֙ הֽוּא֙ הָאֱלֹהִ֔ים הָאֵ֖ל הַנֶּאֱמָ֑ן שֹׁמֵ֤ר הַבְּרִית֙ וְהַחֶ֔סֶד לְאֹהֲבָ֖יו וּלְשֹׁמְרֵ֥י מִצְוֹתָ֖ו לְאֶ֥לֶף דּֽוֹר׃

(9) Know, therefore, that only the ETERNAL your God is God, the steadfast God who keeps this covenant faithfully to the thousandth generation of those who show love and keep the commandments,

וּמְשַׁלֵּ֥ם לְשֹׂנְאָ֖יו אֶל־פָּנָ֑יו לְהַאֲבִידֽוֹ לֹ֤א יְאַחֵר֙ לְשֹׂנְאֹ֔ו אֶל־פָּנָ֖יו יְשַׁלֶּם־לֽוֹ׃

(10) but who instantly requites with destruction those who are disloyal—never slow with those who are disloyal, but requiting them instantly.

וְשָׁמַרְתָּ֞ אֶת־הַמִּצְוָ֗ה וְאֶת־הַחֻקִּים֙ וְאֶת־הַמִּשְׁפָּטִ֔ים אֲשֶׁ֥ר אָנֹכִ֛י מְצַוְּךָ֖ הַיּ֑וֹם לַעֲשׂוֹתָֽם׃ {פ}

(11) Therefore, observe faithfully the Instruction—the laws and the rules—with which I charge you today.