

Shabbat Shalom. There are many procedures involved in making a quilt. The pattern must be created, color scheme established, patches cut, pressed, etc. A group of friends met weekly, worked together and produced lovely quilted works. They gifted me with an exceptional hand worked farm scene, which I treasure.

I never learned how to sew, I persuaded the group to take me on as an apprentice, to learn how to use a needle and thread. However, it was a long time before I actually sewed. My first task was trimming the ends of thread that were left on the back of sewn fabric. Next I was assigned to rip out incorrect stitches. In both cases the difficulty was in not ripping the fabric.

One day I was assigned the job of ripping out a newly made lap quilt, a small piece that would drape the legs of a seated elder. The piece was already finished and to me it was beautiful, and beautifully crafted. However, the makers felt otherwise, and would not give it to the elder. I balked at ripping out the stitches. I wanted to keep the small quilt and enlarge it so it would become a covering fit for my bed. I accepted the minor imperfections; after all, I believed that only G-d makes things perfectly.

I made my case, and it was respected. I spent the next couple of sessions, with the group, making the quilt that is on my bed to this day. However, I was not totally correct in my reasoning. I had thought that, "only G-d makes things perfectly." Not so, just look at Mankind.

To this day we can attest to the violation of the covenant G-d made with Adam. G-d would provide for Adam, Eve and their progeny, man would protect the earth and all its creatures. Mankind flourished.

We did not, however, honor this covenant with G-d. G-d was angry and decided to flood the earth with a devastating rain. Noah built the ark and he and his family was saved from the deluge.

After the flood G-d made another agreement with man. No more floods, but the Noachite Commandments, seven basic tenets for man to follow. Again we survived but violated this agreement, it was not honored. Indeed man displayed his dishonor to G-d. Idol worship continued and man showed his hubris and superiority and built the Tower of Babel.

Still, G-d did not give up on favoring man. He found in Abraham a believing partner. And, it is in the character of Abraham that I have found my theme for this Drash. This is the third time I have commented on Parsha Vayera. I have commented on the lessons found in the parsha. Now, I wanted to find a theme that was different and decided to talk about the faith of Abraham, and, G-d's faith in man.

While still living in his father's house, Abraham, then called Abram, demonstrated his belief in G-d. His father was an idol maker and Abram rejected belief in the multiple idols that his father constructed. He smashed his father's work. He listened, and obeyed his one true god.

Abram left his father's home and sojourned to the place that G-d instructed him. He entered a covenant with G-d, who renamed him Abraham, indicating he would be the progenitor of a great nation. The agreement was sealed the by Abraham circumcising himself and his sons, and agreeing that future generations would continue the practice.

Furthermore, Abraham did not flinch when G-d asked him to sacrifice his beloved younger son, Isaac. The sacrifice of Isaac is thought of as the ultimate test in his belief. It speaks to the primacy of Abraham's belief.

G-d, however, would not allow the sacrifice of Isaac. He sent an angel instructed to stop the slaughter.

There is no place for child sacrifice, but Abraham's allegiance was assured.

The story of Abraham speaks to the importance of honoring the covenant with G-d. We are part of another covenant, a Social Contract. We must speak out, as individuals, and with calls to our representatives, to honor the country's commitment to the Constitution, and the law. For the sake of Father Abraham...

Shabbat shalom