

SERACH BAT ASHER

Genesis 46:17

בראשית מו, יז

בְּנֵי אֲשֵׁר יִמְנָה וְיִשְׁוּהָ וְיִשְׁוֵי וּבְרִיעָה וְסֹרַח אֲחֵתָם וּבְנֵי בְרִיעָה חֶבֶר וּמַלְכִּיֵּאל :
Asher's sons: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah, and their sister Serah. Beriah's sons: Heber and Malchiel.

Numbers 26:44-46

במדבר כו, מד-מו

בְּנֵי אֲשֵׁר לְמִשְׁפַּחְתָּם לְיִמְנָה מִשְׁפַּחַת הַיִּמְנִי לְיִשְׁוֵי מִשְׁפַּחַת הַיִּשְׁוֵי לְבְרִיעָה
מִשְׁפַּחַת הַבְּרִיעִי : מֵה לְבְנֵי בְרִיעָה לְחֶבֶר מִשְׁפַּחַת הַחֶבְרִי לְמַלְכִּיֵּאל מִשְׁפַּחַת
הַמַּלְכִּיֵּאֵלִי : מו וְשֵׁם בֵּת־אֲשֵׁר סֹרַח :

Descendants of Asher by their clans: of Imnah, the clan of the Imnites; of Ishvi, the clan of the Ishvites; of Beriah, the clan of the Beriites; of the descendants of Beriah: of Heber, the clan of the Heverites; of Malchiel, the clan of the Malchielites. The name of Asher's daughter was Serah.

Rashi to Numbers 26:44-46

רש"י במדבר כו, מד-מו

וְשֵׁם בֵּת אֲשֵׁר סֹרַח. לְפִי שֶׁהִיְתָה קִיָּמַת בְּחַיֶּיהָ מִנְּאֻמָּה כָּאֵן (סדר עולם ט)
וְשֵׁם בֵּת אֲשֵׁר סֹרַח

AND THE NAME OF THE DAUGHTER OF ASHER WAS SERAH — Because she still remained alive after all these long years (Sotah 13a) it exceptionally mentions her here (Seder Olam 9)

Exodus Rabbah 5:13

שמות רבה ה, יג

יכול לא האמינו עד שראו האותות? לא, אלא וישמעו כי פקד ה', על השמועה האמינו, ולא על ראיית האותות. ובמה האמינו? על סימן הפקידה שאמר להם. שכך היה מסורת בידם מיעקב, שיעקב מסר את הסוד ליוסף, ויוסף לאחיו, ואשר בן יעקב מסר את הסוד לסרח בתו ועדיין היתה היא קיימת. וכך אמר לה: כל גואל שיבא ויאמר לבני פקוד פקדתי אתכם (שם שם, טז) הוא גואל של אמת. כיון שבא משה ואמר: פקוד פקדתי אתכם, מיד, ויאמן העם. במה האמינו? כי שמעו הפקידה, הדא הוא דכתיב: כי פקד ה' את בני ישראל וכי ראה את עניי ויקדו וישתחוו. ויקדו, על הפקידה. וישתחוו, על כי ראה את עניי:

Is it possible that they only believed when they saw signs? No! Rather they heard that God remembered, and it was in that report that they believed. There was a secret sign handed down to the Israelites in Egypt, a legacy left by Jacob, who entrusted it to Joseph, and he again to his brother Asher, who handed it down to his daughter Serach. She was blessed with longevity. The tradition was that the one who appeared in Egypt as the messenger of God and used the word *pakod* "God remembered" and thus they would know that he was the true redeemer. So only when Moses used the words *pakod pakadti* the people believed that God looked upon their affliction, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Midrash HaGadol, Genesis 45:26

The brothers said: If we tell him right away, "Joseph is alive!" perhaps he will have a stroke [lit., his soul will fly away]. What did they do? They said to Serah, daughter of Asher, "Tell our father Jacob that Joseph is alive, and he is in Egypt." What did she do? She waited till he was standing in prayer, and then said in a tone of wonder, "Joseph is in Egypt/ There have been born on his knees/ Menasseh and Ephraim" *Yosef b'mitzrayim/ Yuldu lo al birkayim/ Menasheh v'Efrayim* his heart failed, while he was standing in prayer. When he finished his prayer, he saw the wagons: immediately the spirit of Jacob came back to life.

Pirke d'Rabbi Eliezer Chorev 47

פרקי דרבי אליעזר חורב פרק מז

וכשבאו משה ואהרן אצל זקני ישראל ועשו האותות לעיניהם הלכו אצל סרח בת אשר אמרו לה בא אדם אחד אצלנו ועשה אותות לעינינו כך וכך, אמרה להם אין באותו ממש, אמרו לה והרי אמי פקוד יפקוד אלהים אתכם, אמרה להם הוא האיש העתיד לגאול את ישראל ממצרים, שכן שמעתי מאבא פ"א פ"א פקוד יפקוד, מיד האמינו העם באלהיהם ובשלוחו שני ויאמן העם וישמעו כי פקד ה' את עמו (שמות ד, לא)

And when Moshe and Aharon came to the Elders of Israel and made the signs before their eyes, they went to Serach bat Asher and said to her: "A man has come before us with these signs."

She said: "There is nothing to that man."

They said: "He said: God will remember you."

She said: "He is the the man who will bring Israel out of Egypt, for I heard from my father *Peh Peh Pakod Yifkod*."

They immediately believed in their God and God's emissary as it says: *The nation believed and listened because God remembered the people.* (Exodus 4:31)

Talmud Bavli Sotah 13a

תלמוד בבלי מסכת סוטה יג ע"א

ומנין היה יודע משה רבינו היכן יוסף קבור? אמרו: סרח בת אשר נשתיירה מאותו הדור, הלך משה אצלה, אמר לה: כלום את יודעת היכן יוסף קבור? אמרה לו: ארון של מתכת עשו לו מצרים וקבעוהו בנילוס הנהר, כדי שיתברכו מימיו. הלך משה ועמד על שפת נילוס, אמר לו: יוסף, יוסף, הגיע העת שנשבע הקדוש ברוך הוא שאני גואל אתכם, והגיעה השבועה שהשבעת את ישראל, אם אתה מראה עצמך - מוטב, אם לאו - הרי אנו מנוקין משבועתך, מיד צף ארונו של יוסף.

How did Moses know where Joseph was buried? They said: "Serach bat Asher remains from that generation." Moses went to her and said: "Do you know where Joseph is buried?" She said: "The Egyptians buried him in an iron coffin and placed it in the Nile so that its waters become blessed." Moses went and stood at the banks of the Nile. He said: "Joseph, Joseph, the time has come that the Holy One of Blessing swore that God would redeem them. The time has also come for the oath that Israel swore. If you show yourself, well and good. If not, we are free from your oath." Immediately, Joseph's coffin floated to the surface.

Talmud Bavli, Derech Eretz Zutah 1.18

תלמוד בבלי דרך ארץ זוטא א, יח

ט' נכנסו בחייהם בגן עדן. ואלו הן חנוך בן ירד ואליהו ומשיח ואליעזר עבד אברהם וחירם מלך צור ועבד מלך הכושי ויעבץ בנו של רבי יהודה הנשיא ובתיה בת פרעה וסרח בת אשר ויש אומרים אף ר' יהושע בן לוי :

Nine people entered Gan Eden alive, namely: These are they: Hanoch ben Yered; Eliyahu; the Mashiach; Eliezer the servant of Abraham; Hiram king of Tyre; the servant of the Ethiopian king; Yoavatz the son of Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi; the daughter of Pharaoh; and Serach bat Asher. There are those who say also Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi.

Sefer HaYashar Genesis Vayigash 9

And when Joseph had finished giving them his orders, he turned and went back to Egypt, and the sons of Jacob went to the land of Canaan, in joy and happiness to their father. And when they came to the boundaries of the land, they said to one another: What shall we do in bringing this matter before our father? For if we impart it to him suddenly, and tell him all about it, he will be greatly astounded at our words and he will refuse to listen to us. And they went on until they approached their houses when they met Serach coming towards them, and the damsel was exceedingly beautiful and wise, and a skilled player on the harp; and they called her and she came to them and kissed them. And they took her and gave her a harp saying to her: Go, we pray you, before our father and sit down before him and strike this harp and speak to him according to these words. And they instructed her concerning what she had to say, and she hastened to Jacob and she sat down before him. And she sang and played beautifully on the harp, and she sang in the sweetness of her voice: Joseph my uncle is alive and he reigns over all the land of Egypt; he is not dead. And she repeated these words many times. And Jacob heard her and it pleased him greatly, and when he heard her sing it twice and three times, the heart of Jacob was possessed by joy, through the sweetness of her voice, and the spirit of God came over him, and he knew that all her words were true. And Jacob blessed Serach for singing these words before him, and he said: My daughter, may death never prevail against you forever, for you have revived my spirit. Only repeat this song once more before me, for you have caused me gladness with your words. And she sang once more the same words and Jacob listened, and he was pleased and he rejoiced, and the spirit of God came over him.

2 Samuel 20:16-19

שמואל ב' כ: טז-יט

וַתִּקְרָא אִשָּׁה חֲכָמָה מִן־הָעִיר שְׁמָעוּ שְׁמָעוּ אֲמָרוּנָא אֱלִיּוֹאֵב קָרַב עַד־הַנָּחַל וַאֲדַבְּרָה אֵלָיֶךָ: וַיִּקְרַב אֵלֶיהָ וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה הַאֲתָה יוֹאָב וַיֹּאמֶר אָנִי וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ שְׁמַע דְּבָרֵי אֲמַתְךָ וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמַע אֲנֹכִי: וַתֹּאמֶר לְאָמֹר דְּבַר יַדְבָּרוּ בְּרֵאשִׁינָה לְאָמֹר שְׂאוּל יִשְׁאַלְוּ בְּאָבֶל וְכֵן יִתְּמוּ: אֲנֹכִי שְׁלָמִי אֲמוּנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָה מְבַקֵּשׁ לְהַמִּית עִיר וְאִם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לָמָּה תִּבְלַע נַחֲלַת יְהוָה

When a clever woman shouted from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Yoav to come over here so I can talk to him." He approached her, and the woman asked, "Are you Yoav?" "Yes," he answered; and she said to him, "Listen to what your handmaid has to say." "I'm listening," he replied. And she continued, "In olden times people used to say, 'Let them inquire of Avel,' and that was the end of the matter. I am one of those who seek the welfare of the faithful in Israel. But you seek to bring death upon a mother city in Israel! Why should you destroy God's possession?"

Rashi - 2 Samuel 20:19

רש"י - שמואל ב' כ:יט

אנכי שלומי אמוני ישראל (שמואל ב' כ:יט) אני מבני העיר, ששלמים
ונאמנים לישראל ולמלך ומדרש אגדה (בראשית רבה צד ט, ובילקוט
שמעוני כא) : סרח בת אשר היתה, אני השלמתי נאמן לנאמן, על ידי נגלה
ארונו של יוסף למשה, אני הגדתי ליעקב כי יוסף חי :

I am one of those who seeks the welfare of the faithful of Israel. I am one of the inhabitants of the city, who is complete and believes in Israel and the king. Midrash says that she was Serach bat Asher, I am the one who completes the faithful to the faithful, as I revealed the coffin of Yosef to Moses, and as I told Jacob that Joseph was still alive.