

Dvar torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

Graciously shared with Philo-Torah

Lech L'cha

In this week's parsha we begin with Avram's command to journey to the unnamed but promised land that one day would be called the land of Israel.

And Avram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew and all their substance they had gathered in Charan and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan (B'reishit 12:5).

This epic journey seems to set Avram apart from all others. Yet, in the text, an earlier travel seems very similar, not led by Avram but rather his father Terach. At the end of last week's parsh (11:31), it is Terach who took his son Avram and his grandson Lot, and Sarai and he departed Ur to go to the land of Canaan. The two texts describing the journeys are very similar. Both father and son each set out to travel to the Promised land. Both had the same destination of the land of Canaan.

Yet, with a closer look, we see a major difference between the two travels, between Terach's journey and that of Avram's. Terach started the trip but never made it there.

Avram, on the other hand, succeeded to reach Canaan. Terach is seen as one who had a tremendous goal, but he got stuck in Charan. The Rabbis discuss the meaning of the name of Charan as a location. They say it represents the "anger of G-d" - CHARON AF SHEL MAKOM. Charan was seen as the exact opposite, in idea from the Holy Land of Israel. Charan was a bustling city that never slept, center of commerce of the region, a place of entertainment and a place where one's material dreams can turn into reality. Terach got sidetracked and was influenced to stay, never completing the original destination.

Avram, at his first chance after Terach dies, sets out to Canaan and gets there. He didn't get tempted or sidetracked by any other city or placed. Rather, Avram plowed on until he reached his intended destination. VAYAVO'U ARTZA K'NAAN - Avram reaching his destination turned the place into Eretz Yisrael the Promised Land, a holy land for future generations.

Terach and Avram, both father and son had similar goals, similar ideas, but Avram succeeded because of his perseverance, something which Terach lacked. The fact that it was presented as father and son who had

these two unique, yet different journeys stress the message that if this can happen to two close family members how much more so that it could happen to anyone. The legacy of Avram to his future descendants that it is not enough just to know, or think you know your destination but rather it is dependant on one's perseverance to transform one's dream into a reality, to turn the Land of Canaan to the Holy Land - a land full of spirituality.

We too, must understand our goals of how we want the Land of Israel to be and thrive both materially as well as spiritually and then we must internalize that dream and work hard to make it to come true.