

One of Avraham's Major Contributions to the World

Based on a sermon by Rabbi Moshe Avigdor Amiel, of blessed memory.

Source 1: Bereishit 12:5

וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם אֶת שָׂרִי אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת לוֹט בֶּן אָחִיו וְאֶת כָּל רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר רָכְשׁוּ וְאֶת
הַנַּפְשׁ אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ בְּחָרָן וַיֵּצְאוּ לָלֶכֶת אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן:

And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had acquired, and the souls they had acquired in Haran, and they went to go to the land of Canaan, and they came to the land of Canaan.

Rashi : And the souls they had acquired in Haran. Who he had brought under the wings of the Divine Presence. Abraham would convert the men, and Sarah would convert the women...

Source 2: Bereishit 2:23

וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם זֹאת הִפְעַם עֵצָם מֵעֵצָמִי וּבָשָׂר מִבָּשָׂרִי לָזֹאת יִקְרָא אִשָּׁה כִּי מֵאִישׁ
לִקְחָהּ זֹאת:

And man said, "This time, it is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one shall be called ishah (woman) because this one was taken from ish (man)."

Source 3: Bereishit 12:13

אָמַרְי נָא אֲחֹתִי אֶתְּ לִמְעַן יִטֵּב לִי בְּעִבְרָךְ וְחַיִּיתָה נַפְשִׁי בְּגִלְלָךְ:

"...Please say [that] you are my sister, in order that it go well with me because of you, and that my soul may live because of you."

For your consideration:

- 1) What other events in the Book of Breishit demonstrate that the individuals involved viewed other humans as "עֵצָם מֵעֵצָמִי וּבָשָׂר מִבָּשָׂרִי" and not "נַפְשׁ"?
- 2) What are the dangers of seeing other humans as "עֵצָם מֵעֵצָמִי וּבָשָׂר מִבָּשָׂרִי"?
- 3) How can we make sure we view people as "נַפְשׁ"?