



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL OF THE PALISADES

קהילה קדושה בית ישראל של הפלייס

*An egalitarian Conservative community
where 'welcome' is not just a word!*

PARSHAT VAYESHEV

NOVEMBER 27, 2021 - KISLEV 24, 5782



וַיֵּשֶׁב

PARSHAT VAYESHEV
TORAH - GENESIS 37:1 – 40:23
HAFTARAH – AMOS 2:6 – 3:8

PARSHAT VAYESHEV

The first night of Chanukah is Sunday evening November 28. This Shabbat we bless the new month of Tevet and Rosh Chodesh is Shabbat December 4th (6th day of Chanukah) and Sunday.

Last week, we found Eisav approaching his brother Yaakov with an army of four hundred men. Yaakov divided his people into two camps, prayed to Hashem for protection and prepared gifts to appease his brother.

One has to wonder why his praying wasn't enough. Why did Yaakov take defensive measures and offer gifts when he already had Hashem's blessing? Was this a lapse of faith? Quite the contrary, say our sages. Yaakov's faith was strong. What he doubted was his own merit. He wondered if he was living up to his potential and pleasing Hashem with his actions. He questioned whether he truly deserved Hashem's protection.

We find a similar situation when Aharon, Moshe's brother was offered the High Priesthood. He doubted his own qualifications. It seems that the righteous tend to doubt their own worthiness. Perhaps, that is part of what makes them so worthy.

The righteous also seem to have little tranquility in this world. Yaakov must have thought that once he had survived his exile in the house of Lavan, his confrontation with Eisav and his travail with Shechem, he could live the rest of his life in peace. This week, Yaakov faces the loss of his son

Yosef, sold into slavery by Yaakov's other sons (Bereshit 37:28).

The Torah describes several instances of feuding siblings such as Yosef and his brothers, and Yaakov and Eisav. There are also shining examples of brotherly love and cooperation as with Moshe and Aharon. What can we learn from these eternal Torah lessons?

One thing parents can do is raise their children to be the unique individuals they were created to be rather than compete with each other. While Yaakov and Eisav vied for the first blessing and Yosef and his brothers fancied themselves as leaders, Moshe and Aharon had distinct roles. Separate yet equal, Moshe became our greatest leader while Aharon, the Holy Kohain Gadol.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

1. Have you ever noticed how the Dreidel we enjoy on Chanukah has its handle on top while the Gragger used on Purim has its handle at the bottom. Is there a lesson here?
2. Do you know a family where sibling rivalry has been an issue? What advice can you give them based on your understanding of Torah personalities?

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Aliyah Summary

General Overview:

In this week's reading, Vayeishev, Joseph relates to his brothers his grandiose dreams of greatness, arousing their jealousy. He is consequently sold into slavery to an Egyptian master. After defying his Egyptian master's wife, Joseph is thrown into jail, where he interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. The story of Judah and Tamar is also related at length.

First Aliyah: Jacob and his family settled in Canaan. Of all his sons, Jacob favored Joseph, the firstborn of his deceased beloved wife Rachel, and he made for him a special robe of fine wool. Joseph's brothers were jealous of the favoritism and avoided talking to Joseph. Joseph related to his brothers two dreams he had, both implying that he would eventually rule over his brothers—and thus increased his brothers' envy and hatred.

Second Aliyah: Joseph's brothers were away tending their father's sheep, when Jacob sent Joseph to see how his brothers and the flocks were faring. When Joseph's brothers saw him approaching, they plotted to kill him. Reuben, however, implored them not to shed blood, advising them instead to cast him into one of the nearby pits. Reuben's plan was to later return and rescue Joseph from the pit.

Third Aliyah: Joseph arrived, and his brothers immediately stripped him of his fancy robe and cast him into a pit. Upon Judah's advice, they subsequently sold him to an Ishmaelite caravan traveling to Egypt, who in turn sold him as a slave to Potiphar, Pharaoh's chief butcher. Meanwhile, the brothers dipped Joseph's robe into blood, and showed it to Jacob, who assumed that Joseph was devoured by a wild beast. Jacob then commenced 22 years of mourning for his beloved son.

Fourth Aliyah: The story of Joseph is interrupted by the episode of Judah and Tamar. Judah married the daughter of a local businessman and had three sons. His first son, Er, married a woman named Tamar, but died soon thereafter. Judah had his second son, Onan, marry Tamar and thus fulfill the mitzvah of Yibburm, but he too died childless. Judah hesitated to give his third son to Tamar, so she returned to her father's home. Judah's wife then died, and he embarked on a business trip. Tamar dressed herself like a prostitute and sat by the side of the road. Judah didn't recognize her, was intimate with her and she becomes pregnant. A few months later, when her pregnancy became evident, Judah ordered her executed for harlotry. As she was being taken out to die, she produced some of Judah's personal effects that he had left behind when he visited her. Judah admitted that he was the father, and Tamar was spared. Tamar then gave birth to twin sons, Zerach and Peretz.

Fifth Aliyah: We return to the story of Joseph, who was serving in the home of Potiphar. G-d was with Joseph, and he succeeded in all his endeavors. When Potiphar took note of this fact, he put Joseph in charge of his entire household and estate.

Sixth Aliyah: Joseph was exceedingly handsome, and Potiphar's wife was attracted to him. She made many advances on him, but he steadfastly rebuffed her. Eventually she libelously told her husband that Joseph was making advances on her, and Potiphar had Joseph thrown into prison. G-d was still with Joseph, and he found favor in the eyes of the prison warden, who put him in charge of all the prisoners.

Seventh Aliyah: Two of Pharaoh's officers, his butler and baker, aroused the royal ire and were cast into prison—the same one that Joseph was now administering. One night, they both had odd dreams, and Joseph interpreted them. Joseph told the butler that he'd soon be released and restored to Pharaoh's service. The baker was told by Joseph that he would soon be hung. Joseph pleaded with the butler to mention his plight to Pharaoh and ask for his release. Three days later, both of Joseph's interpretations came true; but the butler forgot all about Joseph.

Yahrzeits for: Friday 11/19/2021

* Mr. Leon Mandelbaum	Father of	Mr. Michael Mandelbaum
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Yahrzeits for: Saturday 11/20/2021

Mr. Maurice Eljasiewicz	Brother of	Mrs. Anne-Marie Messing
* Mr. Louis Gendelman	Father of	Mr. Jeff Zwiren
* Mr. Harry Gips	Stepfather of	Mr. Garrison Miller
Mrs. Selma Kaplan		
	Kohen	
* Mrs. Mindy Lubin	Mother of	Mr. Allan Baker
* Mr. John Miller	Grandfather of	Mr. Garrison Miller
* Mr. Edward Nathanson	No Observers	
* Mrs. Fannie Schraier	No Observers	

Yahrzeits for: Sunday 11/21/2021

Mrs. Riki Hadad		
	Kohen	
Tauba Hirsch	No Observers	
* Mr. Harry Lazarus	No Observers	

Yahrzeits for: Monday 11/22/2021

Mrs. Taube Applebaum	Mother of	Mr. Joel Applebaum
Mrs. Milderd Farber	Mother of	Mr. Stewart Farber
* Mr. Kalman Greenbaum	No Observers	
Mrs. Dora Koerner	No Observers	
* Mrs. Shirley Sude	No Observers	
Barash Zuse	No Observers	

Yahrzeits for: Wednesday 11/24/2021

Mrs. Florence Eiser	Mother of	Mrs. Judy Magram
* Mr. Murray M. Fogel	No Observers	
* Mr. Alvin B. Gelfond	Brother of	Mrs. Leatrice Nenner
Mr. Israel Goldberg	Father of	Mr. Laurence Goldberg
Joan Israel	No Observers	
Mrs. Eda Landsman	Mother of	Mrs. Shiela Annex

Yahrzeits for: Thursday 11/25/2021

* Mr. Murry Krug	Brother of	Mrs. Helen Welsch
Mrs. Elsie Slutsky	Mother of	Ms. Susan Candee
Mr. Meir Wertheim	Father of	Mr. Alfred Wertheim