

Parashah 9: Vayishlach: He continued living. Genesis 37:1-40:23; Amos 2:6-3:8; Acts 7:9-16

Portion outline:

Joseph's Dreams

Gen 37:1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

Gen 37:2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

Gen 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

Gen 37:4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Gen 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Gen 37:6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

Gen 37:7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

Gen 37:8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

Gen 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

Gen 37:10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

Gen 37:11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

Gen 37:12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

Gen 37:13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

Gen 37:14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

Gen 37:15 And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

Gen 37:16 And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

Gen 37:17 And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

Gen 37:18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

Gen 37:19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

Gen 37:20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

Gen 37:21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

Gen 37:22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

Gen 37:23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

Gen 37:24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

Gen 37:25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

Gen 37:26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

Gen 37:27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Gen 37:28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

Gen 37:29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

Gen 37:30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

Gen 37:31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

Gen 37:32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

Gen 37:33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

Gen 37:34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

Gen 37:35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

Gen 37:36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Judah and Tamar

Gen 38:1 And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.

Gen 38:2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.

Gen 38:3 And she conceived, and bare a son; and he called his name Er.

Gen 38:4 And she conceived again, and bare a son; and she called his name Onan.

Gen 38:5 And she yet again conceived, and bare a son; and called his name Shelah: and he was at Chezib, when she bare him.

Gen 38:6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar.

Gen 38:7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him.

Gen 38:8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.

Gen 38:9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.

Gen 38:10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also.

Gen 38:11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

Gen 38:12 And in process of time the daughter of Shuah Judah's wife died; and Judah was comforted, and went up unto his sheepshearers to Timnath, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

Gen 38:13 And it was told Tamar, saying, Behold thy father in law goeth up to Timnath to shear his sheep.

Gen 38:14 And she put her widow's garments off from her, and covered her with a vail, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which is by the way to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given unto him to wife.

Gen 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face.

Gen 38:16 And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?

Gen 38:17 And he said, I will send thee a kid from the flock. And she said, Wilt thou give me a pledge, till thou send it?

Gen 38:18 And he said, What pledge shall I give thee? And she said, Thy signet, and thy bracelets, and thy staff that is in thine hand. And he gave it her, and came in unto her, and she conceived by him.

Gen 38:19 And she arose, and went away, and laid by her vail from her, and put on the garments of her widowhood.

Gen 38:20 And Judah sent the kid by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand: but he found her not.

Gen 38:21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where is the harlot, that was openly by the way side? And they said, There was no harlot in this place.

Gen 38:22 And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, that there was no harlot in this place.

Gen 38:23 And Judah said, Let her take it to her, lest we be shamed: behold, I sent this kid, and thou hast not found her.

Gen 38:24 And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.

Gen 38:25 When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff.

Gen 38:26 And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.

Gen 38:27 And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb.

Gen 38:28 And it came to pass, when she travailed, that the one put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first.

Gen 38:29 And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez.

Gen 38:30 And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah.

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Gen 39:1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

Gen 39:2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Gen 39:3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Gen 39:4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Gen 39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

Gen 39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

Gen 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.



Gen 39:8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

Gen 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Gen 39:10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

Gen 39:11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

Gen 39:12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

Gen 39:13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,

Gen 39:14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

Gen 39:15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

Gen 39:16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

Gen 39:17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

Gen 39:18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

Gen 39:19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

Gen 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

Gen 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Gen 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

Gen 39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Joseph Interprets Two Prisoners' Dreams

Gen 40:1 And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt.

Gen 40:2 And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers.

Gen 40:3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.

Gen 40:4 And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.

Gen 40:5 And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison.

Gen 40:6 And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad.

Gen 40:7 And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day?

Gen 40:8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.

Gen 40:9 And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me;

Gen 40:10 And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes:

Gen 40:11 And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.

Gen 40:12 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days:

Gen 40:13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

Gen 40:14 But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

Gen 40:15 For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.



Gen 40:16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head:

Gen 40:17 And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head.

Gen 40:18 And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days:

Gen 40:19 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.

Gen 40:20 And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

Gen 40:21 And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand:

Gen 40:22 But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Gen 40:23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Judgment on Israel

Amo 2:6 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;

Amo 2:7 That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name:

Amo 2:8 And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.

Amo 2:9 Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.

Amo 2:10 Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

Amo 2:11 And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD.

Amo 2:12 But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.

Amo 2:13 Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves.



Amo 2:14 Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

Amo 2:15 Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself.

Amo 2:16 And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD.

Israel's Guilt and Punishment

Amo 3:1 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

Amo 3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

Amo 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Amo 3:4 Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing?

Amo 3:5 Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin is for him? shall one take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all?

Amo 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Amo 3:7 **Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

Amo 3:8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

Act 7:9 **And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: *but God was with him,***

Act 7:10 And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Act 7:11 Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

Act 7:12 But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

Act 7:13 And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

Act 7:14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

Act 7:15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

Act 7:16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

On Sunday, December 22 is the lighting of the first candle of Hannukah. Hannukah means dedication and it is mentioned in the Gospel of John 10:22, "Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter." This is especially interesting for me because this mention of Hanukkah as the feast of dedication is one of the first mention of this holiday/feast in literature anywhere outside the book of Maccabees.

יְהוָה a fuller form of יְהוֹסֵפֶת Joseph = "YHWH has added"

The word Joseph comes from the Hebrew word yasaph (יָסַף). This word means to add or to increase. It is an agricultural term, as in the increase of a crop. Josef had a dream which he told his brothers. In the Tanakh, dreams were a common mode of divine revelation. Joseph later becomes a prince among his brothers and receives the right of the firstborn. Joseph probably is eagerly reporting his dream, just as a younger child might do in an effort to gain acceptance and a positive response from his brothers. But his brothers, who already disliked him, disdain him even more.

Revelation from God, true revelation from God, will almost always cause people to hate you and reject you. This was the case with Joseph and all the prophets in the Scriptures. They revealed the will of YHWH, and most of them were brutally killed. There is always a price to pay for obeying and speaking the Truth. Take John, he was beheaded. Every man of God who has succeeded in his mission has had to take this same high road and not allow his feelings and what others have done to him dictate his behavior. Hormones and anger and hurt and pain can't and must not be allowed to rule over our faith and reason and the love of our brothers and friends. This cleaning up of the bitterness that so easily can and sometimes does nest in our souls is an essential both Old and New Testament principle.

The Zohar comments that Jacob's favouritism was based on Joseph's spiritual and intellectual superiority over his brothers. For the same reason God proclaimed His love for Israel and His hatred of Esau, and Abraham favoured Isaac over Ishmael. Similarly,

Jacob favoured Joseph. In all these cases, they were expressing the truth that the object of their favour was the authentic guardian of their spiritual heritage, a consideration so important that it overshadowed the danger that others might resent such a preference for one over another.

This story of Joseph also reminds me of another great man:

יֵשׁוּעַ Jeshua = "he is saved"

Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, Christ was betrayed by His own.

Joseph wore a kingly robe, Christ wore a tallit and He is king

Joseph was favoured by his father, Christ was favoured by His father

Joseph's mission was not easy, but it was all about provision for the nation Israel

Christ's mission was not easy, but it was all about a future generation

Joseph provided bread for his kinsmen

Christ is the bread of life.

Chiastic structures gives us an idea of what is the central idea of a certain paragraph/s

Gen 37:1-36 central axis) Gen 37:15-16, Joseph: "I am seeking my brothers;"

Gen 37:19-20, They said: This dreamer is coming;

central axis) Gen 37:20b, And cast him into some pit

Gen 37:21-30, The hatred of Joseph's brothers;

central axis) Gen 37:26-27, Judah's counsel: Sell him to the Ishmaelites/ his brothers listened;

Gen 37:1-40:23, the chiastic structures of each of vayeshev's paragraphs:

central axis) Gen 38:1-30 {s} Judah among the Canaanites.

Theme of the parashah:

Judah and Joseph departed from their brothers among the pagans.

Shalom Blessings

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