

Parashah 6 - Toldot - תולדות “Histories”



Torah: B'resheet 25:19-28:9

- Aliyah 1 - 25:19-26:5 Esav/Ya'akov; Esav sells birthright; promises to Avraham confirmed to Yitz'chak
- Aliyah 2 - 26:6-12 Yitz'chak pulls “sister” card w/Rivkah & Avimelech; plants crops & reaps 100 fold
- Aliyah 3 - 26:13-22 Yitz'chak becomes rich, re-digs/quarrels over his father's wells, avoids conflict
- Aliyah 4 - 26:23 -29 Yitz'chak builds altar at Be'er Sheva; covenant with Avimelech
- Aliyah 5 - 26:30-27:27 Ya'akov deceives Yitz'chak and steals Esav's blessing,
- Aliyah 6 - 27:28-28:4 Yitz'chak blesses Ya'akov; Esav discovers deception; Rivkah reveals plans
- Aliyah 7 - 28:5-9 Yitz'chak sends Ya'akov to Lavan to find a wife; Esav tries to please his parents

Haftarah: Mal'akhi 1:1-2:7

B'rit Hadashah: Romans 9:6-13

1. Why is biblical genealogy so important? Are “toldot” more than genealogy? What do you find interesting in the “toldot” that begins the Gospel of Mattityahu?

2. How was Yitz'chak life experiences similar to his father, Avraham?

3. How does Yitz'chak's approach the problem of Rivkah's childlessness? Why is this subject so prominent?

4. What does Ya'kov's name mean? Is this connected to any previous scripture that you remember? What is significant about this connection?

5. How is the life of Ya'akov described in Torah? (25:27) How would you characterize Esau's life? How can two totally different people come from the same family environment?

6. What is at the core of Yitz'chak's conflict with the Philistines? (26:12) Is still an issue today? What was his response to this conflict? What can we learn from this?

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7. Torah states that Yitz'chak became physically blind. (27:1) Do you see any correlation between the physical and the spiritual in this situation? Can you think of other scriptures that speak of this blindness? (Yeshayahu 29:10, Rom 11:8, Luke 24:16). Who is responsible for blindness?
8. In what ways are Ya'akov's blessing prophetic?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (25:19) Yitz'chak is clearly defined as Avraham's son. Who is your father? Do people see Him in you? (John 8:19, Rom 8:29)
2. (26:6) In spite of famine, God directs Yitz'chak to stay in the land. Has God directed you to stay where it is uncomfortable? Did He supply you with His grace to "dwell" there? (Joh 16:33, Luk 21:10-19)
3. (26:13) This verse literally says that Yitz'chak "walked the walk" in the midst of greatness. Are you distracted by God's blessings? Are you growing in greater greatness? (Psa 112:1-3)
4. (26:24) A theme of scripture is God's presence in the midst of suffering/trials (Psa 23:4-5). Is your focus on your circumstances or His promises? (Isa 43:2, Joh 16:32-33, 2Co 12:7-10)
5. (26:30) Food, drink and celebration is a part of covenant relationships. Have you participated on either side of such hospitality recently? (Mat 25:35, Heb 13:2)
6. (27:28) Has God blessed you? How are you sharing His blessing with others? (Luke 6:38, 1Ti 5:8, Gal 6:10, Deu 33:13-16, Zec 8:12-13, Jam 2:13)
7. (28:8-9) Esav attempted to please his parents after Ya'akov's departure. How do your actions show your desire to please your Father? (Mat 21:28-31)