

Parashah 7 - Vayetze - נצטז

“He went out”



Torah: B'resheet 28:10-32:3(2)

Aliyah 1 - 28:10 - 22 Ya'akov leaves home; vision of the ladder; receives promise of land and people

Aliyah 2 - 29:1 - 17 Ya'akov meets Rachel, stays with Lavan and begins working for him

Aliyah 3 - 29:18-30:13 Ya'akov deceived by Lavan marries Leah and Rachel; Rachel is barren

Aliyah 4 - 30:14 - 27 Leah bears 5 and 6; Rachel finally bears Yosef;

Aliyah 5 - 30:28-31:16 Ya'akov bargains for speckled flock, grows rich; God tells him it is time to leave

Aliyah 6 - 31:17 - 42 Ya'akov leaves, Lavan pursues; Rachel takes household 'gods'

Aliyah 7 - 31:43 -32:3 Ya'akov and Lavan make covenant; They both head for their respective homes

Haftarah: Hoshea 12:13(12)-14:10(9)

B'rit Hadashah: Yochanan 1:43-51

1. Is there a significance to the sun setting as Ya'akov leaves the land? (28:11) How does this relate to Yeshua's words in Yochanon 9:4-5?
2. What does the ladder in Ya'akov's dream represent? What is at the top of the ladder? At the bottom? (28:12)
3. What does Ya'akov have with him as he approaches his uncle? How is this different from when Avraham sent Eliezer to Lavan? How long was Ya'akov's stay in Haran?
4. What is significant about Ya'akov watering the flock?
5. When Ya'akov meets Rachel, he kisses her. When was the last time he kissed someone? Who was it? Are these kisses connected? How were they different?
6. How was Leah "hated?" How does this shed light on a saying of the Master (Luke 14:26)?
7. What is the significance of a person's name in biblical culture? How does it differ from the common western understanding of a name?

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8. Is polygamy a sin? Was Ya'akov breaking Torah by marrying two sisters?

9. Why did Rachel take Laban's idols?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (28:10) Two locations are stated here - a "from" and a "to." Have you crossed over "from" death "to" life (Joh 5:24)? Are you living in the freedom of Messiah? (1Pe 2:9, Joh 9:25, 1Co 6:11, Rom 14:17)
2. (29:1) This verse literally says that Ya'akov "lifted his feet" and walked, suggesting enthusiasm and determination. Are you excited to get to your next destination? (Isa 30:21, 1Co 9:24, Mat 28:19)
3. (29:18) Ya'akov served 14 years for Rachel. How committed are you to walk out your path to achieve God's purpose in your life? (Luk 9:51, Phi 2:8 Heb 12:2)
4. (30:25) Despite how he was treated, Ya'akov asks permission to leave. Is it time for you to move on in some aspect of life? How will you decide? How will you handle the change? (Jer 29:11, Heb 13:17, Pro 12:15, 1Co 14:33)
5. (30:28) Integrity in life and business is important. Torah insists that wages be paid promptly. (Deu 24:15, Jam 4:5). How are your accounts with others? With God? (Mal 3:5, Mat 20:1-16)
6. (31:18) In spite of Lavan's double-dealing and dishonesty, Ya'akov leaves with much. How do you view your possessions and how you acquired them? (Luk 12:16-21, Luk 18:29-30, Mat 6:19-21)
7. (31:43) Lavan's claims are ridiculous. Even so, in God's economy He owns everything, and we are only stewards. How tightly do you hold on to that which God entrusts to you? (Ecc 5:15, Job 1:21, Lev 25:23, Mat 5:40,42, 16:24-26, Jam 5:1-3, Heb 11:8-10)