

**Parashah 8 - Vayishlach - וַיִּשְׁלַח**  
**“And he sent”**



**Torah: B'resheet 32:4 - 36:43**

- Aliyah 1 - 32:4 -13 Ya'akov prepares to meet Esav as he responds to God's call to return home
- Aliyah 2 - 32:14 -30 Ya'akov prepares "gifts" for Esav; wrestles with God; renamed "Yisra'el"
- Aliyah 3 - 32:31 -33:5 Ya'akov walks with a limp; emotional reunion with Esav; introduces his children
- Aliyah 4 - 33:6 -20 Esav reluctantly accepts the gift; departs ahead; Ya'akov buys land at Sh'khem
- Aliyah 5 - 34:1 -35:11 Shimon/Levi avenge Dinah; Ya'akov moves to Beit El, God's promises restated
- Aliyah 6 - 35:12-36:19 Rachel dies at Beit Lechem bearing Binyamin; Yitz'chak dies; genealogy of Esav
- Aliyah 7 - 36:20 - 42 Descendants of Se'ir the Hori; Chieftains of Edom

**Haftarah: 'Ovadyah (Obadiah)**

**B'rit Hadashah: Matthew 26:36-46**

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1. (32:7-8) Ya'akov divides his house into two camps – the house of Leah, and the house of Rachel. Why did he do this? Can you think of any other “division of the camps” that can be metaphorically related?
  
2. (32:9-12) Why does Ya'akov pray? What does this tell us about Ya'akov? About God?
  
3. (32:13-22) Is Ya'akov still scheming by sending gifts to his brother? Can “wrongs” be “righted?”
  
4. (32:22-23) How long was Ya'akov outside of The Land? As he crosses back into The Land, how has God fulfilled the promises he made when he left The Land? (28:15, 32:10)
  
5. (32:24-36) Ya'akov wrestles with “someone.” What do you find difficult about this passage? Ultimately, for what was Ya'akov “wrestling” since his birth? (28:13-14)
  
6. (32:27-28) How has Ya'akov struggled with God? With man? What word (or words) would you use to describe Ya'akov's character? (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21, 21:7).
  
7. (32:31-32) How is the position of the sun described when Ya'akov left The Land? As he is returning? How has his “walk” changed?

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8. (33:1-16) What can we learn about reconciliation from Ya'akov's example with Esav?
  
9. (33:18-20) What is significant about Sh'khem? (12:7) How does Ya'akov begin the process of inhabiting The Land?
  
10. (35:1) What is significant about Ya'akov's going to Beit-El? (12:8, 17:8, 24:7, 26:3) What happened the last time Ya'akov was there? (28:22)
  
11. (35) What does Ya'akov do to prepare for the move to Beit-El? How is this related to the death of Rachel?
  
12. After Yitz'chak was buried, what did Esau do? Why is so much space given to Esau's descendants?

**Questions for reflection and application:**

1. (32:3) You can be a messenger sent ahead of your Master. How do you represent Him? (Mat 5:14-16)
  
2. (32:14) The best gift is one that comes from the heart. Do you give based on formula and obligation, or from your life and heart? (Luk 20:25, 21:1-4, Psa 51:15-17)
  
3. (32:31) The Hebrew word for "face," used twice here, is plural. Can we see the "faces" of God? Can "faces" be related to "attributes?" (Exo 33:20, Isa 6:1, Jud 6:22-23, Joh 1:14,18, 1Jo 1:1, 1Co 13:12)
  
4. (33:9) Does your perspective of material things (taxes, debt, etc.) affect authority in your life? All things belong to God, yet we are given responsibility and control of "things." Who has rightful claim of your time and resources? (Luk 20:25, Rom 13:6-8, 1Ti 5:8)
  
5. (34:1) What attributes have you "inherited" from your parents? (30:16, Eze 16:44, Joh 8:38, 44) What is the truth that God speaks about them? (2Co 5:17, Heb 12:1, Rom 6:4-7)
  
6. (35:12) Are you moving forward in the certainty of God's promises? (Eph 3:20-21, Rev 21:6-7)
  
7. (36:20) Are you concerned about the political/economic events around you? (Psa 2, Rev 19:11-16)