

Parashah 9 - Vayeshev - וַיֵּשֶׁב

“He continued living”

Torah: B'resheet 37:1-40:23

Aliyah 1 - 37:1 -11	Ya'akov prefers Yosef creating jealousy between brothers; Yosef shares dreams
Aliyah 2 - 37:12 -22	Yosef sent to report on brothers who scheme his demise; Re'uven shows pity
Aliyah 3 - 37:23 -26	Brothers sell Yosef; fake his death; Ya'akov mourns; Yosef sold in Egypt to Potifar
Aliyah 4 - 38:1 - 30	-> Y'hudah and Tamar; Peretz and Zerach born <-
Aliyah 5 - 39:1 - 6	Adonai is with Yosef; Potifar recognizes and entrusts Yosef with his household
Aliyah 6 - 39:7 -23	Yosef falsely accused is thrown in prison; Warden recognizes and entrusts him
Aliyah 7 - 40:1 -23	Yosef interprets dreams; baker executed; cupbearer restored, but forgets Yosef

Haftarah: 'Amos 2:6 –3:8

B'rit Hadashah: Acts 7:9-16



1. (37:4) Yosef's conflict with his brothers runs deep. What was the cause of this and when did it start?
2. (37:5-11) The Hebrew word, "hineh" (behold) is used throughout the telling of Yosef's dreams. Why is that significant? What do you find interesting about Ya'akov's rebuke to Yosef's second dream?
3. (37:14-17) Why does Ya'akov send Yosef to his brothers? Who is "the man" Yosef encounters on his way? Why is he significant? What do you remember about Sh'khem from last weeks' portion?
4. (37:18-30) One of Yosef's brothers wanted to save Yosef's life. Who was it? What position did he hold? Which brother was responsible for selling him as a slave?
5. (38:1) The Hebrew indicates that Y'hudah went "down" from his brothers, and in the next chapter, that Yosef was brought "down" to Egypt. Are these two events connected?
6. (38:2) What was Y'hudah's wife's name? (38:6) Was Tamar of the Kena'ani? How does Adonai's view of Tamar differ from that of Y'hudah? What does this say about Tamar's character and her actions?
7. (38:8-10) What is the purpose of "Levirate" (Hebrew: yibbum) marriage? What was Onan's sin?

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8. The concept of “concealed identity” runs all through the narrative of Avraham and his progeny. Do you think this is prophetic?

9. The goat becomes the sacrifice for sin in the coming Temple worship. The last “goat” in B’resheet is connected to Tamar. What other “goats” do you remember from the narrative?

10. How does Yosef’s character compare with that of Y’hudah in this portion? Tamar’s with Potifar’s wife?

11. How do the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker speak of the Messiah?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (37:1) Ya’akov returns to the promise given his father, a different man. How have those who have gone before influenced you? What never changes, and what is “new?” (Jer 6:16, Luk 5:39, Is 48:6, Jude 3)
2. (37:12) Ya’akov seems suspicious of his sons, sending Yosef to report on them. How do you behave when no one is watching? (Mat 7:21-23, Job 13:7-9, Psa 44:21, Pro 18:17, Jer 17:10, Gal 6:7)
3. (37:23) Yosef entreats his brothers but seems to submit to their mistreatment (42:21). How did Yeshua respond to mistreatment? (Mar 10:33-34, 14:61) How do you respond? (Gen 50:20, Mar 14:61, Rom 12:18-19, Mat 5:38-41, 10:16-22)
4. (38:1) Y’hudah went “down” and separated himself from his brothers. Was this because of his role regarding Yosef? How does sin separate us from one another? (Rom 7:11, Pro 9:13-18, Heb 3:12-14)
5. (39:1) Y’hudah went down but Yosef was taken down, both resulting in God’s plan being accomplished. How do you view your “ups” and “downs?” (Php 2:6-11, Isa 50:4-7, Isa 45:23-25)
6. (39:9) Torah had not yet been given. How did Yosef know what sin was? How do you know? (1Co 6:9, Act 15:28-29, Heb 13:4, Jam 2:11)
7. (40:1) “Sometime later...” God’s time and timing is perfect. Is He in control of your time line? (Ecc 3:1, Act 1:7, Joh 2:4, 7:30, 8:20, 13:1, Psa 102:13)