

Parashah 11 - Vayigash - וַיִּגַּשׁ
“And he approached”



Torah: B'reshet (Genesis) 44:18 – 47:27

Aliyah 1 - 44:18 -30 Y'hudah's final speech to the viceroy recounting his perspective of Yosef's story

Aliyah 2 - 44:31 -45:7 Y'hudah's guilt peaks with Yosef's revelation of his true identity, and purpose

Aliyah 3 - 45:8 - 18 God was ultimately behind it all; Israel and sons are to be cared for in Egypt

Aliyah 4 - 45:19 - 27 Israel's faith is revived when Yosef sends for him with wagons and goods

Aliyah 5 - 45:28-46:27 Israel travels to Egypt as 70; God reiterates promise he will be a great nation

Aliyah 6 - 46:28-47:10 Ya'akov travels to Egypt, reunited w/ Yosef; welcomed by Pharaoh.

Aliyah 7 - 47:11 - 27 Israel prospers while the people of Egypt sell all they have to Pharaoh for food

Haftarah: Yechezk'el (Ezekiel) 37:15-28

B'rit Hadashah: Luke 6:9-16

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1. (44:18) Re'uven, Shimon and Levi were older yet it was Y'hudah that rises as the spokesperson. Why is it Y'hudah that "approaches" Yosef? What is it that Yosef sees in Y'hudah that reveals the state of his heart?
 2. (44:32-33) What had Y'hudah promised his father regarding Binyamin? What demonstration of love does Y'hudah offer regarding Binyamin? Is there a similar statement from a "son" of Binyamin in the apostolic scriptures? (Rom 9:1-4)
 3. (45:1) Why does Yosef clear the room? If Yosef is a type of Messiah, who is it that does the revealing? How does this relate to Sha'ul's statement in Romans 11:25-26? How does this relate to Yom Kippur in Vayikra 16:17? How does the title of this portion relate to Yom Kippur?
 4. (45:3) Why does Yosef ask if his father is still alive when Y'hudah has already been speaking about him? What is unusual about the way he asks?
 5. (45:4-8) Yosef's action towards his brothers is a turning point in Torah. Reconciliation and forgiveness now become a major focus of God's plan. How is this connected to Yeshua's statement in Mattityahu 6:14? Sha'ul's statement in Romans 12:17-21? Do you think Sha'ul was thinking of this story when he wrote Romans 11:12?
 6. Who is Binyamin in this story? How does Yosef's test with Binyamin compare with his own experience with his brothers treatment? If Yosef is a type of Messiah, how does Binyamin fit into the picture?
 7. (45:25-28) What does the fact that Yosef was still alive mean to Ya'akov? What did it do to him? Why does the narrative switch back and forth between the name "Ya'akov" and "Isra'el"?

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8. (46:1) Does Ya'akov have any doubts about going to Egypt? Why or why not?
9. (46:2-4) This is the last recorded message from God to a patriarch. What is important about this communication from God to Ya'akov? When is the next time God speaks to someone (Ex 3:6)?
10. (47:7-10) What do you find interesting about the conversation between Ya'akov and Pharaoh?
11. (47:27) What was happening to Yosef's family, and what was happening to the people of Egypt during the famine?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (44:18) Do you take responsibility for the commitments you make? (Gen 43:9, Psa 24:3-4)
2. (44:33) Do you know peace and forgiveness with God because of the exchange Yeshua made for you? (Isa 53:6, 2Co 5:21, Joh 15:12-13, Rom 5:6-8, Rom 8:31-36, 2Co 5:21)
3. (45:8) Were there difficult circumstances in your past that you now see as a part of God's plan? (Luk 23:34, Isa 42:5-9, Eph 1:9-12)
4. (45:19) Is there something in your life that you know you are supposed to do, but need encouragement to complete? (1Ti 4:12-16, Isa 49:1-3, 1Jo 3:23-24)
5. (45:28) How much more evidence do you need to trust in God's promises? (Mar 16:9-13, Luk 24:11, Heb 2:3-4, Job 19:25, 2Ki 4:32-37, Joh 20:29)
6. (46:28) Are you sent to prepare the way for Yeshua? Has He prepared a way for you? (Joh 14:2-3, Isa 43:18-19, Isa 42:9, Rom 8:29-30, Eph 2:10, 1Co 3:9, Amos 3:7, 2Co 6:1)
7. (47:13) Is there a "famine" of God's word in you, or around you? (Amos 8:11-14, Deu 8:3, Joh 6:35, Joh 7:38, 1Ch 16:11-12, Isa 55:6-7, 2Co 6:2)