

Torah: B'resheet 47:28 – 50:26

- Aliyah 1 - 47:28 -48:9 Ya'akov request to be buried with his fathers in the land, not in Egypt
- Aliyah 2 - 48:10 - 16 Isra'el turns his attention to Yosef's sons, M'nasheh and Efrayim, crosses hands
- Aliyah 3 - 48:17 - 22 Yosef instructs his father on birth order, Isra'el persists in elevating Efrayim
- Aliyah 4 - 49:1 - 18 Ya'akov blesses his Re'uven, Shim'on, Levi, Y'hudah, Z'vulun, Yissakhar, Dan
- Aliyah 5 - 49:19 - 26 Ya'akov blesses Gad, Asher, Naftali, Yosef,
- Aliyah 6 - 49:27-50:20 Ya'akov blesses Binyamin, dies, is buried; brothers ensure Yosef's forgiveness
- Aliyah 7 - 50:21 - 26 Yosef insures care for his brothers; requests his bones be carried up; dies at 110

Haftarah: M'lakhim Alef 2:1-12

B'rit Hadashah: 1 Kefa 1:3-9

1. (47:28) The previous portion ends with, “Isra’el lived (yashav-dwelt) in the land of Egypt seventeen years.” This week’s portions starts by saying “Ya’akov lived (chayah-lived) in the land of Egypt seventeen years.” Why the repetition? What is different?
2. (47:29-31) Ya’akov asks Yosef to “pledge” not to bury him in Egypt. Do you find anything interesting in his response? Why does Ya’akov have to ask a second time? What does Yeshua have to say about swearing?
3. Life after death is a controversial issue in Judaism. The sects of Yeshua’s time differed in their understanding. What did Yeshua have to say about life after death? Any other clues in this portion that point to life after death?
4. (47:31) To whom does Isra’el bow down? What prophecy is partially fulfilled here? What does this say about God’s plans? Why does the writer of Hebrews 11:21 say he was “leaning on his walking stick as he bowed in prayer?” when it says he “bowed down at the head of his bed?”
5. (48:4) Ya’akov repeats the promise that God gave him (28:3-4, 35:11-12) as if he is going to bestow it upon Yosef. What does he do instead? How is this different from how his forefathers passed on their heritage?
6. (48:5-6) Why did Y'akov “adopt” Yosef's sons, Efrayim and M'nasheh, as his own? What is up with firstborns getting the short end of the stick? When did this start? When does it end?
7. (48:19-20) On Shabbat, why do we bless our sons that they would be like Efrayim and M'nasheh? What is the meaning of the statement regarding Efrayim, “and his descendants will grow into many nations?”

Parashah 12 - Vayechi - וַיְחִי

"He lived"



8. (49:8-12) Regarding Y'hudah's blessing: Why does he say "your father's sons will bow down..."? How is the "Lion" of Y'hudah fulfilled in history? What is the meaning of the statement, "The scepter will not pass from Y'hudah..."? Who is Shiloh? Of what does the reference to a donkey bring to mind (Zech 9:9)? How about the "blood of grapes"? What is the meaning of, "eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk?" (Is 1:18)
9. (50:7-9) The famine was long over. Why have they not already returned to their homeland? When burying Ya'akov, why did they leave the "little ones, their flocks and their cattle" in the land of Goshen? Why did they not return "home" then?
10. (50:24-26) How was Yosef's death and burial different than that of his father? Why?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (47:28) Ya'akov and Yosef both expressed confidence in the after-life. What gets you through life's hardships? (Job 19:25-27, 1Co 15:13, 19-20, Gal 2:20, Eph 1:11-14)
2. (48:10) Are God's plans are hidden from your view? Why or why not? (Isa 6:10, Ecc 3:1-8, 2Co 6:2, Isa 49:8, Mat 11:15, Isa 55:6-7)
3. (48:17) Does God's right hand uphold you? (Psa 16:11, Psa 18:35, Psa 98:1, Exo 15:6, 1Ki 22:19, Isa 48:13, Isa 62:8, Mat 20:21-23, Act 7:55-56, Col 3:1-3)
4. (49:1) How do you express the hope that is in you regarding the "last days?" (Jer 46:28, Mic 4:1, Gen 49:10, Dan 12:4, Rev 10:4, 1Pe 3:15, 2 Ti 4:2, Luk 12:12, Isa 2:1-4, Deu 29:29, Act 4:8-13)
5. (49:19) Does God reveal his word to you, instructing as to when to attack and when to defend? Do you ask Him for understanding? (Hab 3:16, Mat 16:18, Col 3:16, Deu 6:6-9, 2Ti 2:15)
6. (49:28) Are you comfortable with your place in the Kingdom of God? (Gal 3:28, 1Co 12:14-21, Rom 11:16-21, 1Co 7:17-24, Pro 27:8, Rom 12:3-8)
7. (50:21) Do you work from your worst fears, or your best hopes? (Joh 15:19, 13:34, Mat 28:20, Rev 17:14, Hag 2:4-7, 2Ch 20:14-17, Exo 14:13, 1Jo 4:4)