

<p>Torah: B’resheet (Genesis) 44:18 – 47:27 Haftarah: Yechezk’el (Ezekiel) 37:15 – 28 B’rit Hadashah: Acts 3:1-26</p>
--

	<i>year 1</i> 44:18-45:27	<i>year2</i> 45:28-46:27	<i>year3</i> 46:28-47:27
1	44:18 – 20	45:28 – 46:4	46:28 – 30
2	44:21 – 24	46:5 – 7	46:31 – 34
3	44:25 – 30	46:8 – 11	47:1 – 6
4	44:31 – 34	46:12 – 15	47:7 – 10
5	45:1 – 7	46:16 – 18	47:11 – 19
6	45:8 – 18	46:19 – 22	47:20 – 22
7	45:19 – 27	46:23 – 27	47:23 – 27

and he sent Y’hudah before him to Yosef / to show the way before him toward Goshen / and they came to the land [of] Goshen	<i>ve’et-Ye’hudáh shalákh le’fanayv el’Yoséf le’horot le’fanayv Gósh’nah va’yavó’u ár’tzah Góshen</i>	וְאֶת־יְהוּדָה שְׁלַח לְפָנָיו אֶל־יוֹסֵף לְהוֹרֹת לְפָנָיו גֹּשֶׁן וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרְצָה גֹשֶׁן׃
--	--	--

This narrative ends the patriarchal period in the history of Israel. Famine drove Avraham down to Egypt (Ge. 12:10), and now his grandson and his children settle in Goshen. HaShem spoke to Avraham beginning his travels, and now he speaks to Ya’aqov at Be’ersheva, the same place where his adventures began (Ge. 28:10). HaShem will not speak again until Moshe comes on the scene. Yosef buys most of Egypt’s land in exchange for food, while his family flourishes.

The Haftarah describes the two nations of Yis’rael gathering, just as the sons of Yis’rael were reunited with their brother Yosef in this week’s Torah portion.

Aliyah Highlights

- Gen. 46:28-30** The fulfillment of Ge. 15:13 begins. It is Yis’rael/Ya’aqov who sends Y’hudah, who bore responsibility for Yosef’s separation from the family (37:26-28), to lead the descent to Egypt. Yosef rushes to Goshen to meet his father, a wordless, emotional reunion, followed by Yisra’el’s expression of his life’s wish being fulfilled. He lives 17 years after reuniting with Yosef, bookending the 17 years he had with him before he lost him.
- Gen. 46:31-34** Yosef shrewdly prepares the script for the forthcoming audience with Paroh to ensure the desired result. The term “men of livestock” (*anshei mikneh* – אַנְשֵׁי מִקְנֵה) is only used here (not even in 47:3!).
- Gen. 47:1-6** Paroh invited Yosef’s family (45:16-20), so he must be notified of their arrival, and Yosef’s pre-selected destination of Goshen. Five was a representative round number (handful?) – remember Binyamin’s portions? Paroh’s address to Yosef (not the brothers) infers his aloof but absolute authority, as if it were his idea, and he is true to his word (45:18), offering them premium real estate. He also charges them with official positions for “capable men” (*anshei khayil* – אַנְשֵׁי חַיִל) which affords privilege not usually given to aliens.
- Gen. 47:7-10** Ya’aqov has a separate, respectful audience with Paroh. The ideal life span in ancient Egypt was 110. Yitz’khaq lived to 180, Avraham to 175.
- Gen. 47:11-19** Blessing for Israel in the midst of famine for Egypt is contrasted. They would have starved if they remained in Kena’an. A reminder of Yosef’s wisdom and leadership. He took nothing for himself. Reference to Ra’amses is anachronistic to Yosef’s time. First mention of horses. “Seed to plant” suggest the people knew the famine was nearing the end.
- Gen. 47:20-22** The land becomes property of the state. Owners became employees. Priests were already cared for by the state.

Parashah 11-3 Vayigash וַיִּגַּשׁ

7. **Gen. 47:23-27** A 20% tax on all harvest for seed allotment. Fear of starvation is replaced by gratitude for saved lives. Yosef's success is lauded, even at the cost of enslavement. National Yis'rael is blessed as predicted (Ge. 35:11, 48:4)

Thought Focus

Strangers (Ge. 47:4) – To sojourn (*la'gur* – לָגַר) here connects to the prophecy to Avraham (15:13) and the future emphasis against oppressing the “stranger” (Ex. 22:20, 23:9, Le. 19:34, De. 10:19). Ya'aqov considers his life a “sojourn” (Le. 25:23, Ps. 39:13), as we all should. We should also be aware of and have empathy for “the stranger,” as we all have been “strangers” at some point in our lives.

Blessing a Foreign King (Ge. 47:7,10) – Ya'aqov's blessing upon Paroh was likely a wish of long life (2Sa. 16:16, 1Ki 1:31). In rabbinic practice, a special blessing is required when seeing a non-Israelite king: “Blessed be He who has imparted of His glory to His creatures” (Ber. 58a). Rav Sha'ul tells Timothy to pray for “kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Daily Devotional 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)