

Torah: B'resheet (Genesis) 44:18 – 47:27
Haftarah: Yechezk'el (Ezekiel) 37:15 – 28
B'rit Hadashah: Luke 24:13 – 53

	<i>year 1</i> 44:18-45:27	<i>year 2</i> 45:28-46:27	<i>year 3</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 Judah approached him and said please my lord / let your servant speak a word please in the ears of my lord / and let him not become angry with your servant / for you are as Pharaoh

*vayigash elav Y'hudah
 va'yómer biy adoniy
 ye'daber-na avdekha davar
 be'oznéy adoniy
 ve'al-yikhar apkha be'avdekha
 ki kamókha ke'Faróh*

וַיִּגַּשׁ אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנָי
 יְדַבֵּר־נָא עִבְדְּךָ דְּבָר בְּאָזְנֵי אֲדֹנָי
 וְאַל־יִחַר אַפְּךָ בְּעִבְדְּךָ
 כִּי כָמוֹךָ כְּפָרְעֹה׃

Our portion begins with *Y'hudah* pleading with *Yosef* regarding *Binyamin*, reconciles with his brothers who sold him into slavery. They do not recognize him as a powerful Egyptian viceroy. *Yosef* arranges for all of *Yis'rael's/Ya'aqov's* family to come to Egypt and live in Goshen, where they multiplied exceedingly...

Vayigash (“He Approached”) opens as Judah pleads with Joseph not to keep Benjamin as a prisoner. Joseph reveals his true identity to his brothers, crying and kissing them. The brothers bring Jacob from Canaan to Egypt, and Jacob and his children settle in Goshen. The portion ends as Joseph buys most of Egypt’s land in exchange for food.

The haftarah speaks about gathering together the two nations of *Yis'rael*, just as the sons of *Ya'aqov* were reunited with their brother *Yosef* in the Torah portion.

Aliyah Highlights

- Gen. 44:18-20** The reconnection between *Yosef* and his brothers now reaches its climax. After returning for food with *Binyamin*, *Yosef's* has incarcerated *Binyamin* based on planted evidence. In a personal speech, the longest in *B'resheet*, *Y'hudah* appeals to *Yosef's* position of power and sense of fairness, especially with regards to their father thinking of *Yosef* as dead, and the prospect of also losing *Binyamin*.
- Gen. 44:21-24** *Y'hudah* reviews *Yosef's* strict order not to return unless they brought *Binyamin*.
- Gen. 44:25-30** *Y'hudah* details need to return for food, and the struggle to return with *Binyamin*.
- Gen. 44:31-34** *Y'hudah* reveals his personal responsibility for *Binyamin*, and infers *Yosef's* responsibility for the likelihood of their father’s death in misery if *Binyamin* does not return with them. The circle is now complete: *Y'hudah*, the one responsible for the sale of *Yosef* into slavery (Ge. 37:26) offers to exchange himself for *Binyamin*, and become the slave of his own victim.
- Gen. 45:1-7** *Yosef* breaks down for the third time (Ge. 42:24, 43:30). He sends away his entourage – it’s just *Yosef* and his brothers; an intimate, private revelation. But the Egyptians and the House of Pharaoh heard. *Yosef* first asks about “my father” (*avi* – אָבִי) though he already knew (Ge. 43:27). He gently rebukes but also reassures his brothers that their evil intent was guided by the hand of *HaShem* (Ge. 50:20) to save lives, and ensure the future of *Yis'rael*, and the world.
- Gen. 45:8-18** *Yosef* no longer says that his brothers “sold” him (*m'kar'tem* – מְכַרְתֶּם), but “sent” him (*sh'lakh'tem* – שְׁלַחְתֶּם). He has become ruler (*moshel* – מֹשֵׁל) of all the land, reminding them of his

Parashah 11-1 Vayigash וַיִּגַּשׁ

dream (Ge. 37:8). Egyptian texts speak of Semites and other Asians living in the northeast (Ex. 12:38). *Yosef* speaks without an interpreter. The brothers' silence is broken (Ge. 37:4). Pharaoh is pleased and extends a gracious invitation offering land and provision.

7. **Gen. 45:19-27** Pharaoh authorizes special status to *Yosef's* family. Leave your stuff behind. A gift of clothing (halifot – הַלְפֹת), a token of honor and affection closes the loop (Ge. 37:3). Special treatment of *Binyamin* is no longer an issue (Ge. 43:34). Israel receives, and agrees to go.

Thought Focus

Messiah ben Yosef – *Yosef* was rejected by his brothers to rise and become the savior of Egypt, unrecognizable to them after twenty years. He now dramatically reveals himself as their savior. In Romans 11, Paul writes about a parallel rejection of Messiah that brings reconciliation (Ro. 11:15), and a transgression that brings salvation (Ro. 11:11-12). He then paraphrases the prophets (Ro. 11:26-27 / Is. 59:20-21), identifying *Yeshua* as the Redeemer who comes to *Tziyon* to “remove ungodliness from *Ya'aqov*.” Could Paul have this story of *Yosef* in mind?

Multi-generational dreams: The story of *Yosef* began as “the history of *Ya'aqov*” (Ge. 37:2). *Ya'aqov* was a man of dreams upon leaving (Ge. 28:12) and returning to the land (Ge. 31:13) that was promised as an eternal inheritance to his fathers, Avraham and *Yitz'khaq*. Now, *Ya'aqov* will leave the promised land, never establishing a House of God there (Ge. 28:20-22), to finish his life in Egypt. Dreams, it seems, do not always come true as anticipated and not always within one's lifetime. *Ya'aqov's* story, then, is one of connecting with those who came before him, and those who will come after.

Soul Connections: *Y'hudah's* dramatic word that *Ya'aqov's* soul (*nefesh* – נֶפֶשׁ) is bound up *Binyamin's* (Ge. 44:30) plumbs the depths of *Ya'aqov's* heart. His beloved *Rakhel* died bearing *Binyamin*, and now her first son, *Yosef*, was lost to him also. *Y'hudah* gets it – he had lost a wife and two sons (Ge. 38:11-12). He is now willing to give his life in exchange for *Binyamin's* for the sake of his father.

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)