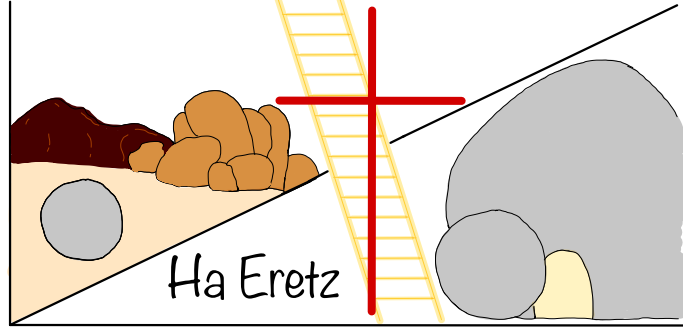


# Vayetze

# ויצא

“And he went out”



## Torah Portion Preview

Rivka (Rebekah), the mother of Ya'kov (Jacob), left her father's house in Haran and traveled to the Land (**הארץ - Ha Eretz**) God had promised Avraham (Abraham). She did this because she desired to be a part of God's promises. Rivka worshipped the all-sufficient, faithful God and understood the importance of the covenant of marriage. She knew that God had called Avraham to this foreign Land, that Sarah had given birth to the promised son Yitz'chak in her old age, and that God had protected and prospered Avraham in the Land He had promised to give him and his descendants. Rivka was willing and eager to become a part of this heritage by traveling to the Land and marrying Yitz'chak.

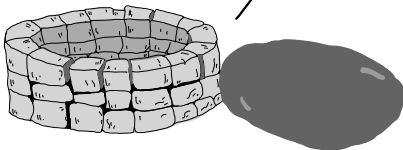
After twenty years of marriage, Rivka had twin boys. The oldest son, Esav (Esau), thought very little about the promises of God. Even though he was the firstborn, he despised his birthright and only desired the blessings he would personally get from it. By the time the twins (Esav and Ya'kov) were 40 years old, Esav had married two wives from the sons of Heth, who worshipped false gods. This ungodly union of Rivka's firstborn son grieved her, making her weary. Rivka understood and valued the promises of God that her husband had inherited.

Reread Genesis 27:46, and you will see that Ya'kov had been given the blessings from God that accompanied the birthright, making it crucial that he take a wife who also worshipped God. In this verse Rivka stated that her life would have no significance if Ya'kov married the daughters of Heth like Esav.

Yitz'chak agreed with Rivka and called Ya'kov to him. He blessed Ya'kov and charged him not to take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. (Reread Genesis 27:3 and Genesis 27:4.) This made God very happy.

Notice, when Esav fully knew that his marriages were not pleasing to his parents or in line with God's promises, he did not repent. Instead, he took a third wife from the daughters of Ishmael. This made God very unhappy.

So, Ya'kov went out (**vayetze - ויצא**).



## Genesis 28:10-32:2

In this week's parasha we learn that God is faithful. Because God is faithful, He judges our faithful response to His word. Ya'kov responded faithfully to God's word as he went out of Beersheba to Haran. He traveled to the house of Bethuel, his mother's father, to take a suitable wife from the daughters of Lavan (Laban), his mother's brother. Ya'kov was faithful to God's promises as he acquired four wives who gave birth to thirteen children. He remained in exile for twenty years, while he labored for his family and relied upon God to sustain and prosper him. Ya'kov received God's protection as he obediently returned to the Land (ha Eretz). Because God is faithful to achieve His word, Ya'kov could respond faithfully to Him.

### ~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~ Genesis 28:10-22

Let's take a look at this passage of Scripture together.

In Genesis 28:10 we learn that Ya'kov went out of his father's house in Beersheba to journey toward Haran. This was the place where Avraham had obeyed God's command to leave his father's house and go to the Land (ha Eretz) God would show him. (Gen. 12:1). It is also the place that Avraham sent his servant Eliezer to find and bring back a bride for his son Yitz'chak (Gen. 24:2-8). Now Yitz'chak and Rivka were sending their son Ya'kov to Haran to the house of Rivka's brother, Lavan, to take a wife.

In Genesis 28:11 as Ya'kov journeyed to pursue the promises of God by the covenant of marriage, he arrived at a certain place on his first day of travel. Three times in this verse "the place" is emphasized. This reveals that the promises of God brought Ya'kov to the place of God's presence, so he could worship Him. Ya'kov arranged stones around his head where he stayed for the night in the place. He possessed nothing to protect him except for the promised blessings of the faithful God.

In Genesis 28:12 Ya'kov dreamed of a ladder or bridge that was set up on the earth and reached to heaven. Upon the ladder he saw angels going up and down.

In Genesis 28:13 Ya'kov saw the LORD standing at the top of the ladder. The LORD spoke to Ya'kov saying, "I am the LORD God of Avraham your father and the God of Yitz'chak; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed." Here we learn that God was now giving Ya'kov and his seed the Land He had promised Avraham and Yitz'chak. At a time when Ya'kov had no children God promises all his sons would inherit the Land.

In Genesis 28:14 the LORD God continued to speak to Ya'kov stating, "Also your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." These are the same words God spoke to Avraham in Genesis 12:3.

### Genesis 28:15

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this Land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

### Pray First

Father God,

We praise You today because You are the all-sufficient God. We thank You that we can respond to Your promises faithfully because You are faithful to keep Your word.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

### Read Next

Genesis 28:10-32:2

By this Ya'kov understood that only when his descendants were in the Land would these blessings from God occur. This hints to the coming Kingdom of God from heaven to earth. This will only happen when the descendants of Ya'kov are living in the Land.

In Genesis 28:15 the LORD God continued to speak to Ya'kov: "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." With the conclusion of this message from God to Ya'kov we can know for sure that neither Ya'kov nor his descendants will cease to exist before God brings them back to the Land. When this occurs, all the families of the earth will be blessed. Because God is all-sufficient and faithful to His word, Ya'kov knew he could respond faithfully to God.

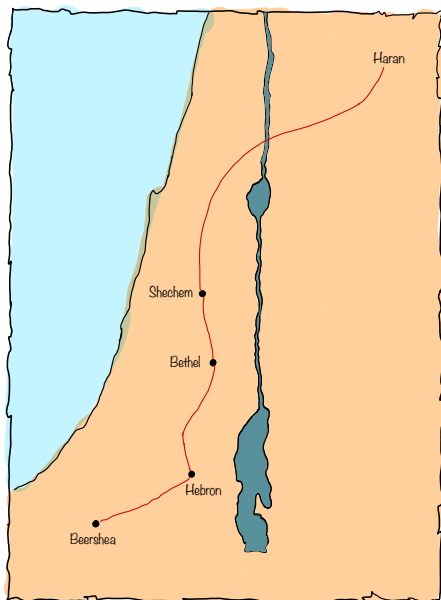
In Genesis 28:16-17 Ya'kov awoke and realized that the LORD God was in this place. He now knew that this place was the house of God (Beit El) and the very entrance to heaven. Here, by way of a ladder (or bridge) one could come into God's presence to worship Him.

In Genesis 28:18 Ya'kov took the stone from around his head and stood it up, anointing it with oil. He renamed the place, previously called Luz, Bethel and made a vow to God. Ya'kov vowed that since God would be with him, protect him, sustain him and provide for him so that he would return peacefully to his father's house in the Land as a source of blessing, God alone would be his judge as he responded faithfully.

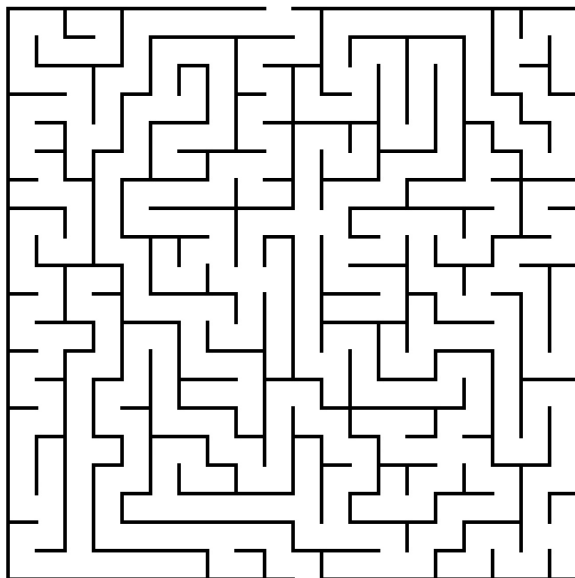
In Genesis 28:22 Ya'kov testified that the anointed stone he set up as a memorial stone would symbolize the house of God. Ya'kov proclaimed that as God manifested His faithfulness to him, he would acknowledge Him to the world by giving a tenth of his possessions to God.

## Help Ya'Kov travel from Beershea to Haran!

Ya'Kov's Journey to Haran



Haran



Beershea



# New Testament

John 1:43-51

## Pray First

Father God,

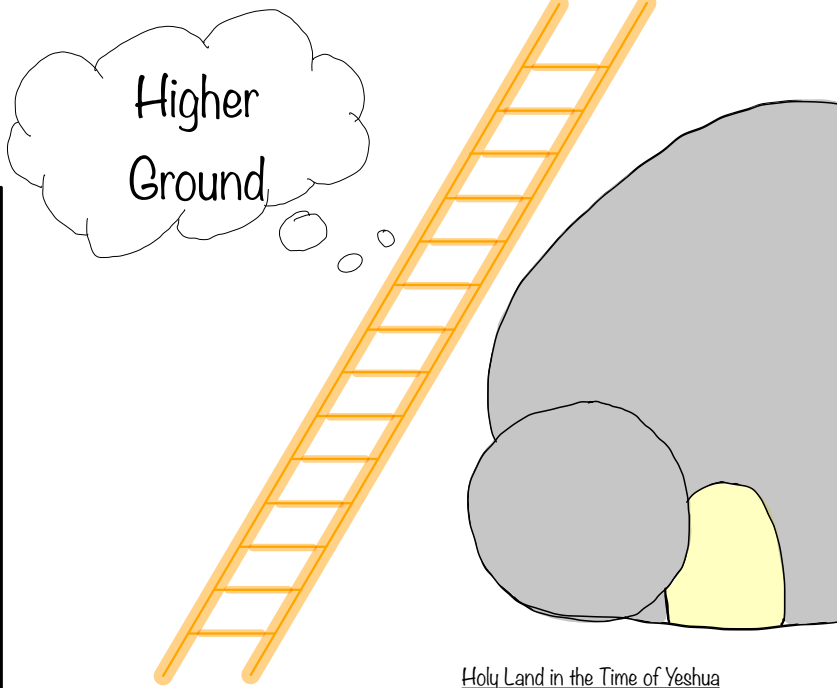
We thank You today for sending Your only begotten Son, Yeshua, to do the work for our redemption. We praise You that Yeshua is our connection to You in heaven.

In Yeshua's name we pray.

Amen.

## Read Next

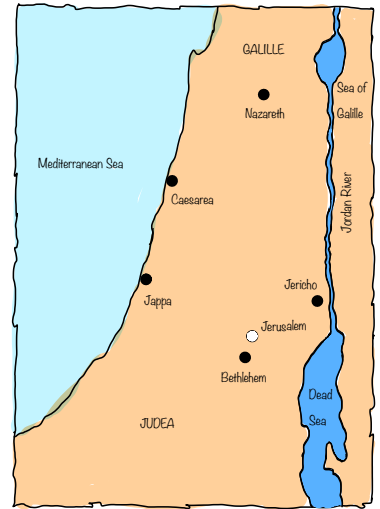
John 1:43-51



In today's New Testament passage of Scripture Yeshua wanted to go to Galilee. He called Phillip to follow him. Phillip found Nathanael and testified that Yeshua of Nazareth was the one Moses and the prophets wrote about. Nathanel doubted that anything good could come from Nazareth, so Phillip told him to come and see. As Nathanael approached Yeshua, He commented on his character. Nathanael asked how Yeshua knew him. Yeshua responded that before Phillip called Nathanael He saw him under the fig tree. This impressed Nathanael, and he believed Yeshua was the Son of God and the King of Israel. Yeshua informed Nathanael that he would see greater things in the future. Yeshua told Nathanael that he would see heaven open up and the angels of God ascending and descending upon Him. Yeshua is the ladder or bridge that connects believers with God. He is the anointed stone in the house of God.

Did you know that Yeshua was a descendant of Ya'kov in His human form? Yeshua is a descendant of Ya'kov's fourth son, Judah. Yeshua's miraculous virgin birth and blessing of salvation for the world could only occur after the descendants of Judah returned to the Land (ha Eretz) from exile in Babylon. Yeshua's birth, death and resurrection gives the blessing of eternal life to all who believe in Him. These facts testify to the faithfulness of God and His promises to Ya'kov.

Holy Land in the Time of Yeshua



And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

John 1:51

# Haftarah

Hosea 12:13 - 14:9

I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall blossom like the rose and lengthen His roots like Lebanon.

Hosea 14:5

## Pray First

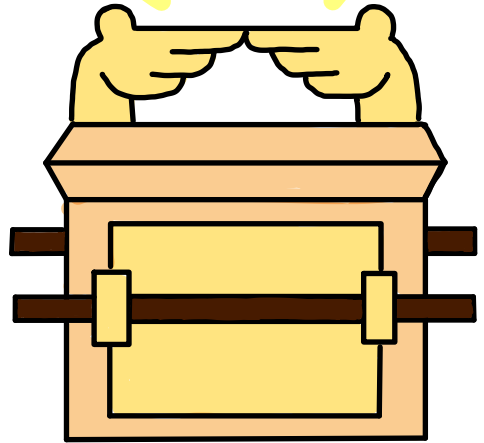
Father God,

We praise You because You keep Your promises. Even when Your children do not respond faithfully, You are faithful to Your word. Please help us respond in faith to You.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

## Read Next

Hosea 12:13 - 14:9



Today's Haftarah speaks of God's faithfulness to His promises made to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov. Although the iniquities of Israel are great, God will be faithful to His word. All the descendants of Ya'kov will return to the Land (ha Eretz) prior to the establishment of God's Kingdom on the earth. This is the way of God's righteousness, and the wise and perceptive one will respond faithfully to it!



## Seeds/Sons

When Ya'kov arrived at Lavan's house, he remained there for a month, 30 days (Gen. 29:13-14). In the Bible the number thirty represents death or thirty days of mourning. Is it possible that as Ya'kov shared the events that led to his departure from the Land (ha Eretz), the entire household of Lavan mourned? Esav the firstborn had despised his birthright and planned to kill his twin brother, knowing he possessed the heritage promises of God. When Esav fully knew how displeased his parents were that he had taken Hittite wives, he refused to repent and go to Haran to take a wife. Instead, he went in the opposite direction - south. He took the riches and blessings of his father's house to the land of Ishmael to acquire another wife.

Ya'kov desired to marry Lavan's youngest daughter, Rachel, but Ya'kov had no riches to offer Lavan for his daughter. Ya'kov worked without receiving wages for seven years to obtain Rachel as his wife (Gen 29:18). During these seven years Lavan was richly blessed and his household prospered. He did not want these blessings to stop; he wanted to double them. To accomplish this Lavan gave Leah as a bride to Ya'kov in deceit at the end of the seven years. The number seven means set apart for a purpose. Ya'kov agreed to work an additional seven years to acquire Rachel as his wife (Gen. 29:20-30). The number fourteen means double blessings. Both of Lavan's daughters, Leah and Rachel, became the wives of Ya'kov. Lavan gave both daughters maidservants. Zilpah was given to Leah, and Bilhah was given to Rachel.

All four of these women worshipped the God of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov. These four women were eager to be a part of the promises of God and worked together to bare children that would receive this rich heritage. The number four means global or worldwide. The sons of Ya'kov, born of his four wives, would be the source of blessing to all the families of the earth.

# What's in a Name Game?

Directions: Read Genesis 29:31-25 then match the name with its meaning.



<u>Names</u>	<u>Meanings</u>
Reuben	Accompany
Simeon	Judge
Levi	See
Judah	Hear
Dan	PRAISE
Naphtali	Happy
Gad	Dwell/home
Ashur	Struggle/prayer
Issachar	Laughter
Zebulun	Troop/good fortune
Joseph	Father of Nations
Ya'kov	Add
Yitz'chak	Grasped the heel/pursue
Avraham	Hire/reward

