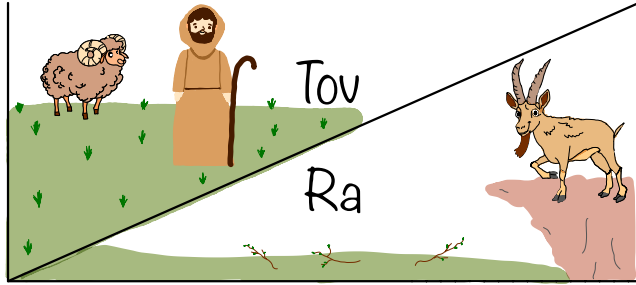


# Vayishlach וישלח

“And He sent”



## Parasha Overview

In today's parasha we learn that God was with Ya'kov (Jacob) as he returned to the land of promise and to his father's house. Ya'kov had fled from his father's house to Haran and had remained at the house of Lavan (Laban) for 20 years. His mother told him on the day he departed his father's house that she would send for him to return once his brother Esav (Esau) no longer desired to kill him (Genesis 27:45). Perhaps this never occurred because Esav's fury and intent to kill his brother remained.

Although Ya'kov was fearful upon reuniting with his brother, he watched and waited, trusting in God to guide his path and actions. Ya'kov's greatest desire was for the will of God to be accomplished through his life. This could only happen if Ya'kov submitted to God and followed after Him.

As Ya'kov re-entered the land of promise, he traveled the same route his grandfather Avraham (Abraham) had taken when he first entered the land approximately 145 years earlier. Ya'kov followed in his father's footsteps.

In Shechem Ya'kov's only daughter Dinah was kidnapped and abused. After her rescue, Ya'kov persevered and continued on his journey. The terror of God was upon the cities so that they did not pursue him.

In Bethel Ya'kov's mother's nurse Devorah (Deborah) died and was buried. God appeared to him again in Bethel and blessed him with these words:

- “Your name is Ya'kov, your name shall not be called Ya'kov anymore, but Yisrael (Israel) shall be your name.”
- “I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply, a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you and kings shall come from your body.”
- “The land which I gave Avraham and Yit'chak (Isaac) I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.”

As Ya'kov traveled from Bethel to Bethlehem, his beloved wife Rachel died giving birth to his twelfth son Binyamin (Benjamin). Following Rachel's death and burial, Reuven (Reuben), Ya'kov's firstborn son of Leah, had ungodly relations with Rachel's maidservant Bilhah. Ya'kov endured all these things and continued to pursue the path God set before him. Through all adversity Ya'kov did not stop following God. Ya'kov returned to his father's house in Hebron peacefully, just as God had promised him.

Following Yitz'chak's death at 180 years, Esav and Ya'kov buried their father. Esav then took his three Canaanite wives, his five sons along with his daughters, the persons of his household, his livestock and possessions and returned to Mount Seir in the country of Edom. Esav chose to live away from the presence of Ya'kov and the blessings of God's covenant. Esav did not submit to God and did not follow after Him. The will of God was accomplished through Ya'kov because he submitted to God's will, persevering on his journey no matter what he had to endure.

## ~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~ Genesis 32:3-29 & 33:11-16

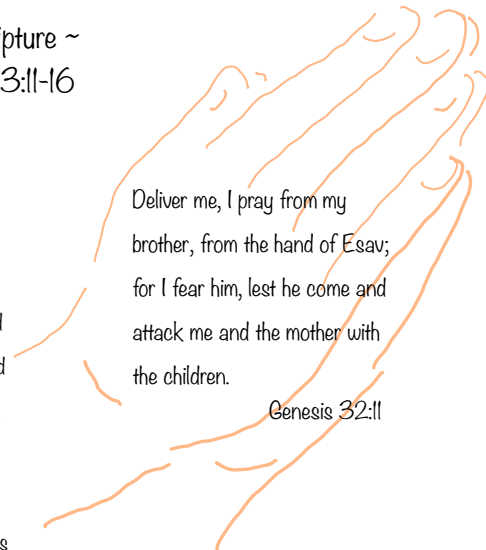
Let's take a look at these passages of Scripture together.

In Genesis 32:3-5 Ya'kov sent messengers to speak to his brother Esav to let him know that he was coming home. Esav was living away from his father's house outside the land of promise. He had chosen to live in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. God had told Avraham that his wife Sarah would have a son in her old age, and He commanded Avraham to name his son Yitz'chak. God told Avraham that He would establish His everlasting covenant with Yitz'chak and his descendants (Genesis 17:19). Yitz'chak had two descendants, Esav and Ya'kov. Esav despised this birthright and sold it with its blessing for a single meal. Esav did not want any of the responsibilities of his birthright - marrying within the family and living in the land of promise. Esav was only interested in the blessings of the birthright. He was so angry that Ya'kov had received the birthright blessing he vowed to kill Ya'kov when their father died.

Ya'kov wanted Esav to understand that he had never been against his position as the oldest son. He wanted Esav to accept that with the blessings from God came responsibility. Ya'kov wanted to be reconciled with his brother Esav, and he wanted Esav to be reconciled with God. Ya'kov was not re-entering the land of promise with a great multitude to oppose Esav. Rather, he was coming home in obedience to God's command where he would be a blessing to others.

In Genesis 32:6-8 we learn that the messenger returned to Ya'kov and reported that Esav was coming from the land of Edom to meet him with 400 men. In the Bible the number four means global or worldwide. Ya'kov was very frightened because he understood that this meant Esav was coming with the support of the world to attack and kill him and his household. Ya'kov divided his people and livestock into two groups and separated them. He hoped that if Esav attacked one camp, the other would survive as a remnant in the land. Ya'kov understood that his descendants must be living in the land for God's Kingdom to be established on earth as a blessing to the world.

In Genesis 32: 9-13 Ya'kov prayed to the God of his fathers, Avahram and Yitz'chak, acknowledging that he was nothing without Him and all that he had acquired was a gift from Him. Ya'kov reminded God of His covenant promise to bless him and make him a blessing to the world. Ya'kov trusted God to deliver him from Esav and save the women and children. In the midst of fear and opposition Ya'kov found strength in restating and standing on the word of God. Ya'kov responded faithfully by giving what he had received as a gift from God to Esav.



Deliver me, I pray from my  
brother, from the hand of Esav;  
for I fear him, lest he come and  
attack me and the mother with  
the children.

Genesis 32:11

### Pray First

Father God,

We thank You and praise Your holy name because You are faithful to keep Your covenant with us.

Please help us not to give up or be influenced by the world as we look forward to Your kingdom on earth.

Help us to fear You over man or circumstances, putting You first in our lives.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

### Read Next

Genesis 32:3 - 36:43

In Genesis 32:14-20 Ya'kov took from his herds of goats, sheep, camels, cattle and donkeys to assemble three separate groups of animals for Esav. Ya'kov put them in the hands of his servants to deliver to his brother with space between each drove. He commanded his servants to tell Esav when they met him that the animals were a gift from his brother Ya'kov, who was traveling behind them. Ya'kov gave to Esav what he had received from God in hopes that Esav would understand that he had never desired to take away his worldly blessing as the firstborn son. Ya'kov's only intent had been to follow after his fathers in pursuit of the heritage promises of God. Ya'kov hoped with this understanding Esav would repent from his evil desire to kill him, and they could meet face to face in peace.

In Genesis 32:21-23 we learn that Ya'kov sent the gifts before him, but he remained in the camp. That night he arose and took his wives, maidservants and sons across the brook with all that he had. Ya'kov then returned to the camp and remained there alone. This demonstrated his complete dependence on God to achieve His will through him.

In Genesis 32:24-26 we learn that as Ya'kov prayed to God that night, he struggled with a Man all night long. Ya'kov continued to wrestle with the Man even after he was put at a disadvantage when the Man dislocated the socket of his hip. As the day was breaking, the Man commanded Ya'kov to let Him go. Ya'kov refused to let Him go unless He blessed him spiritually. Ya'kov wanted to be used by God to complete His will upon the earth.

In Genesis 21:27-29 the Man asked Ya'kov to tell Him his name. He responded that his name is Ya'kov, meaning he is one who follows after in pursuit of God's covenant. The Man told Ya'kov that he would no longer be called by the name Ya'kov. The Man changed Ya'kov's name to Yisrael. The name Yisrael refers to the outcome of the covenant God had made with his fathers; that outcome is the Kingdom of God. Ya'kov had followed after God in the face of all adversity from man and prevailed. Then the Man blessed Ya'kov. The Man was God.

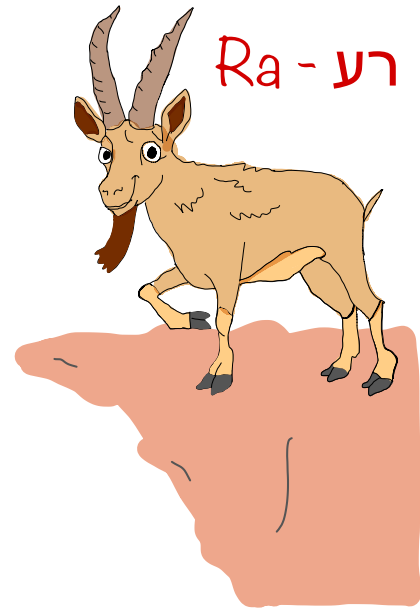
In Genesis 33:1-11 we learn that after Esav had received the gifts from Ya'kov, the two brothers met. Ya'kov presented himself and his family to Esav in a respectful and honoring manner. He did this as an outward witness that he had never wanted to take anything away from his older twin. Ya'kov's desire had been to pursue after the promises of God and live responsibly to them. Ya'kov had been blessed by God and wanted to be a blessing to his brother. Esav was happy to receive this blessing from Ya'kov.

In Genesis 33:12-14 Esav attempted to take Ya'kov out of the land of promise. After Esav accepted God's blessing through Ya'kov, he was returning to the land of Seir! Although Esav received God's blessing through Ya'kov, he continued to despise his birthright responsibility. He refused to **submit** to the will of God. God's will for the descendants of Avraham and Yitz'chak is to live in the land God promised and be a blessing to the world. Esav desired to build a kingdom for himself in the country of Edom.

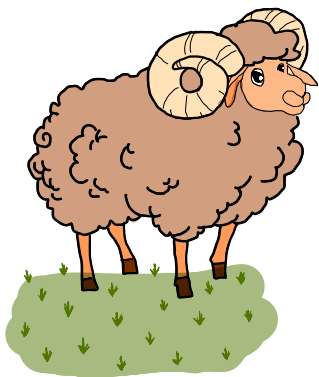
In Genesis 33:15-16 when Esav realized Ya'kov would not journey to Edom with him, he attempted to leave some of his men with his brother. Ya'kov told him that there was no need for this if he had been accepted by his brother in the same manner that Esav had accepted his gifts. Esav independently returned to the land of Edom in disobedience and opposition to the will of God while Ya'kov obediently remained in the land of promise in pursuit of and in submission to the will of God. Ya'kov's new name, Yisrael, was given to him by God as a proclamation of the outcome of His will. The outcome of the will of God is for His kingdom to be established on earth in the land of promise when the descendants of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov are living in the land.

Read Matthew 25:31-33 and think about the differences between sheep and goats outlined below.

Do you know that sheep and goats may look alike, but they are not the same? For instance, goats are covered with hair and their short tails and horns point up. Goats feel safest climbing hills and living in high places. They like to eat twigs and low branches of trees but will eat a variety of food. Goats are stubborn animals and do what they think is best for them. When they feel threatened or in danger, they like to fight.



Tov - טוב



Sheep are covered with wool, and they have long tails that point down but are usually clipped short by their owner. Their horns grow up and then curl down. Sheep feel safest eating grass in pastures. They are particular about what kind of grass and food they eat. Sheep like to stay together in groups and behave like one another. They learn the voice of their owner and respond to his call. When sheep feel threatened or sense danger, they scatter from each other and run away.

# Final Destination

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21

## Pray First

Father God,

Your judgements are correct and right. Thank You for Your covenant of life through Your only begotten Son, Yeshua. Help us submit to Your service completely. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

## Read Next

Obadiah 1:1-21



**DANGER**

For your violence (hamas) against your brother Ya'kov, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.

Obadiah 1:10

Esav and his descendants were consistently opposed to the perfect will of God. They despised the call to serve God and hated their brother Ya'kov and his descendants.

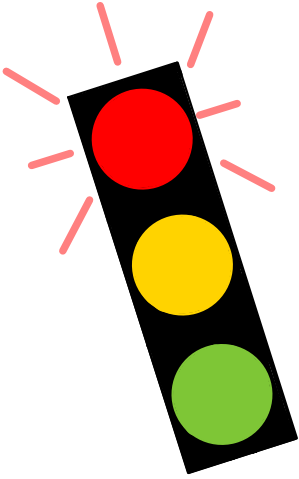
The prophet Obadiah was given a message from God to deliver to all the nations of the world. This message proclaims the curse Esav and his descendants will receive in the last days. God is going to judge completely, and there will remain no survivor of the house of Esav. Likewise, anyone who chooses to rebel against God and His perfect will as Esav did will be punished in the same way.

God is perfect and does not change. He never rewards evil. God is right, and His judgements are correct. God will destroy Esav and all those who join him by opposing God's purposes and plans. The descendants of Ya'kov will be brought back to the land of promise before God's Kingdom is established on the earth. When God establishes His Kingdom on the earth, the whole world will be blessed and come to the mountain of God to worship Him.



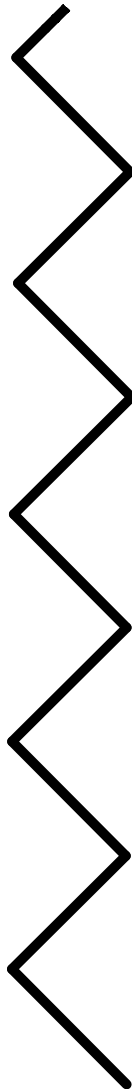
We must submit to God's perfect will to follow Him. When we follow God, we are always with Him. He will never leave us when we follow Him. When we refuse to submit to the will of God, we are acting independently and going away from God. We must admit what we are doing is in opposition to Him and return to follow Him again.

רע



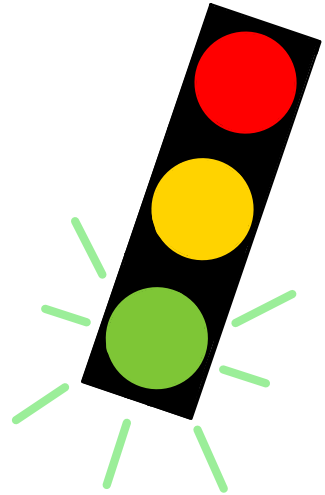
Ha Eretz

Edom



God's will is perfect and does not change. When we submit to or follow after God's will, we are agreeing with Him. This pleases God, and He considers this good (tov - טוב). When we do not submit to or follow after the will of God, we are disagreeing with Him. This displeases God, and He considers this evil (ra - רע).

טוב



# Final Destination

New Testament: Matthew 26:26-46

## Pray First

Father God,

We praise You for the gift of life and victory over the enemy through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Yeshua. Help us watch, wait and pray for His return to earth to establish the Kingdom, the outcome of our salvation.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

## Read Next

Matthew 26:36-46

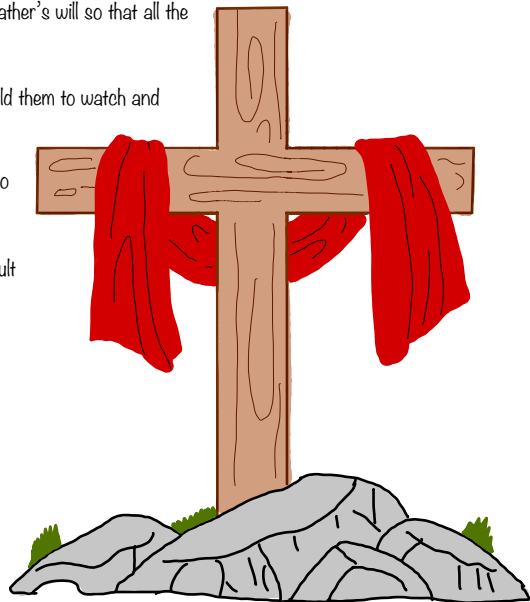


In today's New Testament passage of scripture God's only begotten Son, Yeshua (Jesus), and eleven of His disciples arrived at the place called Gethsemane. Yeshua separated His eleven disciples into two groups. He told eight of the men to watch and wait while He and the other three men went further into the garden to pray. Yeshua knew the enemy was coming and desired to kill Him. This troubled Yeshua deeply and made Him very sad. He told the three men with Him to watch and pray. Yeshua then went alone to talk to His Father God.

Three times Yeshua asked His Father to save Him from the enemy. Yeshua's greatest desire was to follow after and pursue His Father's will. He wanted to submit completely to His Father's will so that all the world could be blessed through Him.

Three times Yeshua returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. He told them to watch and pray, so they would not fall into temptation.

Father God heard Yeshua's prayer in the garden and answered it according to His perfect will that cannot be stopped. Yeshua was left alone to endure beatings and death on the cross in order to persevere and follow after His Father. As a result of His submission and service, God raised Him from the dead in total victory over the enemy! The whole world is blessed by this work of redemption. Anyone who submits to this work will also receive victory over the enemy and enter into the Kingdom of God that is coming to earth.



# Recap Review Fun

Directions: Using the word bank, fill in the blanks.

1. God's will is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God \_\_\_\_\_ those who submit to His perfect will.
3. To follow after God we must \_\_\_\_\_ to His perfect will.
4. Because God's will is perfect it will never \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When we submit to the perfect will of God, we are demonstrating that we \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.
6. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to agree with the perfect will of God.
7. When we agree with God and respond faithfully to His will, we receive His \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When we follow after God's perfect will, we are \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
9. To receive eternal \_\_\_\_\_ we must submit to God's perfect will.
10. Man's will is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. God \_\_\_\_\_ those who refuse to submit to His perfect will.
12. When one refuses to submit to God's perfect will, he is relying upon \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God.
13. Because man's will is imperfect, it will be \_\_\_\_\_ by God.
14. When we refuse to submit to God's perfect will, we are \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
15. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to oppose God's perfect will.
16. When we pursue our will instead of God's, we receive a \_\_\_\_\_.
17. When we refuse to follow after God's perfect will, we are \_\_\_\_\_ against Him.
18. If we oppose God's perfect will and refuse to return to Him, we become His \_\_\_\_\_.

## Word Bank

Loves  
Hates  
Flawed  
Submit  
Perfect  
Himself  
Agree  
Destroyed  
Change  
Evil  
Opposing  
Blessings  
Good  
Curse  
Rebelling  
Honoring  
Enemy  
Life