

# Miketz

# מִקֵּץ

“From the end”



# Hav'chanah

# הַבְּחִנָּה



# Discernment

## Torah Portion Preview

In today's Torah Portion Yosef (Joseph) remained in prison two additional years after the cupbearer had been released and restored to his previous position.

Only when Pharaoh had two disturbing dreams was Yosef remembered by the cupbearer. Yosef's status was then changed from prisoner to second in command of

Egypt. In one day Yosef was cleansed, received new

garments to wear and given a new name. In one day he was put in the position

of ruler over the entire house of Pharaoh. He ruled all the people of Egypt. Only

with regard to the throne would Pharaoh be greater. Pharaoh gave Yosef his signet ring and garments of fine linen. He put a gold chain on

Yosef's neck and had him ride in the second chariot as the command of “bow the knee” was pronounced before him. All these things occurred after Yosef had suffered in prison approximately twelve years.

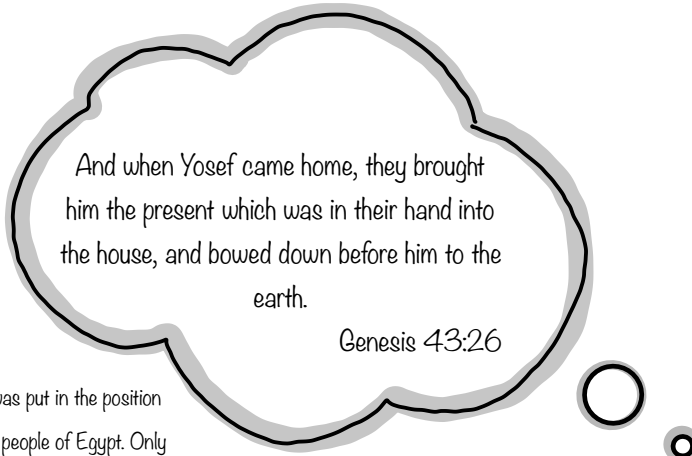
As Yosef ruled in his position of authority, his brothers were forced to bow down before him to buy grain for food. They had to rely on his grace and mercy to receive life when they deserved death.

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~  
Genesis 42:1-28 & 44:1-17

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

In Genesis 42:1-6 Ya'kov (Jacob) sent ten of his sons down to Egypt to buy grain. He did not send Binyamin (Benjamin) the second son of his beloved wife, Rachel, because Ya'kov was afraid something might happen to him. Binyamin was his twelfth and youngest son whose mother had died while giving birth to him. Ya'kov believed Binyamin's older brother Yosef had been killed by wild animals and, thus, was very protective of Binyamin, his youngest and only remaining son of Rachel.

When the ten sons of Yisrael (Israel) arrived in Egypt to buy grain, they had to appear before their brother Yosef because he was in charge of all the land and sold grain to all the people. They bowed down before him with their faces to the ground.



And when Yosef came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth.

Genesis 43:26

### Pray First

Father God,

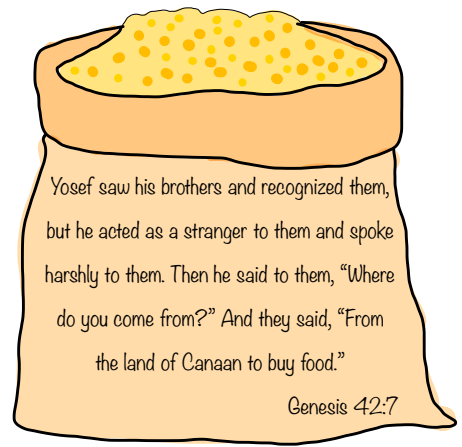
We praise You today because You are a patient God. You desire that no one perishes. Your timing is perfect to bring us to repentance so that we might be reconciled to You.

In Yeshua's name we pray.  
Amen.

### Read Next

Genesis 41:1-44:17

In Genesis 42:7-14 we learn that although Yosef immediately recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. Yosef restrained himself from revealing his identity to them and treated them harshly. He remembered what God had revealed to him in dreams and acted accordingly. He accused them of being spies as he remembered their cruelty to him, only sparing his life for the profit they received from selling him into slavery. The brothers denied being spies and testified to their innocence, proven by their elderly father and youngest brother back at home. Yosef did not reveal himself to them and continued to accuse them of being spies. Yosef was being patient and using discernment so that his brothers would admit to their sin and seek forgiveness.



In Genesis 42:15-20 Yosef explained to his brothers what they had to do in order to prove they were not spies. He told them that one would have to return home and bring the brother they spoke of to Egypt. This would be the only thing that would save their lives. He then held all of them in prison for three days. When the three days were completed, he released all but one and sent them home with grain for their families.

In Genesis 42:21-23 Yosef heard his brothers confess their guilt for wanting to kill him and only sparing his life in order to profit money. The brothers realized their sin against Yosef when they were placed in a similar hardship. They realized they deserved the treatment they were receiving because of what they had done to him.

In Genesis 42:24-28 Yosef turned away from his brothers and wept. He took his brother Shimon (Simeon) and bound him before their eyes just as they had all bound him and thrown him in the pit to die alone.

Before the brothers departed Yosef instructed his steward to fill their sacks with grain and return the money in each man's sack. The brothers departed to return home. When one of them opened his sack to feed his donkey, he found the money in the mouth of his sack and told his brothers. They were very troubled and more afraid than before. They realized that not only had they sinned against their brother Yosef, but they had sinned against God. God had chosen their brother Yosef to lead the family, and they had rejected God's perfect plan.

The brothers returned to Ya'kov and told him all that had happened to them. Ya'kov was very reluctant to allow Binyamin to travel back to Egypt with his brothers when more grain was needed for food. Everyone was suffering because they had not agreed with God's plan for Yosef. Finally, Ya'kov allowed Binyamin to go down to Egypt with the others to prove their identity, redeem their brother Shimon from prison and buy more grain.

Yosef saw his brothers coming and commanded that they dine at his house. The next day as they were leaving for home, once again, he commanded each man's money be put in the mouth of his sack of grain. In addition Yosef commanded that his silver cup be placed in the mouth of the youngest brother's sack.

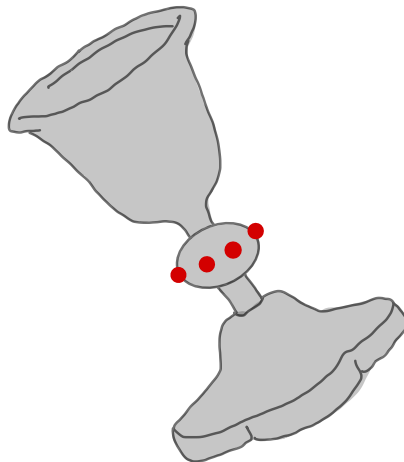
Yosef saw his brothers coming and commanded that they dine at his house. The next day as they were leaving for home, once again, he commanded each man's money be put in the mouth of his sack of grain. In addition Yosef commanded that his silver cup be placed in the mouth of the youngest brother's sack.

After the brothers departed from the city on their journey home, Yosef sent his steward after them to accuse them of stealing his silver cup. He commanded his steward to ask them, "Why have you repaid evil for good?" When they were overtaken and questioned, they denied that they had done this. They stated that if the cup was found amongst them, then the one who sinned against the leader of Egypt would die, and the rest would be his slaves. The cup was found in Binyamin's sack, and each man's money was also in their sacks of grain. They tore their clothes and submitted fully to Yosef for mercy.

In Genesis 44:16 Yehudah (Judah) spoke to Yosef. He confessed that they had sinned and that God had delivered them into Yosef's hands as slaves.

In Genesis 44:17 Yosef agreed to show mercy on them all by holding only Binyamin as his slave and allowing the rest to return home to their father. Yosef was showing discernment so that his brothers could fully realize what they had done. Yosef desired that they confess their sin and seek forgiveness from God and man.

When we disagree with God, we are opposing Him, and this is evil in His sight. God never blesses evil. He always uses His perfect discernment to discipline us so that we can realize we have sinned against Him, confess our sin and ask for His perfect mercy and grace to forgive us. The consequences of our sin remain in our lives, but our relationship with God can be restored once we repent and return to follow Him.



# Dreams

When the cupbearer was released from prison, he neglected to speak to Pharaoh on Yosef's behalf. As a result, Yosef remained in prison two more years to the exact date. At this time Pharaoh had two dreams. They were very disturbing to him, and he did not understand their meaning. He called all the wise men and magicians of Egypt to interpret his dreams, but no one could. Suddenly, the cupbearer thought of Yosef and told Pharaoh about the innocent Hebrew man in prison who had rightly interpreted his dream.

In Pharaoh's dreams there were a river, fourteen cows and two stalks of grain each with seven heads. Read Genesis 41:1-7 and draw each of Pharaoh's dreams while he sleeps.



## ~ Haftarah: 1 Kings 3:15-4:1 ~

In this week's Haftarah we learn that King Solomon had just awoken from a dream God had given him. In the dream King Solomon asked God to give him an understanding heart to judge the people and discern between good and evil. God said He would grant Solomon's request in addition to other blessings if he walked in His ways to keep God's statutes and commandments. The very first thing Solomon did in response was to lead the kingdom in proper worship of God.

Then two women who lived in the same house came to the King. Each woman had given birth to a son. The babies were born only three days apart. One woman's son died in the middle of the night, so she replaced her dead son with the living baby. When the other mother awoke and found the dead baby, she examined him and realized this was not her son. She told the other woman that the baby she had belonged to her, but the woman refused to agree. She continued to claim the baby she had stolen from the other mother was her own. There was no one present in the home to witness the truth.

Therefore, the two women brought the dispute to King Solomon.

After hearing the testimony of the two women, King Solomon proclaimed there was no way to determine whose baby remained alive. He ordered a sword be brought to him and commanded the living child be cut in half, and one half be given to each woman. The real mother of the living child spoke first to King Solomon with compassion for her son, stating: "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him" (1 Kings 3:26). Thus, the wise King had used great discernment to determine the matter correctly and ordered the living child be given back to the first woman, who was the child's mother.

We must study the Scriptures to know the character of God. Knowing God's character allows us to discern good from evil. If the matter aligns with God's character, it is good. If the matter does not agree with the character of God, it is evil. God desires life over death. King Solomon was able to discern this when judging which woman was the mother of the living child. We can confidently ask God to give us wisdom when we lack it. God will grant our request when we ask with faith and without doubt (James 1:5-6). This is what King Solomon did! Part of wisdom is discernment. Discernment is being able to identify good from evil.

## ~ New Testament: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ~

In this week's New Testament passage of Scripture we learn that the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God are two separate things. The Apostle Paul explains this difference in his letter to the Corinthians. The wisdom of God is perfect and powerful. He desires to give us His wisdom when we faithfully ask for it with no doubts of its perfection or power. He clearly hears our prayers, asking for His wisdom when we are demonstrating by our actions the desire to obey His commands and statutes as we walk in pursuit of Him. Today believers have the Holy Spirit within them and can think and act according to the Spirit of God when we submit to Him.

King Solomon demonstrated this to us in today's Haftarah as he rightly judged between the two women. Yosef demonstrated this to us in today's Torah portion as he patiently continued to interact with his brothers despite his emotions or feelings. The prophet Isaiah teaches us this Biblical truth: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts. Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD" (Isaiah 55:8).

### Pray First

Father God,

We thank You for freely giving us discernment when we agree to follow Your commandments and statutes, desiring to walk in Your ways.

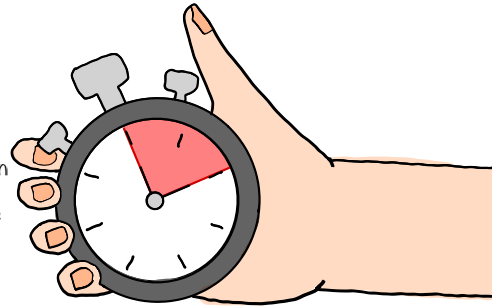
Please increase this desire in us daily as we follow You.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

### Read Next

1 Kings 3:15-4:1

1 Corinthians 2:1-5



# Mothers and Brothers Review

Directions: Read Genesis 35:22-26. Fill in the names of Ya'kov's 12 sons under the correct wife or maidservant. (Remember: Zilpah was Leah's maidservant, and Bilhah was Rachel's maidservants.)

Leah	Zilpah	Bilhah	Rachel
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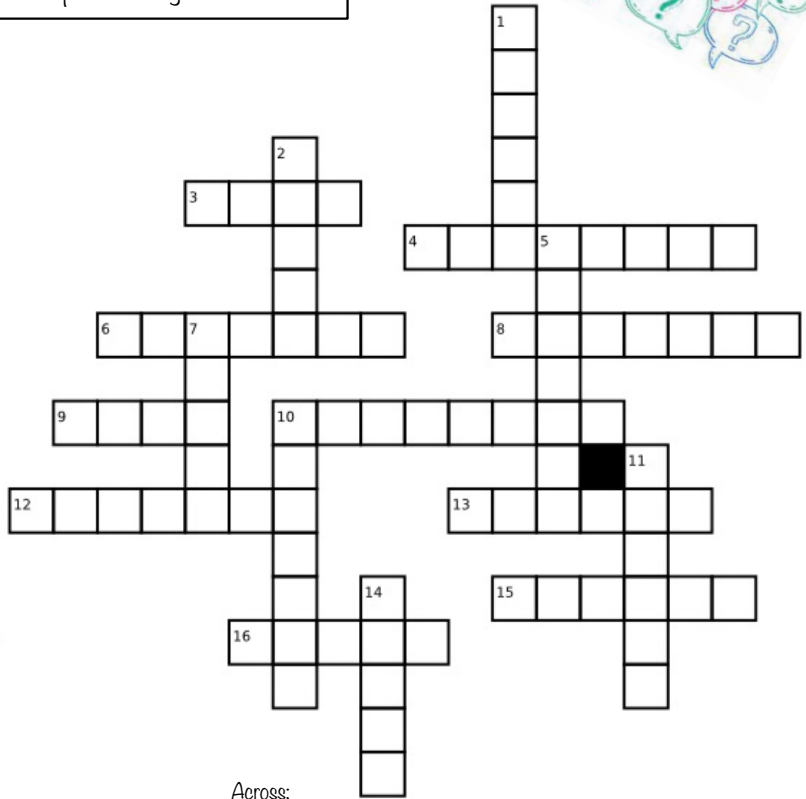
# Crossword Puzzle



Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle using the word bank.

## Word Bank

Bilhah	Sarah
Leah	Yitz'chak
Yisrael	Ishmael
Yosef	Rivka
Shimon	Esav
Pharaoh	Ya'kov
Yehudah	Rachel
Binyamin	?



Down:

1. Which brother was bound and left behind in an Egyptian prison (Gen. 42:24)?
2. Who was Yitz'chak's mother (Gen. 21:3)?
5. What did God change Ya'kov's name to (Gen. 32:28)?
7. Who was Yitz'chak's wife (Gen. 24:67)?
10. Which one of Ya'kov's sons assumed responsibility for Binyamin's safety in order to purchase food from Yosef (Gen. 43:8-10)?
11. Which one of Lavan's daughters did Ya'kov work for fourteen years to marry (Gen. 29:30)?
14. Which one of Ya'kov's sons did God choose to lead the family (Gen. 37:5-10)?

Across:

3. Which one of Ya'kov's wives bore him six sons and one daughter (Gen. 29:32-35; 30:17-21)?
4. Which brother's sack did the steward find Yosef's cup in (Gen. 44:12)?
6. Who was Yitz'chak's father (Gen. 21:3)?
8. Who was the son of the flesh - born from Avram and Hagar (Gen. 16:16)?
9. Who sold his birthright for a bowl of stew (Gen. 25:33-34)?
10. Who was the promised son of Avraham and Sarah (Gen. 21:3)?
12. To whom did God give two dreams foretelling a seven year famine (Gen. 41:25-32)?
13. Who was Leah's maidservant (Gen. 29:24)?
15. Who was Rachel's maidservant (Gen. 29:29)?
16. Which one of Yitz'chak's sons pursued after the will of God (Malachi 1:2)?