

Vayeshev

ויישב

“And he dwelt”



The LORD was with Yosef, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in His hand.

Genesis 37:2-3

But the LORD was with Yosef and showed him mercy (חֶסֶד - **hesed**), and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

In this week's parasha we learn that Ya'kov (Jacob) - renamed Yisrael (Israel) - obediently dwelt in the land of promise following the death of his father, Yitz'chak (Isaac). The sons of Yisrael rejected God's choice of their brother Yosef (Joseph) as ruler and hated him. Their refusal to submit to God's will resulted in Yosef being sold into slavery and a severe world-wide famine that began Yisrael's 400 year exile in a foreign land.

Both Yosef and Tamar continued to follow after God's promises despite the adversity they faced in the world. God never left them alone. He protected and blessed them as they pursued His perfect will.

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~
Genesis 39:3-23

Yosef's father, Ya'kov, loved him because he was the son of his old age and made for him a tunic of many colors (Genesis 37:3). Ya'kov had learned through his personal life the importance of following after the promises of God despite the danger or cost. Perhaps he observed his seventeen year old son Yosef applying this truth to his life and distinguished him among his brothers with a royal tunic.

As one strives to put God first place in their life God reveals more of Himself and His plans to that person. When God chose to reveal the future to Yosef through dreams, it made his brothers envy and hate him even more than before. Despite this lack of peace with his brothers, Yosef continued to tell others what God was revealing to him. Even Ya'kov had difficulty believing God's truth and rebuked Yosef as he recounted his second dream. (Genesis 37:10).

Pray First

Father God,

We praise You because You never leave us and are always with us when we follow You.

Please help us agree with You in all things. Guide us to desire to honor You with our lives so that our success is a witness to the world.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

Genesis 37:1 - 40:23

In opposition to God's will Yosef's brothers sold him into slavery. They killed a goat and dipped Yosef's special tunic in its blood in order to deceive their father into assuming Yosef had been attacked and killed by a wild animal. In the midst of all these things the LORD was with Yosef. No matter where the world of sin took Yosef the LORD did not leave him because Yosef continued to fear the LORD more than man. Yosef was careful to honor Him in all his ways. Let's take a look at one way Yosef continued to honor God despite the reaction of the world.

In Genesis 37:3-6 we find that Yosef honored God with his behavior while he was a slave in the house of an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh. Potiphar, the captain of the guard, observed Yosef and saw that the LORD was with him, making him successful. As a result Potiphar put Yosef in charge of his entire household and field. As God made Yosef's work successful Potiphar had no concerns but relied upon Yosef to be in charge of all his affairs.

In Genesis 37: 6-9 we learn that not only was Yosef successful, he was also handsome in form and appearance. These attributes caused Potiphar's wife to desire an ungodly relationship with Yosef. Yosef rebuked Potiphar's wife and did not submit to her influence or pressure. He spoke the truth to her, stating that this would not only be evil towards her husband, his master, but also a sin against God.

In Genesis 37:10 we learn that Potiphar's wife continued to pressure Yosef to sin in this way day after day, but Yosef continued to honor God despite the consequences.

In Genesis 37:11-20 we learn that when Potiphar's wife did not get what she wanted, her frustration increased. One day when Yosef was at work, Potiphar's wife caught him by his garment, but Yosef ran outside, leaving his garment in her hand. Yosef ran away from sinning against God and man. Potiphar's wife accused Yosef of things he did not do, leading to Yosef being placed in a prison where Pharaoh's prisoners were kept.

In Genesis 37:21-23 we learn that in spite of all these things the world accused Yosef of, God was with him. God did not leave Yosef alone because Yosef had feared God more than man. Yosef was willing to endure persecution and hardship in order to honor God with his behavior. The LORD gave Yosef favor in the sight of the prison keeper, who set Yosef in charge of all the prisoners and the prison. The keeper did not concern himself with these duties because the LORD was with Yosef and made everything he did prosper.



Dreams

Do you know that Yosef's father, Ya'kov, agreed to work fourteen years so that he could marry Rachel, Yosef's mother? That is right! Rachel was Ya'kov's beloved wife, and Yosef was her firstborn son. God chose Yosef to be the ruler of his family. When Yosef was seventeen years old, God gave him two special dreams that revealed his chosen position. Yosef shared the dreams with his family. Even though Yosef's brothers and father understood the meaning of his dreams, they rejected God's revelation to them. God revealed through Yosef's dreams that He had chosen Yosef, the eleventh born son of Ya'kov, to lead the family.

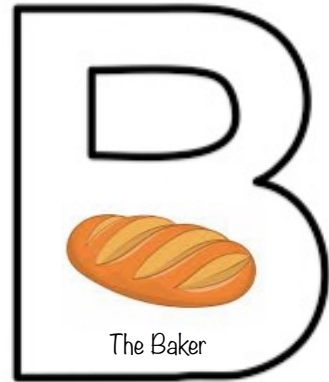
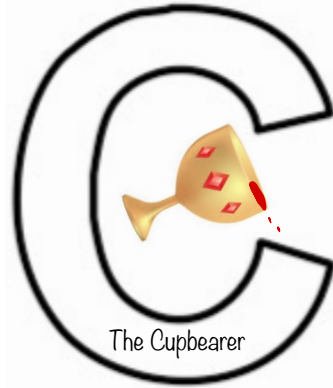
One of Yosef's dreams had twelve shelves of wheat in it. The other dream had Yosef with the sun, moon and stars in it. Re-read Genesis 37:6-10, and then draw Yosef's dreams while he is sleeping.



In Genesis 40 we learn that while Yosef was in prison, two employees of Pharaoh were put in prison with him. Yosef was in prison because he was accused of doing something he had not done; Yosef was an innocent man. The cupbearer and the baker were both guilty of crimes against Pharaoh and deserved to be in prison. Each one had a dream on the same night. They knew the dreams foretold their future but could not interpret the meaning of their dreams.

Read Genesis 40. Now place a "C" for cupbearer or a "B" for baker next to each word or phrase that applies to them.

- _____ 3 branches
- _____ cup
- _____ 3 baskets
- _____ birds
- _____ wine
- _____ forgot to tell Pharaoh about Yosef
- _____ baked goods
- _____ blossoms and clusters of ripe grapes
- _____ after 3 days Pharaoh pardoned him to his former position
- _____ after 3 days he was hung by Pharaoh



By the similar content of their dreams we can clearly see that both the cupbearer and the baker were guilty and deserved to die for their offenses against Pharaoh. Yosef's interpretation of their dreams determined the outcome. It was through Pharaoh's grace on his birthday that he released the cupbearer to resume his former job. This happened after three days just as the cupbearer's dream foretold.

Likewise, we are all guilty of sinning against God and deserve to die. It is the work of Yeshua (Jesus) on the cross that determines our outcome. It is through the grace of God that we are pardoned to receive freedom from our sins. Even though our sins deserve the same punishment, it is the independent work of Yeshua on the cross that extended God's grace to us. Although Yeshua was completely innocent, He was arrested, beaten and crucified. At the appointed time after three days, God the Father raised Him back to life. Anyone who trusts in this work of redemption will be restored from death to eternal life. When we receive this gift, we must remember the grace extended to us and tell others. The cupbearer forgot to do this.

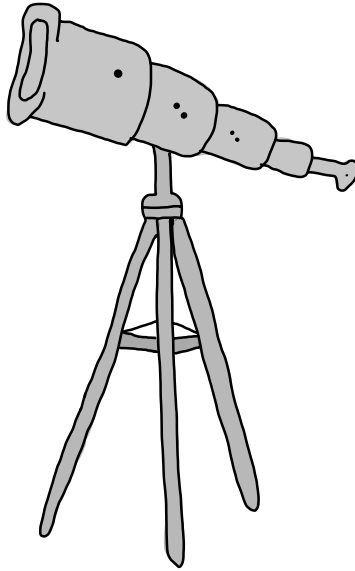
“A Closer Look”

Haftarah: Amos 2:6 - 3:8

New Testament: Acts 7:9-16

Surely the LORD God
does nothing, unless He
reveals His secret to His
servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7



Pray First

Father God,

We thank You for the truth of
Your word spoken by Your servants.

Help us not to ignore the truth
as our forefathers did.

Help us to live according to the
truth of Your word.

In Yeshua's name we pray.

Amen.

Read Next

Amos 2:6 - 3:8

~ Amos 2:6 - 3:8 ~

Amos was a prophet of God who lived in Judah and was sent to speak to the nation of Israel. Amos informed the nation of Israel that their sins were against God and man, and their sins would not go unpunished.

God is patient and extends grace (**in - hen**) and mercy when His people repent and return to Him. Refusal to repent and return to God does not go unpunished. Because God is holy and right, He must judge sin. When God judges sin, He is comforted and extends grace.

Because God loves the world He sent His prophets to warn of His coming judgement. He did this so that man might agree with Him and turn from their sin to follow Him again.

The people of Israel did not listen to God's message through Amos the Prophet. They continued to live prosperous lives, feeling secure in themselves. As a result God allowed the Assyrian Empire to attack, defeat and take them into exile from the land of promise.

God created the world and all things that exist. Although He is patient and desires no one to receive His wrath, He is holy and will destroy all unrighteousness. His only begotten Son, Yeshua, took the punishment from His Father for the world's unrighteousness. Father God accepted the innocent blood Messiah Yeshua shed as payment for the sins of the world. Father God was comforted by this and offers His grace of salvation to anyone who confesses the name Yeshua as LORD and God. This is the only way to receive the grace of God and escape His coming judgement of the world.



Messiah Yeshua

“And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Yosef into Egypt. But God was with him and delivered him out of all troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king for Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Acts 7:9-10

~ Acts 7:9-16 ~

Today's New Testament passage of Scripture occurred after the death, burial and resurrection of Messiah Yeshua. Stephan testified to the truth of Scripture before the Jewish council.

Before the days when God sent the prophets to warn man of His coming judgement God taught the world through the Patriarchs: Avraham (Abraham), Yitz'chak, Ya'kov and his twelve sons. Their lives taught about the coming Messiah Yeshua.

- Avraham was called by God and sent to the land of promise for a particular purpose - just like Messiah Yeshua.
- The birth of Yitz'chak, Avraham and Sarah's promised son, was a miracle. Messiah Yeshua's birth was also a miracle. Yitz'chak was willing to be sacrificed because of his respect and love for his father - just like Messiah Yeshua.
- Ya'kov suffered at the hand of his brother for pursuing the promises of God - just like Messiah Yeshua.
- Yosef was delivered from the pit by God and put in a position to save the world - just like Messiah Yeshua.

Yosef found favor with God as he submitted to His will at any cost. Because he was willing to suffer in prison for someone else's sin God positioned him to announce who would live or die by the interpretation of the cupbearer's and baker's dreams.

After a period of time God rewarded Yosef for his humble service. Yosef foretold the future of a severe famine. God exalted him to a position to save his people and the world from starvation.

Likewise, Messiah Yeshua found favor with God as He submitted to His will at any cost. Because He was willing to suffer and die for the sins of the world God has positioned Him as the only means for redemption. Messiah Yeshua foretold the future of a world-wide persecution for His people and those saved by His name. God has exalted Messiah Yeshua to a position to save all those redeemed by His blood from complete destruction.

Pray First

Father God,

We thank You and praise You for the testimonial lives of the Patriarchs.

We thank You and praise You for revealing Your secrets to us through Your holy prophets.

Please soften our hearts and open our eyes and ears to hear and respond to the truth Your prophets have proclaimed.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

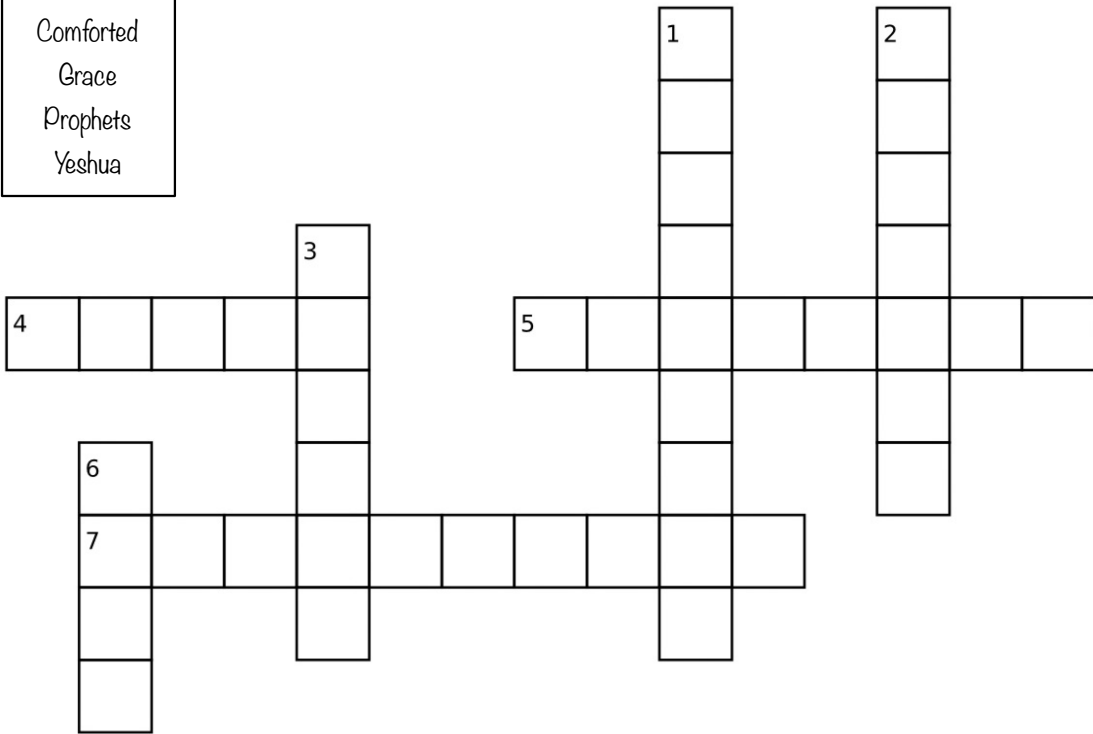
Read Next

Acts 7:9-16

Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle using the word bank.

- Word Bank**
- Unpunished
 - Patient
 - Just
 - Comforted
 - Grace
 - Prophets
 - Yeshua



Down:

1. When God judges sin, He is _____.
2. God is _____.
3. Salvation is found only in the name Messiah _____.
6. God is holy and _____.

Across:

4. When God is comforted, He offers His _____.
5. God sent His holy _____ to tell people to stop sinning against Him.
7. Unrepentant sin does not go _____.