

Vayigash וַיִּגַּשׁ

“And he drew near”

Genesis 44:18-47:27

Genesis 44:18

Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.



Overview

In this week's Parasha we see again that God is all-knowing, loving, powerful and wise. Even when things happen in our lives that are not part of God's will and plan, if we stay faithful He is able to bring things about in a way that will still fulfill His purposes.

Although Joseph's brothers had sold him into slavery to Egypt, he stayed true to God and was ultimately used by God to save Egypt and all the surrounding lands when the famine came. Through this situation, Joseph was reunited with his family during the famine and was able to bring them into the land of Egypt, to Goshen, where they lived and flourished.

Focus Passage of Scripture: Genesis 45:1-46:4

When Joseph's brothers had come before him to purchase grain, they had not recognized him but he knew them. With Godly wisdom, Joseph brought about things in his brother's lives so that they would begin seeing things from a more Godly perspective and they would repent.



After Judah has pleaded with Joseph to take him as a slave and let Benjamin go back home with his brothers to their father Jacob, Joseph is overcome with emotion. He sends his servants out of the room so he is alone with his brothers. He then tells them the truth, that he is their brother Joseph, whom they had sold into slavery many years before.

He quickly reassures them not to be angry with themselves or afraid, because what they had

meant for evil, God used for good. Through that situation, God elevated Joseph to a position where he was able to take care of His people. Joseph tells his brothers that the famine will last another five years, and that they should come down to the land of Egypt to live where they can be near him and he can provide for them.

When Pharaoh hears the news that Joseph has reconnected with his family, he is pleased. He tells Joseph to give his brothers provisions and wagons to make the trip back to Canaan in order to bring Joseph's family down to Egypt. Following Pharaoh's instructions, Joseph gives his brothers all they will need for the trip and sends them on their way.

When the brothers return to Canaan, they tell their father, Jacob, that Joseph is still alive and is governor over all of Egypt. At first, Jacob does not believe them, but when he sees the wagons and provisions Joseph has sent, he realizes they are telling the truth. He is extremely happy and feels blessed to know that he will be able to see his son, Joseph, before he dies.

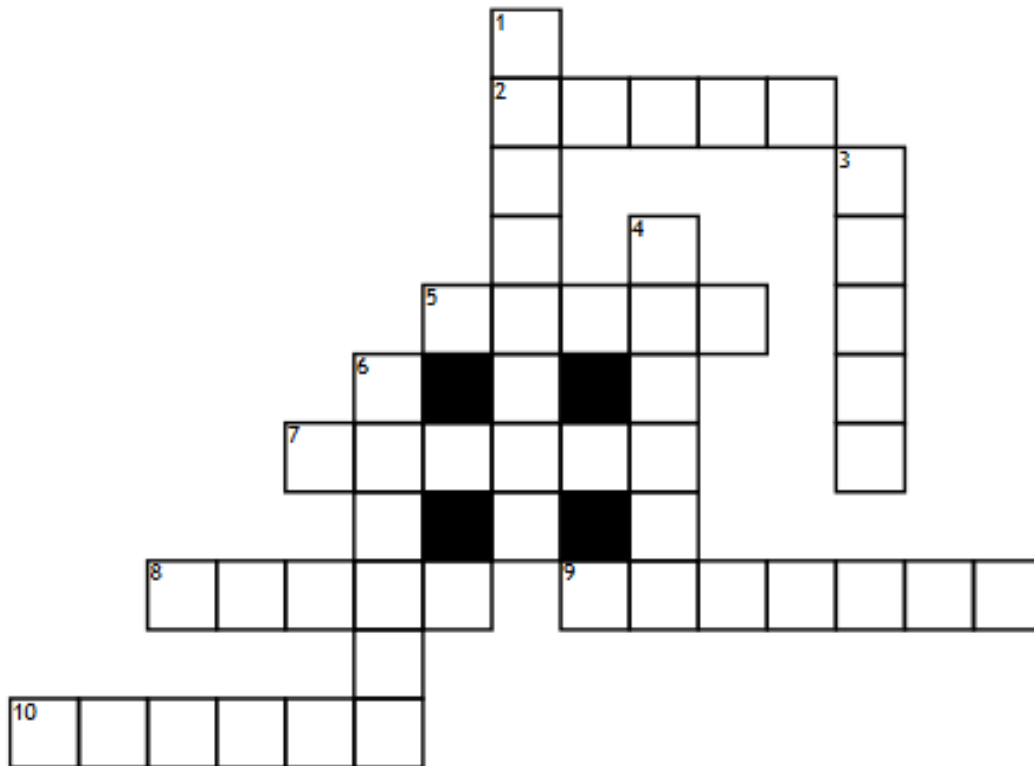
Jacob, his sons, and all their families begin their journey to Egypt. At Beersheba he offers sacrifices to God. During the night God speaks to Jacob in a vision and tells him not to be afraid to go into Egypt because He will make him a great nation. God also states that Jacob will die in Egypt but that God will bring the people of Israel up to Canaan again.

From this Parasha we can learn that, although God is sovereign, not everything that happens in the world is part of His plan. He gives us free will and since we are a sinful people, we sometimes act in ways that are not pleasing to Him. However, even when we stray from the path and direction God has for us, He can still turn our situation to something good. When we make mistakes, if we turn back to God, repent of our wrong, seek His forgiveness, and follow His Word, God will forgive us, and bring about positive things in His way and in His time.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Vayigash



Across

2. Land where Jacob's family went to escape famine
5. Father who thought his son, Joseph, was dead
7. A time when there is not enough food for everyone
8. Offered to be slave in place of his brother
9. Ruler over Egypt

10. Land where Jacob's family settled in Egypt

Down

1. Jacob's youngest son
3. Number of years of famine in the land
4. Egyptian leader under Pharaoh
6. Land God gave to the Israelites

Name: _____ Date: _____

Word Search Challenge!

E J H X W S K E O O Y W A G O N S P X S V V X U
U P P R L H Z Y G B W N S Z X Y B M N B L J N J
N N I O E A V Z D M I G R O T P L P N M N Q A G
H Q K Z B H V B D V C T K H Q H A J Z O J D S S
Q B V P F P F H A R V B I I L Y U J B J C R R E
X Q N S U Z Y N E R K K C Q E V D A E D L E W F
F S I B A Q K F U E R I R N E S Q F L F H T E A
G X A I O T L L L O M V R N D K J W Y T L R L E
K I R U W M N T Z M H U I M V C G Q O D A C W K
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U C Q U Y A M M K J A M T I W L B Q U E M U Z D
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nation

sacrifice

father

brothers

grain

herds

cattle

wagons

visions

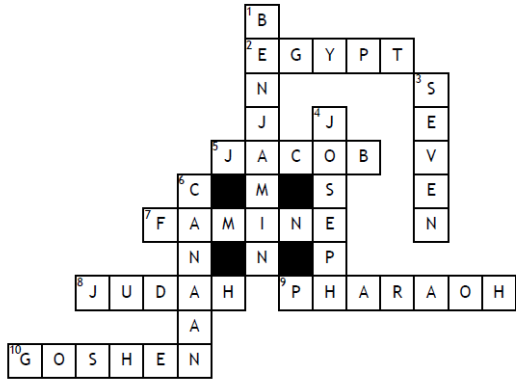
flocks

journey

famine

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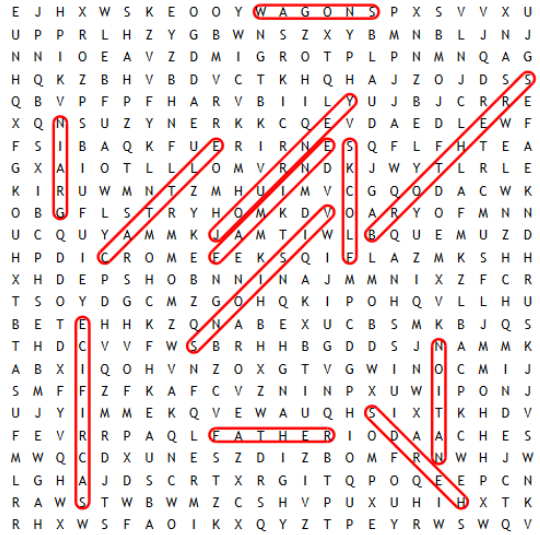
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