

# Vayigash

ויגַשׁ

“And he approached”

Then Judah came near to him and said:  
“O my lord,  
please let your servant speak a word in my lord’s hearing.  
And do not let your anger burn against your servant:  
for you are even like Pharaoh.” Genesis 44:18



## Pray First

Father God,

You alone are God, there is no other God but You. You exist in three persons and You are the God of perfect order. We praise You because You have created us, loved us and redeemed us. We thank You for not letting our sin influence Your perfect will, order and purpose for us. Help us to submit to Your perfect order as we study Your Word together. In Yeshua’s Name we pray.

Amen

## Next Read

Genesis 44:18-47:27

In this week’s Parasha we learn that Y’hudah (Judah), the fourth of the six sons born to Ya’kov (Jacob) and Leah, approached his younger brother Yosef (Joseph), the first born of the two sons of Ya’kov and Rachel. Yosef’s brothers had sold him into slavery and assumed he was dead. However, he was alive, and he was positioned second in hierarchy to the Pharaoh of Egypt. Y’hudah approached Yosef to speak with him because of his love and respect for their father. When Y’hudah approached Yosef, he begged to remain in Egypt as his slave instead of his brother Binyamin (Benjamin) who had been found guilty of stealing from the house of Pharaoh. When Yosef witnessed Y’hudah’s desire to honor their father in this way, he could no longer restrain himself and revealed his true identity to his brothers.

God had given Yosef dreams at a young age, revealing His plans to use Yosef for a special purpose. When Yosef told his brothers about the dreams, they hated and rejected him.

When Yosef’s brothers realized that the one they had bowed down to in Egypt in order to receive life-sustaining bread was Yosef, they were so shocked and afraid that they could not speak. Although they had rejected God’s revelation concerning Yosef, God’s plans for Yosef’s life did not change because nothing can stop the will of God!

When Yosef revealed himself to his brothers, he explained that God had chosen him for a special purpose. Even though they had rejected him and meant him harm, God had accomplished His will by turning their evil deeds toward him into good. Their rebellion against God had resulted in a worldwide famine. Yosef’s obedience to God provided life for anyone who came to Pharaoh to buy bread through Yosef.

After revealing himself to his brothers, Yosef instructed them twice with great urgency to return to their father with the news of his life and position in Egypt. He sent them with supplies and wagons to bring their father and all who belonged to him from the land of Canaan to Egypt because there were five years of famine still to come.

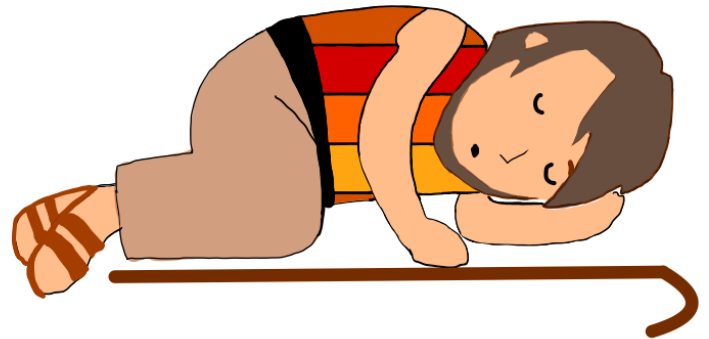
At first Ya’kov could not believe his sons report, but when he saw all that Yosef had provided for his sustenance and journey, he believed! Ya’kov and the entire house of Yisra’el (Israel) traveled to Egypt where they were given the best land of Goshen to dwell in. So all of Yisra’el were reunited and dwelt in the land of Egypt in the country of Goshen, and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied there exceedingly under the provisions and protection of God.

# ~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Genesis 45:26-46:4

Our focus passage of Scripture this week takes place twenty-two years after Yosef was sold into slavery by his brothers. For twenty-two years Ya'kov had grieved the loss of his first born son from his beloved wife Rachel, thinking he was dead. Ya'kov rebuked Yosef when he shared what God revealed to him through dreams. It was Ya'kov's sin of refusing to acknowledge and agree with God's revelation combined with his failure to discipline his sons for their unjust treatment of Yosef that resulted in Yosef being mistreated and sold into slavery. These sinful acts against Yosef by his family were the outcome of their opposition to the will of God. Whenever we refuse to agree with God, we are acting in sinful opposition to Him. Because God knows what is best for His people and because He loves us, He must discipline us when we oppose Him. God's discipline for Ya'kov and his sons resulted in Yisra'el's first exile from the land of promise and a worldwide famine that lasted seven years.

In Genesis 45:26 we learn that when the sons of Ya'kov told him that Yosef was still alive and that he was the governor over all the land of Egypt, he did not believe them. Instead, his heart stood still. Not only had Ya'kov failed to agree with God regarding His plans for Yosef, but he also had believed the lie that Yosef was dead. Whenever we believe a lie we are not able to respond correctly to God. Only when we know and believe the truth of God can we respond correctly, according to His good and perfect will.



In Genesis 45:27 we learn that only when the sons of Ya'kov told him all the words which Yosef had spoken to them and he **saw** the carts and provisions which Yosef had sent to transport and sustain him did he believe the truth about Yosef. Ya'kov had continued to suffer from severe grief for twenty-two years without a change because he believed a lie. It was only when he **saw** the outcome of the truth that he believed in God's purpose for Yosef.

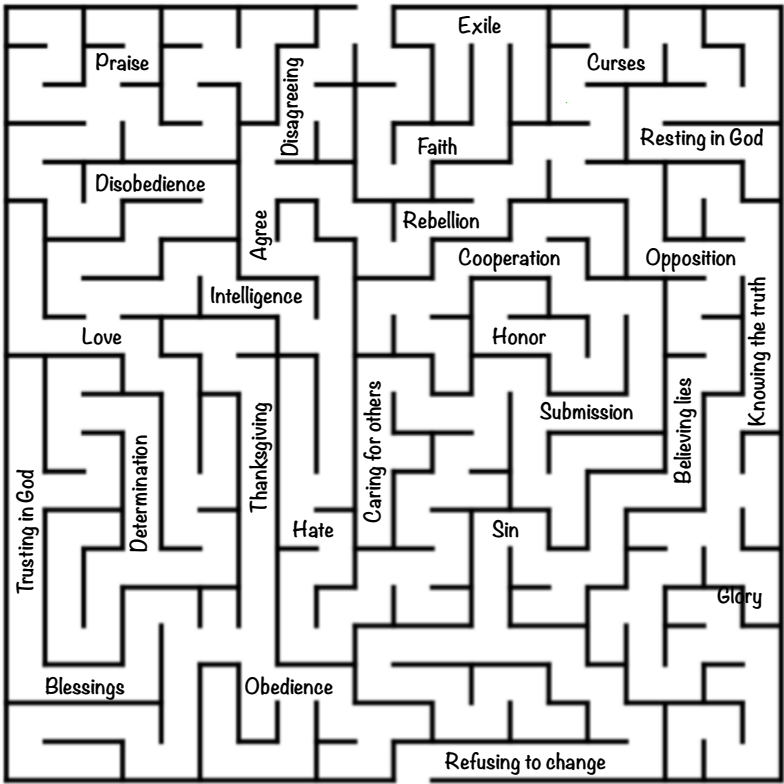
In Genesis 45:28-46:1 we learn that only when Ya'kov believed the truth was he able to respond correctly to God by bowing down to his son Yosef as revealed to him through Yosef's dreams. Agreeing with God and submitting to His will was the act of obedience that led Ya'kov on his journey to Beersheba where he could worship the God of his father, Yitzchak (Isaac). God only accepts worship that is offered to Him through the truth of His Word!

In Genesis 46:2 we learn what God said to Ya'kov in "The Night Appearance." God called to him saying, **"Ya'kov, Ya'kov!"** Ya'kov answered God by responding, "Here am I." It was only when Ya'kov agreed with God and believed the truth that he could respond in a way that was pleasing to God. Ya'kov's response demonstrated his humble submission to the will of God and his willingness to be changed by the discipline of God. Ya'kov's proper response to God allowed reconciliation with Him and greater truth revealed by Him.

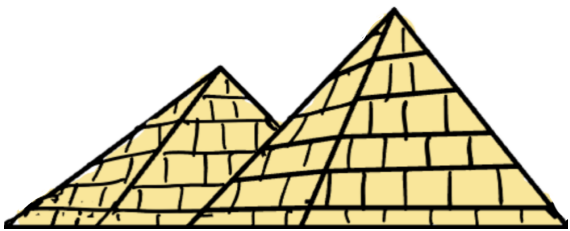
In Genesis 46:3-4 God spoke these words of truth to Ya'kov:

**"I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt,  
for I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt  
and I will also surely bring you up again; and Yosef will put his hand on your eyes."**

From these words spoken by God we learn that we should not be afraid of God's discipline because He will never leave us. We also learn that His discipline for our sin cannot be avoided! Yisra'el went down to Egypt and remained in exile from the land of promise for 430 years! Our sin affects future generations! However, God never intended to destroy Yisra'el, and He did not destroy them. Rather, God's purpose for disciplining His people is to bring them back up in a new condition, a redeemed condition. Likewise, God's discipline for us when we sin is always for the purpose of restoring us to where He wants us to be! Agreeing with God insures that we are not deceived by lies. Relying on Him and resting in Him with a thankful heart is His will for us today!

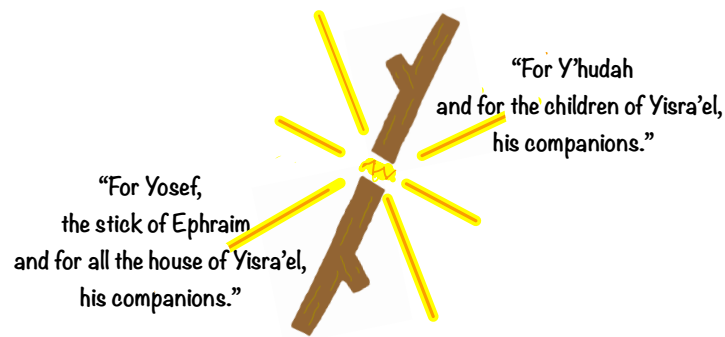


**Directions:**  
Find the path to Egypt by following the words that describe responses to God that require His discipline.



# ~ Haftarah ~

Ezekial 37:15-28



It is God's will that Yisra'el be a blessing to the world. He has set Yisra'el apart for this purpose. Yisra'el is called by God to receive His blessings and share them with the world! No matter how many times nor how strongly Yisra'el disagrees with God or believes a lie, God will accomplish His will through them. The entire world has been, is being and will be blessed through Yisra'el because nothing can stop the will of God!

In this week's Haftarah, God instructed Ezekial to take two sticks and label them, representing all those who belong to Him. He then instructed him to take the two sticks and join them together in his hand. The two sticks becoming one by the power of God in his hand demonstrated the outcome of God's will for the world.

On the first stick God told Ezekial to write these words: **"For Y'hudah and for the children of Yisra'el, his companions."** This label represented Y'hudah who responded correctly to God's discipline, and because of his love and respect for his father, was willing to be changed by it. It also represented all people who have, are currently and will respond to God's discipline in the same way. This group of people will receive God's blessing of reconciliation to Him when they see and believe His Word.

On the second stick God told Ezekial to write these words: **"For Yosef, the stick of Ephraim, all the house of Yisra'el and his companions."** This label represented Yosef, who believed the revelation of God and was willing to suffer much persecution from his family and the world in order to be a blessing to the world. It also represented all the people who have, are currently and will agree with God from many nations. This group of people demonstrate their trust in God by believing the truth of God's Word and responding to Him appropriately no matter what the cost. When we agree with God, rely on Him and rest in Him we are His fruitful servants. These people will be spiritually blessed by God and share His blessings with others.

God continued to instruct Ezekial to join the two sticks together in his hand, forming one stick and to speak these words to Yisra'el from Him: **"Thus says the LORD God: 'Surely I will take the stick of Yosef, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Yisra'el, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Y'hudah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.'" Ezekial 38:19**

This demonstration communicated God's perfect will. God's will for His children is to unite them to a position of complete dependence and rest in Him. All those who agree with, rely upon and rest in God's provision for redemption will be joined together to form one nation, Yisrael!

Following this demonstration, God commanded Ezekial to inform the children of Yisra'el of the final outcome of His will. God will gather Yisra'el from every nation from wherever they live and bring them back to the land of promise. In the land of promise, Yisra'el, they will be one nation with One King over them. They will no longer disagree with God, defiling themselves anymore with idols, detestable things or sin. God will cleanse them, they will be His people and He will be their God!

One Shepherd, God's Servant, will rule over them, and they will walk in His judgments and observe His statutes and do them. They will dwell in the land of promise that God swore to give to the descendants of His servants Avraham (Abraham), Yitz'chak and Ya'kov forever! God will cut an eternal covenant of peace with them, and He will establish and multiply them in the land. God will set His sanctuary in their midst to dwell among them. He will be their God, and they will be His people. All the nations of the world will know that the LORD has caused all these things to happen when it happens!



# New Testament

Luke 6:1-11



When God created the heavens and the earth, He first created darkness and disorder. Then He spoke His perfect order into creation. This fact helps us understand that the perfect order of God is very important in the midst of disorder and darkness!

Everything God created from His perfect order was created for us. Although man, who God created on the sixth day, was the last thing He created, He had us first in His mind as the reason for creation. When God was finished creating everything that we needed, He rested. This seventh day of creation when God rested from all His work is a very special day called Shabbat, meaning rest. The weekly Sabbath is a gift to us from God!

The weekly Sabbath gives us the opportunity to reflect the glory of God by focusing our attention on Him without any distractions. When we are not distracted by the things of the world, it is easier to recommit to the things of God. On Shabbat it is important to remind ourselves to always agree with God in all things because His will is perfect.

Shabbat is also a time to ask God to help us rely on His strength instead of our own. It is a time of rest that can restore us, bringing about what we cannot do. All these aspects of the weekly Sabbath provide a certain protection from evil for all of God's children. Resting on Shabbat each week while giving thanks to God for all the great things He has done, is doing and will do for our good helps us order our lives in a manner pleasing to Him. The significance and value of resting on Shabbat are very important truths to understand.

This week's New Testament passage of Scripture takes place on the second Shabbat after the first. This mention of the first Shabbat can remind us of the purpose of the Sabbath from the beginning at its creation. Messiah Yeshua, the Son of God, and His disciples were walking through grain fields, plucking the heads of grain and rubbing them in their hands to extract the grain to eat because they were hungry. This method of extracting the grain by hand demonstrated that Messiah Yeshua and His disciples were applying all the truths about this special day to their lives.

In Luke 6:2-4 we learn that even though Messiah Yeshua and His disciples were only picking grain to eat because they were hungry, some of the Pharisees challenged Messiah Yeshua, accusing Him of violating the Sabbath law to do no work on this special day. Messiah Yeshua responded to their accusations by reminding them of what King David and those with him had done to preserve their lives when running from Saul. King David had entered the Tabernacle of God and taken the showbread that had been removed from the Table of Showbread on Shabbat in order to put hot bread in its place when it was taken away (1 Samuel 21:6). He then ate the showbread and gave it to his men to eat even though the holy bread was only to be eaten by the priests.

Messiah Yeshua reminded them of this because King David had gone to the sacred place of God to receive protection and life-giving bread. Everyone understood that as King David fled from Saul and his men who desired to kill him he went to the sacred place of the LORD for restoration. By doing this King David demonstrated the purpose of Shabbat! King David agreed with God, relied on His provision and rested in His power to save and restore him. Messiah Yeshua then spoke these words to the Pharisees, who desired to accuse Him, in order to teach them the truth about Who He is:

**“The Son of Man is also LORD of the Sabbath.”** Luke 6:5

Messiah Yeshua demonstrated on the second Sabbath that He is the LORD of the Sabbath! This truth teaches us that those who agree with God and rely on this truth about Messiah Yeshua will find rest and restoration in Him.

In Luke 6:6-7 we learn that on another Sabbath Messiah Yeshua entered the synagogue to teach. A man was present there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and Pharisees watched Messiah Yeshua closely to see whether He would heal the man, in hopes that they could accuse Him of violating God’s Law by working on Shabbat. This clearly demonstrated that they did not understand the purpose for the Sabbath day.

Knowing their thoughts Messiah Yeshua said these words to the man with the withered hand:

**“Arise and stand here.”** Luke 6:8

The man with the withered hand arose and stood before Messiah Yeshua just as he was commanded to do. This teaches us that Shabbat is connected to the Kingdom of God when all those who are called by Messiah Yeshua because they have trusted in His work of redemption will arise and stand before Him.

In Luke 6:9-10 Jesus asked the scribes and the Pharisees along with everyone present this very important question:

**“Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”** Luke 6:9

After asking this question, Messiah Yeshua waited for a response but no one responded. In that moment everyone understood that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. Messiah Yeshua then gave this command to the man with the withered hand:

**“Stretch out your hand.”** Luke 6:10

The man with the withered hand obeyed the command of Messiah Yeshua and his hand was restored! This continues to teach us that Shabbat is related to the Kingdom of God! It points us to a day in the future when God will restore all things, and we will realize the outcome of our redemption through Messiah Yeshua. The weekly Sabbath is highly connected to the Kingdom of God, and when it is approached correctly, it can provide protection and restoration for the believer while we eagerly wait for the second coming of Messiah Yeshua, our LORD and our God!

In Luke 6:11 our last verse of study this week we learn that despite the truth being spoken to them, the scribes and Pharisees were filled with rage and discussed with one another what they might do to Messiah Yeshua. This serves to remind us that it is impossible for someone to respond correctly when they refuse to agree with God and have chosen to believe a lie.



# ~ Recap Review Fun ~

Directions: Find the hidden messages from this week's study by writing the letters in the blanks that correspond to the emoji code provided below.

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1. ,

1. ,

2. ,

2. ,

2. ,

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y

