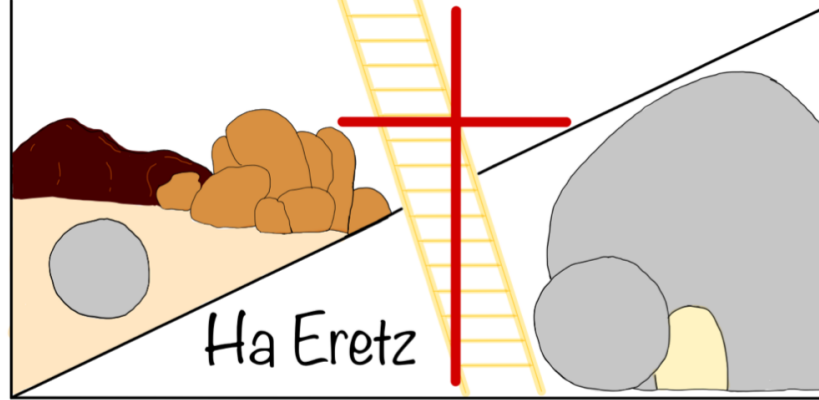


Vayetze וַיֵּצֵא

“And he went out”



Torah Portion Preview

Rivka (Rebekah), the mother of Ya'kov (Jacob), left her father's house in Haran and traveled to the Land (ha Eretz) God had promised to give Avraham (Abraham). She did this because she wanted to be a part of God's promises. Rivka worshipped the all-sufficient, faithful God and understood the importance of the covenant of marriage. She knew that God had called Avraham to a foreign Land, that Sarah had miraculously given birth to the promised son Yitz'chak (Isaac) in her old age, and that God had protected and prospered Avraham in ha Eretz. He had promised to give him and his descendants. Rivka was willing and eager to become a part of this heritage by traveling to ha Eretz and marrying Yitz'chak.

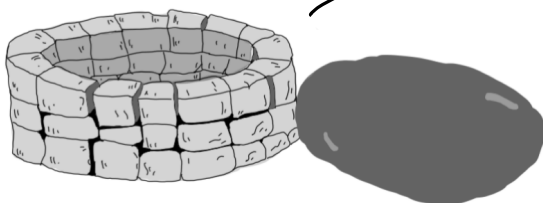
After twenty years of marriage, Rivka had twin boys. The oldest son, Esav (Esau), thought very little about the promises of God. Even though he was the oldest, he despised his birthright and only desired the blessings he would personally get from it. By the time the twins, Esav and Ya'kov, were 40 years old Esav had married two wives from the sons of Heth who worshipped false gods. This ungodly union of Rivka's eldest son grieved her, making her weary because she understood and valued the promises of God that her husband had inherited.

Reread Genesis 27:46, and you will see that Ya'kov was given the blessings from God that accompanied the birthright. This made it very important that he marry a woman from Avraham's family who also worshipped God. In this verse Rivka stated that her life would have no significance if Ya'kov married the daughters of Heth like Esav.

Yitz'chak agreed with Rivka and called Ya'kov to him. He blessed Ya'kov and charged him not to take a wife from the daughters of Canaan (Genesis 27:3-4). This made God very happy!

Notice, when Esav fully knew that his marriages were not pleasing to his parents or in line with God's promises, he did not repent. Instead, he took a third wife from the daughters of Ishmael. This made God very unhappy!

So, Ya'kov went out (Vayetze).



Genesis 28:10-32:2

In this week's Parasha we learn that God is faithful. Because God is faithful, He judges our faithful response to His Word. Ya'kov responded faithfully to God's Word as he went out of Beersheba to Haran. He traveled to the house of Bethuel, his mother's father, to take a suitable wife from the daughters of Lavan (Lavan), his mother's brother. Ya'kov was faithful to God's promises as he acquired four wives who gave birth to thirteen children. He remained in exile for twenty years, while he labored for his family and relied upon God to sustain and prosper him. Ya'kov received God's protection as he obediently returned to the Land. Because God is faithful to achieve His Word, Ya'kov could respond faithfully to Him.

~Focus Passage of Scripture~

Genesis 28:10-22

In Genesis 28:10 we learn that Ya'kov went out of his father's house in Beersheba to travel toward Haran. This was the place where Avraham had obeyed God's command to leave his father's house and go to ha Eretz God would show him (Gen. 12:1). It was also the place where Avraham sent his servant Eliezer to find and bring back a bride for his son Yitz'chak (Gen. 24:2-8). Now Yitz'chak and Rivka were sending their son Ya'kov to Haran to the house of Rivka's brother, Lavan, to take a wife.

In Genesis 28:11 as Ya'kov began his journey to pursue the promises of God by the covenant of marriage, he arrived at a certain place on his first day of travel. Three times in this verse "the place" is emphasized. This reveals that the promises of God brought Ya'kov to the place of God's presence, so he could worship Him. Ya'kov arranged stones around his head where he stayed for the night in the place. He possessed nothing to protect him except for the promised blessings of the faithful God he pursued.

In Genesis 28:12 Ya'kov dreamed of a ladder or bridge that was set up on the earth and reached to heaven. Upon the ladder he saw angels going up and down.

In Genesis 28:13 Ya'kov saw the LORD standing at the top of the ladder. The LORD spoke to Ya'kov saying: **"I am the LORD God of Avraham your father and the God of Yitz'chak; the Land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed."** Here, we learn that God was now giving Ya'kov and his seed ha Eretz He had promised Avraham and Yitz'chak. At a time when Ya'kov was not married and had no children God promised all his sons would inherit ha Eretz.

In Genesis 28:14 the LORD God continued to speak to Ya'kov stating: **"Also your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** These are the same words God spoke to Avraham in Genesis 12:2-3.

First Pray

Father God,

We praise You because You are the all sufficient God. We thank You that we can respond to Your promises faithfully because You are faithful to keep Your Word.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Read Next

Genesis 28:10-32:2

Genesis 28:15

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this Land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Through these words from God, Ya'kov understood it would only be when his descendants were living in ha Eretz that all these blessings from God would occur. This hints to the coming Kingdom of God from heaven to earth. God will only establish His Kingdom on earth when the descendants of Ya'kov are living in ha Eretz.

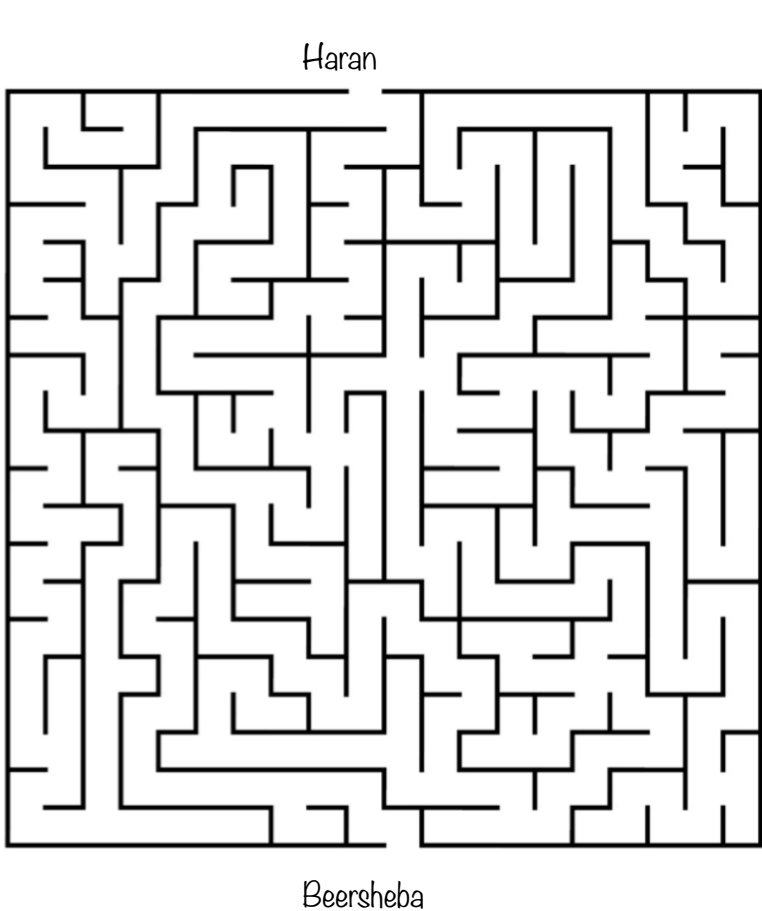
In Genesis 28:15 the LORD God continued to speak to Ya'kov saying: **“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”** With the conclusion of this message from God to Ya'kov we can know for sure that neither Ya'kov nor his descendants will cease to exist before God brings them back to ha Eretz. When this occurs, all the families of the earth will be blessed! Because God is all sufficient and faithful to His Word, Ya'kov knew he could respond faithfully to God.

In Genesis 28:16-17 Ya'kov awoke and realized that the LORD God was in this place. He now knew that this place was the house of God (Beit El) and the very entrance to heaven. Here, by way of a ladder (or bridge) one could come into God's presence to worship Him.

In Genesis 28:18-21 Ya'kov took the stone from around his head, stood it upright and anointed it with oil. He renamed the place, previously called Luz, Bethel and made a vow to God. Ya'kov understood that God would be with him, protect him, sustain him and provide for him so that he would return peacefully to his father's house in ha Eretz as a source of blessing to others. Since God promised to do all these things, Ya'kov vowed that God alone would be his judge as he responded faithfully to Him.

In Genesis 28:22 Ya'kov proclaimed that the anointed stone he set up as a memorial stone would symbolize the house of God. Ya'kov proclaimed that as God showed His faithfulness to him, he would acknowledge Him to the world by giving a tenth of his possessions to God.

Help Ya'kov travel from Beersheba to Haran!





Seeds/Sons

When Ya'kov arrived at Lavan's house, he remained there for a month, 30 days (Gen. 29:13-14). In the Bible the number thirty represents death or thirty days of mourning. Is it possible that as Ya'kov shared the events that led to his departure/exile from ha Eretz, the entire household of Lavan mourned? Not only had Esav despised his birthright by selling it for a single meal, but he had vowed to kill Ya'kov, knowing he had been blessed with the promises of God. This teaches us without any doubt that Esav was living his life in opposition to God!

When Esav fully knew how displeased his parents were that he had married Hittite women, he refused to repent and go to Haran to take a wife. Instead, he went in the opposite direction - south! He took the riches and blessings of his father's house to the land of Ishmael. There he married a third wife from the daughters of Ishmael. In the Bible the number three can mean testing, proving, revealing or documenting. This rebellious act of Esav revealed the intent of his heart. When he was tested, he failed the test going south to the land of Ishmael instead of traveling north to his grandfather Avraham's family to obtain a wife. Esav's marriage to a daughter of Ishmael is documentation, proving that he had no desire to live his life in alignment with the plans and purposes of God. Esav cared only about himself and had no desire to be a blessing to others!

In contrast Ya'kov wanted to marry a woman from the family God had chosen to inherit His promises. He waited until his parents sent him to Haran to find a bride before he married anyone. After arriving in Haran, Ya'kov wanted to marry Lavan's youngest daughter, Rachel, but Ya'kov had no riches to offer Lavan for his daughter. Ya'kov worked without receiving payment for seven years to marry Rachel (Gen. 29-18). During these seven years, Lavan was richly blessed and his household prospered. He did not want these blessings to end; he wanted to double them. After Ya'kov had completed the seven years of work to marry Rachel, Lavan tricked him by giving his older daughter Leah to him as a bride instead. In the Bible the number seven can mean set apart for a purpose. Ya'kov agreed to work an additional seven years to acquire Rachel as his beloved wife (Gen. 29:20-30). In the Bible the number fourteen means double blessing. Both of Lavan's daughters, Leah and Rachel, became the wives of Ya'kov. Lavan gave both daughters maidservants. Zilpah was given to Leah, and Bilhah was given to Rachel.

Although the two maidservants were not from Avraham's family, all four of these women worshipped the God of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov. These four women were eager to be a part of the promises of God and He blessed them with children that would receive this rich heritage. In the Bible the number four means global or worldwide. The number 13 (12+1) represents the people of God plus God and indicates the unity between man and God needed for good things to happen. Ya'kov's 13 children born of his four wives would be set apart for the purposes of God. When their descendants are living obediently in ha Eretz, they will be a source of blessing to all the families of the earth!

Ya'kov's Journey to Haran



What's in a Name Game?

Directions: Read Genesis 29:31-30:25. Match the name with its meaning.



Names:

Reuben

Simeon

Levi

Judah

Dan

Naphtali

Gad

Asher

Issachar

Zebulun

Joseph

Ya'kov

Yitz'chak

Avraham

Meanings:

Accompany

Judge

See

Hear

PRAISE

Happy

Dwell/home

Struggle/prayer

Laughter

Troop/good fortune

Father of Nations

Add

Grasped the heel/pursue

Hire/reward



Answers: Reuben/see; Simeon/hear; Levi/accompany; Judah/PRAISE; Dan/Judge; Naphtali/struggle/prayer; Gad/troop/good fortune; Asher/happy; Issachar/hire/reward; Zebulun/dwell/home; Ya'kov/add; Joseph/see; Yitz'chak/laughter; Avraham/Father of Nations

Haftarah

Hosea 12:13-14:9

Pray First

Father God,

We praise You because You keep Your promises! Even when Your children do not respond faithfully and act in their own power and strength You are faithful to Your Word. Please help us to rest in Your promises and rely fully on the power of Your Word. Please teach us to respond in faith to You no matter what situation we are in. In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Read Next

Hosea 12:13-14:9

and

Hosea 12:1-6

"Yet I am the LORD your God.
Ever since the land of Egypt,
and you shall know no God but Me;
for there is no savior besides Me."

Hosea 13:4

This week's Prophetic Scripture teaches us of God's faithfulness to His promises even when His People act in their own strength. We learn that the promises God made to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov cannot be broken even though the sins of Yisra'el (Israel) are many. God has always been, is now and will always be faithful to His Word! Read these words that the prophet of God Hosea spoke to the Children of Yisra'el:

"The LORD also brings a charge against Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his deeds He will recompense him. He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God."

Hosea 12:2-3

Ya'kov pursued the plans and purposes of God his entire life.

However, at times he did so by his own power and strength. When we rely on our own understanding, power and strength to serve God, we are attempting to be equal to Him. Man's desire to be equal to God was the source of deceit Satan tempted Adam and Eve with. **It is not possible to be equal to God!** There is only One God Who exists in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It is very important that we rest in God and rely completely upon His Word, His Promises and His Power as we serve Him. Ya'kov struggled with God and prevailed only because of God's Grace, Mercy and Faithfulness to His Promises. As we struggle with our human nature we can only prevail/receive victory through God's grace when we submit our will to His plans and purposes.

Only the ways of the LORD are right! According to God's promises, the descendants of Ya'kov will return to ha Eretz prior to the establishment of God's Kingdom on the earth. This is the way of God's righteousness. Only those who understand this and agree with God can serve Him in a way that is pleasing to Him!

**O Israel, return to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquities;
take words with you, and return to the LORD.**

Say to Him "Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the highest sacrifices of our lips.

Hosea 14:1-2



New Testament

John 1:43-51

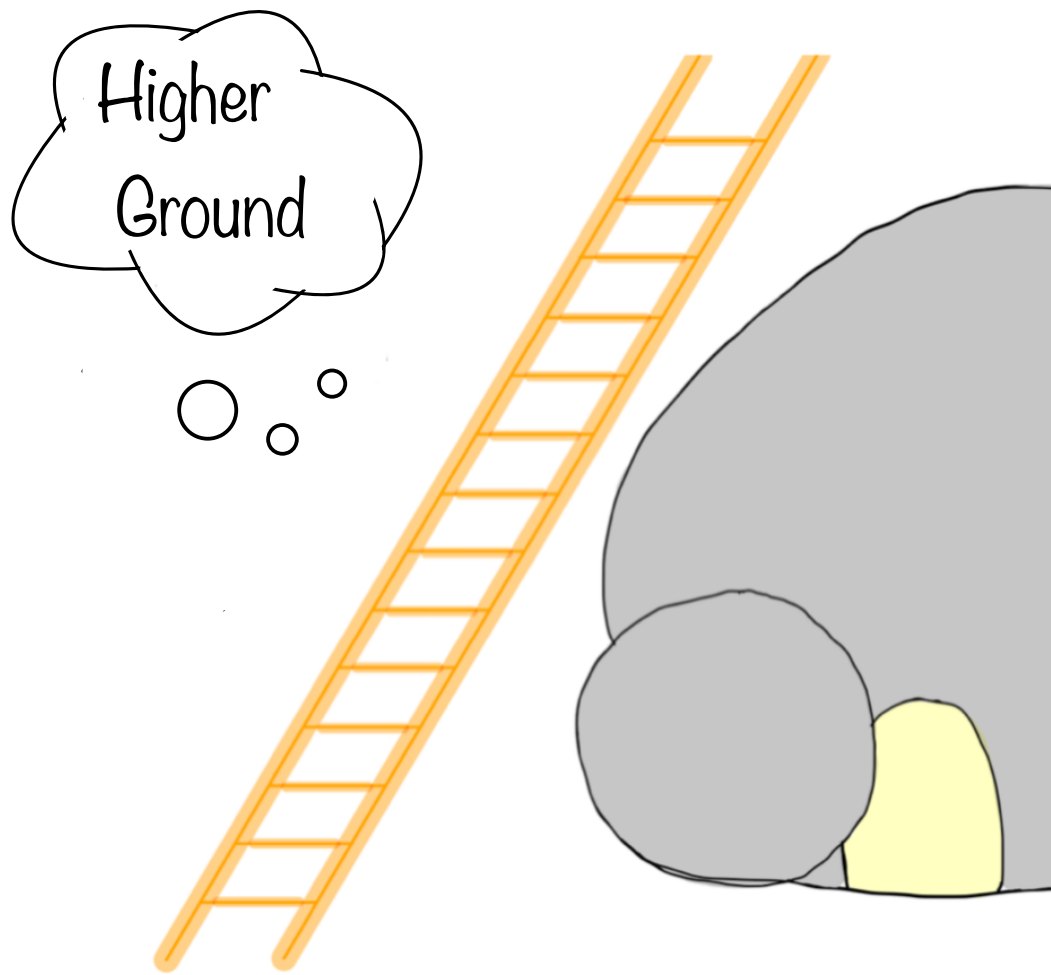
Pray First

Father God,

We thank You today for sending Your Only Begotten Son, Yeshua, from heaven to earth to do the work required for our redemption. We praise You that Yeshua is our connection to You in heaven. In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Read Next

John 1:43-51



Only one of the twelve sons of Ya'kov could be the ancestor of God's One and Only Begotten Son, Messiah Yeshua. God chose Judah, the fourth son of Ya'kov from his first wife Leah for this purpose. Do you remember what Judah's name means? If you answered PRAISE, you answered correctly. It is only through the connection or bridge God provides to us through His Son that we can come to the place of His presence to worship Him with praise!

In today's New Testament passage of Scripture Messiah Yeshua wanted to go to Galilee. He called Phillip to follow him. Phillip found Nathanael and told him that Yeshua of Nazareth was the Anointed One Moshe (Moses) and the prophets had written about. Nathanael doubted that anything good could come from Nazareth, but Phillip told him to come and see. As Nathanael approached Yeshua, He commented on his character. Nathanael asked Yeshua how he knew him. Yeshua told him that even before Phillip called him He had seen him under the fig tree. This impressed Nathanael, and he believed Yeshua was the Son of God and the King of Yisra'el. Yeshua informed Nathanael that he would see far greater miracles than this in the future. Yeshua told Nathanael that he would see heaven open up and the angels of God ascending and descending upon Him. Messiah Yeshua is the ladder or bridge that connects believers with God. He is the anointed stone in the house of God!

Yeshua's miraculous virgin birth and blessing of redemption for the world could only occur after the descendants of Judah returned from exile in Babylon to ha Eretz. Yeshua's birth, death and resurrection gives the blessing of eternal life to all who believe in Him. These facts testify to the faithfulness of God and His promises to Ya'kov.

And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." John 1:51

~ Recap Review Fun~

Directions: Find and circle the numbers below that correctly answer the following questions.

Write the correct number in the blank.

1. In the Bible the number _____ means worldwide or global.
2. In the Bible the number _____ means set apart for the purposes of God.
3. In the Bible the number _____ means double blessing.
4. In the Bible the number _____ means death or mourning.
5. In the Bible the number _____ means the Children of God plus God allowing good things to happen.

1 5 24 13 9
10 30 18
7 4
2 6 3
12 14
8

