

Vayishlach

וישלח

“And He sent”



Parasha Overview

In today's Parasha we learn that God was with Ya'kov (Jacob) as he returned to his father's house in the land of promise. Ya'kov had fled from his father's house to Haran and had remained at the house of Lavan (Laban) for 20 years. On the day that he fled his mother told him that she would send for him to return home once his brother Esav (Esau) no longer planned to kill him (Genesis 27:45). Perhaps she never sent for him because Esav's desire to kill his brother did not go away.

Although Ya'kov was fearful upon reuniting with his brother, he watched and waited, trusting in God to guide his path and actions. Ya'kov's greatest desire was for the will of God to be accomplished through his life. This could only happen if Ya'kov submitted to God and followed after Him.

As Ya'kov re-entered the land of promise, he traveled the same route his grandfather Avraham (Abraham) had taken when he first entered the land of promise approximately 145 years earlier. Ya'kov followed in Avraham's footsteps!

While Ya'kov was in Shechem his only daughter Dinah was kidnapped and mistreated. After her rescue, Ya'kov persevered and continued on his journey. The terror of God fell upon all the cities in the land of promise so that no one tried to harm him.

While Ya'kov was in Bethel his mother's nurse Devorah (Deborah) died and was buried. God appeared to Ya'kov again in Bethel and blessed him with these words:

“Your name is Ya'kov, your name shall not be called Ya'kov anymore, but Yisrael (Israel) shall be your name.”

“I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply, a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you and kings shall come from your body.”

“The land which I gave Avraham and Yitz'chak (Isaac) I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.” Genesis 35:10-12

As Ya'kov traveled from Bethel to Bethlehem, his beloved wife Rachel died giving birth to his twelfth son Binyamin (Benjamin). Following Rachel's death and burial, Reuven (Reuben), Ya'kov's firstborn son of Leah, had ungodly relations with Rachel's maidservant Bilhah. Ya'kov endured all these things and continued to pursue the path God set before him. Through all adversity Ya'kov did not stop following God! He returned to his father's house in Hebron peacefully, just as God had promised him.

Following Yitz'chak's death at 180 years, Ya'kov and Esav buried their father. Esav then took his three Canaanite wives, his five sons along with his daughters, the persons of his household, his livestock and possessions and returned to Mount Seir in the country of Edom. Esav chose to live away from the presence of Ya'kov and the blessings of God's covenant. Esav did not submit to God and did not follow after Him. The will of God was accomplished through Ya'kov because he submitted to God's will, persevering on his journey no matter what he had to endure.

~Focus Passage of Scripture~

Genesis 32:3-29 & 33:11-16

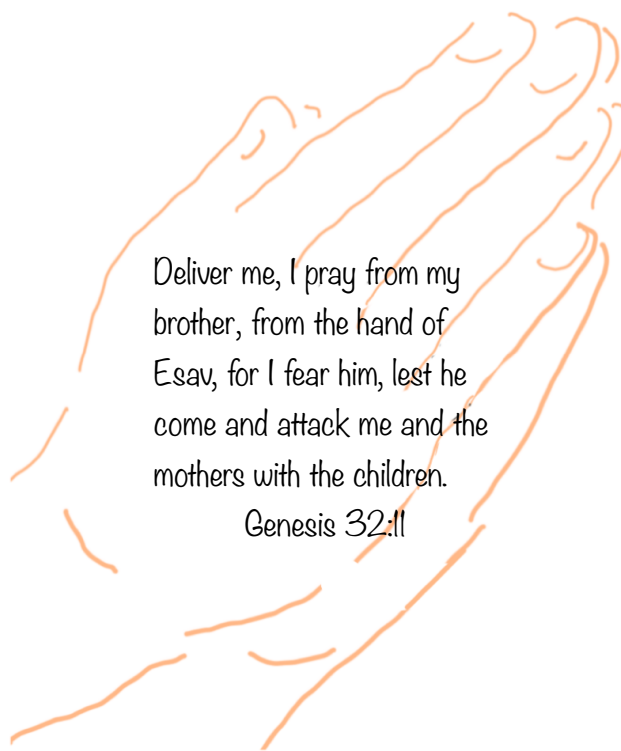
Pray First

Father God,

We thank You and praise Your Holy Name because You are faithful to keep Your covenant with us. Please give us a strong desire to follow after You without being influenced by the world. Help us to fear You over man or circumstances, putting You first in our lives. In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

Genesis 32:3-36:43



Deliver me, I pray from my brother, from the hand of Esav, for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mothers with the children.

Genesis 32:11

In Genesis 32:3-5 Ya'kov sent messengers to speak to his brother Esav to let him know that he was coming home. Esav was living away from his father's house outside the Promised Land. He had chosen to live in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. God had told Avraham that his wife Sarah would have a son in her old age, and He commanded Avraham to name his son Yitz'chak (Isaac). God told Avraham that He would establish His everlasting covenant with Yitz'chak and his descendants (Genesis 17:19). Yitz'chak had two descendants, Esav and Ya'kov. Esav despised this birthright and sold it with its blessing for a single meal. Esav did not want any of the responsibilities of his birthright- marrying within the family and living in the land of promise. Esav was only interested in the blessings of the birthright, and he was so angry that Ya'kov had received the birthright blessings he vowed to kill him when their father died.

Ya'kov wanted Esav to understand that he had never been against his position as the oldest son. He wanted Esav to accept that with the blessings from God came responsibility. Ya'kov wanted to be reconciled with his brother Esav, and he wanted Esav to be reconciled with God. Ya'kov was not re-entering the land of promise with a great multitude to oppose Esav. Rather, he was coming home in obedience to God's command to be a blessing to Esav and to others.

In Genesis 32:6-8 we learn that the messenger returned to Ya'kov and reported that Esav was coming from the land of Edom to meet him with 400 men. In the Bible the number four means global or worldwide. Ya'kov was very frightened because he understood that this meant Esav was coming with the support of the world to attack and kill him and his household. Ya'kov divided his people and livestock into two groups and separated them. He hoped that if Esav attacked one camp the other would survive as a remnant in the land. Ya'kov understood that his descendants must be living in the land for God's Kingdom to be established on earth as a blessing to the world.

In Genesis 32:9-13 Yakov prayed to the God of his fathers, Avahram and Yitz'chak, acknowledging that he was nothing without Him and all he had acquired was a gift from Him. Ya'kov reminded God of His covenant promise to bless him and make him a blessing to the world. Ya'kov trusted God to deliver him from Esav and save the women and children. In the midst of fear and opposition Ya'kov found strength in restating and standing on the Word of God. Ya'kov responded faithfully by giving what he had received as a gift from God to Esav.

In Genesis 32:14-20 as Ya'kov camped at Mahanaim he took what God brought to his hand from his goats, sheep, camels, cattle and donkeys as a present for Esav. He sent his servants to deliver the animals to Esav in separate droves. He commanded each of his servants to give Esav the same message explaining to him that the animals were a gift from his **servant** Ya'kov, and that he was traveling behind them. Ya'kov gave to Esav from what God had given him in hopes that Esav would understand that he had never desired to take God's blessings away from him. Ya'kov's only intent had been to follow after his fathers in pursuit of the covenantal promises of God. He hoped with this understanding Esav would repent from his evil desire to kill him, and they could meet peacefully face to face.

In Genesis 32:21-23 we learn that Ya'kov sent the gifts out to Esav, but he remained in the camp. That night he arose and took his wives, maidservants, and children across the brook with all that he had. He then returned to the camp and remained there all alone. This demonstrated his complete dependence on God to achieve His will through him.

In Genesis 32:24-26 we learn that as Ya'kov prayed to God, he struggled with a Man all night long. The Man dislocated the socket of Ya'kov's hip putting him at a disadvantage, but Ya'kov continued to wrestle with the Man. As the sun was rising, the Man commanded Ya'kov to let Him go! Ya'kov refused to let Him go unless He blessed him spiritually. Ya'kov did this because he wanted to be used by God to complete His will on the earth.

In Genesis 32:27-29 the Man asked Ya'kov to tell Him his name. He responded that his name was Ya'kov, meaning he is one who follows after God in pursuit of his covenantal promises. The Man told Ya'kov that he would no longer be called Ya'kov and changed his name to Yisrael. The name Yisrael refers to the outcome of the covenant God had made with his fathers; that outcome is total victory over evil in the Kingdom of God. Ya'kov had followed after God in the face of all adversity and was victorious! After renaming him the Man blessed Ya'kov before daybreak. The Man Ya'kov had wrestled with was God!

In Genesis 33:1-11 we learn that after Esav had received the gifts from Ya'kov, the two brothers met. Ya'kov presented himself and his family to Esav in a respectful and honoring manner. He did this as an outward witness that he had never wanted to take anything away from his older twin. His only desire had been to pursue the promises of God and live responsibly to them. Ya'kov had been blessed by God and shared his wealth with his brother, and Esav was happy to receive this blessing of worldly riches from Ya'kov.

In Genesis 33:12-14 we learn that following their peaceful reunion Esav attempted to take Ya'kov out of the land of promise. He wanted Ya'kov to travel with him to Seir and live under his authority. The mountains of Seir are also called the land of Edom because Esav and his descendants, the Edomites, established an ungodly kingdom there. Esav had continued to pursue his own desires for the entire twenty years Ya'kov had lived in Haran. His priority was on receiving blessings from others while living outside the land of promise rather than cooperating with the will of God to be a blessing to the world while living in the Promised Land.

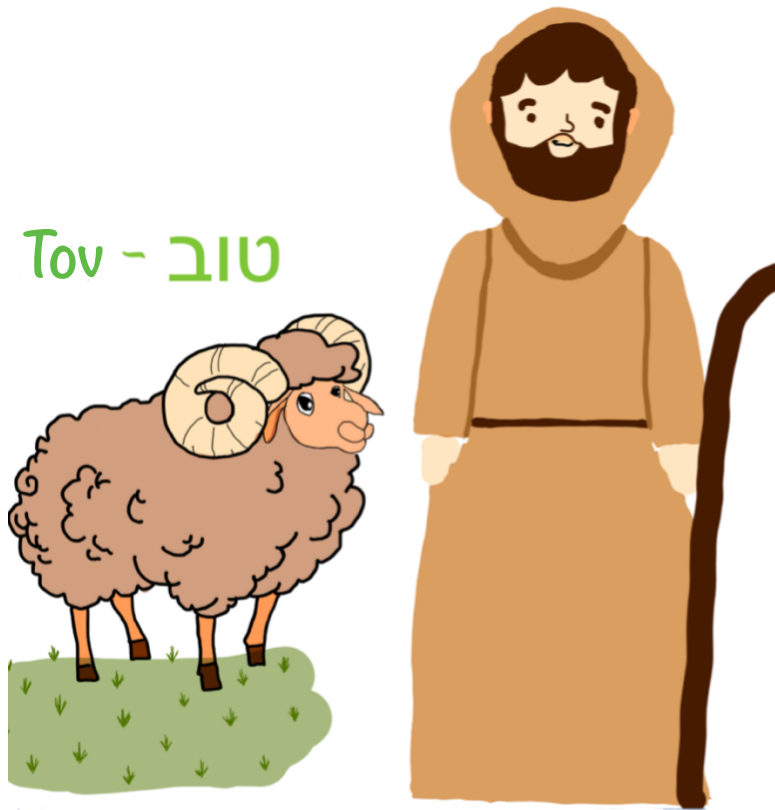
In Genesis 33:15-16 when Esav realized Ya'kov would not travel to Edom with him, he attempted to leave some of his men with his brother. Ya'kov told him that there was no need for this if he had been accepted by his brother in the same manner that Esav had accepted his gifts. Esav returned to the land of Edom in disobedience and opposition to the will of God while Ya'kov obediently and submissively returned to the land of promise in pursuit of God's will. Ya'kov's new name, Yisrael, was given to him by God as a proclamation of the outcome of His will. The outcome of God's will is for the world to receive His blessings through His Kingdom that will be established on earth in the Promised Land while the descendants of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'kov are living in the land.

רע - Ra



Do you know that sheep and goats may look alike, but they have many differences? For instance, goats are covered with hair and have short tails and horns that point up. Goats enjoy climbing hills and living in high places. They like to eat twigs and low branches of trees but will eat a variety of food. Goats are stubborn animals and do what they think is best for them. When they feel threatened or sense danger, they like to fight.

טוב - Tov



Sheep are covered with wool, and they have long tails that point down but are usually clipped short by their owner. Their horns grow up and then curl down. Sheep enjoy eating grass in pastures. They are particular about what kind of grass and food they eat. Sheep like to stay together in groups and behave like one another. They learn the voice of their owner and respond to his call. When sheep feel threatened or sense danger, they scatter from each other and run away.

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.
All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand,

‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’

Matthew 25:31-34

Road to Destruction

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21

Pray First

Father God,

Your judgments are right and correct. Thank You for Your covenant of life through Your One and Only Begotten Son, Messiah Yeshua. Help us submit to Your service completely. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen.

Next Read

Obadiah 1:1-21

DANGER

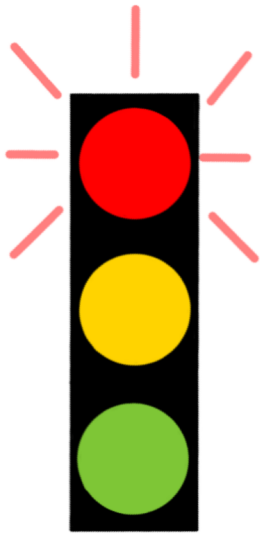
For your violence (hamas) against your brother Ya'kov, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.

Obadiah 1:10

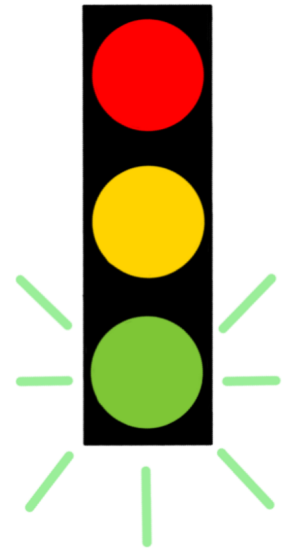
Esav and his descendants were consistently opposed to the perfect will of God. They despised the call to serve God and hated their brother Ya'kov and his descendants for pursuing and receiving God's call. Their goal was to use God's blessings for themselves and stop His plans and purposes for the world's redemption through the descendants of Avraham. Their greatest desire throughout history until today is to kill and destroy the descendants of Ya'kov so that God's will can not be done!

The prophet Obadiah was given a message from God to deliver to all the nations of the world. This message proclaims the curse Esav and his descendants will receive in the last days. God is going to judge completely, and there will remain no survivor of the house of Esav. Likewise, anyone who chooses to rebel against God and His perfect will as Esav did will be punished in the same way.

God is perfect and does not change. He never rewards evil! God is right, and His judgments are correct. God will destroy Esav and all those who join him by opposing His perfect purposes and plans. The descendants of Ya'kov will be brought back to the land of promise before God's Kingdom is established on the earth. When God establishes His Kingdom on the earth, the entire world will be blessed and come to the mountain of God to worship Him.



We must submit to God's perfect will to follow Him. When we follow God, we are always with Him. He will never leave us when we follow Him. When we refuse to submit to the will of God, we are acting independently and going away from God. We must admit what we are doing is in opposition to Him and return to follow Him again.



God's will is perfect and does not change! When we submit to or follow after God's will, we are agreeing with Him. This type of behavior pleases God, and He considers this good (**Tov - טוב**). When we do not submit to or follow after the will of God, we are disagreeing with Him. This displeases God, and He considers this type of behavior evil (**Ra - רע**).



Road to Victory

New Testament: Matthew 26:26-46

Pray First

Father God,

We praise You for the gift of life and victory over the enemy through the death and resurrection of You Son, Messiah Yeshua. Help us watch, wait and pray for His return to earth to establish Your Kingdom, the outcome of our redemption.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Read Next

Matthew 26:36-46

BEWARE

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41

In today's New Testament passage of Scripture God's One and Only Begotten Son, Yeshua (Jesus), and eleven of His disciples arrived at the place called Gethsemane. Yeshua separated His eleven disciples into two groups. He told eight of the men to watch and wait while He and the other three men went further into the garden to pray. Yeshua knew the enemy, who wanted to kill Him would be arriving soon. This troubled Yeshua deeply and made Him very sad. He told the three men with Him to watch and pray. Yeshua then went alone to talk to His Father, God.

Three times Yeshua's asked His Father to save Him from the enemy. Yeshua's greatest desire was to follow after and pursue His Father's will. He wanted to submit completely to will of His Father so that all the world could be blessed through Him.

Three times Yeshua returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. He told them to watch and pray, so they would not fall into temptation.

Father God heard Yeshua's prayer in the garden and answered it according to His perfect will that cannot be stopped. Yeshua was left alone to endure beatings and death on the tree in order to persevere and follow after His Father. As a result of His submission and service, God raised Him from the dead in total **victory** over the enemy! The whole world is blessed by His work of redemption! Anyone who submits to this work will also receive **victory** over the enemy and enter into the Kingdom of God that is coming from heaven to earth.

Road to Understanding

Directions: Using the word bank, fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

- 1. God's will is _____.
- 2. God _____ those who submit to His perfect will.
- 3. To follow after God we must _____ to His perfect will.
- 4. Because God's will is perfect it will never _____.
- 5. When we submit to the perfect will of God, we are demonstrating that we _____ with Him.
- 6. It is _____ to agree with the perfect will of God.
- 7. When we agree with God and respond faithfully to His will, we receive His _____.
- 8. When we follow after God's perfect will, we are _____ Him.
- 9. To receive eternal _____ we must submit to God's perfect will.
- 10. Man's will is _____.
- 11. God _____ those who refuse to submit to His perfect will.
- 12. When one refuses to submit to God's perfect will, he is relying upon _____ instead of God.
- 13. Because man's will is imperfect, it will be _____ by God.
- 14. When we refuse to submit to God's perfect will, we are _____ Him.
- 15. It is _____ to oppose God's perfect will.
- 16. When we pursue our will instead of God's, we receive a _____.
- 17. When we refuse to follow after God's perfect will, we are _____ against Him.
- 18. If we oppose God's perfect will and refuse to return to Him, we become His _____.

Word Bank

Loves
Hates
Flawed
Submit
Perfect
Himself
Agree
Destroyed
Change
Evil
Opposing
Blessings
Good
Curse
Rebelling
Honoring
Enemy
Life

