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הַמִּזְרָחִי

HAMIZRACHI

PARSHA WEEKLY

YOUTH EDITION

A project of the Mizrachi Schools Department

PARSHAT VAYEISHEV 5785 • 2024

PARSHA SUMMARY

Parshat Vayeishev tells the story of Yosef, Yaakov's favourite son. Yosef's brothers become very jealous of Yaakov's favoritism, and the special treatment that Yosef is given. To show his love, Yaakov gave Yosef a special multicolored coat, which only made the brothers angrier.

Yosef had two dreams that upset his brothers even more. In the first, he dreamed that their bundles of wheat bowed down to his bundle. In the second, he dreamed that the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him. Both dreams showed Yosef ruling over his family, and his brothers hated him so much that they plotted to kill him.

Reuven stopped the brothers from killing Yosef and suggested they throw him into a pit instead, planning to rescue him later. But when Reuven returned, it was too late—Yosef's brothers had sold him to Ishmaelites traveling to Egypt. The brothers took Yosef's special coat, dipped it in goat's blood, and showed it to their father, Yaakov. Heartbroken, Yaakov believed Yosef was dead and began to mourn his loss.

In Egypt, Yosef was sold to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's advisers. Yosef worked hard and became very successful, eventually becoming Potiphar's right-hand man. However, when Potiphar's wife falsely accused Yosef of wrongdoing, he was thrown into prison.

In prison, Yosef met two of Pharaoh's officials—the chief butler and the chief baker. Both had strange dreams, and Yosef explained their meanings. He told the butler that in three days, he would be released and return to his job, but the baker would be hanged. Yosef asked the butler to remember him and speak to Pharaoh on his behalf. Yosef's interpretations came true, but the butler forgot all about him, leaving Yosef stuck in prison.



MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

The Difference Between Being Average or Great

What separates great people from average ones? Leadership expert John C. Maxwell says it's in our attitude and response to failure.

This week's parasha highlights Yehuda's remarkable leadership quality: taking full responsibility for his mistake and failure.

When found guilty regarding Tamar, Yehuda could have hidden his guilt. Instead, he admitted publicly, "She is right, and I am wrong." This courage to acknowledge failure is why Yehuda became the leader of Israel and why Jews are named after him—Yehudim.

True teshuva (repentance) starts with taking responsibility for our actions. Instead of blaming others, we must own our shortcomings. Yehuda's legacy teaches us that leadership—and greatness—begin with honestly holding ourselves fully accountable.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Doron Perez
Executive Chairman,
World Mizrachi



Dedicated by the Moshal family to the life and legacy of our family patriarch John Moshal – יוחנן הלל בן מרדכי ז"ל – a generous lifelong supporter of Jewish education.

QUESTIONS ON THE PARSHA

1. What special gift does Yaakov give to Yosef?
2. What does it symbolize?
3. What are the two dreams that Yosef has?
4. How do Yosef's brothers react to his dreams and his favored status, and what actions do they take?
5. What does Rashi say was it in the pit that Yosef was thrown into?
6. Who do Yosef's brothers sell him to?
7. What happens to him after being sold?
8. How does Yosef end up in prison?
9. Who does Yosef meet while in prison?
10. How does this meeting become significant for his future?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dream Big: Can We Make It Work?

In this week's parsha, we read about Yosef's dreams and how they were dismissed, mocked, and even hated by his brothers. But Yaakov, his father, secretly believed in their potential. The parsha teaches us that dreams can shape our reality, but they also require effort, planning, and hard work to bring them to life.

Dilemma of the Week: Eli, a 12-year-old boy in 7th grade, has always loved playing guitar. One day, he announces to his family, "I've decided I want to drop out of school and focus on becoming a professional musician!" His parents are shocked and worried. "That's not realistic!" his mom says. "How will you succeed without finishing school?" His older sister, Maya, adds, "What about your other responsibilities? You can't just give everything up." Eli feels crushed. "Why does no one believe in me? You're treating me like I can't do it." The family is stuck. They want Eli to dream big but also need him to stay grounded.

Discussion Questions

What Can Dreams Teach Us? Why do you think dreams are so important in this week's parsha? What lesson can we learn from Yosef's approach to his dreams?

Balancing Dreams and Reality: Do you think Eli's family is right to worry about his dream? How could they help him find a balance between pursuing his passion and staying realistic?

Turning Dreams Into Goals: What steps could Eli take to make his dream more achievable while still managing his responsibilities?

Listening to Others: When someone shares a big dream with you, how should you respond? Should you always encourage them, or is it okay to suggest limits?

Dreams and Hard Work: Why is it important to put effort into achieving your dreams? What happens if someone dreams big but doesn't take the steps to work for it?

SOLVE IT AND SEND IT!

How did the Romans manage to reach the top of Masada during their siege?

Send the answer to hamizrachiyouth@mizrachi.org to be entered into our monthly raffle!

PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

FYSOE
TOCA
ADRSEM
PYETG
ROHRBET
TPI
HRPOTIAP
RBTLEU
IRPONS



What is one dream or goal you have for yourself? This week, think about one small, realistic step you could take to move closer to it.



WORD OF THE WEEK

שֶׁמֶשׁ – Shemesh – Sun

(Bereishit 37:9) הָיָה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהַיָּרֵחַ

The Hebrew word “שֶׁמֶשׁ” (Shemesh) means “sun.” The root of the word is ש-מ-ש (shin-mem-shin). This root is also the basis of the word שָׁמַשׁ (shamash), which refers to a helper or servant, like the candle used to light the Chanukah menorah.

Some explain the connection between these words because the sun’s role is to be a constant servant of the world and a source of liveliness.



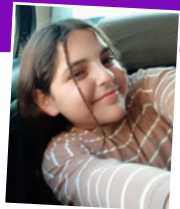
THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

25 Kislev

Founding of Zichron Ya’akov (5683/1882)

Zichron Ya’akov was founded in December 1882 when 100 Jewish pioneers from Romania, members of the Hibbat Zion movement, purchased two plots of land.

It is located in the North-West of Israel. Zichron Ya’akov is home to the first winery in Israel, Carmel Winery, which was established in 1885 with the help of Baron Rothschild.



MEET OUR READERS!

NAME: TALIA SHIFRA NADEL

GRADE: 6

LOCATION: OR AKIVA, ISRAEL



WHERE I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL IN ISRAEL: Kever Rachel, because Rachel was brave and left everything for her sister.

A MEANINGFUL JEWISH MEMORY THAT HELPED SHAPE WHO I AM: Making Aliyah in 2022!

IF I COULD DO ONE BIG CHESSED, IT WOULD BE: Rebuilding the Beit HaMikdash

FAVORITE PARSHA: Parshat Shemot, because the name Shifra appears and I like the whole story of Mitzrayim (Egypt).



WANT TO BE FEATURED IN A FUTURE EDITION?

If you'd like to be featured in an upcoming Youth Edition, and have a chance to win a prize, fill out the form at mizrachi.org/youthfeature or scan the QR code!



PARSHA ANSWERS

- Yaakov gives Yosef a coat of many colors.
- It symbolizes his favoritism towards Yosef.
- In the first dream, Yosef and his brothers are binding sheaves in the field, and Yosef's sheaf stands upright while his brother's sheaves bow down to it. In the second dream, Yosef sees the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing down to him.
- They are angered and out of jealousy and frustration, they plot to get rid of him.
- Snakes and scorpions.
- They sell him to a group of Ishmaelites.
- He is eventually sold as a slave to Potiphar.
- Due to false accusations made by Potiphar's wife.
- He meets Pharaoh's chief butler and baker.
- Yosef interprets their dreams, and Pharaoh uses Yosef to interpret his dreams later on.

JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL



PHOTO: HOWIE MISCHEL

Masada National Park

Masada (Metzada), meaning "fortress," is a remarkable site located in southeastern Israel overlooking the Dead Sea (Yam Hamelach). This ancient stronghold, built by King Herod, served as a palace and a place of refuge. It later became the site of the Jewish rebels' courageous final stand against the Roman Empire. The fortress offers breathtaking views and fascinating archaeological discoveries, including Herod's Northern Palace, an ancient synagogue, and ancient water systems. The dramatic story of Masada reflects resilience and a deep desire for freedom. Today, Masada is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to explore its history and beauty.

One of the most famous ways to reach Masada is the Snake Path (Shvil Hanachash), a steep and challenging trail. Hikers who make it to the top at sunrise are rewarded with a spectacular view of the Dead Sea and the surrounding desert.

קום התהלך בארץ

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 10 differences between these two parsha pictures?



This illustration was taken from the book 'בדרכה של תורה' on the Parsha.

Special thanks to Ori Lerman (illustrations), Rabbi Weitz, and the Har Bracha Institution for their permission.



HaMizrachi Parsha Weekly Youth Edition is a project of the Mizrahi Schools Department headed by Rabbi Bentzi Mann. Please email ravbentzi@mizrachi.org with any questions or comments.