



VOL 2 • NO 7

הַמִּזְרָחִי

HAMIZRACHI

PARSHA WEEKLY

YOUTH EDITION

A project of the Mizrahi Schools Department

PARSHAT VAYEITZEI 5785 • 2024

PARSHA SUMMARY

On his way to Charan, Yaakov stops for the night and lies down with a stone as a pillow. While he sleeps, he dreams of a ladder reaching up to Heaven with angels going up and down on it. In the dream, Hashem speaks to Yaakov and promises that the land he is lying on will belong to his descendants. Hashem also tells him that his descendants will spread across the world but that He will protect them wherever they go and bring them back to this land. Hashem promises not to leave Yaakov until all of his promises are fulfilled.

When Yaakov wakes up, he takes the stone he used as a pillow and turns it into an altar, promising that the place will become a house of Hashem.

When Yaakov arrives in Charan, he sees people gathered around a well. They explain that a huge stone covers the well, making it impossible to get water. Yaakov, who is very strong, moves the stone by himself.

Yaakov then goes to Lavan's house and works for seven years to marry Rachel. But Lavan tricks him, and Yaakov ends up marrying Leah instead. Yaakov still wants to marry Rachel, so Lavan makes him work another seven years for her. Leah has six sons, but Rachel has no children. Rachel gives her maid, Bilhah, to Yaakov, and Bilhah has two sons. Leah also gives her maid, Zilpah, to Yaakov, and she has two sons. Finally, Hashem remembers Rachel, and she has a son.

After 14 years in Charan, Yaakov wants to leave, but Lavan convinces him to stay, offering him sheep in exchange for his work. While working for Lavan, Yaakov becomes very wealthy and successful, even though Lavan tries to cheat him. After six more years, Yaakov decides he's had enough and prepares to leave for Canaan. Lavan chases after Yaakov, but Hashem warns Lavan in a dream not to harm him. When Lavan catches up with Yaakov at Har HaGilad, they make a pact before Yaakov and his family continue their journey to Canaan.



MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

The Person Makes The Place

In the opening of the parsha we are told that Yaakov leaves Be'er Sheva for the town of Charan. Rashi points out it is unnecessary to mention his place of departure – only the destination is important. So why mention that Be'er Sheva?

To teach us that the town of Be'er Sheva was not the same after Yaakov left. His transformative presence – his righteous, caring and contributing persona was no longer there – the city was never the same.

It is the person who makes the place. May every place we find ourselves in always be positively uplifted through our very presence.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Doron Perez
Executive Chairman,
World Mizrahi



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 dream did Yaakov have while on his journey?
2. What did Yaakov name the place where he had his dream?
3. Why did Yaakov want to work for Lavan, and what did he work as?
4. How many years did Yaakov work for Lavan?
5. How did Lavan trick Yaakov?
6. How many additional years did Yaakov work for Lavan to marry Rachel as well?
7. What were the names of Yaakov's 12 sons?
8. Which son isn't mentioned in this parsha?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Who Are Your True Friends?

In this week's parsha, we learn a fascinating insight about the word "brothers" (achim) and its dual meaning. When Yaakov needed help gathering stones for a monument, Rashi tells us that only his actual sons – his true brothers – came to help. Yet later, when it came time to eat, suddenly everyone became "brothers!" This teaches us an important lesson about true friendship: when there is hard work to be done, only those who truly care are there to help. But when it's time to celebrate, suddenly everyone wants to join in.

Dilemma of the Week: At school, Yosef is known for being popular. He calls everyone "achi" ("bro") and is always surrounded by friends during recess. One day, Yosef injures his leg and has to use crutches. Suddenly, it's hard for him to carry his lunch tray, and he can't play basketball with his friends. He notices that only a few people are willing to help him, while many of his usual "brothers" are busy having fun. His close friend, Uri, who wasn't part of his usual group, sticks by him and helps carry his things. Yosef starts wondering: Who are his true friends? Is it the group he hangs out with every day, or the friends who help him when he needs it most?

Discussion Questions

What Makes a True Friend? Why do you think Yaakov's sons helped gather stones, while Lavan's friends only showed up for the feast?

When Do Friends Disappear? Why might some people seem like good friends when things are fun but disappear when things get tough?

Testing Friendship: Have you ever been in a situation where you realized who your true friends were? What happened?

Giving and Taking in Friendships: Do you think it's important to be there for your friends, even when it's not convenient for you? Why or why not?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which tribe was given the Kinneret when the land of Israel was divided?

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

PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

DRDLEA

DMESRA

IEBT LE

HRAECL

HAIBHL

NAACNA

EHDESRHP

NAVLA

AARHCN



Think about your closest friends. Are they there for you only during the fun times, or can you count on them when you need real help?



WORD OF THE WEEK

שָׁמַר – Shamar – Guard/Keep

וְהָיָה אֲנֹכִי עֹמֵר וְשָׁמַר תִּיב (Bereishit 28:15)

The Hebrew word “שָׁמַר” (shamar) means to guard or keep. The root of this word is “ש-מ-ר” (Shin-Mem-Resh). This root appears in many modern Hebrew words that we use daily. For example, שוֹמֵר (shomer) means a guard, and שִׁמּוּרִים (shimurim) means preserves or canned food - because the food is “kept” fresh.



THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

8 Kislev

Golda Meir passed away (5739/1978)

Golda Meir was the only female Prime Minister of the State of Israel. She was born in Kiev, Russia, in 1898, and grew up with her family in America, where she lived until she moved to Israel in 1921 with her husband. Golda Meir became the fourth Prime Minister of the State of Israel, serving between 1969-1974. She is also one of two women to have signed the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel.



MEET OUR READERS!

NAME: DENA HADASSAH CANTOR

GRADE: 6TH

LOCATION: EFRAT, ISRAEL



IF I COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANY PERSON FROM TANACH, IT WOULD BE: Avraham because I am very inspired by how he found Hashem and I would like to learn from him how to connect better to Hashem.

WHERE I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL IN ISRAEL: The Kinneret because I've never been there before and I really want to go paddleboarding there as soon as the war is over.

A FUN FACT ABOUT ME THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW: I used to wear glasses when I was little but I outgrew them.



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

1. In Yaakov's dream, he saw a ladder reaching up to Heaven, with angels going up and down.
2. Beit El
3. In order to marry Rachel he worked as a shepherd.
4. 7 years (20 years in total)
5. Lavan swapped out Rachel with her older sister, Leah.
6. He worked an additional seven years to marry Rachel.
7. Reuven, Shimon, Levi, Yehuda, Yizachar, Zevulun, Dan, Naftali, Gad, Asher, Yosef and Binyamin.
8. Binyamin, he hadn't been born yet.

JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL



PHOTO BY HOWIE MISCHEL

Despite its reduced role in supplying water, the Kinneret remains an important symbol of Israel. The name “Kinneret” likely comes from the word “kinor” (a type of ancient lyre), hinting at the shape of the lake, or the sweet sound of its waves.

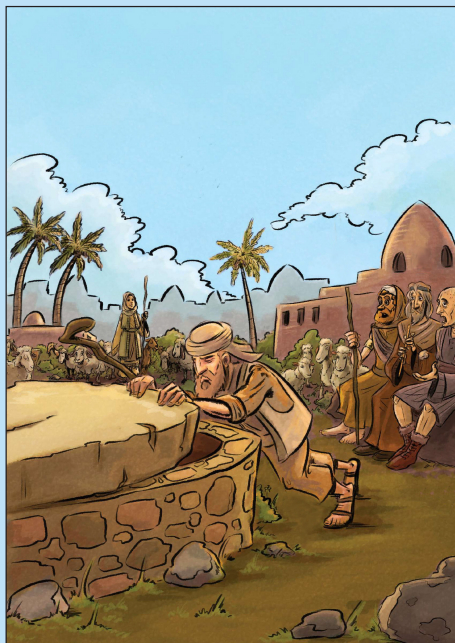
The Kinneret (Sea of Galilee)

The Kinneret, also known as the Sea of Galilee, is a freshwater lake located in the northern part of Israel. It is the largest freshwater lake in Israel and the second-lowest in the world, after the Dead Sea. The name “Kinneret” appears in the Tanach, specifically in the book of Bamidbar, when Hashem explains the borders of Israel to Moshe. The lake has been a crucial source of water for Israel, although its contribution has decreased over the years due to lower water levels and the development of desalination plants. Today, it provides only about 2-13% of Israel's water needs. The Kinneret is known for its natural beauty and rich history, with significant sites nearby like Tveria (Tiberias) and Ginosar.

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.