



VOL 2 • NO 8

הַמִּזְרָחִי HAMIZRACHI

A project of the Mizrahi Schools Department

PARSHA WEEKLY

YOUTH EDITION

PARSHAT VAYISHLACH 5785 • 2024

PARSHA SUMMARY

In Parshat Vayishlach, Yaakov returns to Eretz Canaan after living in Charan for 20 years. He knows he will have to meet Eisav, so he sends messengers ahead to try to make peace. The messengers come back and tell Yaakov that Eisav is coming to meet him with 400 men. Yaakov becomes very afraid and starts to prepare for war. He divides his camp into two groups so that if one is attacked, the other can escape. He also sends Eisav a large gift of animals to try to appease him.

That night, Yaakov takes his family—his wives, maid-servants, 11 sons, and all their belongings—and crosses the Jabbok River. After helping them across, Yaakov stays behind by himself. While he is alone, he wrestles with an angel all night. The angel injures Yaakov's hip, but as the sun rises, the angel asks Yaakov to let him go. Yaakov refuses until he is blessed. The angel gives him a new name, Yisrael, which means "he who prevails over the divine." Yaakov names the place Peniel, saying, "I have seen a divine being face to face."

Yaakov continues on and meets Eisav. He bows to Eisav, but Eisav hugs him warmly. Eisav is amazed at Yaakov's large family. He tries to return the gifts Yaakov sent, but Yaakov insists that he keep them, and Eisav agrees.

Yaakov and his family settle in Shechem, where he buys a plot of land. The parsha also tells about the troubling event where Yaakov's daughter Dina is taken by the prince of Shechem, and her brothers, Shimon and Levi, take revenge.

Later, Rachel dies while giving birth to her second son, Binyamin, and is buried on the road near Beit Lechem. Yaakov then arrives in Chevron, where his father Yitzchak passes away at the age of 180.

The parsha ends with details about Eisav's family – his wives, children, grandchildren, and the family histories of the people of Seir, where Eisav settled. It also lists the eight kings who ruled in Edom, the land of Eisav's descendants.



MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL

The Power of Personal Choice

The haftarah this week discusses a descendant of Eisav – the prophet Ovadiah. Eisav and Ovadiah could not be more different from each other. Eisav was the son of two incredibly righteous people, Yitzchak and Rivka, yet turned out to be so wicked. Alternately, Ovadiah grew up in the palace of the notoriously evil King Achav and Queen Jezebel, yet became the holy and righteous convert and prophet Ovadiah.

True, the home we grow up in and our surroundings have a great impact and influence on us, but ultimately nothing stands in the place of our own personal choice to be who we choose to be.

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

- How many men are expected to come with Eisav to meet Yaakov?
- What gifts does Yaakov send to Eisav to try and make peace?
- What significant event occurs to Yaakov the night before his reunion with Eisav?
- What new name is given to Yaakov by the angel?
- What does Yaakov ask the angel to do before they part ways?
- What did Yaakov call the place where he met the angel?
- What does the name mean, and why is it given to the place?
- At what age does Yitzchak pass away?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Standing Tall While Staying Humble

In this week's parsha, we see two names for Yaakov that seem to contradict each other. On one hand, "Yaakov" represents humility – like a heel (עקב), the lowest part of the body. On the other hand, he receives the name "Yisrael," which represents struggle and triumph – "for you have striven with G-d and men and prevailed." This teaches us that true humility isn't about thinking less of yourself, but rather understanding your place and potential for growth. Like a heel that supports the entire body, being grounded helps us understand where we are and where we can go. Only someone who can be humble like Yaakov can rise to become Yisrael.

Dilemma of the Week: Eliana is known in her 7th grade class as a kind and humble student who always helps others with their math homework and never brags about her accomplishments. She's also an excellent chess player but keeps quiet about it. When the school announces a chess tournament to raise money for a local charity, Eliana faces a dilemma. She knows her participation could attract more students to join and raise more money, but she would need to publicly demonstrate her skills and potentially beat her classmates. Her friend Ayala encourages her to participate, saying it's for a good cause, but Eliana worries that stepping into the spotlight goes against her nature of staying humble.

Discussion Questions

Growth Through Challenge: How does Yaakov's transformation into Yisrael teach us about personal growth?

Balance in Action: Can someone be both confident and humble at the same time? How?

Using Our Gifts: When does keeping our talents hidden actually prevent us from helping others?

Making the Right Choice: What would you advise Eliana to do? How can she participate while maintaining her humble nature?

SOLVE IT AND SEND IT!

In what year was Ben Yehuda Street officially converted into a pedestrian mall (Midrachov)?

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

PARSHA WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these parsha related words?

OYVAKA
VSIEA
NNEQUIR
LGNAE
EWESLRT
EASYLRI
RAYM
EHMHECS
NDIA



What special talent or ability do you have that you might be hiding? Is there a way you could use it this week to help someone else while staying true to your humble nature?



WORD OF THE WEEK

מַלְאָךְ – Malach – Angel/Messenger

וישליח יעקב מלאכים (Bereishit 32:4)

The Hebrew word “מַלְאָךְ” (pronounced “malach”) can mean both angel and messenger. The root is “כ-א-ך” (Lamed-Alef-Chaf). This root is shared with the Hebrew word “מְלָאכָה” (melacha), which means work or creative labor, as in the 39 types of מְלָאכָה forbidden on Shabbat. Both words are connected through the idea of having a mission or purpose – angels are messengers carrying out Hashem’s will, while doing melacha means performing purposeful creative work. In our parasha specifically, Rashi explains that the מַלְאָכִים that Yaakov sent to Eisav were angels, however, in other instances, מַלְאָכִים could also mean human messengers.



THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

15 Kislev

Passing of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi (981/217 CE)

Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi was born in Judea and lived in Tiberias and Tzipori (where he probably died) and was buried in Beit Shaarim. He was a fifth-generation Tana, president of the Sanhedrin and editor of the Mishnah.



MEET OUR READERS!

NAME: LIORA TEHILLA

GRADE: 6

LOCATION: HERZLIYA, ISRAEL



IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANY PERSON FROM TANACH, WHO WOULD IT BE? It would be Rut, and I'd ask her if she knew how famous she would be, what would she change?

WHERE I'D LIKE TO TRAVEL IN ISRAEL: I would go to the Chermom to see snow.

FAVORITE SHABBAT ACTIVITY: Spending time with family and cousins.

FAVORITE JEWISH FOOD: Fresh Challah.



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

- 400 men.
- He sends a large gift of livestock and animals.
- He wrestled with an angel.
- The angel renames Yaakov as Yisrael.
- Yaakov requests a bracha from him.
- Peniel
- It means the face of Hashem. The name is given to the place because Yaakov felt that he had encountered Hashem directly.
- Yitzchak died at the age of 180.

JOURNEY THROUGH ISRAEL



PHOTO: HOWIE MISCHEL

Ben Yehuda Street is named after Eliezer Ben Yehuda, who was instrumental in reviving Hebrew as a modern spoken language, creating the first Hebrew dictionary, and establishing one of the first Hebrew newspapers in Israel.

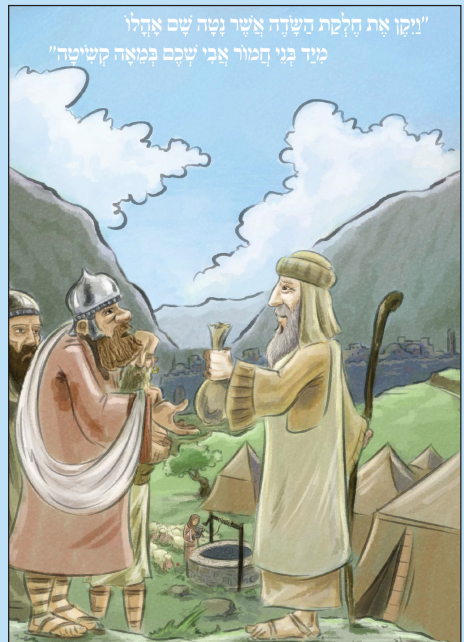
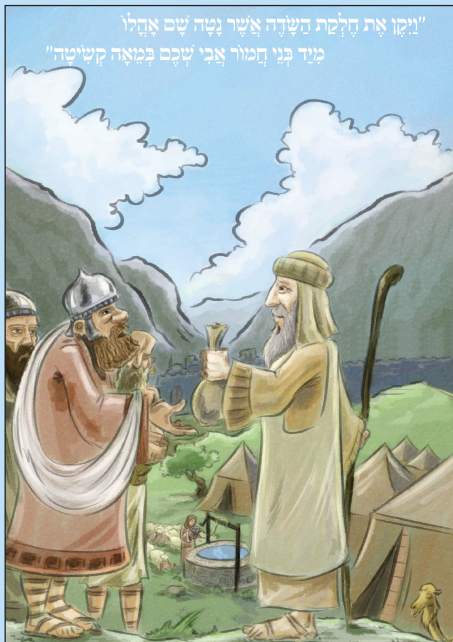
Ben Yehuda Street

Ben Yehuda Street (Rechov Ben Yehuda) is located in central Jerusalem. Ben Yehuda Street is a bustling commercial hub and popular pedestrian mall. Named after Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the reviver of the Hebrew language, the street connects Kikar Tzion (Zion Square) to King George Street. Developed by the British in the 1920s, it became a key commercial center of Jerusalem. In the 1980s, the street was transformed into a pedestrian zone (Mid-rachov), creating a vibrant area for shops, cafes, and restaurants. The street has witnessed significant historical moments, including terrorist attacks during the Second Intifada, but has remained a central gathering place for locals and tourists alike.

קום התהלך בארץ

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you find 10 differences between these two parsha pictures?



This illustration was taken from the book 'ב'דרכה 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.