

# המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם



## **TORAH READING:**

Vayechi: Genesis 47:28 - 50:26

Tevet 14, 5776  
December 26, 2015

## **HAFTARAH:**

Kings I 2:1-12

In this week's Torah portion, Vayechi: Genesis 47:28 - 50:26, Jacob is nearing the end of his days. He is preoccupied with his progeny, the future of the nation of Israel, and the final Redemption. He blesses each of the twelve sons, his ten and Joseph's two. Each lineage would fulfill a specific role in the Promised Land.

Jacob was blessed with keen foresight into the future. He foresaw that the Final Redemption, the time when G-d will send the Messiah to return the Jews to the land of Israel, rebuild the Holy Temple and usher in the utopian Messianic Era, would occur thousands of years in the future, delayed by the misdeeds of the intervening generations.

Redemption has profound significance in Judaism. The first Redemption was the exodus from Egypt. Freedom from physical slavery was just the beginning. Our spiritual exile continues until each Jewish individual liberates themselves from a separation from HaShem, possible only through casting off the pagan practice of idolatry. Our tendency to worship the false Gods of self, intellect, science, reputation, money, nature, religion, to name a few, results in those misdeeds that Jacob saw would delay the Final Redemption. Those misdeeds include abortion ( child sacrifice in modern times ) for convenience and profit.

Our Final Redemption is promised to us only when every single Jew willingly redeems themselves by turning once again towards our holy principles, collectively preparing the soul of our Nation for the time when this world will be a reflection of its Creator, G-d. A world where the rights and wrongs of the Torah are self-evident truths.