

המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם



TORAH READING:

Vayishlach: Genesis 32:4 - 36:43

Kislev 16, 5776

November 28, 2015

This portion mentions the death of Rachel, of whom our post abortion healing program, Tikvat Rachel, is named. Rachel was the second wife of Jacob. She bore two sons. Her first born son, Joseph, was instrumental in saving the people in Egypt and the surrounding countries from famine. At 39 years of age, Rachel died giving birth to Benjamin while traveling from her childhood home in Mesopotamia to Jacob's home in Canaan. She died near Bethlehem. Jacob buried her in a tomb near the road because he envisioned the future exile of the Jews from Jerusalem after the Babylonian conquest in 586 BCE. She could pray for the exiled Jews as they passed her tomb on their way to Babylon. His prophecy was fulfilled, as Jeremiah. 31:14–16 attests: “A cry is heard in Ramah—wailing, bitter weeping—Rachel weeping for her children, she refuses to be comforted for her children, who are gone. Thus said the Lord: Restrain your voice from weeping, your eyes from shedding tears; for there is a reward for your labor—declares the Lord: They shall return from the enemy's land. And there is hope for your future—declares the Lord: Your children shall return to their country”

Tikvah Rachel heals the post abortive Jew in two ways:

- 1) It returns the spiritually exiled post abortive Jew to the covenant with G-d.
- 2) It consoles the grief stricken Jewish mother and father, alleviating the pain and regret of the abortion and loss of their child.