

Parashah 7 Vayetze (He went out)

Vayetze (He went out) {Genesis 28:10 – 32:3}

Haftorah: Hoshea (Hosea) 12:13 – 14:10; 11:7 – 12:12)

B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah

Ephesians 2:1-8; Mark 4:24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

This week's portion is from Genesis 28:10 – 32:3

(Bold, Underlining and Italics added for emphasize) {NKJV-New King James Version, CJB-Complete Jewish Bible, TEV-Today's English Version}

As always let us start with prayer for understanding of G-d's word with His promises and requirements for us: **Psalm 86:11,6 (NKJV)** "⁶ *Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer*; and attend to the voice of my supplications. ¹¹ *Teach me Your way, O LORD*; I will walk in Your truth; *Unite my heart* to fear Your name."

Moving right along as G-d's plans and purpose for mankind proceeds ahead, regardless of the mistakes by imperfect humans. Yet we are going to see and learn how G-d is true to his promises, plans and purposes no matter the "human" factor involved. Think about it, regardless of ourselves and our inherent sinful mistakes, G-d's grace and love will abound for us.

The forefathers of our faith, while being closer to the truth in knowledge of G-d almighty due to their close relationship to survivors of Noah's flood and those survivors close knowledge of G-d Almighty, were still spiritually immature. Abraham, Isaac and now Jacob made many mistakes along the way as they grew in their faith and spiritual maturity. Yet G-d had not yet established the boundaries of His expectations, laws, codes of behavior, as He would with the Laws given through Moses at Mt. Sinai. All of this to prepare mankind for a chosen nation who would teach us all we know about G-d and be the conduit for the Messiah to arrive and bring salvation with reconciliation to all of mankind. Despite the "human" factor involved in G-d's plans and purposes, we will see it is through His love, grace and mercy, which he has brought all to fruition. It is through this same love, grace and mercy that we are being prepared for and will bring back the Messiah, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ the Messiah with G-d's kingdom to be once again on earth as it is in heaven.

Ephesians 2:1-8 (TEV)¹ In the past you were *spiritually dead because of your disobedience and sins*.² At that time you followed the world's evil way; you obeyed the ruler of the spiritual powers in space, the spirit who now controls the people who disobey God.³ *Actually all of us were like them and lived according to our natural desires, doing whatever suited the wishes of our own bodies and minds. In our natural condition we, like everyone else, were destined to suffer God's anger.*⁴ **But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great,**⁵ **that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved.**⁶ In our union with Christ Jesus he raised us up with him to rule with him in the heavenly world.⁷ *He did this to demonstrate for all time to come the extraordinary greatness of his grace in the love he showed us in Christ Jesus.*⁸ **For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift,**

so that no one can boast about it.

Getting back to the Torah portion, we see that the forefathers were commanded to be wanderers, sojourners, and foreigners in different lands, even in the land G-d would give to their very own descendants. As G-d is getting closer to the bringing together the chosen nation, the people to be set apart, He gives reassurances to Jacob, who has been told to journey away from what he knows as home and be somewhere strange to him and his sensibilities. G-d has spoken with and reassured each of the chosen line, in the language of the firstborn, with assurance they are the next in line, the next link in the chain of the chosen. Each time, just as we see here, G-d Almighty has given something each one so far has needed, a personal guarantee of protection and direction.

First as Isaac sends Jacob away, he gives this blessing and promise to him:

Genesis 28:3-4 (NKJV) ³ "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; ⁴ And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

3. And may the Almighty God bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and you shall become an assembly of peoples.

ג. וְאֵל שְׁדֵי יִבְרַךְ אֶתְּךָ וְיַפְרֶדְךָ וְיִרְבֶּךָ וְהִיִּיתָ לְקַהֵל עַמִּים:

4. And may He give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your seed with you, that you may inherit the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham."

ד. וְיִתֶּן לְךָ אֶת בְּרַכְתּוֹ אֲבֹרָהֶם לְךָ וּלְזַרְעֶךָ אֶתֶּךָ לְרִשְׁתָּךְ אֶת אֶרֶץ מְגֻרֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן אֱלֹהִים לְאַבְרָהָם:

As Jacob left, no doubt feeling vulnerable, a bit paranoid of over Esau's threat to kill him, a bit concerned over his deceptive manner in obtaining what he did and a bit confused, he stopped the first night for rest and sleep. G-d Almighty comes to him in his sleep with a vision in which G-d himself gave Jacob reassurance for the future, the personal guarantee of being the next link and of protection.

Genesis 28:10-15 (TEV) ¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and started toward Haran. ¹¹ At sunset he came to a holy place and camped there. He lay down to sleep, resting his head on a stone. ¹² *He dreamed* that he saw a stairway reaching from earth to heaven, with angels going up and coming down on it. ¹³ *And there was the LORD standing beside him. "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham and Isaac," he said. "I will give to you and to your descendants this land on which you are lying.* ¹⁴ They will be as numerous as the specks of dust on the earth. They will extend their territory in all directions, and ***through you and your descendants I will bless all the nations.*** ¹⁵ *Remember, I will be with you and protect you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done all that I have promised you."*

10. And Jacob left Beer sheba, and he went to Haran.

י. וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חָרָנָה:

11. And he arrived at the place and lodged there because the sun had set, and he took some of the stones of the place and placed [them] at his head, and he lay down in that place.

יא. וַיִּפְגַּע בְּמָקוֹם וַיֵּלֶן שָׁם כִּי בָא הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּקַּח מֵאֲבָנֵי הַמָּקוֹם וַיִּשֶׂם מִרְאֲשֹׁתָיו וַיִּשְׁכַּב בְּמָקוֹם הַהוּא:

12. And he dreamed, and behold! a ladder set up on the ground and its top reached to heaven; and behold, angels of God were ascending and descending upon it.

יב. וַיַּחְלֵם וַהֲגִה סֵלֶם מֵצֵב אֶרְצָה וּרְאִשׁוֹ מִגִּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וַהֲגִה מִלְּאֲכֵי אֱלֹהִים עֲלֵים וְיֹרְדִים בּוֹ:

13. And behold, the Lord was standing over him, and He said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac; the land upon which you are lying to you I will give it and to your seed.

יג. וַהֲגִה יְהוָה נֹצֵב עָלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹרָהֶם אָבִיךָ וְאֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה שֹׁכֵב עָלֶיהָ לְךָ אֶתְנַנָּה וּלְזַרְעֶךָ:

14. And your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shall gain strength westward and eastward and northward and southward; and through you shall be blessed all the families of the earth and through your seed.

יִדְּ. וְהָיָה זְרַעְךָ כְּעֹפֶר הָאָרֶץ וּפְרֻצְתֵימָה וְקִדְמָה וְצַפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וְנִבְרָכוּ בְךָ כָּל מְשֻׁפְחוֹת הָאָדָמָה וּבְזַרְעֶךָ:

We have already seen how Abraham had after an appearance by G-d almighty, built an altar to Him (Genesis 12:7) and how Isaac also built an altar to G-d (Genesis 26:24). Now Jacob arises from his sleep and vision to himself build an altar, actually a pillar (cornerstone). Jacob anointed the stone with oil and gave the location a name meaning "house of G-d".

Genesis 28:16-19 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!" ¹⁸ *Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.* ¹⁹ And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

16. And Jacob awakened from his sleep, and he said, "Indeed, the Lord is in this place, and I did not know [it]."

טז. וַיִּקָּץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אָבֹן יֵשׁ הַזֶּה בְּמָקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי:

17. And he was frightened, and he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

יז. וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מַה נֹּרָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם בַּיִת אֱלֹהִים זֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם:

18. And Jacob arose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had placed at his head, and he set it up as a monument, and he poured oil on top of it.

יח. וַיִּשְׁכֹּם יַעֲקֹב בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקַּח אֶת הָאָבֹן אֲשֶׁר שָׁם מִרְאֲשֹׁתָיו וַיִּשֶׂם אֹתָהּ מִצְבֵּה וַיִּצַק שָׁמֶן עַל רֹאשָׁהּ:

19. And he named the place Beth El, but Luz was originally the name of the city.

יט. וַיִּקְרָא אֶת שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בַּיִת אֵל וְאוּלַם לֹזוֹ שֵׁם הָעִיר לְרֵאשִׁנָּה:

Jacob continued on his assigned journey, arriving at the land of his relatives, specifically the household of his uncle, Laban. Remember Laban? We saw him last portion, the brother of Rebekah (Jacob's Mother).

Genesis 28:5 (NKJV) ⁵ So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

5. And Isaac sent Jacob, and he went to Padan aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebecca, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

ה. וַיִּשְׁלַח יִצְחָק אֶת יַעֲקֹב וַיִּלְךְ פְּדָנָה אֶרֶם אֶל לָבָן בֶּן בְּתוּאֵל הָאַרְמִי אַחֵי רֵבֶקָה אִם יַעֲקֹב וַעֲשׂוֹ:

Of course the rest is history; the hard work, the deceptions by Laban that caused Jacob to stay with him for approximately twenty years (Genesis 31:38).

Jacob's deception was revisiting him for "as we measure, it will be measured to us":

Mark 4:24 (CJB) ²⁴ He also said to them, "**Pay attention** to what you are hearing! *The measure with which you measure out will be used to measure to you — and more besides!*

This does not mean G-d has reneged on His reassurance and promises to Jacob. No, sometimes the situation we find ourselves in for a season is G-d's way of teaching and maturing us. It is always for our benefit and by G-d's will, no matter how it looks or seems to us at the time, including seeming to be unfair and harsh.

During this time of maturing and growing spiritually for Jacob, eleven of the 12 sons, eleven of the

forefathers of the 12 tribes of Israel are born in this exile. The birth of Jacob's sons is important.

Jacob is now a wealthy man, and Laban is very envious. For the first time since Jacob left Canaan, G-d Almighty will speak directly to him. A direct word from G-d himself is how Jacob knows that his exile has ended:

Genesis 31:3-4 (CJB) ³ Adonai said to Ya'akov, "Return to the land of your ancestors, to your kinsmen; I will be with you."⁴ So Ya'akov sent for Rachel and Le'ah and had them come to the field where his flock was.

3. And the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your forefathers and to your birthplace, and I will be with you."

ג. וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל יַעֲקֹב שׁוּב אֶל אֶרֶץ אַבְוֹתֶיךָ וְלִמְוֹלַדְתֶּךָ וְאִתִּי אֶעֱמָד:

4. So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flocks.

ד. וַיִּשְׁלַח יַעֲקֹב וַיִּקְרָא לְרַחֵל וּלְלֵאָה הַשָּׂדֶה אֶל צֹאנָו:

Note that Jacob speaks to his wives in the field where his "flock" is. And "flock" is not plural. When God has told him to return, there is only ONE flock. ***It is in the field where and when Jacob receives the word*** directly from God that it is time to leave. *That is something to ponder.*

Jacob, his wives with his family, take his property and depart from Laban and head back to Canaan. He completely breaks ties with Laban. We will hear from Laban no more. Jacob, the deceiver, came to Haran 20 years ago. He met up with a trait of his own character...Laban, a deceitful man who was manipulative, possessive, and selfish. Jacob's separation from Laban pictures his separation from his own character flaw. This must happen before Jacob (and us) can return to the Land and leave the exile.

This type of manipulation and deception is something the Apostle Paul warns us of. Warns us of as we are in exile awaiting the Living Word to return, to show us it is time to exit our exile in the world and system of Satan, to return to the "Promised Land", G-d's kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven!!!!

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (TEV) ¹³ Those men are not true apostles—they are false apostles, *who lie about their work and disguise themselves to look like real apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ **Well, no wonder! Even Satan can disguise himself to look like an angel of light!** ¹⁵ So it is no great thing if his servants disguise themselves to look like servants of righteousness. In the end they will get exactly what their actions deserve.

Jacob is still a work in process and his next challenge will be in dealing with his brother, Esau. We'll deal with that next week.

Haftarah - Prophets

Hoshea (Hosea) 12:13 – 14:10; 11:7 – 12:12

The Haftarah for this Parashah, relationship is obvious from the Haftarah, which describes Jacob's journey to Haran in search of a wife. However, the connection is much more profound. As creatures of free will, our decisions can cause G-d Almighty to adjust events so that His will, plan and purposes are best accomplished. The end result will always be as God intended, but the events leading to that moment can be more circuitous and convoluted than necessary. In the case of Jacob vs. Esau and Isaac vs. Ismael, the actions of men caused G-d Almighty to make accommodations.

Hosea 12:6-13 (TEV) ⁶ So now, descendants of Jacob, trust in your God and return to him. Be loyal and just, and wait patiently for your God to act. ⁷ The LORD says, "The people of Israel are as dishonest as the Canaanites; they love to cheat their customers with false scales. ⁸ 'We are rich,' they say. 'We've made a fortune. And no one can accuse us of getting rich dishonestly.' ⁹ But I, the LORD your God who led you out of Egypt, I will make you live in tents again, as you did when I came to you in the desert. ¹⁰ "I spoke to the prophets and gave them many visions, and through the prophets I gave my people warnings. ¹¹ Yet idols are worshiped in Gilead, and those who worship them will die. Bulls are sacrificed in Gilgal, and the altars there will become piles of stone in the open fields." ¹² Our ancestor Jacob had to flee to Mesopotamia, where, in order to get a wife, he worked for another man and took care of his sheep. ¹³ The LORD sent a prophet to rescue the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt and to take care of them.

The last verse states clearly G-d's ways are right. Man's way, taking matters into his own hands, devoid of G-d, leads to pain, sorrow, and destruction. G-d's way, which is righteous, proper, wise, and direct, leads to healing, love, and prosperity. The ways of G-d Almighty are pleasant, loving, caring, and respectful.

Hosea 14:9 (TEV) ⁹ May those who are wise understand what is written here, and may they take it to heart. The LORD'S ways are right, and righteous people live by following them, but sinners stumble and fall because they ignore them.

B'rit Hadashah – New Testament

Ephesians 2:1-8; Mark 4:24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Time to review and summarize this week's teaching and study.

Again, this week's Parashah adds the history of covenant, God's Grace and God's choices. It continues in the teaching on Faith, Action and Obedience. Using history and or genealogy, we see how God makes choices for the future of humankind through his Grace and how we can fall short of his offered grace, not receiving it.

We learn how G-d continually gives guidance and reassurances of his promises just as we see he did with Isaac and now Jacob. God's election is by sovereign choice; it is not based on human circumstances. Faith does not merely believe, it is a way of life and a walk with God in obedience and action. Faith is put into action! Are we there yet? Are putting our faith into action?

- Very often we are running away from our past and from G-d's direction for us, thinking we know better, or are listening to the false angel of light, Satan.
- Do we take into consideration that where we find ourselves is exactly where G-d wants us to be?
- Life may not be what we think it should be or where we want to be, but is it not quite possible that this is where we need to be.

- Perhaps, if we stop looking to ourselves for the answer and just look up, we will find G-d has been right there at the top of our "ladder" all the while, waiting on us to stop long enough to see he has been there all the time!

CLOSING:

“Lord G-d of Av'raham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov – I praise You, for Your faithfulness is everlasting. Forgive me for not seeing You in this place, and for continually second-guessing Your word, Teach me to never wander from Your ways, but to press forward according to Your word with the confidence that you are with me. ADONAI, You are my G-d – may my running come to an end, save only my running after You. I bless Your Holy Name, for Your word is trustworthy and true, and I will follow You wholeheartedly all of my days....”

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Despite the "human" factor involved in G-d's plans and purposes, we will see it is through His love, grace and mercy, which he has brought all to fruition. It is through this same love, grace and mercy that we are being prepared for and will bring back the Messiah, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ the Messiah with G-d's kingdom to be once again on earth as it is in heaven.

*YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE WORD,
FOR THE WORD TO BE IN YOU!*

Shabbat Shalom, G-d Bless and Keep you!

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