

## **Parashah 12: Vayechi (He lived) 47:28-50:26**

(Gen 47:28 CJB) Ya`akov lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years; thus Ya`akov lived to be 147 years old.

(Gen 47:29 CJB) The time came when Isra'el was approaching death; so he called for his son Yosef and said to him, "If you truly love me, please put your hand under my thigh and pledge that, out of consideration for me, you will not bury me in Egypt.

(Gen 47:30 CJB) Rather, when I sleep with my fathers, you are to carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried." He replied, "I will do as you have said."

(Gen 47:31 CJB) He said, "Swear it to me," and he swore to him. Then Isra'el bowed down at the head of his bed.

(Gen 48:1 CJB) Awhile later someone told Yosef that his father was ill. He took with him his two sons, M'nasheh and Efrayim.

(Gen 48:2 CJB) Ya`akov was told, "Here comes your son Yosef." Isra'el gathered his strength and sat up in bed.

(Gen 48:3 CJB) Ya`akov said to Yosef, "El Shaddai appeared to me at Luz in the land of Kena`an and blessed me,

(Gen 48:4 CJB) saying to me, 'I will make you fruitful and numerous. I will make of you a group of peoples; and I will give this land to your descendants to possess forever.'

(Gen 48:5 CJB) Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Efrayim and M'nasheh will be as much mine as Re'uven and Shim`on are.

(Gen 48:6 CJB) The children born to you after them will be yours, but for purposes of inheritance they are to be counted with their older brothers.

(Gen 48:7 CJB) "Now as for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died suddenly, as we were traveling through the land of Kena`an, while we were still some distance from Efrat; so I buried her there on the way to Efrat (also known as Beit-Lechem)."

(Gen 48:8 CJB) Then Isra'el noticed Yosef's sons and asked, "Whose are these?"

(Gen 48:9 CJB) Yosef answered his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." Ya`akov replied, "I want you to bring them here to me, so that I can bless them."

(Gen 48:10 CJB) Now Isra'el's eyes were dim with age, so that he could not see. Yosef brought his sons near to him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

(Gen 48:11 CJB) Isra'el said to Yosef, "I never expected to see even you again, but God has allowed me to see your children too!"

(Gen 48:12 CJB) Yosef brought them out from between his legs and prostrated himself on the ground.

(Gen 48:13 CJB) Then Yosef took them both, Efrayim in his right hand toward Isra'el's left hand and M'nasheh in his left hand toward Isra'el's right hand, and brought them near to him.

(Gen 48:14 CJB) But Isra'el put out his right hand and laid it on the head of the younger one, Efrayim, and put his left hand on the head of M'nasheh — he intentionally crossed his hands, even though M'nasheh was the firstborn.

(Gen 48:15 CJB) Then he blessed Yosef: "The God in whose presence my fathers Avraham and Yitz'chak lived, the God who has been my own shepherd all my life long to this day,

(Gen 48:16 CJB) the angel who has rescued me from all harm, bless these boys. May they remember who I am and what I stand for, and likewise my fathers Avraham and Yitz'chak, who they were and what they stood for. And may they grow into teeming multitudes on the earth."

(Gen 48:17 CJB) When Yosef saw that his father was laying his right hand on Efrayim's head, it displeased him, and he lifted up his father's hand to remove it from Efrayim's head and place it instead on M'nasheh's head.

(Gen 48:18 CJB) Yosef said to his father, "Don't do it that way, my father; for this one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head."

(Gen 48:19 CJB) But his father refused and said, "I know that, my son, I know it. He too will become a people, and he too will be great; nevertheless his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will grow into many nations."

(Gen 48:20 CJB) Then he added this blessing on them that day: "Isra'el will speak of you in their own blessings by saying, 'May God make you like Efrayim and M'nasheh.' " Thus he put Efrayim ahead of M'nasheh.

(Gen 48:21 CJB) Isra'el then said to Yosef, "You see that I am dying, but God will be with you and will bring you back to the land of your ancestors.

(Gen 48:22 CJB) Moreover, I am giving to you a sh'khem [*shoulder, ridge, share, city of Sh'khem*] more than to your brothers; I captured it from the Emori with my sword and bow."

(Gen 49:1 CJB) Then Ya`akov called for his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, and I will tell you what will happen to you in the acharit-hayamim.

(Gen 49:2 CJB) Assemble yourselves and listen, sons of Ya`akov; pay attention to Isra'el your father.

(Gen 49:3 CJB) "Re'uven, you are my firstborn, my strength, the firstfruits of my manhood.

(Gen 49:4 CJB) Though superior in vigor and power you are unstable as water, so your superiority will end, because you climbed into your father's bed and defiled it — he climbed onto my concubine's couch!

(Gen 49:5 CJB) "Shim`on and Levi are brothers, related by weapons of violence.

(Gen 49:6 CJB) Let me not enter their council, let my honor not be connected with their people; for in their anger they killed men, and at their whim they maimed cattle.

(Gen 49:7 CJB) Cursed be their anger, for it has been fierce; their fury, for it has been cruel. I will divide them in Ya`akov and scatter them in Isra'el.

(Gen 49:8 CJB) "Y'hudah, your brothers will acknowledge you, your hand will be on the neck of your enemies, your father's sons will bow down before you.

(Gen 49:9 CJB) Y'hudah is a lion's cub; my son, you stand over the prey. He crouches down and stretches like a lion; like a lioness, who dares to provoke him?

(Gen 49:10 CJB) The scepter will not pass from Y'hudah, nor the ruler's staff from between his legs, until he comes to whom *[obedience]* belongs; *[or: until Shiloh comes]* and it is he whom the peoples will obey.

(Gen 49:11 CJB) Tying his donkey to the vine, his donkey's colt to the choice grapevine, he washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes.

(Gen 49:12 CJB) His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.

(Gen 49:13 CJB) "Z'vulun will live at the seashore, with ships anchoring along his coast and his border at Tzidon.

(Gen 49:14 CJB) "Yissakhar is a strong donkey lying down in the sheep sheds.

(Gen 49:15 CJB) On seeing how good is settled life and how pleasant the country, he will bend his back to the burden, and submit to forced labor.

(Gen 49:16 CJB) "Dan will judge his people as one of the tribes of Isra'el.

(Gen 49:17 CJB) Dan will be a viper on the road, a horned snake in the path that bites the horse's heels so its rider falls off backward.

(Gen 49:18 CJB) I wait for your deliverance, Adonai.

(Gen 49:19 CJB) "Gad *[troop]* — a troop will troop on him, but he will troop on their heel.

(Gen 49:20 CJB) "Asher's food is rich — he will provide food fit for a king.

(Gen 49:21 CJB) "Naftali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns. *[or: that says beautiful words.]*

(Gen 49:22 CJB) "Yosef is a fruitful plant, a fruitful plant by a spring, with branches climbing over the wall.

(Gen 49:23 CJB) The archers attacked him fiercely, shooting at him and pressing him hard;

(Gen 49:24 CJB) but his bow remained taut; and his arms were made nimble by the hands of the Mighty One of Ya`akov, from there, from the Shepherd, the Stone of Isra'el,

(Gen 49:25 CJB) by the God of your father, who will help you, by El Shaddai, who will bless you with blessings from heaven above, blessings from the deep, lying below, blessings from the breasts and the womb.

(Gen 49:26 CJB) The blessings of your father are more powerful than the blessings of my parents, extending to the farthest of the everlasting hills; they will be on the head of Yosef, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.

(Gen 49:27 CJB) "Binyamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey, in the evening still dividing the spoil."

(Gen 49:28 CJB) All these are the twelve tribes of Isra'el, and this is how their father spoke to them and blessed them, giving each his own individual blessing.

(Gen 49:29 CJB) Then he charged them as follows: "I am to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my ancestors in the cave that is in the field of `Efron the Hitti,

(Gen 49:30 CJB) the cave in the field of Makhpelah, by Mamre, in the land of Kena`an, which Avraham bought together with the field from `Efron the Hitti as a burial-place belonging to him —

(Gen 49:31 CJB) there they buried Avraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Yitz'chak and his wife Rivkah, and there I buried Le'ah —

(Gen 49:32 CJB) the field and the cave in it, which was purchased from the sons of Het."

(Gen 49:33 CJB) When Ya`akov had finished charging his sons, he drew his legs up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

(Gen 50:1 CJB) Yosef fell on his father's face, wept over him and kissed him.

(Gen 50:2 CJB) Then Yosef ordered the physicians in his service to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Isra'el.

(Gen 50:3 CJB) Forty days were spent at this, the normal amount of time for embalming. Then the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

(Gen 50:4 CJB) When the period of mourning was over, Yosef addressed to the household of Pharaoh: "I would like to ask a favor. Tell Pharaoh,

(Gen 50:5 CJB) 'My father had me swear an oath. He said, "I am going to die. You are to bury me in my grave, which I dug for myself in the land of Kena`an." Therefore, I beg you, let me go up and bury my father; I will return.' "

(Gen 50:6 CJB) Pharaoh responded, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

(Gen 50:7 CJB) So Yosef went up to bury his father. With him went all Pharaoh's servants, the leaders of his household and the leaders of the land of Egypt,

(Gen 50:8 CJB) along with the entire household of Yosef, his brothers and his father's household; only their little ones, their flocks and their cattle did they leave in the land of Goshen.

(Gen 50:9 CJB) Moreover, there went up with him both chariots and horsemen — it was a very large caravan.

(Gen 50:10 CJB) When they arrived at the threshing-floor in Atad, beyond the Yarden, they raised a loud and bitter lamentation, mourning for his father seven days.

(Gen 50:11 CJB) When the local inhabitants, the Kena`ani, saw the mourning on the floor of Atad they said, "How bitterly the Egyptians are mourning!" This is why the place was given the name Avel-Mitzrayim [*mourning of Egypt*], there beyond the Yarden.

(Gen 50:12 CJB) His sons did to him as he had ordered them to do —

(Gen 50:13 CJB) they carried him into the land of Kena`an and buried him in the cave in the field of Makhpelah, which Avraham had bought, along with the field, as a burial-place belonging to him, from `Efron the Hitti, by Mamre.

(Gen 50:14 CJB) Then, after burying his father, Yosef returned to Egypt, he, his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

(Gen 50:15 CJB) Realizing that their father was dead, Yosef's brothers said, "Yosef may hate us now and pay us back in full for all the suffering we caused him."

(Gen 50:16 CJB) So they sent a message to Yosef which said, "Your father gave this order before he died:

(Gen 50:17 CJB) 'Say to Yosef, "I beg you now, please forgive your brothers' crime and wickedness in doing you harm." ' So now, we beg of you, forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Yosef wept when they spoke to him;

(Gen 50:18 CJB) and his brothers too came, prostrated themselves before him and said, "Here, we are your slaves."

(Gen 50:19 CJB) But Yosef said to them, "Don't be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

(Gen 50:20 CJB) You meant to do me harm, but God meant it for good — so that it would come about as it is today, with many people's lives being saved.

(Gen 50:21 CJB) So don't be afraid — I will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he comforted them, speaking kindly to them.

(Gen 50:22 CJB) Yosef continued living in Egypt, he and his father's household. Yosef lived 110 years.

(Gen 50:23 CJB) Yosef lived to see Efrayim's great-grandchildren, and the children of M'nasheh's son Makhir were born on Yosef's knees.

(Gen 50:24 CJB) Yosef said to his brothers, "I am dying. But God will surely remember you and bring you up out of this land to the land which he swore to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov."

(Gen 50:25 CJB) Then Yosef took an oath from the sons of Isra'el: "God will surely remember you, and you are to carry my bones up from here."

(Gen 50:26 CJB) So Yosef died at the age of 110, and they embalmed him and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

**Haftarah Vayechi: M'lakhim Alef (1 Kings) 2:1-12**

(1Ki 2:1 CJB) The time came near for David to die; so he commissioned Shlomo his son as follows:

(1Ki 2:2 CJB) "I am going the way of all the earth. Therefore, be strong; show yourself a man.

(1Ki 2:3 CJB) Observe the charge of Adonai your God to go in his ways and keep his regulations, mitzvot, rulings and instructions in accordance with what is written in the Torah of Moshe; so that you will succeed in all you do and wherever you go.

(1Ki 2:4 CJB) If you do, Adonai will fulfill what he promised me when he said, 'If your children pay attention to how they live, conducting themselves before me honestly with all their heart and being, you will never lack a man on the throne of Isra'el.'

(1Ki 2:5 CJB) "Moreover, you are aware of what Yo'av the son of Tz'ruiyah did to me, that is, what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Isra'el, Avner the son of Ner and `Amasa the son of Yeter — he killed them, shedding the blood of war in peacetime, putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and the shoes on his feet.

(1Ki 2:6 CJB) Therefore, act according to your wisdom; don't let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

(1Ki 2:7 CJB) "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gil`adi. Include them with those who eat at your table, because they came and stood with me when I was fleeing from Avshalom your brother.

(1Ki 2:8 CJB) "Finally, you have with you Shim`i the son of Gera the Binyamini, from Bachurim. He laid a terrible curse on me when I was on my way to Machanayim; but he came down to meet me at the Yarden; so I swore to him by Adonai that I would not have him put to death with the sword.

(1Ki 2:9 CJB) Now, however, you should not let him go unpunished. You are a wise man, and you will know what you should do to him — you will bring his gray head down to the grave with blood."

(1Ki 2:10 CJB) Then David slept with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David.

(1Ki 2:11 CJB) David had ruled Isra'el for forty years — seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Yerushalayim.

(1Ki 2:12 CJB) Shlomo sat on the throne of David his father; and his rule had become firmly established,

**B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah Vayechi: Acts 7:9-16 (specifically vv. 15-16); Messianic Jews (Hebrews) 11:21-22; 1 Kefa (1 Peter) 1: 3-9; 2:11-17**

(Act 7:9 CJB) "Now the Patriarchs grew jealous of Yosef and sold him into slavery in Egypt. But Adonai was with him;

(Act 7:10 CJB) he rescued him from all his troubles and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him chief administrator over Egypt and over all his household.

(Act 7:11 CJB) Now there came a famine that caused much suffering throughout Egypt and Kena`an

(Act 7:12 CJB) But when Ya`akov heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers there the first time.

(Act 7:13 CJB) The second time, Yosef revealed his identity to his brothers, and Yosef's family became known to Pharaoh.

(Act 7:14 CJB) Yosef then sent for his father Ya`akov and all his relatives, seventy-five people.

(Act 7:15 CJB) And Ya`akov went down to Egypt; there he died, as did our other ancestors.

(Act 7:16 CJB) Their bodies were removed to Sh'khem and buried in the tomb Avraham had bought from the family of Hamor in Sh'khem for a certain sum of money.

(Heb 11:21 CJB) By trusting, Ya`akov, when he was dying, blessed each of Yosef's sons, leaning on his walking-stick as he bowed in prayer.

(Heb 11:22 CJB) By trusting, Yosef, near the end of his life, remembered about the Exodus of the people of Isra'el and gave instructions about what to do with his bones.

(1Pe 1:3 CJB) Praised be God, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who, in keeping with his great mercy, has caused us, through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead, to be born again to a living hope,

(1Pe 1:4 CJB) to an inheritance that cannot decay, spoil or fade, kept safe for you in heaven.

(1Pe 1:5 CJB) Meanwhile, through trusting, you are being protected by God's power for a deliverance ready to be revealed at the Last Time.

(1Pe 1:6 CJB) Rejoice in this, even though for a little while you may have to experience grief in various trials.

(1Pe 1:7 CJB) Even gold is tested for genuineness by fire. The purpose of these trials is so that your trust's genuineness, which is far more valuable than perishable gold, will be judged worthy of praise, glory and honor at the revealing of Yeshua the Messiah.

(1Pe 1:8 CJB) Without having seen him, you love him. Without seeing him now, but trusting in him, you continue to be full of joy that is glorious beyond words.

(1Pe 1:9 CJB) And you are receiving what your trust is aiming at, namely, your deliverance.

(1Pe 2:11 CJB) Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and temporary residents not to give in to the desires of your old nature, which keep warring against you;

(1Pe 2:12 CJB) but to live such good lives among the pagans that even though they now speak against you as evil-doers, they will, as a result of seeing your good actions, give glory to God on the Day of his coming.

(1Pe 2:13 CJB) For the sake of the Lord, submit yourselves to every human authority — whether to the emperor as being supreme,

(1Pe 2:14 CJB) or to governors as being sent by him to punish wrongdoers and praise those who do what is good.

(1Pe 2:15 CJB) For it is God's will that your doing good should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

(1Pe 2:16 CJB) Submit as people who are free, but not letting your freedom serve as an excuse for evil; rather, submit as God's slaves.

(1Pe 2:17 CJB) Be respectful to all — keep loving the brotherhood, fearing God and honoring the emperor.