

Parashah 9: Vayeshev (He continued living) 37:1-40:23

(Gen 37:1 CJB) Ya`akov continued living in the land where his father had lived as a foreigner, the land of Kena`an.

(Gen 37:2 CJB) Here is the history of Ya`akov. When Yosef was seventeen years old he used to pasture the flock with his brothers, even though he was still a boy. Once when he was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, he brought a bad report about them to their father.

(Gen 37:3 CJB) Now Isra'el loved Yosef the most of all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a long-sleeved robe.

(Gen 37:4 CJB) When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him and reached the point where they couldn't even talk with him in a civil manner.

(Gen 37:5 CJB) Yosef had a dream which he told his brothers, and that made them hate him all the more.

(Gen 37:6 CJB) He said to them, "Listen while I tell you about this dream of mine.

(Gen 37:7 CJB) We were tying up bundles of wheat in the field when suddenly my bundle got up by itself and stood upright; then your bundles came, gathered around mine and prostrated themselves before it."

(Gen 37:8 CJB) His brothers retorted, "Yes, you will certainly be our king. You'll do a great job of bossing us around!" And they hated him still more for his dreams and for what he said.

(Gen 37:9 CJB) He had another dream which he told his brothers: "Here, I had another dream, and there were the sun, the moon and eleven stars prostrating themselves before me."

(Gen 37:10 CJB) He told his father too, as well as his brothers, but his father rebuked him: "What is this dream you have had? Do you really expect me, your mother and your brothers to come and prostrate ourselves before you on the ground?"

(Gen 37:11 CJB) His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

(Gen 37:12 CJB) After this, when his brothers had gone to pasture their father's sheep in Sh'khem,

(Gen 37:13 CJB) Isra'el asked Yosef, "Aren't your brothers pasturing the sheep in Sh'khem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am."

(Gen 37:14 CJB) He said to him, "Go now, see whether things are going well with your brothers and with the sheep, and bring word back to me." So he sent him away from the Hevron Valley, and he went to Sh'khem,

(Gen 37:15 CJB) where a man found him wandering around in the countryside. The man asked him, "What are you looking for?"

(Gen 37:16 CJB) "I'm looking for my brothers," he answered. "Tell me, please, where are they pasturing the sheep?"

(Gen 37:17 CJB) The man said, "They've left here; because I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dotan.' " Yosef went after his brothers and found them in Dotan.

(Gen 37:18 CJB) They spotted him in the distance, and before he had arrived where they were, they had already plotted to kill him.

(Gen 37:19 CJB) They said to each other, "Look, this dreamer is coming!

(Gen 37:20 CJB) So come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these water cisterns here. Then we'll say some wild animal devoured him. We'll see then what becomes of his dreams!"

(Gen 37:21 CJB) But when Re'uven heard this, he saved him from being destroyed by them. He said, "We shouldn't take his life.

(Gen 37:22 CJB) Don't shed blood," Re'uven added. "Throw him into this cistern here in the wilds, but don't lay hands on him yourselves." He intended to rescue him from them later and restore him to his father.

(Gen 37:23 CJB) So it was that when Yosef arrived to be with his brothers, they stripped off his robe, the long-sleeved robe he was wearing,

(Gen 37:24 CJB) and took him and threw him into the cistern (the cistern was empty; without any water in it).

(Gen 37:25 CJB) Then they sat down to eat their meal; but as they looked up, they saw in front of them a caravan of Yishma`elim coming from Gil`ad, their camels loaded with aromatic gum, healing resin and opium, on their way down to Egypt.

(Gen 37:26 CJB) Y'hudah said to his brothers, "What advantage is it to us if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

(Gen 37:27 CJB) Come, let's sell him to the Yishma`elim, instead of putting him to death with our own hands. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh." His brothers paid attention to him.

(Gen 37:28 CJB) So when the Midyanim, merchants, passed by, they drew and lifted Yosef up out of the cistern and sold him for half a pound of silver shekels to the Yishma`elim, who took Yosef on to Egypt.

(Gen 37:29 CJB) Re'uven returned to the cistern, and, upon seeing that Yosef wasn't in it, tore his clothes in mourning.

(Gen 37:30 CJB) He returned to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I go now?"

(Gen 37:31 CJB) They took Yosef's robe, killed a male goat and dipped the robe in the blood.

(Gen 37:32 CJB) Then they sent the long-sleeved robe and brought it to their father, saying, "We found this. Do you know if it's your son's robe or not?"

(Gen 37:33 CJB) He recognized it and cried, "It's my son's robe! Some wild animal has torn Yosef in pieces and eaten him!"

(Gen 37:34 CJB) Ya`akov tore his clothes and, putting sackcloth around his waist, mourned his son for many days.

(Gen 37:35 CJB) Though all his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, he refused all consolation, saying, "No, I will go down to the grave, to my son, mourning." And his father wept for him.

(Gen 37:36 CJB) In Egypt the Midyanim sold Yosef to Potifar, one of Pharaoh's officials, a captain of the guard.

(Gen 38:1 CJB) It was at this time that Y'hudah went off from his brothers and settled near a man named Hirah who was an `Adulami.

(Gen 38:2 CJB) There Y'hudah saw one of the daughters of a certain Kena`ani whose name was Shua, and he took her and slept with her.

(Gen 38:3 CJB) She conceived and had a son, whom he named `Er.

(Gen 38:4 CJB) She conceived again and had a son, and she called him Onan.

(Gen 38:5 CJB) Then she conceived yet again and had a son whom she called Shelah; he was in K'ziv when she gave birth to him.

(Gen 38:6 CJB) Y'hudah took a wife for `Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

(Gen 38:7 CJB) But `Er, Y'hudah's firstborn, was evil from Adonai's perspective, so Adonai killed him.

(Gen 38:8 CJB) Y'hudah said to Onan, "Go and sleep with your brother's wife — perform the duty of a husband's brother to her, and preserve your brother's line of descent."

(Gen 38:9 CJB) However, Onan knew that the child would not count as his; so whenever he had intercourse with his brother's wife, he spilled the semen on the ground, so as not to give his brother offspring.

(Gen 38:10 CJB) What he did was evil from Adonai's perspective, so he killed him too.

(Gen 38:11 CJB) Then Y'hudah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Stay a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"; for he thought, "I don't want him to die too, like his brothers." So Tamar went and lived at home with her father.

(Gen 38:12 CJB) In due time, Shua's daughter, the wife of Y'hudah, died. After Y'hudah had been comforted, he went up to be with his sheep-shearers in Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the `Adulami.

(Gen 38:13 CJB) Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law has gone up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

(Gen 38:14 CJB) So she took off her widow's clothes, completely covered her face with her veil, and sat at the entrance to `Einayim, which is on the

way to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah had grown up, but she still was not being given to him as his wife.

(Gen 38:15 CJB) When Y'udah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, because she had covered her face.

(Gen 38:16 CJB) So he went over to her where she was sitting and said, not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, "Come, let me sleep with you." She answered, "What will you pay to sleep with me?"

(Gen 38:17 CJB) He said, "I will send you a kid from the flock of goats." She said, "Will you also give me something as a guarantee until you send it?"

(Gen 38:18 CJB) He answered, "What should I give you as a guarantee?" She said, "Your seal, with its cord, and the staff you're carrying in your hand." So he gave them to her, then went and slept with her; and she conceived by him.

(Gen 38:19 CJB) She got up and went away, took off her veil and put on her widow's clothes.

(Gen 38:20 CJB) Y'udah sent the kid with his friend the `Adulami to receive the guarantee items back from the woman, but he couldn't find her.

(Gen 38:21 CJB) He asked the people near where she had been, "Where is the prostitute who was on the road at `Einayim?" But they answered, "There hasn't been any prostitute here."

(Gen 38:22 CJB) So he returned to Y'udah and said, "I couldn't find her; also the people there said, 'There hasn't been any prostitute here.' "

(Gen 38:23 CJB) Y'udah said, "All right, let her keep the things, so that we won't be publicly shamed. I sent the kid, but you didn't find her."

(Gen 38:24 CJB) About three months later Y'udah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has been acting like a whore; moreover, she is pregnant as a result of her prostitution." Y'udah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned alive!"

(Gen 38:25 CJB) When she was brought out, she sent this message to her father-in-law: "I am pregnant by the man to whom these things belong. Determine, I beg you, whose these are — the signet, the cords and the staff."

(Gen 38:26 CJB) Then Y'hudah acknowledged owning them. He said, "She is more righteous than I, because I didn't let her become the wife of my son Shelah." And he never slept with her again.

(Gen 38:27 CJB) When she went into labor, it became evident that she was going to have twins.

(Gen 38:28 CJB) As she was in labor, one of them put out his hand; and the midwife took his hand and tied a scarlet thread on it, saying, "This one came out first."

(Gen 38:29 CJB) But then he withdrew his hand, and his brother came out; so she said, "How did you manage to break out first?" Therefore he was named Peretz [*breaking out*].

(Gen 38:30 CJB) Then out came his brother, with the scarlet thread on his hand, and he was given the name Zerach [*scarlet*].

(Gen 39:1 CJB) Yosef was brought down to Egypt, and Potifar, an officer of Pharaoh's and captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Yishma`elim who had brought him there.

(Gen 39:2 CJB) Adonai was with Yosef, and he became wealthy while he was in the household of his master the Egyptian.

(Gen 39:3 CJB) His master saw how Adonai was with him, that Adonai prospered everything he did.

(Gen 39:4 CJB) Yosef pleased him as he served him, and his master appointed him manager of his household; he entrusted all his possessions to Yosef.

(Gen 39:5 CJB) From the time he appointed him manager of his household and all his possessions, Adonai blessed the Egyptian's household for Yosef's sake; Adonai's blessing was on all he owned, whether in the house or in the field.

(Gen 39:6 CJB) So he left all his possessions in Yosef's care; and because he had him, he paid no attention to his affairs, except for the food he ate. Now Yosef was well-built and handsome as well.

(Gen 39:7 CJB) In time, the day came when his master's wife took a look at Yosef and said, "Sleep with me!"

(Gen 39:8 CJB) But he refused, saying to his master's wife, "Look, because my master has me, he doesn't know what's going on in this house. He has put all his possessions in my charge.

(Gen 39:9 CJB) In this house I am his equal; he hasn't withheld anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

(Gen 39:10 CJB) But she kept pressing him, day after day. Nevertheless, he didn't listen to her; he refused to sleep with her or even be with her.

(Gen 39:11 CJB) However, one day, when he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men living in the house was there indoors,

(Gen 39:12 CJB) she grabbed him by his robe and said, "Sleep with me!" But he fled, leaving his robe in her hand, and got himself outside.

(Gen 39:13 CJB) When she saw that he had left his robe in her hand and had escaped,

(Gen 39:14 CJB) she called the men of her house and said to them, "Look at this! My husband brought in a Hebrew to make fools of us. He came in and wanted to sleep with me, but I yelled out loudly.

(Gen 39:15 CJB) When he heard me yelling like that, he left his robe with me and ran out."

(Gen 39:16 CJB) She put the robe aside until his master came home.

(Gen 39:17 CJB) Then she said to him, "This Hebrew slave you brought us came in to make a fool of me.

(Gen 39:18 CJB) But when I yelled out, he left his robe with me and fled outside."

(Gen 39:19 CJB) When his master heard what his wife said as she showed him, "Here's what your slave did to me," he became furious.

(Gen 39:20 CJB) Yosef's master took him and put him in prison, in the place where the king's prisoners were kept; and there he was in the prison.

(Gen 39:21 CJB) But Adonai was with Yosef, showing him grace and giving him favor in the sight of the prison warden.

(Gen 39:22 CJB) The prison warden made Yosef supervisor of all the prisoners in the prison; so that whatever they did there, he was in charge of it.

(Gen 39:23 CJB) The prison warden paid no attention to anything Yosef did, because Adonai was with him; and whatever he did, Adonai prospered.

(Gen 40:1 CJB) Some time later it came about that the Egyptian king's cupbearer and baker gave offense to their lord the king of Egypt.

(Gen 40:2 CJB) Pharaoh became angry with his two officers the chief cupbearer and the chief baker.

(Gen 40:3 CJB) So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, in the same place where Yosef was kept.

(Gen 40:4 CJB) The captain of the guard charged Yosef to be with them, and he became their attendant while they remained in prison.

(Gen 40:5 CJB) One night the two of them, the king of Egypt's cupbearer and his baker, there in prison, both had dreams, each dream with its own meaning.

(Gen 40:6 CJB) Yosef came in to them in the morning and saw that they looked sad.

(Gen 40:7 CJB) He asked Pharaoh's officers there with him in the prison of his master's house, "Why are you looking so sad today?"

(Gen 40:8 CJB) They said to him, "We each had a dream, and there's no one around who can interpret it." Yosef said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please."

(Gen 40:9 CJB) Then the chief cupbearer told Yosef his dream: "In my dream, there in front of me was a vine,

(Gen 40:10 CJB) and the vine had three branches. The branches budded, then it suddenly began to blossom, and finally clusters of ripe grapes appeared.

(Gen 40:11 CJB) Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, so I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and gave the cup to Pharaoh."

(Gen 40:12 CJB) Yosef said to him, "Here is its interpretation: the three branches are three days.

(Gen 40:13 CJB) Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office: you will be giving Pharaoh his cup as you used to when you were his cupbearer.

(Gen 40:14 CJB) But remember me when it goes well with you; and show me kindness, please; and mention me to Pharaoh, so that he will release me from this prison.

(Gen 40:15 CJB) For the truth is that I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and here too I have done nothing wrong that would justify putting me in this dungeon."

(Gen 40:16 CJB) When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Yosef, "I too saw in my dream: there were three baskets of white bread on my head.

(Gen 40:17 CJB) In the uppermost basket there were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

(Gen 40:18 CJB) Yosef answered, "Here is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days.

(Gen 40:19 CJB) Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head from off of you — he will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."

(Gen 40:20 CJB) On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he gave a party for all his officials, and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his officials.

(Gen 40:21 CJB) He restored the chief cupbearer back to his position, so that he again gave Pharaoh his cup.

(Gen 40:22 CJB) But he hanged the chief baker, as Yosef had interpreted to them.

(Gen 40:23 CJB) Nevertheless, the chief cupbearer didn't remember Yosef, but forgot him.

Haftarah Vayeshev: 'Amos (Amos) 2:6-3:8

(Amo 2:6 CJB) Here is what Adonai says: "For Isra'el's three crimes, no, four — I will not reverse it — because they sell the upright for silver and the poor for a pair of shoes,

(Amo 2:7 CJB) grinding the heads of the poor in the dust and pushing the lowly out of the way; father and son sleep with the same girl, profaning my holy name;

(Amo 2:8 CJB) lying down beside any altar on clothes taken in pledge; drinking wine in the house of their God bought with fines they imposed.

(Amo 2:9 CJB) "I destroyed the Emori before them; though tall as cedars and strong as oaks, I destroyed their fruit above and their root below.

(Amo 2:10 CJB) More than that, I brought you up from Egypt, led you forty years in the desert, so that you could have the Emori's land.

(Amo 2:11 CJB) I raised up some of your sons to be prophets, other young men of yours to be n'zirim. People of Isra'el! Isn't that true?" asks Adonai.

(Amo 2:12 CJB) But you gave the n'zirim wine to drink and ordered the prophets, 'Don't prophesy!'

(Amo 2:13 CJB) "Enough! I will make all this crush you, just as a cart overloaded with grain crushes what's under it.

(Amo 2:14 CJB) Even the swift won't be able to flee; the strong won't be able to use their strength, the warriors won't save themselves.

(Amo 2:15 CJB) Archers won't be able to stand, the fastest runners won't save themselves, those on horses won't save themselves.

(Amo 2:16 CJB) On that day even the bravest warriors will throw off their weapons and flee," says Adonai.

(Amo 3:1 CJB) "Listen to this word which Adonai has spoken against you, people of Isra'el, against the entire family that I brought up from the land of Egypt:

(Amo 3:2 CJB) "Of all the families on earth, only you have I intimately known. This is why I will punish you for all your crimes."

(Amo 3:3 CJB) Do two people travel together without having so agreed?

(Amo 3:4 CJB) Does a lion roar in the forest when it has no prey? Does a young lion growl in his lair if it has caught nothing?

(Amo 3:5 CJB) Does a bird get caught in a trap on the ground if it hasn't been baited? Does a trap spring up from the ground when it has taken nothing?

(Amo 3:6 CJB) When the shofar is blown in the city, don't the people tremble? Can disaster befall a city without Adonai's having done it?

(Amo 3:7 CJB) Adonai, God, does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

(Amo 3:8 CJB) The lion has roared. Who will not fear? Adonai, God, has spoken. Who will not prophesy?

**B'rit Hadashah suggested reading for Parashah Vayeshev:
Acts 7:9-16 (specifically vs. 9-10)**

(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.