

Parashah 11: Vayigash (He approached) 44:18-47:27

(Gen 44:18 CJB) Then Y'hudah approached Yosef and said, "Please, my lord! Let your servant say something to you privately; and don't be angry with your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.

(Gen 44:19 CJB) My lord asked his servants, 'Do you have a father? or a brother?'

(Gen 44:20 CJB) We answered my lord, 'We have a father who is an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one whose brother is dead; so that of his mother's children he alone is left; and his father loves him.'

(Gen 44:21 CJB) But you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, so that I can see him.'

(Gen 44:22 CJB) We answered my lord, 'The boy can't leave his father; if he were to leave his father, his father would die.'

(Gen 44:23 CJB) You said to your servants, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'

(Gen 44:24 CJB) We went up to your servant my father and told him what my lord had said;

(Gen 44:25 CJB) but when our father said, 'Go again, and buy us some food,'

(Gen 44:26 CJB) we answered, 'We can't go down. Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go down, because we can't see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

(Gen 44:27 CJB) Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons:

(Gen 44:28 CJB) the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he has been torn to pieces," and I haven't seen him since.

(Gen 44:29 CJB) Now if you take this one away from me too, and something happens to him, you will bring my gray hair down to Sh'ol with grief.'

(Gen 44:30 CJB) So now if I go to your servant my father, and the boy isn't with us — seeing how his heart is bound up with the boy's heart —

(Gen 44:31 CJB) when he sees that the boy isn't with us, he will die; and your servants will bring the gray hair of your servant our father down to Sh'ol with grief.

(Gen 44:32 CJB) For your servant himself guaranteed his safety; I said, 'If I fail to bring him to you, then I will bear the blame before my father forever.'

(Gen 44:33 CJB) Therefore, I beg you, let your servant stay as a slave to my lord instead of the boy, and let the boy go up with his brothers.

(Gen 44:34 CJB) For how can I go up to my father if the boy isn't with me? I couldn't bear to see my father so overwhelmed by anguish."

(Gen 45:1 CJB) At last Yosef could no longer control his feelings in front of his attendants and cried, "Get everybody away from me!" So no one else was with him when Yosef revealed to his brothers who he was.

(Gen 45:2 CJB) He wept aloud, and the Egyptians heard, and Pharaoh's household heard.

(Gen 45:3 CJB) Yosef said to his brothers, "I am Yosef! Is it true that my father is still alive?" His brothers couldn't answer him, they were so dumbfounded at seeing him.

(Gen 45:4 CJB) Yosef said to his brothers, "Please! Come closer." And they came closer. He said, "I am Yosef, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

(Gen 45:5 CJB) But don't be sad that you sold me into slavery here or angry at yourselves, because it was God who sent me ahead of you to preserve life.

(Gen 45:6 CJB) The famine has been over the land for the last two years, and for yet another five years there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

(Gen 45:7 CJB) God sent me ahead of you to ensure that you will have descendants on earth and to save your lives in a great deliverance.

(Gen 45:8 CJB) So it was not you who sent me here, but God; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household and ruler over the whole land of Egypt.

(Gen 45:22 CJB) To each of them he gave a set of new clothes; but to Binyamin he gave seven-and-a-half pounds of silver and five sets of new clothes.

(Gen 45:23 CJB) Likewise, to his father he sent ten donkeys loaded with the finest goods Egypt produced, as well as ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread and food for his father to eat on the return journey.

(Gen 45:24 CJB) Thus he sent his brothers on their way, and they left; he said to them, "Don't quarrel among yourselves while you're traveling!"

(Gen 45:25 CJB) So they went up out of Egypt, entered the land of Kena`an and came to Ya`akov their father.

(Gen 45:26 CJB) They told him, "Yosef is still alive! He is ruler over the whole land of Egypt!" He was stunned at the news; he couldn't believe them.

(Gen 45:27 CJB) So they reported to him everything Yosef had said to them; but it was only when he saw the wagons which Yosef had sent to carry him that the spirit of Ya`akov their father began to revive.

(Gen 45:28 CJB) Isra'el said, "Enough! My son Yosef is still alive! I must go and see him before I die."

(Gen 46:1 CJB) Isra'el took everything he owned with him on his journey. He arrived at Be'er-Sheva and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Yitz'chak.

(Gen 46:2 CJB) In a vision at night God called to Isra'el, "Ya`akov! Ya`akov!" He answered, "Here I am."

(Gen 46:3 CJB) He said, "I am God, the God of your father. Don't be afraid to go down to Egypt. It is there that I will make you into a great nation.

(Gen 46:4 CJB) Not only will I go down with you to Egypt; but I will also bring you back here again, after Yosef has closed your eyes."

(Gen 46:5 CJB) So Ya`akov left Be'er-Sheva; the sons of Isra'el brought Ya`akov their father, their little ones and their wives in the wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry them.

(Gen 46:6 CJB) They took their cattle and their possessions which they had acquired in the land of Kena`an and arrived in Egypt, Ya`akov and all his descendants with him —

(Gen 46:7 CJB) his sons, grandsons, daughters, granddaughters and all his descendants he brought with him into Egypt.

(Gen 46:8 CJB) These are the names of Isra'el's children who came into Egypt, Ya`akov and his sons: Re'uven Ya`akov's firstborn;

(Gen 46:9 CJB) and the sons of Re'uven — Hanokh, Pallu, Hetzron and Karmi.

(Gen 46:10 CJB) The sons of Shim`on: Y'mu'el, Yamin, Ohad, Yakhin, Tzochar and Sha'ul the son of a Kena`ani woman.

(Gen 46:11 CJB) The sons of Levi: Gershon, K'hat and M'rari.

(Gen 46:12 CJB) The sons of Y'hudah: `Er, Onan, Shelah, Peretz and Zerach; but `Er and Onan died in the land of Kena`an. The sons of Peretz were Hetzron and Hamul.

(Gen 46:13 CJB) The sons of Yissakhar: Tola, Puvah, Yov and Shimron.

(Gen 46:14 CJB) The sons of Z'vulun: Sered, Elon and Yachle'el.

(Gen 46:15 CJB) These were the children of Le'ah whom she bore to Ya`akov in Paddan-Aram, with his daughter Dinah. In sum, his sons and daughters numbered thirty-three.

(Gen 46:16 CJB) The sons of Gad: Tzifyon, Haggi, Shuni, Etbzon, `Eri, Arodi and Ar'eli.

(Gen 46:17 CJB) The children of Asher: Yimnah, Yishvah, Yishvi, B'ri`ah, and their sister Serach. The sons of B'ri`ah were Hever and Malki'el.

(Gen 46:18 CJB) These were the children of Zilpah, whom Lavan gave to Le'ah his daughter; she bore them to Ya`akov — sixteen people.

(Gen 46:19 CJB) The sons of Rachel Ya`akov's wife: Yosef and Binyamin.

(Gen 46:20 CJB) To Yosef in the land of Egypt were born M'nasheh and Efrayim, whom Osnat the daughter of Poti-Fera priest of On bore to him.

(Gen 46:21 CJB) The sons of Binyamin: Bela, Bekher, Ashbel, Gera, Na`aman, Echi, Rosh, Mupim, Hupim and Ard.

(Gen 46:22 CJB) These were the children of Rachel who were born to Ya`akov — in sum, fourteen people.

(Gen 46:23 CJB) The sons of Dan: Hushim.

(Gen 46:24 CJB) The sons of Naftali: Yachtze'el, Guni, Yetzer and Shillem.

(Gen 46:25 CJB) These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Lavan gave to Rachel his daughter; she bore them to Ya`akov — in sum, seven people.

(Gen 46:26 CJB) All the people belonging to Ya`akov coming into Egypt, his direct descendants (not counting Ya`akov's sons' wives), totaled sixty-six.

(Gen 46:27 CJB) The sons of Yosef, born to him in Egypt, were two in number. Thus all the people in Ya`akov's family who entered Egypt numbered seventy.

(Gen 46:28 CJB) Ya`akov sent Y'hudah ahead of him to Yosef, so that the latter might guide him on the road to Goshen; thus they arrived in the land of Goshen.

(Gen 46:29 CJB) Yosef prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet Isra'el his father. He presented himself to him, embraced him and wept on his neck for a long time.

(Gen 46:30 CJB) Then Isra'el said to Yosef, "Now I can die, because I have seen your face and seen that you are still alive."

(Gen 46:31 CJB) Yosef said to his brothers and his father's family, "I'm going up to tell Pharaoh. I'll say to him, 'My brothers and my father's family, who were in the land of Kena`an, have come to me.

(Gen 46:32 CJB) The men are shepherds and keepers of livestock; they have brought their flocks, their herds and all their possessions.'

(Gen 46:33 CJB) Now when Pharaoh summons you and asks, 'What is your occupation?'

(Gen 46:34 CJB) tell him, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth until now, both we and our ancestors.' This will ensure that you will live in the land of Goshen — for any shepherd is abhorrent to the Egyptians."

(Gen 47:1 CJB) Then Yosef went in and told Pharaoh, "My father and brothers have come from the land of Kena`an with their flocks, livestock and all their possessions; right now they are in the land of Goshen."

(Gen 47:2 CJB) He took five of his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.

(Gen 47:3 CJB) Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" They answered Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and our ancestors,"

(Gen 47:4 CJB) and added, "We have come to live in the land, because in the land of Kena`an there is no place to pasture your servant's flocks, the famine is so severe there. Therefore, please, let your servants live in the land of Goshen."

(Gen 47:5 CJB) Pharaoh said to Yosef, "Your father and brothers have come to you,

(Gen 47:6 CJB) and the land of Egypt lies before you. Have your father and brothers live on the best property in the country — let them live in the land of Goshen. Moreover, if you know that some of them are particularly competent, put them in charge of my livestock."

(Gen 47:7 CJB) Yosef then brought in Ya`akov his father and presented him to Pharaoh, and Ya`akov blessed Pharaoh.

(Gen 47:8 CJB) Pharaoh asked Ya`akov, "How old are you?"

(Gen 47:9 CJB) and Ya`akov replied, "The time of my stay on earth has been 130 years; they have been few and difficult, fewer than the years my ancestors lived."

(Gen 47:10 CJB) Then Ya`akov blessed Pharaoh and left his presence.

(Gen 47:11 CJB) Yosef found a place for his father and brothers and gave them property in the land of Egypt, in the best region of the country, in the land of Ra`amses, as Pharaoh had ordered.

(Gen 47:12 CJB) Yosef provided food for his father, his brothers and all his father's household, taking full care of even the youngest.

(Gen 47:13 CJB) There was no food anywhere, for the famine was very severe, so that both Egypt and Kena`an grew weak from hunger.

(Gen 47:14 CJB) Yosef collected all the money there was in Egypt and Kena`an in exchange for the grain they bought, and put the money in Pharaoh's treasury.

(Gen 47:15 CJB) When all the money in Egypt had been spent, and likewise in Kena`an, all the Egyptians approached Yosef and said, "Give us something to eat, even though we have no money; why should we die before your eyes?"

(Gen 47:16 CJB) Yosef replied, "Give me your livestock. If you don't have money, I will give you food in exchange for your livestock."

(Gen 47:17 CJB) So they brought Yosef their livestock; and Yosef gave them food in exchange for the horses, flocks, cattle and donkeys — all that year he provided them with food in exchange for all their livestock.

(Gen 47:18 CJB) When that year was over, they approached Yosef again and said to him, "We won't hide from my lord that all our money is spent, and the herds of livestock belong to my lord. We have nothing left, as my lord can see, but our bodies and our land.

(Gen 47:19 CJB) Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be enslaved to Pharaoh. But also give us seed to plant, so that we can stay alive and not die, and so that the land won't become barren."

(Gen 47:20 CJB) So Yosef acquired all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh, as one by one the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine weighed on them so severely. Thus the land became the property of Pharaoh.

(Gen 47:21 CJB) As for the people, he reduced them to serfdom city by city, from one end of Egypt's territory to the other.

(Gen 47:22 CJB) Only the priests' land did he not acquire, because the priests were entitled to provisions from Pharaoh, and they ate from what Pharaoh provided them; therefore they did not sell their land.

(Gen 47:23 CJB) Then Yosef said to the people, "As of today I have acquired you and your land for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you to sow the land.

(Gen 47:24 CJB) When harvest time comes, you are to give twenty percent to Pharaoh; eighty percent will be yours to keep for seed to plant in the

fields, as well as for your food and for that of your households and your little ones."

(Gen 47:25 CJB) They replied, "You have saved our lives! So if it pleases my lord, we will be Pharaoh's slaves."

(Gen 47:26 CJB) Yosef made it a law for the country of Egypt, valid to this day, that Pharaoh should have twenty percent. Only the property belonging to the priests did not become Pharaoh's.

(Gen 47:27 CJB) Isra'el lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. They acquired possessions in it and were productive, and their numbers multiplied greatly.

Haftarah Vayigash: Yechezk'el (Ezekiel) 37:15-28

(Eze 37:15 CJB) The word of Adonai came to me:

(Eze 37:16 CJB) "You, human being, take one stick and write on it, 'For Y'hudah and those joined with him [*among*] the people of Isra'el.' Next, take another stick and write on it, 'For Yosef, the stick of Efrayim, and all the house of Isra'el who are joined with him.'

(Eze 37:17 CJB) Finally, bring them together into a single stick, so that they become one in your hand.

(Eze 37:18 CJB) When your people ask you what all this means,

(Eze 37:19 CJB) tell them that Adonai Elohim says this: 'I will take the stick of Yosef, which is in the hand of Efrayim, together with the tribes of Isra'el who are joined with him, and put them together with the stick of Y'hudah and make them a single stick, so that they become one in my hand.'

(Eze 37:20 CJB) The sticks on which you write are to be in your hand as they watch.

(Eze 37:21 CJB) Then say to them that Adonai Elohim says: 'I will take the people of Isra'el from among the nations where they have gone and gather them from every side and bring them back to their own land.

(Eze 37:22 CJB) I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Isra'el; and one king will be king for all of them. They will no longer be two nations, and they will never again be divided into two kingdoms.

(Eze 37:23 CJB) " 'They will never again defile themselves with their idols, their detestable things, or any of their transgressions; but I will save them from all the places where they have been living and sinning; and I will cleanse them, so that they will be my people, and I will be their God.

(Eze 37:24 CJB) My servant David will be king over them, and all of them will have one shepherd; they will live by my rulings and keep and observe my regulations.

(Eze 37:25 CJB) They will live in the land I gave to Ya`akov my servant, where your ancestors lived; they will live there — they, their children, and their grandchildren, forever; and David my servant will be their leader forever.

(Eze 37:26 CJB) I will make a covenant of peace with them, an everlasting covenant. I will give to them, increase their numbers, and set my sanctuary among them forever.

(Eze 37:27 CJB) My home will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

(Eze 37:28 CJB) The nations will know that I am Adonai, who sets Isra'el apart as holy, when my sanctuary is with them forever.' "

Brit Hadashah suggested reading for Parashah Vayigash: Act 7:9-16

(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.