

# Beit Chachamin

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PARSHAT VAYEISHEV

12TH DECEMBER, 2025

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## COME & LEARN

### *THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]*

1 – Jacob settled in Canaan with his family. He loved Joseph the most and gifted him a cloak. Joseph's brothers saw Jacob loved him most and hated Joseph for it. Joseph dreamed two dreams and shared them with his brothers and father.

2 – Joseph's older brothers took their flocks to Shechem and Jacob told Joseph to join them, but when he came close he could not find them. A man told him they had moved, so Joseph went to meet them. As his brothers saw him approaching they conspired to kill him, but Reuben said not to and instead throw him into a pit, intending to save him.

3 – When Joseph arrived they took his cloak and threw him into the empty pit. As they ate, they saw an Ishmaelite caravan. Judah said not to kill Joseph but sell him. Reuben returned, saw the pit empty, and tore his clothes. They dipped Joseph's cloak in blood and brought it to their father, and Jacob tore his clothes and mourned.

4 – Judah left his family, marries, and has three sons; Tamar marries his eldest, and after the deaths of her first two husbands and being withheld from the third, she disguises herself, conceives from Judah, and keeps his signet, cord, and staff as a pledge. When her pregnancy is known and Judah calls for punishment, she produces these items, he acknowledges paternity, and she gives birth to twins, Peretz and Zerach.

5 – Joseph is brought to Egypt and purchased by Potiphar. The Lord is with him, and he prospers in Potiphar's house, so Potiphar appoints him over all he has. Potiphar concerns himself only with his food, while Joseph becomes handsome

6 – Potiphar's wife repeatedly urges Joseph to "lie with" her but he refuses, saying it would break Potiphar's trust and be a sin against God. While he is working alone, she grabs his garment and again asks him, but he leaves the garment and goes outside. She then falsely accuses him, leading Potiphar to imprison him. There the Lord is with Joseph, giving him favor with the warden, who puts him over all prisoners and operations.

7 – Joseph is in prison with Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker, and each has a dream that Joseph interprets. He tells the cupbearer he will return to service in three days and the baker will be hanged. Three days later this happens exactly as he foretold, with the cupbearer reinstated and the baker executed, but the cupbearer forgets Joseph.

**This week's parsha opens with Jacob finally “settling” in the land of his fathers, yet verse by verse it reveals how his sons remain unsettled.**

GENESIS 37:1

וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מִגְרֵי אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:

Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan.

GENESIS 37:4

וַיֵּרְאוּ אָחָיו כִּי־אֱלֹהֵי אָהֱבָה אֲבִיהֶם מִכָּל־אָחָיו וַיִּשְׂנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַבְּרוֹ לְשָׁלָם:

And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him so that they could not speak a friendly word to him.

GENESIS 37:20

וַעֲתָה | לְכוּ וְנַהַרְגֵהוּ וְנִשְׁלַכְהוּ בְּאֶחָד מִבְּרוֹת הַבְּרוֹת וְאִמְרֵנוּ חֵיהָ רַעַה אֲכָלְתָהּ וְנִרְאָה מִהִיָּהוּ חֲלַמְתִּינוּ:

Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we can say, ‘A savage beast devoured him.’ We shall see what comes of his dreams!”

GENESIS 38:1

וַיְהִי בְעֵת הַהוּא וַיֵּרֵד יְהוּדָה מֵאֶת אָחָיו וַיֵּט עַד־אִישׁ עַדְלָמִי וְשֵׁמוֹ חִירָה:

About that time Judah left his brothers and camped near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.

GENESIS 39:1

וַיֹּסֶף הַיּוֹנָד מִצְרַיִמָה וַיִּקְנֵהוּ פּוֹטִיפָר סָרִיס פְּרַעֲהַ שֶׁר הַטַּבָּחִים אִישׁ מִצְרַיִי מִדֵּי הַיִּשְׁמַעֲלִיִּים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדָהוּ שָׁמָּה:

When Joseph was taken down to Egypt, Potiphar, a courtier of Pharaoh and his prefect —a [type of] Egyptian official —bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

GENESIS 39:20

וַיִּקַּח אֲדֹנָי יוֹסֵף אֹתוֹ וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ אֶל־בַּיִת הַסֹּהַר מִלְּוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אֲסִירֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲסוּרִים וַיְהִי־שָׁם בְּבַיִת הַסֹּהַר:

So Joseph's master had him put in prison, where the king's prisoners were confined. But even while he was there in prison,

GENESIS 40:23

וְלֹא־זָכַר שֶׁר־הַמְּשָׁקִים אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁכַּחְהוּ:

Yet the chief cupbearer did not think of Joseph; he forgot him.

**Through jealousy and hatred toward Joseph, Judah's moving away from his brothers, and Joseph's “going down” into Egypt and prison, the narrative sets in motion a continued movement away from the very place in which Yaakov seeks to rest.**