

# Beit Chachamin

PARSHAT VAYETZE

28TH NOVEMBER, 2025

## COME & LEARN

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

1 – Jacob left Be'er Sheva for Haran, stopped for the night, and dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven with angels ascending and descending. God promised him the land, many descendants, and protection. Jacob set up a stone as a pillar, named the place Bethel, and vowed to dedicate a tenth of all he received.

2 – Jacob arrived at a well and learned the stone covering it had to be rolled off. When Rachel arrived with her father's sheep, he rolled the stone off by himself and introduced himself to her. She told Laban, who brought Jacob to his home, and after a month Laban offered him work and asked how he should be paid.

3 – Jacob asked to marry Rachel in exchange for seven years of work. After the seven years, Laban held a wedding, but Jacob discovered he had married Leah; Laban said the younger could not be married first, so Jacob worked another seven years to marry Rachel. Leah bore Reuben, Simon, Levi, and Yehuda; Rachel, jealous, gave Bilhah, who bore Dan and Naphtali, and Leah gave Zilpah, who bore Gad and Asher.

4 – Reuben brought a plant from the field to Leah. Rachel asked for some, and the sisters agree that Leah would sleep with Jacob that night in exchange for the plant.

4 (cont.) – Leah then bore Issachar, Zebulun, and Dina, and eventually Rachel bore Joseph. Jacob asked Laban to let him return to Canaan, but Laban said his success was due to Jacob.

5 – Laban again asked Jacob to specify his wages, and Jacob proposed receiving the newly born streaked, speckled, and spotted animals. Laban removed the existing ones and placed them under his sons' care. Jacob set striped rods before the animals when they mated and became wealthy; after six more years God told him to return to Canaan, and his wives agreed.

6 – Jacob took his family to leave, but Rachel stole her father's idol, causing Laban to pursue them. Laban reached them at Mount Gilead and searched the tents, but Rachel hid the idol in a camel's saddle, and he found nothing.

7 – Jacob and Laban made a peace treaty and set up a monument. Laban returned to Haran, and Jacob continued on his way, where God's angels greeted him.

PARSHAT VAYETZE

Below are the verses in which eleven of Jacob's sons and one daughter are named and the meaning behind each name.

**REUBEN, LEAH'S FIRST SON**

**לבוטרה לאה ותלד בן ותקרא שמו ראובן כי אמרה כי ראה יהוה בעניי כי עתה יאהבני אישי**

And she conceived, and bore a son; and said: 'Because the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me'; therefore called she his name Reuben

**SHIMON, LEAH'S SECOND SON**

**ותהר עוד ותלד בן ותאמר כי שמע יהוה כי שנואה אנכי ויתרלי גם אתיזה ותקרא שמו שמעון**

And she conceived again, and bore a son; and said: 'Because the LORD hath heard that I am hated, He hath therefore given me this son also'; and she called his name Simeon.

**LEVI, LEAH'S THIRD SON**

**ותהר עוד ותלד בן ותאמר עתה הפעם ילוה אישי אלי כי ילדתי לו שלשה בנים על כן קרא שמו לוי**

And she conceived again, and bore a son; and said: 'Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have borne him three sons'; therefore was his name called Levi.

**JUDAH, LEAH'S FOURTH SON**

**ותהר עוד ותלד בן ותאמר הפעם אודה את יהוה על כן קראה שמו יהודה ותעמד מלדת**

And she conceived again, and bore a son; and said: 'This time will I praise the LORD'; therefore she called his name Judah; and she left off bearing

**DAN, BILHAH'S FIRST SON**

**תהר בלהה ותלד ליעקב בן:  
והאמר רחל דגני אלהים וגם שמע בקולי ויתרלי בן על כן קראה שמו דן:**

Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.  
And Rachel said: 'God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son'; therefore called she his name Dan.

**NAPHTALI, BILHAH'S SECOND SON**

**והאמר רחל נפתולי אלהים | נפתלתי עם אחתי גם יכלתי ותקרא שמו נפתלי:**

And Rachel said: 'With mighty wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and have prevailed'; and she called his name Naphtali

**GAD, ZILPAH'S FIRST SON**

**ותלד זלפה שפחת לאה ליעקב בן  
והאמר לאה בא גד ותקרא את שמו גד**

And Leah gave Zilpah her handmaid to Jacob, and she conceived, and bore Jacob a son. And Leah said: 'Fortune is come!' and she called his name Gad.

**ASHER, ZILPAH'S SECOND SON**

**ותלד זלפה שפחת לאה בן שני ליעקב  
והאמר לאה באשרי כי אשרוני בנות ותקרא את שמו אשר:**

And Zilpah Leah's handmaid bore Jacob a second son. And Leah said: 'Happy am I! For the daughters will call me happy'; and she called his name Asher.

**ISSACHAR, LEAH'S FIFTH SON**

**והאמר לאה נתן אלהים שכרי אשר נתתי שפחתי לאישי ותקרא שמו יששכר:**

And Leah said: 'God hath given me my hire, because I have given my handmaid unto my husband'; and she called his name Issachar

**ZEBULUN, LEAH'S SIXTH SON**

**והאמר לאה זבדני אלהים | אתי זבד טוב הפעם זבדני אישי כי ילדתי לו ששה בנים ותקרא את שמו זבולון**

And Leah said: 'God hath endowed me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons'; and she called his name

**DINA, LEAH'S FIRST DAUGHTER**

**ואחר ילדה בת ותקרא את שמה דינה**

And afterwards she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah

**JOSEPH, RACHEL'S FIRST SON**

**וההר ותלד בן ותאמר אסף אלהים אתי חרפתי:  
ותקרא את שמו יוסף לאמר יסף יהוה לי בן אחר:**

She conceived and gave birth to a son, and she said, "God has taken my disgrace"  
And she called his name Joseph, saying: 'The LORD add to me another son'.