

Beit Chachamin

PARSHAT VAYIGASH

26TH DECEMBER, 2025

COME & LEARN

THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]

1 – Judah approaches Joseph and pleads to speak in defense of his youngest brother. He recounts how Joseph demanded that their youngest brother be brought down and how their father had been heartbroken at the very thought. Judah recalls that Jacob refused at first, explaining his deep attachment to Benjamin, whose brother was believed to be dead. Judah fears that if Benjamin does not return, their father will die of grief.

2 – Judah continues, offering himself in Benjamin's place, saying he cannot bear to witness his father's suffering. Joseph no longer able to control himself sends the Egyptians out of the room and reveals his identity to his brothers. They are stunned into silence. Joseph tells them not to be distressed, explaining that their actions have led to him being sent ahead able save their lives from the remaining five years of famine.

3 – Joseph declares that it was not his brothers who sent him to Egypt, but God who made him a ruler over Egypt. He instructs them to return quickly to their father, tell Jacob of Joseph's position, and bring him down to settle in the land of Goshen, where there will be sustenance during the remaining years of famine. Joseph embraces Benjamin and then all his brothers. Pharaoh hears of Joseph's reunion with his family and commands that they be brought to Egypt with wagons and provisions.

4 – Pharaoh provides them with wagons and supplies for their journey. Joseph gives each brother gifts, giving Benjamin more than his brothers. He sends ten donkeys loaded with food and provisions. The brothers depart and inform Jacob that Joseph is still alive and rules Egypt. Jacob is stunned and does not believe them until he sees the wagons Joseph sent; then his spirit revives.

5 – Jacob sets out for Egypt and stops at Beersheba, where God appears to him in a vision, telling him not to fear going down to Egypt, for God will make him a great nation there. Jacob departs with his family, livestock, and possessions. The text lists the descendants of Jacob who travel to Egypt. Including Joseph and his two sons, who were already in Egypt, the total number of Jacob's household that comes to Egypt is seventy.

6 – Jacob sends Judah ahead to prepare their arrival in Goshen. Joseph goes to meet his father crying and embraces him. Joseph tells his brothers how to present themselves to Pharaoh, explaining that they should say they are shepherds so they may dwell in Goshen. They are brought before Pharaoh, who grants them that land and puts some in charge of his livestock. Jacob is also presented to Pharaoh and blesses him.

7 – Joseph settles his family in the best part of Egypt, in the land of Rameses, and provides them with food according to their needs. The famine grows more severe, and the Egyptians spend all their silver on grain. When their money is gone, they trade their livestock, then their land, becoming Pharaoh's servants. Joseph institutes a system in which one-fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh, though the priests' land remains exempt. Israel dwells securely in Goshen, where they prosper and multiply greatly.

PARSHAT VAYIGASH

In Parshat Vayigash, Joseph's tears and embraces reveal that true resolution of past trauma and betrayal occurs not through power plays, but through emotional honesty that restores relationships and enables healing.

GENESIS 43:29-30

וַיִּשָׂא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא אֶת־בְּנֵי־מִינְיָן אֶחָיו בְּרָאמוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲזֶה אַחֵיכֶם הַקָּטָן אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם אֵלַי וַיֹּאמֶר
אֱלֹהִים יַחַנְךָ בְּנִי:

וַיִּמְהַר יוֹסֵף כִּי־נִכְמְרוּ רַחֲמָיו אֶל־אֶחָיו וַיִּבְקֶשׁ לִבְכוֹת וַיָּבֵא הַחֲדָרָה וַיִּבְרַךְ שָׁמָּה:

Looking about, he saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and asked, "Is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he went on, "May God be gracious to you, my boy."

With that, Joseph hurried out, for he was overcome with feeling toward his brother and was on the verge of tears; he went into a room and wept there.

GENESIS 45:1-3

וְלֹא־יָכַל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכָל הַנּוֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיִּקְרָא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אִישׁ מֵעָלַי וְלֹא־עָמַד אִישׁ אִתּוֹ
בְּהִתְוַדַּע יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו:

וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־קוֹלוֹ בְּכִי וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ מִצָּרִים וַיִּשְׁמַע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו אֲנִי יוֹסֵף הַעֹד אֲבִי חַי וְלֹא־יָכַל אֶחָיו לַעֲנוֹת אִתּוֹ כִּי נִבְהָלוּ מִפְּנָיו:
Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone withdraw from me!" So there was no one else about when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

His sobs were so loud that the Egyptians could hear, and so the news reached Pharaoh's palace.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still well?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dumbfounded were they on account of him.

GENESIS 45:14-15

וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צַוְאָרָיו בְּנֵי־מִן־אֶחָיו וַיִּבְרַךְ וּבִנְיָמִן בָּכָה עַל־צַוְאָרָיו:

וַיִּנְשֶׁק לְכָל־אֶחָיו וַיִּבְרַךְ עֲלֵהֶם וְאַחֲרָי כֵּן דִּבְרוּ אֶחָיו אִתּוֹ:

With that he embraced his brother Benjamin around the neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

He kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; only then were his brothers able to talk to him.

GENESIS 46:29

וַיֹּאסֵר יוֹסֵף מְרֻכָּבָתוֹ וַיַּעַל לְקִרְיַת יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיו גֹּשֶׁן וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צַוְאָרָיו וַיִּבְרַךְ עַל־
צַוְאָרָיו עוֹד:

Then Joseph harnessed his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen; he presented himself to him, and he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.