QUESTIONS FOR PARSHAT VAYEITZEI 5775
by Rabbi Edward Davis

I. From the Text

1. What were the two reasons Yaakov was leaving to go to Lavan’s house?
2. What was the dream that Yaakov had when leaving Eretz Yisrael? (28:12-15)
3. How long did Yaakov work for Lavan before marrying Rachel? (29: …27)
4. What is the meaning of the name Yosef? (30:24)
5. Why did Rachel and Leah agree to Yaakov’s request to leave their father’s house and area of residence? (31:14-16)

II. From Rashi

6. When Yaakov left Beersheva, he was on his way to Charan, Lavan’s house, but he made a detour (for 14 years). Where did he go? (28:9, at the end of last week’s parsha.)
7. Why did Yaakov cry when he met Rachel? (29:10, Rashi offers two answers.)
8. How do we know that Yaakov suspected that Lavan would substitute Leah for Rachel? (29:25)
9. After giving birth to Levi, why was Leah convinced that her husband will have no complaints against her? (29:34)
10. Why did Rachel steal her father’s Teraphim/idols from her father before they left town? (31:19)

III. From the Rabbis

11. Who originated the three daily prayers?
12. Why was Leah upset with Rachel for wanting the Duda’im? (Sefero)
13. Why is the name Yissaschar spelled with the additional “s” (ש) and pronounced with only one: Yissachar? (Da’at Zekainim in Parshat Pinchas)

IV. From the Haftorah: Hoshea

14. The end of today’s haftorah is shared with a famous haftorah said earlier in the year. Which haftorah?

V. Relationships
a) Elifaz – Timna
b) Adah – Basmat
c) Dan – Gad
d) Na’amian – Ephraim
e) Itamar – Er
ANSWERS FOR PARSHAT VAYEITZEI 5775

1. Yaakov left to flee his brother Esav and also to get a wife.

2. A ladder extended from earth to heaven with angels going up and down; and Hashem promised him the Land of Israel. Yaakov’s descendants will be many and spread out over the land. Hashem will protect Yaakov and return him to Eretz Yisrael.

3. Seven years and one week.

4. Rachel said: May Hashem add another son for me. (Yosef means “add”)

5. They reasoned that a) they will not inherit anything from their father, and b) Yaakov should do what Hashem tells him to do and they would be with him.

6. He went to learn in the Yeshiva of Shem and Eiver.

7. a) He saw via the divine spirit that they would not be buried together. b) He came empty handed.

8. Rashi cites the Midrash that Yaakov gave a special sign to Rachel for the wedding night; and Rachel gave that sign to Leah fearing her shame.

9. The Matriarchs knew through prophecy that Yaakov was to have 12 tribes (sons) by 4 wives. Now that Leah gave birth to 3 sons she has fulfilled her share.

10. To keep her father from idol worship.

11. Avraham originated Shacharit; Yitzchak, Minchah; and Yaakov, Ma’ariv.

12. Seferqo: Leah felt that she married Yaakov first, and Rachel should not have consented to marry him also and become her rival-wife. Ramban: Leah felt Rachel was acting superior and entitled to what she wanted.

13. Yissaschar had named one of his sons Yov. Later he found out that Yov was the name of an idol and so he gave the letter ש from his name to his son and renamed him Yashuv.


Relationships:
   a) Husband – Concubine
   b) The same person: a wife of Esav
   c) Half-brothers (Dan was the son of Bilah. Gad was the son of Zilpah)
   d) First cousins (Na’aman was the son of Binyamin)
   e) Mother – Son