

## Parashat Vayekhi

The main idea in Genesis is that a big, loving force (God) cares about all living things, especially us humans on this small planet. God asks us to commit to a loving partnership (covenant) to fix problems in the world and make our societies better. The goal is to create a world where everyone is treated well, and life is good for all.

In the last part of Genesis, it talks about living in this committed way. It says that every moment is important because it's not just about the now but also about the future. Our relationships are not just with people; they also involve our connection with God. Even though we live our own lives, we're also linked to those who lived before us. And even after we die, our lives are carried on by the next generation in the covenant.

This covenant way connects how we live now with an ideal future. The Torah says that our daily actions matter—they're influenced by what's happening now, but they're also shaping the kind of future we want. Even in a world where not everyone is treated equally, the covenant teaches us to treat others well and be fair.

Genesis shows that God first cares about all people but then focuses on specific groups, starting with Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants. Each group gets a special place to create an ideal society with dignity and fairness. Human dignity, according to this idea, includes having a place to grow freely and being rooted in our own history.

As the covenant journey goes on, our actions are shaped to fit the covenant's goals, leading to special rituals that remind us of who we are and our shared history. While most things we do are similar for everyone, covenantal actions are those adjusted to follow the covenant's guidelines or get closer to the future we want.

The big goal of the covenant is to make the world better by dealing with issues like poverty, hunger, unfairness, and sickness. But it's not a quick fix; it's about making small changes over time. Education is a big part of this, making sure each generation understands and continues the values of the covenant.

In Genesis, the people in the covenant aren't perfect; they have problems like anyone else. Families face normal issues like health problems, jealousy, and moving to new places. The tough part is passing on the covenant to the next generation—sometimes kids go their own way.

But even with challenges, a big family in Genesis stays together and sticks to the covenant's vision. It shows that, despite success, they don't forget where they came from and keep believing in a future where the covenant's values matter. They teach the next generation to stay faithful to the covenant and those who came before them.

So, in simple terms, Genesis teaches us that the covenant is not just about our lifetime; it's a promise that each generation will keep working on making the world better. While we might not

finish the job, we're responsible for starting it, teaching others, and trusting that future generations will continue the good work. The covenant is like a chain that connects all generations with love and shared hope.