

KMS Family Parsha Sheet

בס"ד

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VaYechi - וַיַּחֲיוּ

Parsha Questions

(Answers on the back)

- 1) Why is kindness towards the dead called "חַסְדֵּי אֱמֶת", kindness of truth?
- 2) "When I was coming from Padan, Rachel died on me... I buried her there on the way to Efrat." Why did Yaakov say this to Yosef?
- 3) What was strange about the way Yaakov blessed his grandchildren Ephraim and Menashe?
- 4) Yaakov says that the Jews will bless their sons to be like Ephraim and Menashe (48:20). Why do we bless our children to be like them more than any of the other shevatim?
- 5) What 2 famous/infamous descendants would come from Ephraim and Menashe?
- 6) What did Yaakov want to tell his sons but was unable to?
- 7) Who was the first person who was ill before he died?
- 8) What was Yosef's reward for organizing Yaakov's funeral arrangements?
- 9) Why was Yaakov's burial slightly delayed?
- 10) After Yaakov died, what lie did Yosef's brothers tell?



Abraham

"AND THEY SAY I CAN'T TELL RIGHT FROM LEFT"



Words of Wisdom

Pirkei Avot 2:4

אַל תִּדְּיִן אֶת חֲבֵרְךָ עַד שֶׁתִּגִּיעַ לִמְקוֹמוֹ
Do not judge your fellow until you
have reached his place

Did You Know?

Burial In Israel (Aish.com)

It is considered a great merit to be buried in Israel. In fact, when burying outside of Israel, the custom is to sprinkle some dirt from Israel into the grave.

There is a concept in Judaism, that at the time of the Messiah, all the dead will be resurrected. We also know that at the time of the Messiah, all the Jews will return to Israel. So what will happen? Those buried outside of Israel will "roll" through underground tunnels, and be resurrected in Israel. Apparently traveling through these tunnels will cause some distress. It is for this reason that Jacob requested to be buried in Israel, and why many other Jews over the centuries have followed suit.
(see Rashi – Genesis 47:29)

Nevertheless, there are many great Jews buried outside of Israel, who will have to make this journey. In fact, the Talmud asks: If God did not permit Moses to enter the Land of Israel, why did God go further and insist that Moses also be buried outside the land? The Midrash (Devarim Raba 11:9) says that Moses was buried outside of Israel, so that at the time of the Messiah, Moses will serve as a merit to make things easier for everyone else who is buried outside the land. Similarly, this is why the prophet Ezekiel was buried in Babylon, and Mordechai from the Purim story was buried in Persia.



Parsha Answers:

- 1) Rashi 47:29 - Because the giver expects no reward from the recipient.
- 2) Rashi 48:7 - Yaakov thought Yosef harbored resentment since Yaakov had not buried Yosef's mother, Rachel, in the Maarat HaMachpeila.
- 3) Yaakov switched his hands putting his right hand on Ephraim, the younger brother) and his left on Menashe (the older one).
- 4) Ephraim and Menashe were the first Jews born in exile, in Mitzrayim, and they turned out strong in their Jewish faith. We therefore bless our children to follow their example and maintain their Jewish identity.
- 5) Rashi 48:8 and 48:19 - Negative - Yeravam Ben Nevat and Achav would come from Ephraim and Yehu from Menashe. Positive - Yehoshua would descend from Ephraim and Gidon would come from Menashe.
- 6) Rashi 49:1 - When Mashiach will come.
- 7) Bava Metzia 87a - Yaakov was the first one to be ill in the world. Tosafot (Bava Batra 16b) add that this means to die from an illness. Pirkei D'Rebbe Eliezer (Chapter 52) explains that before this people would just sneeze and die, until Yaakov davened to become ill before his death in order to have time to bless his descendants.
- 8) Mishna Sotah 1:9 - Middah Keneged Middah, Yosef was rewarded with being buried by Moshe Rabbeinu, who took his coffin with him on the way out of Egypt.
- 9) Sotah 13a - Eisav blocked the burial by claiming that the last remaining burial space in Maarat Hamachpeila was his, since Yitzchak had 2 sons and Yaakov had given his burial plot to Leah, leaving the last one for Eisav. Naftali was sent to get the signed document that Eisav had sold his plot to Yaakov. Meanwhile, Chushim Ben Dan, who was deaf and was annoyed at the delay, struck Eisav and killed him, allowing the proceedings to continue.
- 10) Rashi 50:16 - They said that Yaakov had commanded Yosef to forgive his brothers for the evil they had done him.



This Week In Jewish History

Tevet 16 (Aish.com)

In 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant was instructed to revoke Order No. 11, which had called for the expulsion of all Jews from Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi.

During the Civil War, smugglers were illegally selling southern cotton to the northern textile factories. Grant, commander of U.S. Army forces, believed that Jews were primarily behind this illegal cotton trade, and he decided to expel all Jews from southern territory. Grant wrote: "No Jews are to be permitted to travel on the railroad southward from any point... The [region] must be purged of them." Based on Grant's orders, Jews were expelled from their homes, including 20 families from the town of Paducah alone. Some Jews were denied rail transportation and had to flee northward on foot. Those who did not cooperate were thrown into prison. Jewish community leaders immediately arranged a meeting at the White House with President Lincoln, who cancelled the expulsion order. Grant, who would later become U.S. president, never offered any explanation or apology and Grant deliberately omitted the episode from his autobiography. He did, however, show some "remorse" by appointing many Jews to public office, speaking out against anti-Semitism in Europe, and becoming the first president to visit the land of Israel.



Tefilla Insights

The Meaning of the Word תפילה

When he sees his long lost son Yosef (48:11), Yaakov says "רָאָה פְּנֶיךָ לֹא פָלַלְתִּי". Rashi explains that Yaakov never thought he would see Yosef again. For Rashi, תפילה then may be a chance to contemplate and think about the things that matter most to us in life.

Ibn Ezra translates differently. He says פָּלַלְתִּי comes means to judge. Yaakov is saying I never judged it possible that I would see you again. For him, perhaps תפילה is an opportunity to judge ourselves and reflect on how well we are living up to our potential.



Key Number or Word In The Parsha

פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד - Pakod Yifkod

Before he dies, Yosef makes his brothers promise to bring his remains with them to Eretz Yisrael when they leave Mitzrayim (50:24). And he uses a Code word, פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד, which, once we start looking for it we notice that it appears throughout the story.

It appears at the birth of Yitzchak (Breishit 21:1), at the Burning Bush (Shemot 3:16), and when Moshe looks for Yosef's coffin at Yetziat Mitzrayim (Shemot 13:19). Rashi (Shemot 3:18) quotes the midrash that this code word was passed down to Moshe by Serach Bat Asher, and it was these words that convinced Bnei Yisrael to believe that Moshe was indeed their redeemer.