

QUESTIONS FOR PARSHAT TOLDOT 5781
by Rabbi Edward Davis, Rabbi Emeritus & Sephardic Minyan Rabbi

I. From the Text

1. How old was Yitzchak when he married? And how old was he when he became a father? (25:20,26)
2. Why did Yitzchak go to Avimelech's area in Plishtim? (26:1)
3. Why did Avimelech want to expel Yitzchak from the Plishtim area? (26:13-16)
4. How old was Esav when he married? (26:34)
5. Whose idea was it for Yaakov to disguise himself as Esav and "steal" his father's blessings? (27:6-7)

II. From Rashi

6. Why was Yaakov cooking lentils? (25:30)
7. What pretense did the Philistines use to defend their actions of stopping up the wells that Yitzchak dug? (26:15)
8. Why did Yitzchak want Esav to bring two goats for his meal? (27:9)
9. Why did Yitzchak suspect that "Esav" was not really him, in front of him? (27:21)
10. What prophecy did Rivkah say when she said that Yaakov should leave Canaan, and escape Esav's anger? (27:45)

III. From the Rabbis

11. Why did Rivkah go to Shem to inquire about her painful pregnancy instead of asking her husband or her father-in-law, two recognized prophets? (Gur Aryeh)
12. Why did Hashem NOT want Yitzchak to leave Eretz Yisrael at all in his lifetime? (Mizrachi)
13. Why didn't Yitzchak ask Esav to also marry a daughter from Laban or Betuel? (Ramban)

IV. Midrash

14. When Esav returned from hunting and saw Yaakov cooking, Esav said "I am at the point to die." According to the Midrash (Bereishit Rabbah 43:13), who was seeking to kill Esav?

V. Haftarah

15. Who does Hashem revere as the teachers and models for the nation of Israel?

VI. Relationships

- a) Peretz - Kehat
- b) Chevron - Uziel
- c) Mupim - Chupim
- d) Osnat - Ephraim
- e) Nevayot - Machalat

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1. Forty at marriage. Sixty when he became a father.
2. There was a famine in Canaan.
3. Yitzchak prospered in Gerar, and the locals were jealous. Avimelech felt that Yitzchak grew too wealthy and strong.
4. Forty, just like his father.
5. Rivkah, Yaakov's mother.
6. Avraham had died that day, and Yaakov was making the Meal of Condolence (Seudat Havra'ah) for his father.
7. They felt that these wells could become a menace and could be used to help invading troops.
8. It was Pesach. One goat was for the Pesach sacrifice, and the other one was for the tasty meal.
9. Because "Esav" mentioned Hashem's name.
10. That Yaakov and Esav would die (around) the same time.
11. They might see her suffering as a sign of sinfulness on her part.
12. Due to the Akeidah, Yitzchak was considered a sacrifice, and no sacrifice can be removed from the holy environment of Eretz Yisrael.
13. Because Yitzchak knew that Esav was not to be Yitzchak's spiritual heir.
14. Nimrod wanted to kill Esav because Esav had Nimrod's special hunting garment, which attracted animals and birds of the world.
15. The Kohanim.

Relationships

- a) First Cousins (son of Yehudah and son of Levi)
- b) Brothers (sons of Kehat)
- c) Brothers (sons of Binyamin)
- d) Mother Osnat
- e) Brother-Sister (children of Yishmael)