# Genesis

HEBREW BIBLE

# Genesis

בְּרֵאשִׁית

*Translated from the Hebrew with AI (Claude) and edited*

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# INTRODUCTION

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis, the first book of the Hebrew Bible, tells of the world's creation and of the first humans, Adam and Eve, and their expulsion from the garden of Eden; of Cain's murder of his brother Abel; of the flood, from which only Noah and his family are saved; and of the tower of Babel, where the languages of humankind are confused.

From chapter 12 the story narrows to a single family. God calls Abraham to leave his homeland for Canaan and promises him the land and countless descendants. The promise passes, through rivalries, deceptions and reconciliations, to his son Isaac, to Isaac's son Jacob, who is renamed Israel, and to Jacob's twelve sons. The book ends in Egypt, where Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, has risen to govern the country and saves his family from famine.

Genesis took shape over centuries; most scholars think it combines several older sources and traditions, brought together in roughly its present form in the sixth or fifth century BC. Its Hebrew prose is spare and concrete, and much of its meaning lies in repetitions, wordplay and what it leaves unsaid.

# Primeval History

*Creation, the garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, the flood, and the tower of Babel.*

## CHAPTER 1

*God creates the heavens and the earth, light, sky, land and plants.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 1:1 | בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַמָּיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי־אוֹר: וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאוֹר כִּי־טוֹב וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לָאוֹר יוֹם וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לָיְלָה וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד: | In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, darkness lay over the surface of the deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.[1] |
| Gen 1:6 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי רָקִיעַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמָּיִם וִיהִי מַבְדִּיל בֵּין מַיִם לָמָיִם: וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָרָקִיעַ וַיַּבְדֵּל בֵּין הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר מִתַּחַת לָרָקִיעַ וּבֵין הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר מֵעַל לָרָקִיעַ וַיְהִי־כֵן: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לָרָקִיעַ שָׁמָיִם וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם שֵׁנִי: | Then God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, and let it separate waters from waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.[2] |
| Gen 1:9 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקָּווּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם אֶל־מָקוֹם אֶחָד וְתֵרָאֶה הַיַּבָּשָׁה וַיְהִי־כֵן: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לַיַּבָּשָׁה אֶרֶץ וּלְמִקְוֵה הַמַּיִם קָרָא יַמִּים וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב: | Then God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the gathered waters he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. |
| Gen 1:11 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים תַּדְשֵׁא הָאָרֶץ דֶּשֶׁא עֵשֶׂב מַזְרִיעַ זֶרַע עֵץ פְּרִי עֹשֶׂה פְּרִי לְמִינוֹ אֲשֶׁר זַרְעוֹ־בוֹ עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי־כֵן: וַתּוֹצֵא הָאָרֶץ דֶּשֶׁא עֵשֶׂב מַזְרִיעַ זֶרַע לְמִינֵהוּ וְעֵץ עֹשֶׂה־פְּרִי אֲשֶׁר זַרְעוֹ־בוֹ לְמִינֵהוּ וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב: וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי: | Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit of each kind, with their seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of each kind, and trees bearing fruit with their seed in it, of each kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. |
| Gen 1:14 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי מְאֹרֹת בִּרְקִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין הַיּוֹם וּבֵין הַלָּיְלָה וְהָיוּ לְאֹתֹת וּלְמוֹעֲדִים וּלְיָמִים וְשָׁנִים: וְהָיוּ לִמְאוֹרֹת בִּרְקִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהָאִיר עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי־כֵן: | Then God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them serve as signs, and for set times, and for days |

1 The Hebrew *tohu wa-bohu*, “formless and empty,” is a rhyming pair. *Ruach* can mean “spirit,” “wind” or “breath.”
2 The Hebrew *raqia* suggests a hammered-out surface. It was pictured as a solid vault holding back the waters above.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| | and years. Let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. |
| Gen 1:16 וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־שְׁנֵי הַמְּאֹרֹת הַגְּדֹלִים אֶת־הַמָּאוֹר הַגָּדֹל לְמֶמְשֶׁלֶת הַיּוֹם וְאֶת־הַמָּאוֹר הַקָּטֹן לְמֶמְשֶׁלֶת הַלַּיְלָה וְאֵת הַכּוֹכָבִים: וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָם אֱלֹהִים בִּרְקִיעַ הַשָּׁמָיִם לְהָאִיר עַל־הָאָרֶץ: וְלִמְשֹׁל בַּיּוֹם וּבַלַּיְלָה וּלְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב: וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם רְבִיעִי: | God made the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night, and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. |
| Gen 1:20 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִשְׁרְצוּ הַמַּיִם שֶׁרֶץ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה וְעוֹף יְעוֹפֵף עַל־הָאָרֶץ עַל־פְּנֵי רְקִיעַ הַשָּׁמָיִם: וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הַתַּנִּינִם הַגְּדֹלִים וְאֵת כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ הַחַיָּה הָרֹמֶשֶׂת אֲשֶׁר שָׁרְצוּ הַמַּיִם לְמִינֵהֶם וְאֵת כָּל־עוֹף כָּנָף לְמִינֵהוּ וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב: | Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, each according to its kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. |
| Gen 1:22 וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמִלְאוּ אֶת־הַמַּיִם בַּיַּמִּים וְהָעוֹף יֵרֶב בָּאָרֶץ: וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם חֲמִישִׁי: | God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. |
| Gen 1:24 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים תּוֹצֵא הָאָרֶץ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה לְמִינָהּ בְּהֵמָה וָרֶמֶשׂ וְחַיְתוֹ־אֶרֶץ לְמִינָהּ וַיְהִי־כֵן: וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ לְמִינָהּ וְאֶת־הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ וְאֵת כָּל־רֶמֶשׂ הָאֲדָמָה לְמִינֵהוּ וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב: | Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of each kind: livestock, creeping things and wild animals of the earth, each of its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth according to their kind, the livestock according to their kind, and every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. |
| Gen 1:26 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כִּדְמוּתֵנוּ וְיִרְדּוּ בִדְגַת הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל־הָאָרֶץ וּבְכָל־הָרֶמֶשׂ הָרֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ: וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם: | Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness. Let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created humankind in his image. In the image of God he created it; male and female he created them.[3] |
| Gen 1:28 וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם אֱלֹהִים פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמִלְאוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְכִבְשֻׁהָ וּרְדוּ בִּדְגַת הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבְכָל־חַיָּה הָרֹמֶשֶׂת עַל־הָאָרֶץ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי לָכֶם אֶת־כָּל־עֵשֶׂב זֹרֵעַ זֶרַע אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ וְאֶת־כָּל־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ פְרִי־עֵץ זֹרֵעַ זָרַע לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאָכְלָה: | God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that creeps on the earth." And God said, "Look, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all |

3 The plural "us" has been read in different ways. Some take it as God addressing a heavenly court, and others as a plural of majesty.

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | | the earth, and every tree that has seed-yielding fruit in it; they will be yours for food. |
| Gen 1:30 | וּלְכָל־חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ וּלְכָל־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּלְכֹל רוֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־ בּוֹ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה אֶת־כָּל־יֶרֶק עֵשֶׂב לְאָכְלָה וַיְהִי־כֵן: וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־ כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהִנֵּה־טוֹב מְאֹד וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם הַשִּׁשִּׁי: | And for every wild animal of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has life in it, every green plant is for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. |

## CHAPTER 2

*The heavens and the earth are finished, and God rests on the seventh day.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 2:1 | וַיְכֻלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל־צְבָאָם: וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִכָּל־מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ כִּי בוֹ שָׁבַת מִכָּל־מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר־בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת: | So the heavens and the earth were finished, with all their array. On the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing, and on the seventh day he rested from all the work he had done. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work that God had done in creating.[4] |

## THE GARDEN OF EDEN

*The LORD God forms the human from the ground and plants a garden in Eden.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 2:4 | אֵלֶּה תוֹלְדוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ בְּהִבָּרְאָם בְּיוֹם עֲשׂוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶרֶץ וְשָׁמָיִם: וְכֹל שִׂיחַ הַשָּׂדֶה טֶרֶם יִהְיֶה בָאָרֶץ וְכָל־עֵשֶׂב הַשָּׂדֶה טֶרֶם יִצְמָח כִּי לֹא הִמְטִיר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְאָדָם אַיִן לַעֲבֹד אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה: | These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. On the day the LORD God made earth and heavens, no shrub of the field was yet on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up. The LORD God had not sent rain on the earth, and there was no human to work the ground.[5] |
| Gen 2:6 | וְאֵד יַעֲלֶה מִן־הָאָרֶץ וְהִשְׁקָה אֶת־כָּל־פְּנֵי־הָאֲדָמָה: וַיִּיצֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם עָפָר מִן־הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּפַּח בְּאַפָּיו נִשְׁמַת חַיִּים וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה: וַיִּטַּע יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים גַּן־בְּעֵדֶן מִקֶּדֶם וַיָּשֶׂם שָׁם אֶת־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר יָצָר: | But a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. Then the LORD God formed the human from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the human he had formed.[6] |
| Gen 2:9 | וַיַּצְמַח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִן־הָאֲדָמָה כָּל־עֵץ נֶחְמָד לְמַרְאֶה וְטוֹב לְמַאֲכָל וְעֵץ הַחַיִּים בְּתוֹךְ הַגָּן וְעֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וָרָע: וְנָהָר יֹצֵא | Out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasing to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden, |

4 "Rested" (*shavat*) shares its root with "Sabbath," although the noun itself does not appear here.
5 "The LORD" in capitals stands for the divine name YHWH, traditionally not pronounced aloud. It appears here for the first time, joined with "God."
6 The human (*adam*) is formed from the ground (*adamah*), a wordplay that runs through the story. The word rendered "stream" (*ed*) is uncertain and may mean "mist."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| מַעֲדָן לְהַשְׁקוֹת אֶת־הַגָּן וּמִשָּׁם יִפָּרֵד וְהָיָה לְאַרְבָּעָה רָאשִׁים: שֵׁם הָאֶחָד פִּישׁוֹן הוּא הַסֹּבֵב אֵת כָּל־אֶרֶץ הַחֲוִילָה אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם הַזָּהָב: | and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that winds through the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. |
| Gen 2:12 וְזֹהַב הָאָרֶץ הַהִוא טוֹב שָׁם הַבְּדֹלַח וְאֶבֶן הַשֹּׁהַם: וְשֵׁם־הַנָּהָר הַשֵּׁנִי גִּיחוֹן הוּא הַסּוֹבֵב אֵת כָּל־אֶרֶץ כּוּשׁ: וְשֵׁם הַנָּהָר הַשְּׁלִישִׁי חִדֶּקֶל הוּא הַהֹלֵךְ קִדְמַת אַשּׁוּר וְהַנָּהָר הָרְבִיעִי הוּא פְּרָת: | The gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are found there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that winds through the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris; it is the one that flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.[7] |
| Gen 2:15 וַיִּקַּח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם וַיַּנִּחֵהוּ בְגַן־עֵדֶן לְעָבְדָהּ וּלְשָׁמְרָהּ: וַיְצַו יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים עַל־הָאָדָם לֵאמֹר מִכֹּל עֵץ־הַגָּן אָכֹל תֹּאכֵל: וּמֵעֵץ הַדַּעַת טוֹב וָרָע לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ כִּי בְיוֹם אֲכָלְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת: | The LORD God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to work it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the human, "You may freely eat from every tree of the garden, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you must not eat, for on the day you eat from it you will surely die." |

## THE FIRST WOMAN

*God makes the animals and then the woman from the human's rib.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 2:18 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לֹא־טוֹב הֱיוֹת הָאָדָם לְבַדּוֹ אֶעֱשֶׂה־לּוֹ עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ: וַיִּצֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִן־הָאֲדָמָה כָּל־חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה וְאֵת כָּל־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיָּבֵא אֶל־הָאָדָם לִרְאוֹת מַה־יִּקְרָא־לוֹ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָא־לוֹ הָאָדָם נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה הוּא שְׁמוֹ: | Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the human to be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every wild animal of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the human to see what he would call them. Whatever the human called each living creature, that was its name.[8] |
| Gen 2:20 וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שֵׁמוֹת לְכָל־הַבְּהֵמָה וּלְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וּלְכֹל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה וּלְאָדָם לֹא־מָצָא עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ: וַיַּפֵּל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים תַּרְדֵּמָה עַל־הָאָדָם וַיִּישָׁן וַיִּקַּח אַחַת מִצַּלְעֹתָיו וַיִּסְגֹּר בָּשָׂר תַּחְתֶּנָה: וַיִּבֶן יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הַצֵּלָע אֲשֶׁר־לָקַח מִן־הָאָדָם לְאִשָּׁה וַיְבִאֶהָ אֶל־הָאָדָם: | The human gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky and to every wild animal of the field, but for the human no helper fit for him was found. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the human, and he slept. He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the LORD God built the rib that he had taken from the human into a woman, and he brought her to the man.[9] |
| Gen 2:23 וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם זֹאת הַפַּעַם עֶצֶם מֵעֲצָמַי וּבָשָׂר מִבְּשָׂרִי לְזֹאת יִקָּרֵא אִשָּׁה כִּי מֵאִישׁ לֻקֳחָה־זֹּאת: עַל־כֵּן יַעֲזָב־אִישׁ אֶת־אָבִיו וְאֶת־אִמּוֹ וְדָבַק בְּאִשְׁתּוֹ וְהָיוּ לְבָשָׂר אֶחָד: וַיִּהְיוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם עֲרוּמִּים הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְלֹא יִתְבּשָׁשׁוּ: | Then the man said, "This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for from Man this one was taken." That is why a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one |

7 Bdellium is an aromatic resin, and the *shoham* stone (here "onyx") is uncertain. Cush usually means the region south of Egypt, and the Hebrew names *Hiddekel* and *Perat* are the Tigris and Euphrates.
8 Literally "a helper corresponding to him," a counterpart. The word for "helper" (*ezer*) is often used of God elsewhere.
9 The word for "rib" (*tsela*) can also mean "side."

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | | flesh. The two of them, the man and his wife, were naked, and they felt no shame.[10] |

## CHAPTER 3

*The snake persuades the woman to eat the forbidden fruit, and the humans are driven from the garden.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 3:1 | וְהַנָּחָשׁ הָיָה עָרוּם מִכֹּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה אַף כִּי־אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִכֹּל עֵץ הַגָּן: וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה אֶל־הַנָּחָשׁ מִפְּרִי עֵץ־הַגָּן נֹאכֵל: | Now the snake was shrewder than any wild animal of the field that the LORD God had made. It said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden,[11] |
| Gen 3:3 | וּמִפְּרִי הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בְּתוֹךְ־הַגָּן אָמַר אֱלֹהִים לֹא תֹאכְלוּ מִמֶּנּוּ וְלֹא תִגְּעוּ בּוֹ פֶּן־תְּמֻתוּן: וַיֹּאמֶר הַנָּחָשׁ אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה לֹא־מוֹת תְּמֻתוּן: כִּי יֹדֵעַ אֱלֹהִים כִּי בְּיוֹם אֲכָלְכֶם מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִפְקְחוּ עֵינֵיכֶם וִהְיִיתֶם כֵּאלֹהִים יֹדְעֵי טוֹב וָרָע: | but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, 'You shall not eat from it, and you shall not touch it, or you will die.'" The snake said to the woman, "You will not surely die. God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."[12] |
| Gen 3:6 | וַתֵּרֶא הָאִשָּׁה כִּי טוֹב הָעֵץ לְמַאֲכָל וְכִי תַאֲוָה־הוּא לָעֵינַיִם וְנֶחְמָד הָעֵץ לְהַשְׂכִּיל וַתִּקַּח מִפִּרְיוֹ וַתֹּאכַל וַתִּתֵּן גַּם־לְאִישָׁהּ עִמָּהּ וַיֹּאכַל: וַתִּפָּקַחְנָה עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיֵּדְעוּ כִּי עֵירֻמִּם הֵם וַיִּתְפְּרוּ עֲלֵה תְאֵנָה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם חֲגֹרֹת: | The woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. |
| Gen 3:8 | וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת־קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִתְהַלֵּךְ בַּגָּן לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם וַיִּתְחַבֵּא הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים בְּתוֹךְ עֵץ הַגָּן: וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶל־הָאָדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אַיֶּכָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת־קֹלְךָ שָׁמַעְתִּי בַּגָּן וָאִירָא כִּי־עֵירֹם אָנֹכִי וָאֵחָבֵא: | They heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden in the breeze of the day, and the man and his wife hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard your sound in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." |
| Gen 3:11 | וַיֹּאמֶר מִי הִגִּיד לְךָ כִּי עֵירֹם אָתָּה הֲמִן־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לְבִלְתִּי אֲכָל־מִמֶּנּוּ אָכָלְתָּ: וַיֹּאמֶר הָאָדָם הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה עִמָּדִי הִוא נָתְנָה־לִּי מִן־הָעֵץ וָאֹכֵל: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְאִשָּׁה מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂית וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה הַנָּחָשׁ הִשִּׁיאַנִי וָאֹכֵל: | He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The snake deceived me, and I ate." |
| Gen 3:14 | וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶל־הַנָּחָשׁ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ זֹּאת אָרוּר אַתָּה מִכָּל־הַבְּהֵמָה וּמִכֹּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה עַל־גְּחֹנְךָ תֵלֵךְ וְעָפָר תֹּאכַל כָּל־יְמֵי | The LORD God said to the snake, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock |

10 In Hebrew *ishah*, "woman," sounds like *ish*, "man."
11 "Shrewd" (*arum*) plays on "naked" (*arummim*) in the verse just before.
12 "Like God" could also be read "like gods"; the Hebrew word is plural in form.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| חַיֶּיךָ: וְאֵיבָה אָשִׁית בֵּינְךָ וּבֵין הָאִשָּׁה וּבֵין זַרְעֲךָ וּבֵין זַרְעָהּ הוּא יְשׁוּפְךָ רֹאשׁ וְאַתָּה תְּשׁוּפֶנּוּ עָקֵב: | and above every wild animal of the field. On your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. It will strike your head, and you will strike its heel."[13] |
| Gen 3:16 אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה אָמַר הַרְבָּה אַרְבֶּה עִצְּבוֹנֵךְ וְהֵרֹנֵךְ בְּעֶצֶב תֵּלְדִי בָנִים וְאֶל־אִישֵׁךְ תְּשׁוּקָתֵךְ וְהוּא יִמְשָׁל־בָּךְ: | To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your painful toil and your pregnancies; in pain you will bear children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."[14] |
| Gen 3:17 וּלְאָדָם אָמַר כִּי־שָׁמַעְתָּ לְקוֹל אִשְׁתֶּךָ וַתֹּאכַל מִן־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ לֵאמֹר לֹא תֹאכַל מִמֶּנּוּ אֲרוּרָה הָאֲדָמָה בַּעֲבוּרֶךָ בְּעִצָּבוֹן תֹּאכֲלֶנָּה כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ: וְקוֹץ וְדַרְדַּר תַּצְמִיחַ לָךְ וְאָכַלְתָּ אֶת־עֵשֶׂב הַשָּׂדֶה: | And to the man he said, "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat from it,' cursed is the ground because of you. In painful toil you will eat from it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it will sprout for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. |
| Gen 3:19 בְּזֵעַת אַפֶּיךָ תֹּאכַל לֶחֶם עַד שׁוּבְךָ אֶל־הָאֲדָמָה כִּי מִמֶּנָּה לֻקָּחְתָּ כִּי־עָפָר אַתָּה וְאֶל־עָפָר תָּשׁוּב: וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שֵׁם אִשְׁתּוֹ חַוָּה כִּי הִוא הָיְתָה אֵם כָּל־חָי: וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְאָדָם וּלְאִשְׁתּוֹ כָּתְנוֹת עוֹר וַיַּלְבִּשֵׁם: | By the sweat of your brow you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for from it you were taken. Dust you are, and to dust you will return." The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments of skin for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.[15] |
| Gen 3:22 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים הֵן הָאָדָם הָיָה כְּאַחַד מִמֶּנּוּ לָדַעַת טוֹב וָרָע וְעַתָּה פֶּן־יִשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וְלָקַח גַּם מֵעֵץ הַחַיִּים וְאָכַל וָחַי לְעֹלָם: וַיְשַׁלְּחֵהוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִגַּן־עֵדֶן לַעֲבֹד אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר לֻקַּח מִשָּׁם: וַיְגָרֶשׁ אֶת־הָאָדָם וַיַּשְׁכֵּן מִקֶּדֶם לְגַן־עֵדֶן אֶת־הַכְּרֻבִים וְאֵת לַהַט הַחֶרֶב הַמִּתְהַפֶּכֶת לִשְׁמֹר אֶת־דֶּרֶךְ עֵץ הַחַיִּים: | Then the LORD God said, "Look, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. Now, so that he does not reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever —" So the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. He drove the man out, and east of the garden of Eden he stationed the cherubim and the flame of the whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.[16] |

## CHAPTER 4

*Cain kills his brother Abel and is sent away; Cain's descendants and the birth of Seth.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 4:1 וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־קַיִן וַתֹּאמֶר קָנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת־יְהוָה: וַתֹּסֶף לָלֶדֶת אֶת־אָחִיו אֶת־הֶבֶל וַיְהִי־הֶבֶל רֹעֵה צֹאן וְקַיִן הָיָה עֹבֵד אֲדָמָה: וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ יָמִים וַיָּבֵא קַיִן מִפְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה מִנְחָה לַיהוָה: | The man knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have gotten a man with the LORD." She gave birth again, this time to his brother Abel. Abel became a keeper of |

13 The same verb (*shuf*, perhaps "strike" or "crush") is used for both blows.
14 The word for "painful toil" (*itsavon*) is used again of the man's labor in 3:17.
15 Eve (*Chavvah*) sounds like *chai*, "living."
16 Cherubim are winged guardian beings. Ancient Near Eastern art often shows such figures as composite creatures.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruit of the ground as an offering to the LORD.[17] |
| Gen 4:4 וְהֶבֶל הֵבִיא גַם־הוּא מִבְּכֹרוֹת צֹאנוֹ וּמֵחֶלְבֵהֶן וַיִּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶל־הֶבֶל וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ: וְאֶל־קַיִן וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁעָה וַיִּחַר לְקַיִן מְאֹד וַיִּפְּלוּ פָּנָיו: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־קַיִן לָמָּה חָרָה לָךְ וְלָמָּה נָפְלוּ פָּנֶיךָ: | Abel, for his part, brought some of the firstborn of his flock and some of their fat. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? |
| Gen 4:7 הֲלוֹא אִם־תֵּיטִיב שְׂאֵת וְאִם לֹא תֵיטִיב לַפֶּתַח חַטָּאת רֹבֵץ וְאֵלֶיךָ תְּשׁוּקָתוֹ וְאַתָּה תִּמְשָׁל־בּוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל־הֶבֶל אָחִיו וַיְהִי בִּהְיוֹתָם בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיָּקָם קַיִן אֶל־הֶבֶל אָחִיו וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־קַיִן אֵי הֶבֶל אָחִיךָ וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יָדַעְתִּי הֲשֹׁמֵר אָחִי אָנֹכִי: | If you do well, will there not be a lifting up? But if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it.” Cain said to his brother Abel—and when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. The LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”[18] |
| Gen 4:10 וַיֹּאמֶר מָה עָשִׂיתָ קוֹל דְּמֵי אָחִיךָ צֹעֲקִים אֵלַי מִן־הָאֲדָמָה: וְעַתָּה אָרוּר אָתָּה מִן־הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר פָּצְתָה אֶת־פִּיהָ לָקַחַת אֶת־דְּמֵי אָחִיךָ מִיָּדֶךָ: כִּי תַעֲבֹד אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה לֹא־תֹסֶף תֵּת־כֹּחָהּ לָךְ נָע וָנָד תִּהְיֶה בָאָרֶץ: וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל־יְהוָה גָּדוֹל עֲוֹנִי מִנְּשֹׂא: | And he said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you. You will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is too great to bear. |
| Gen 4:14 הֵן גֵּרַשְׁתָּ אֹתִי הַיּוֹם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וּמִפָּנֶיךָ אֶסָּתֵר וְהָיִיתִי נָע וָנָד בָּאָרֶץ וְהָיָה כָּל־מֹצְאִי יַהַרְגֵנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יְהוָה לָכֵן כָּל־הֹרֵג קַיִן שִׁבְעָתַיִם יֻקָּם וַיָּשֶׂם יְהוָה לְקַיִן אוֹת לְבִלְתִּי הַכּוֹת־אֹתוֹ כָּל־מֹצְאוֹ: | Look, today you have driven me from the face of the ground, and from your face I will be hidden. I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” The LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who found him would strike him down. |
| Gen 4:16 וַיֵּצֵא קַיִן מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּאֶרֶץ־נוֹד קִדְמַת־עֵדֶן: וַיֵּדַע קַיִן אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־חֲנוֹךְ וַיְהִי בֹּנֶה עִיר וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם הָעִיר כְּשֵׁם בְּנוֹ חֲנוֹךְ: וַיִּוָּלֶד לַחֲנוֹךְ אֶת־עִירָד וְעִירָד יָלַד אֶת־מְחוּיָאֵל וּמְחוּיָאֵל יָלַד אֶת־מְתוּשָׁאֵל וּמְתוּשָׁאֵל יָלַד אֶת־לָמֶךְ: | So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was building a city, and he named the city after his son Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad. Irad fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.[19] |
| Gen 4:19 | Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other was Zillah. Adah |

17 Cain (*Qayin*) echoes *qaniti*, “I have gotten.” The sense of “with the LORD” is uncertain; it may mean “with the LORD’s help.”
18 Verse 7 is obscure; “lifting up” may mean acceptance or a lifted face. In verse 8 the Hebrew does not report what Cain said, and some ancient versions add, “Let us go out to the field.”
19 Nod means “wandering,” echoing *nad*, “wanderer,” in 4:12 and 4:14.

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ לֶמֶךְ שְׁתֵּי נָשִׁים שֵׁם הָאַחַת עָדָה וְשֵׁם הַשֵּׁנִית צִלָּה: וַתֵּלֶד עָדָה אֶת־יָבָל הוּא הָיָה אֲבִי יֹשֵׁב אֹהֶל וּמִקְנֶה: וְשֵׁם אָחִיו יוּבָל הוּא הָיָה אֲבִי כָּל־תֹּפֵשׂ כִּנּוֹר וְעוּגָב: | gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and keep livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the lyre and pipe. |
| Gen 4:22 | וְצִלָּה גַם־הִוא יָלְדָה אֶת־תּוּבַל קַיִן לֹטֵשׁ כָּל־חֹרֶשׁ נְחֹשֶׁת וּבַרְזֶל וַאֲחוֹת תּוּבַל־קַיִן נַעֲמָה: וַיֹּאמֶר לֶמֶךְ לְנָשָׁיו עָדָה וְצִלָּה שְׁמַעַן קוֹלִי נְשֵׁי לֶמֶךְ הַאְזֵנָּה אִמְרָתִי כִּי אִישׁ הָרַגְתִּי לְפִצְעִי וְיֶלֶד לְחַבֻּרָתִי: כִּי שִׁבְעָתַיִם יֻקַּם־קָיִן וְלֶמֶךְ שִׁבְעִים וְשִׁבְעָה: | Zillah, too, gave birth, to Tubal-cain, who forged every tool of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah. Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a boy for striking me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." |
| Gen 4:25 | וַיֵּדַע אָדָם עוֹד אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ שֵׁת כִּי שָׁת־לִי אֱלֹהִים זֶרַע אַחֵר תַּחַת הֶבֶל כִּי הָרָגוֹ קָיִן: וּלְשֵׁת גַּם־הוּא יֻלַּד־בֵּן וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ אֱנוֹשׁ אָז הוּחַל לִקְרֹא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה: | Adam knew his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, "for God has granted me another offspring in place of Abel, because Cain killed him." To Seth also a son was born, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.[20] |

## CHAPTER 5

*The line of Adam through Seth, from Adam to Noah.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 5:1 | זֶה סֵפֶר תּוֹלְדֹת אָדָם בְּיוֹם בָּרֹא אֱלֹהִים אָדָם בִּדְמוּת אֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֹתוֹ: זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בְּרָאָם וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָם אָדָם בְּיוֹם הִבָּרְאָם: | This is the book of the line of Adam. When God created humankind, he made it in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Humankind on the day they were created.[21] |
| Gen 5:3 | וַיְחִי אָדָם שְׁלֹשִׁים וּמְאַת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בִּדְמוּתוֹ כְּצַלְמוֹ וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ שֵׁת: וַיִּהְיוּ יְמֵי־אָדָם אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־שֵׁת שְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי אָדָם אֲשֶׁר־חַי תְּשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Adam had lived a hundred and thirty years, he fathered a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. After he fathered Seth, Adam lived eight hundred years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years; then he died. |
| Gen 5:6 | וַיְחִי־שֵׁת חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וּמְאַת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־אֱנוֹשׁ: וַיְחִי־שֵׁת אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־אֱנוֹשׁ שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים וּשְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי־שֵׁת שְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה וּתְשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Seth had lived a hundred and five years, he fathered Enosh. After he fathered Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Seth lived nine hundred and twelve years; then he died. |
| Gen 5:9 | וַיְחִי אֱנוֹשׁ תִּשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־קֵינָן: וַיְחִי אֱנוֹשׁ אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־קֵינָן חֲמֵשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה וּשְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי אֱנוֹשׁ חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וּתְשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Enosh had lived ninety years, he fathered Kenan. After he fathered Kenan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Enosh lived nine hundred and five years; then he died. |
| Gen 5:12 | | |

20 Seth (*Shet*) echoes *shat*, "has granted." From here on *adam* is used as a personal name, Adam.
21 The Hebrew *adam* serves both as the word for "humankind" and as the name Adam.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| וַיְחִי קֵינָן שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־מַהֲלַלְאֵל: וַיְחִי קֵינָן אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־מַהֲלַלְאֵל אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה וּשְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי קֵינָן עֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים וּתְשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Kenan had lived seventy years, he fathered Mahalalel. After he fathered Mahalalel, Kenan lived eight hundred and forty years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Kenan lived nine hundred and ten years; then he died. |
| Gen 5:15 וַיְחִי מַהֲלַלְאֵל חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וְשִׁשִּׁ ים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־יָרֶד: וַיְחִי מַהֲלַלְאֵל אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־יֶרֶד שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וּשְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי מַהֲלַלְאֵל חָמֵשׁ וְתִשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וּשְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Mahalalel had lived sixty-five years, he fathered Jared. After he fathered Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Mahalalel lived eight hundred and ninety-five years; then he died. |
| Gen 5:18 וַיְחִי־יֶרֶד שִׁתִּים וְשִׁשִּׁ ים שָׁנָה וּמְאַת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־חֲנוֹךְ: וַיְחִי־יֶרֶד אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־חֲנוֹךְ שְׁמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי־יֶרֶד שְׁתַּיִם וְשִׁשִּׁ ים שָׁנָה וּתְשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Jared had lived a hundred and sixty-two years, he fathered Enoch. After he fathered Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Jared lived nine hundred and sixty-two years; then he died. |
| Gen 5:21 וְיַחְי חֲנוֹךְ חָמֵשׁ וְשִׁשִּׁ ים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־מְתוּשֶׁלַח: וַיִּתְהַלֵּךְ חֲנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־מְתוּשֶׁלַח שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיְהִי כָּל־יְמֵי חֲנוֹךְ חָמֵשׁ וְשִׁשִּׁ ים שָׁנָה וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה: וַיִּתְהַלֵּךְ חֲנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֵינֶנּוּ כִּי־לָקַח אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים: | When Enoch had lived sixty-five years, he fathered Methuselah. After he fathered Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Enoch lived three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him.[22] |
| Gen 5:25 וַיְחִי מְתוּשֶׁלַח שֶׁבַע וּשְׁמֹנִים שָׁנָה וּמְאַת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־לָמֶךְ: וַיְחִי מְתוּשֶׁלַח אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־לֶמֶךְ שְׁתַּיִם וּשְׁמוֹנִים שָׁנָה וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי מְתוּשֶׁלַח תֵּשַׁע וְשִׁשִּׁ ים שָׁנָה וּתְשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Methuselah had lived a hundred and eighty-seven years, he fathered Lamech. After he fathered Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Methuselah lived nine hundred and sixty-nine years; then he died. |
| Gen 5:28 וַיְחִי־לֶמֶךְ שְׁתַּיִם וּשְׁמֹנִים שָׁנָה וּמְאַת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בֵּן: וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ נֹחַ לֵאמֹר זֶה יְנַחֲמֵנוּ מִמַּעֲשֵׂנוּ וּמֵעִצְּבוֹן יָדֵינוּ מִן־הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר אֵרְרָהּ יְהוָה: וַיְחִי־לֶמֶךְ אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־נֹחַ חָמֵשׁ וְתִשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וַחֲמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: וַיְהִי כָּל־יְמֵי־לֶמֶךְ שֶׁבַע וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | When Lamech had lived a hundred and eighty-two years, he fathered a son. He named him Noah, saying, “This one will bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands, from the ground that the LORD has cursed.” After he fathered Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether Lamech lived seven hundred and seventy-seven years; then he died.[23] |
| Gen 5:32 וַיְהִי־נֹחַ בֶּן־חֲמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד נֹחַ אֶת־שֵׁם אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יָפֶת: | When Noah was five hundred years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham and Japheth. |

22 Enoch’s entry breaks the pattern of the list. Instead of “then he died,” it says he “was no more.”
23 Noah (*Noach*) echoes *yenachamenu*, “he will bring us relief.”

## CHAPTER 6

*Humankind grows corrupt, and God tells Noah to build an ark.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 6:1 | וַיְהִי כִּי־הֵחֵל הָאָדָם לָרֹב עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וּבָנוֹת יֻלְּדוּ לָהֶם: וַיִּרְאוּ בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנוֹת הָאָדָם כִּי טֹבֹת הֵנָּה וַיִּקְחוּ לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר בָּחָרוּ: | When humankind began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humankind were beautiful, and they took as wives any of them they chose.[24] |
| Gen 6:3 | וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לֹא־יָדוֹן רוּחִי בָאָדָם לְעֹלָם בְּשַׁגַּם הוּא בָשָׂר וְהָיוּ יָמָיו מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה: הַנְּפִלִים הָיוּ בָאָרֶץ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וְגַם אַחֲרֵי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֶל־בְּנוֹת הָאָדָם וְיָלְדוּ לָהֶם הֵמָּה הַגִּבֹּרִים אֲשֶׁר מֵעוֹלָם אַנְשֵׁי הַשֵּׁם: | Then the LORD said, “My spirit shall not remain in humankind forever, since they are flesh; their days shall be a hundred and twenty years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God went in to the daughters of humankind and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men of old, the men of renown.[25] |
| Gen 6:5 | וַיַּרְא יְהוָה כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ וְכָל־יֵצֶר מַחְשְׁבֹת לִבּוֹ רַק רַע כָּל־הַיּוֹם: וַיִּנָּחֶם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ וַיִּתְעַצֵּב אֶל־לִבּוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶמְחֶה אֶת־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר־בָּרָאתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רֶמֶשׂ וְעַד־עוֹף הַשָּׁמָיִם כִּי נִחַמְתִּי כִּי עֲשִׂיתִם: וְנֹחַ מָצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה: | The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind on the earth was great, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil all the time. And the LORD regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was pained to his heart. So the LORD said, “I will wipe out humankind, whom I created, from the face of the ground —humans and livestock, creeping things and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. |

## THE FLOOD

*God tells Noah, a righteous man, to build an ark before the coming flood.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 6:9 | אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק תָּמִים הָיָה בְּדֹרֹתָיו אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים הִתְהַלֶּךְ־נֹחַ: וַיּוֹלֶד נֹחַ שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנִים אֶת־שֵׁם אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יָפֶת: וַתִּשָּׁחֵת הָאָרֶץ לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וַתִּמָּלֵא הָאָרֶץ חָמָס: וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וְהִנֵּה נִשְׁחָתָה כִּי־הִשְׁחִית כָּל־בָּשָׂר אֶת־דַּרְכּוֹ עַל־הָאָרֶץ: | This is the story of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time; Noah walked with God. Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked at the earth and saw that it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its way on the earth. |
| Gen 6:13 | וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְנֹחַ קֵץ כָּל־בָּשָׂר בָּא לְפָנַי כִּי־מָלְאָה הָאָרֶץ חָמָס מִפְּנֵיהֶם וְהִנְנִי מַשְׁחִיתָם אֶת־הָאָרֶץ: עֲשֵׂה לְךָ תֵּבַת עֲצֵי־גֹפֶר קִנִּים תַּעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הַתֵּבָה וְכָפַרְתָּ אֹתָהּ מִבַּיִת וּמִחוּץ בַּכֹּפֶר: | God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am about to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher |

24 Elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible “sons of God” refers to heavenly beings (Job 1:6). The episode is very brief and its meaning has long been debated.

25 *Nephilim* may mean “fallen ones.” Numbers 13:33 uses the word for giants. The verb rendered “remain” in 6:3 is uncertain.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | wood. Make the ark with compartments, and coat it inside and outside with pitch.[26] |
| Gen 6:15 וְזֶה אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה אֹתָהּ שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אַמָּה אֹרֶךְ הַתֵּבָה חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה רָחְבָּהּ וּשְׁלֹשִׁים אַמָּה קוֹמָתָהּ: צֹהַר תַּעֲשֶׂה לַתֵּבָה וְאֶל־אַמָּה תְּכַלֶּנָּה מִלְמַעְלָה וּפֶתַח הַתֵּבָה בְּצִדָּהּ תָּשִׂים תַּחְתִּיִּם שְׁנִיִּם וּשְׁלִשִׁים תַּעֲשֶׂהָ: | This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof for the ark and finish it to a cubit from the top, and put the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.[27] |
| Gen 6:17 וַאֲנִי הִנְנִי מֵבִיא אֶת־הַמַּבּוּל מַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ לְשַׁחֵת כָּל־בָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ רוּחַ חַיִּים מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמָיִם כֹּל אֲשֶׁר־בָּאָרֶץ יִגְוָע: וַהֲקִמֹתִי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתָּךְ וּבָאתָ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה אַתָּה וּבָנֶיךָ וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וְנְשֵׁי־בָנֶיךָ אִתָּךְ: וּמִכָּל־הַחַי מִכָּל־בָּשָׂר שְׁנַיִם מִכֹּל תָּבִיא אֶל־הַתֵּבָה לְהַחֲיֹת אִתָּךְ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה יִהְיוּ: | As for me, I am about to bring the flood, waters upon the earth, to destroy from under the sky all flesh that has the breath of life in it; everything on the earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall go into the ark, you and your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of each into the ark to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. |
| Gen 6:20 מֵהָעוֹף לְמִינֵהוּ וּמִן־הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ מִכֹּל רֶמֶשׂ הָאֲדָמָה לְמִינֵהוּ שְׁנַיִם מִכֹּל יָבֹאוּ אֵלֶיךָ לְהַחֲיוֹת: וְאַתָּה קַח־לְךָ מִכָּל־מַאֲכָל אֲשֶׁר יֵאָכֵל וְאָסַפְתָּ אֵלֶיךָ וְהָיָה לְךָ וְלָהֶם לְאָכְלָה: וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים כֵּן עָשָׂה: | Of the birds according to their kinds, of the livestock according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of each shall come to you to be kept alive. And you, take with you some of every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up with you; it shall be food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God had commanded him; so he did. |

## CHAPTER 7

*Noah, his family and the animals enter the ark, and the flood covers the earth.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 7:1 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְנֹחַ בֹּא־אַתָּה וְכָל־בֵּיתְךָ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה כִּי־אֹתְךָ רָאִיתִי צַדִּיק לְפָנַי בַּדּוֹר הַזֶּה: מִכֹּל הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה תִּקַּח־לְךָ שִׁבְעָה שִׁבְעָה אִישׁ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּמִן־הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא טְהֹרָה הִוא שְׁנַיִם אִישׁ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ: גַּם מֵעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם שִׁבְעָה שִׁבְעָה זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה לְחַיּוֹת זֶרַע עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ: | Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean animal take with you seven pairs, a male and its mate, and of the animals that are not clean, one pair, a male and its mate. Of the birds of the sky also, seven pairs, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth.[28] |
| Gen 7:4 כִּי לְיָמִים עוֹד שִׁבְעָה אָנֹכִי מַמְטִיר עַל־הָאָרֶץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים לָיְלָה וּמָחִיתִי אֶת־כָּל־הַיְקוּם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה: וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּהוּ יְהוָה: וְנֹחַ בֶּן־שֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וְהַמַּבּוּל הָיָה מַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ: | For in seven days' time I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe out from the face of the ground every living thing that I have made." And Noah did everything |

26 "Destroy" renders the same verb as "corrupt" in 6:11–12 (*shachat*, "ruin"): the earth had ruined itself, and God will ruin it. "Gopher wood" is an unknown kind of timber.

27 A cubit, the length of a forearm, was about 18 inches (45 cm). The word rendered "roof" (*tsohar*) is uncertain; it may mean an opening for light.

28 "Clean" animals are those fit for sacrifice and food under Israel's later laws (Leviticus 11).

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| | just as the LORD had commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood came, waters upon the earth. |
| Gen 7:7 וַיָּבֹא נֹחַ וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּנְשֵׁי־בָנָיו אִתּוֹ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה מִפְּנֵי מֵי הַמַּבּוּל: מִן־הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִן־הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר אֵינֶנָּה טְהֹרָה וּמִן־הָעוֹף וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־רֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאֲדָמָה: שְׁנַיִם שְׁנַיִם בָּאוּ אֶל־נֹחַ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נֹחַ: | Noah went into the ark with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, to escape the waters of the flood. Of the clean animals and of the animals that are not clean, of the birds and of everything that creeps on the ground, two by two they came to Noah into the ark, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. |
| Gen 7:10 וַיְהִי לְשִׁבְעַת הַיָּמִים וּמֵי הַמַּבּוּל הָיוּ עַל־הָאָרֶץ: בִּשְׁנַת שֵׁשׁ־מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה לְחַיֵּי־נֹחַ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בְּשִׁבְעָה־עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִבְקְעוּ כָּל־מַעְיְנֹת תְּהוֹם רַבָּה וַאֲרֻבֹּת הַשָּׁמַיִם נִפְתָּחוּ: וַיְהִי הַגֶּשֶׁם עַל־הָאָרֶץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים לָיְלָה: | When the seven days were over, the waters of the flood came upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the springs of the great deep burst open, and the windows of the sky were opened. And the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.[29] |
| Gen 7:13 בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה בָּא נֹחַ וְשֵׁם־וְחָם וָיֶפֶת בְּנֵי־נֹחַ וְאֵשֶׁת נֹחַ וּשְׁלֹשֶׁת נְשֵׁי־בָנָיו אִתָּם אֶל־הַתֵּבָה: הֵמָּה וְכָל־הַחַיָּה לְמִינָהּ וְכָל־הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ וְכָל־הָרֶמֶשׂ הָרֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ לְמִינֵהוּ וְכָל־הָעוֹף לְמִינֵהוּ כֹּל צִפּוֹר כָּל־כָּנָף: וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־נֹחַ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה שְׁנַיִם שְׁנַיִם מִכָּל־הַבָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ רוּחַ חַיִּים: | On that very day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, together with Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, went into the ark—they, and every wild animal according to its kind, all the livestock according to their kinds, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth according to its kind, and every bird according to its kind, every bird, every winged thing. They came to Noah into the ark, two by two of all flesh that has the breath of life in it. |
| Gen 7:16 וְהַבָּאִים זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה מִכָּל־בָּשָׂר בָּאוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּסְגֹּר יְהוָה בַּעֲדוֹ: וַיְהִי הַמַּבּוּל אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּרְבּוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־הַתֵּבָה וַתָּרָם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ: וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּרְבּוּ מְאֹד עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַתֵּלֶךְ הַתֵּבָה עַל־פְּנֵי הַמָּיִם: | Those that came in, male and female of all flesh, came in as God had commanded him. Then the LORD shut him in. The flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark drifted on the face of the waters. |
| Gen 7:19 וְהַמַּיִם גָּבְרוּ מְאֹד מְאֹד עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיְכֻסּוּ כָּל־הֶהָרִים הַגְּבֹהִים אֲשֶׁר־תַּחַת כָּל־הַשָּׁמָיִם: חֲמֵשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה אַמָּה מִלְמַעְלָה גָּבְרוּ הַמָּיִם וַיְכֻסּוּ הֶהָרִים: וַיִּגְוַע כָּל־בָּשָׂר הָרֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ בָּעוֹף וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבַחַיָּה וּבְכָל־הַשֶּׁרֶץ הַשֹּׁרֵץ עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְכֹל הָאָדָם: | The waters swelled more and more over the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered. The waters swelled fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. All flesh that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, every swarming thing that swarms on the earth, and every human being. |
| Gen 7:22 כֹּל אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁמַת־רוּחַ חַיִּים בְּאַפָּיו מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר בֶּחָרָבָה מֵתוּ: וַיִּמַח אֶת־כָּל־הַיְקוּם אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רֶמֶשׂ וְעַד־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּמָּחוּ מִן־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשָּׁאֶר אַךְ־נֹחַ וַאֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בַּתֵּבָה: וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ חֲמִשִּׁים יוֹם וּמְאַת יוֹם: | Everything that had the breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils, everything on dry land, died. So he wiped out every living thing on the face of the ground, humans and livestock, creeping things |

29 The "great deep" (*tehom,* as in 1:2) is the water beneath the earth; the "windows of the sky" let through the waters above the dome (1:7).

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | and birds of the sky; they were wiped out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for a hundred and fifty days. |

## CHAPTER 8

*The waters recede, Noah sends out a raven and a dove, and offers a sacrifice.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 8:1 וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נֹחַ וְאֵת כָּל־הַחַיָּה וְאֶת־כָּל־הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בַּתֵּבָה וַיַּעֲבֵר אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיָּשֹׁכּוּ הַמָּיִם: וַיִּסָּכְרוּ מַעְיְנֹת תְּהוֹם וַאֲרֻבֹּת הַשָּׁמָיִם וַיִּכָּלֵא הַגֶּשֶׁם מִן־הַשָּׁמָיִם: וַיָּשֻׁבוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ הָלוֹךְ וְשׁוֹב וַיַּחְסְרוּ הַמַּיִם מִקְצֵה חֲמִשִּׁים יוֹם וּמְאַת יוֹם: | Then God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. God made a wind pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The springs of the deep and the windows of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky was held back. The waters steadily receded from the earth, and at the end of a hundred and fifty days the waters had gone down. |
| Gen 8:4 וַתָּנַח הַתֵּבָה בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּשִׁבְעָה־עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ עַל הָרֵי אֲרָרָט: וְהַמַּיִם הָיוּ הָלוֹךְ וְחָסוֹר עַד הַחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשִׂירִי בָּעֲשִׂירִי בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ נִרְאוּ רָאשֵׁי הֶהָרִים: וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וַיִּפְתַּח נֹחַ אֶת־חַלּוֹן הַתֵּבָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: | In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters went on going down until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made.[30] |
| Gen 8:7 וַיְשַׁלַּח אֶת־הָעֹרֵב וַיֵּצֵא יָצוֹא וָשׁוֹב עַד־יְבֹשֶׁת הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ: וַיְשַׁלַּח אֶת־הַיּוֹנָה מֵאִתּוֹ לִרְאוֹת הֲקַלּוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה: וְלֹא־מָצְאָה הַיּוֹנָה מָנוֹחַ לְכַף־רַגְלָהּ וַתָּשָׁב אֵלָיו אֶל־הַתֵּבָה כִּי־מַיִם עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וַיִּקָּחֶהָ וַיָּבֵא אֹתָהּ אֵלָיו אֶל־הַתֵּבָה: | He sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see whether the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. But the dove found no resting place for the sole of its foot, and it came back to him to the ark, for there was water over the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand, took it, and brought it back to him into the ark. |
| Gen 8:10 וַיָּחֶל עוֹד שִׁבְעַת יָמִים אֲחֵרִים וַיֹּסֶף שַׁלַּח אֶת־הַיּוֹנָה מִן־הַתֵּבָה: וַתָּבֹא אֵלָיו הַיּוֹנָה לְעֵת עֶרֶב וְהִנֵּה עֲלֵה־זַיִת טָרָף בְּפִיהָ וַיֵּדַע נֹחַ כִּי־קַלּוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ: וַיִּיָּחֶל עוֹד שִׁבְעַת יָמִים אֲחֵרִים וַיְשַׁלַּח אֶת־הַיּוֹנָה וְלֹא־יָסְפָה שׁוּב־אֵלָיו עוֹד: | He waited another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. The dove came back to him toward evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. He waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, and it did not come back to him again. |
| Gen 8:13 וַיְהִי בְּאַחַת וְשֵׁשׁ־מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה בָּרִאשׁוֹן בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ חָרְבוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ וַיָּסַר נֹחַ אֶת־מִכְסֵה הַתֵּבָה וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה חָרְבוּ פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה: וּבַחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בְּשִׁבְעָה וְעֶשְׂרִים יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ יָבְשָׁה הָאָרֶץ: | In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters had dried up from the earth. Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and saw that the face of the ground had dried. In the second |

30 Ararat is ancient Urartu, the mountain country around Lake Van in eastern Turkey and Armenia. "Came to rest" (*tanach*) echoes the name Noah.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. |
| Gen 8:15 וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־נֹחַ לֵאמֹר: צֵא מִן־הַתֵּבָה אַתָּה וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וּבָנֶיךָ וּנְשֵׁי־בָנֶיךָ אִתָּךְ: כָּל־הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר־אִתְּךָ מִכָּל־בָּשָׂר בָּעוֹף וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל־הָרֶמֶשׂ הָרֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ הַיְצֵא אִתָּךְ וְשָׁרְצוּ בָאָרֶץ וּפְרוּ וְרִבוּ עַל־הָאָרֶץ: | Then God spoke to Noah: "Come out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living creature that is with you, of all flesh—birds, livestock, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." |
| Gen 8:18 וַיֵּצֵא־נֹחַ וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּנְשֵׁי־בָנָיו אִתּוֹ: כָּל־הַחַיָּה כָּל־הָרֶמֶשׂ וְכָל־הָעוֹף כֹּל רוֹמֵשׂ עַל־הָאָרֶץ לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתֵיהֶם יָצְאוּ מִן־הַתֵּבָה: וַיִּבֶן נֹחַ מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקַּח מִכֹּל הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִכֹּל הָעוֹף הַטָּהֹר וַיַּעַל עֹלֹת בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ: | So Noah came out, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives. Every living creature, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, came out of the ark by their families. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, took some of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. |
| Gen 8:21 וַיָּרַח יְהוָה אֶת־רֵיחַ הַנִּיחֹחַ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־לִבּוֹ לֹא־אֹסִף לְקַלֵּל עוֹד אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה בַּעֲבוּר הָאָדָם כִּי יֵצֶר לֵב הָאָדָם רַע מִנְּעָרָיו וְלֹא־אֹסִף עוֹד לְהַכּוֹת אֶת־כָּל־חַי כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי: עֹד כָּל־יְמֵי הָאָרֶץ זֶרַע וְקָצִיר וְקֹר וָחֹם וְקַיִץ וָחֹרֶף וְיוֹם וָלָיְלָה לֹא יִשְׁבֹּתוּ: | The LORD smelled the soothing aroma, and the LORD said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; and I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." |

## CHAPTER 9

*God blesses Noah and makes a covenant with every living creature, with the rainbow as its sign.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 9:1 וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־נֹחַ וְאֶת־בָּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמִלְאוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ: וּמוֹרַאֲכֶם וְחִתְּכֶם יִהְיֶה עַל כָּל־חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ וְעַל כָּל־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר תִּרְמֹשׂ הָאֲדָמָה וּבְכָל־דְּגֵי הַיָּם בְּיֶדְכֶם נִתָּנוּ: כָּל־רֶמֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר הוּא־חַי לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאָכְלָה כְּיֶרֶק עֵשֶׂב נָתַתִּי לָכֶם אֶת־כֹּל: | God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you shall fall on every wild animal of the earth and on every bird of the sky, on everything that creeps on the ground and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are given. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. |
| Gen 9:4 אַךְ־בָּשָׂר בְּנַפְשׁוֹ דָמוֹ לֹא תֹאכֵלוּ: וְאַךְ אֶת־דִּמְכֶם לְנַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם אֶדְרֹשׁ מִיַּד כָּל־חַיָּה אֶדְרְשֶׁנּוּ וּמִיַּד הָאָדָם מִיַּד אִישׁ אָחִיו אֶדְרֹשׁ אֶת־נֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם: שֹׁפֵךְ דַּם הָאָדָם בָּאָדָם דָּמוֹ יִשָּׁפֵךְ כִּי בְצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם: וְאַתֶּם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ שִׁרְצוּ בָאָרֶץ וּרְבוּ־בָהּ: | Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood, in it. And for your own blood, for your lives, I will demand an accounting: from every animal I will demand it, and from humans; from each person I will demand an accounting for the life of a fellow human. Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall that one's blood be shed; for in the image of God he made humankind. As for you, be fruitful and multiply; swarm on the earth and multiply on it." |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 9:8 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־נֹחַ וְאֶל־בָּנָיו אִתּוֹ לֵאמֹר: וַאֲנִי הִנְנִי מֵקִים אֶת־ בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְאֶת־זַרְעֲכֶם אַחֲרֵיכֶם: וְאֵת כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם בָּעוֹף בַּבְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל־חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ אִתְּכֶם מִכֹּל יֹצְאֵי הַתֵּבָה לְכֹל חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ: | Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and with your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you—the birds, the livestock, and every wild animal of the earth with you, all that came out of the ark, every animal of the earth. |
| Gen 9:11 וַהֲקִמֹתִי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְלֹא־יִכָּרֵת כָּל־בָּשָׂר עוֹד מִמֵּי הַמַּבּוּל וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה עוֹד מַבּוּל לְשַׁחֵת הָאָרֶץ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים זֹאת אוֹת־ הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר־אֲנִי נֹתֵן בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם לְדֹרֹת עוֹלָם: | I will establish my covenant with you: never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all generations to come: |
| Gen 9:13 אֶת־קַשְׁתִּי נָתַתִּי בֶּעָנָן וְהָיְתָה לְאוֹת בְּרִית בֵּינִי וּבֵין הָאָרֶץ: וְהָיָה בְּעַנְנִי עָנָן עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְנִרְאֲתָה הַקֶּשֶׁת בֶּעָנָן: וְזָכַרְתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה בְּכָל־בָּשָׂר וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה עוֹד הַמַּיִם לְמַבּוּל לְשַׁחֵת כָּל־בָּשָׂר: | I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.[31] |
| Gen 9:16 וְהָיְתָה הַקֶּשֶׁת בֶּעָנָן וּרְאִיתִיהָ לִזְכֹּר בְּרִית עוֹלָם בֵּין אֱלֹהִים וּבֵין כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה בְּכָל־בָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר עַל־הָאָרֶץ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־נֹחַ זֹאת אוֹת־הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר הֲקִמֹתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵין כָּל־בָּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר עַל־ הָאָרֶץ: | When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." |

### NOAH'S DRUNKENNESS

*Noah gets drunk; Ham sees his nakedness, and Noah curses Canaan and blesses Shem and Japheth.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 9:18 וַיִּהְיוּ בְנֵי־נֹחַ הַיֹּצְאִים מִן־הַתֵּבָה שֵׁם וְחָם וְיֶפֶת וְחָם הוּא אֲבִי כְנָעַן: שְׁלֹשָׁה אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי־נֹחַ וּמֵאֵלֶּה נָפְצָה כָל־הָאָרֶץ: וַיָּחֶל נֹחַ אִישׁ הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּטַּע כָּרֶם: וַיֵּשְׁתְּ מִן־הַיַּיִן וַיִּשְׁכָּר וַיִּתְגַּל בְּתוֹךְ אָהֳלֹה: וַיַּרְא חָם אֲבִי כְנַעַן אֵת עֶרְוַת אָבִיו וַיַּגֶּד לִשְׁנֵי־אֶחָיו בַּחוּץ: | The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth; Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from them the whole earth was peopled. Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and he lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. |
| Gen 9:23 וַיִּקַּח שֵׁם וְיֶפֶת אֶת־הַשִּׂמְלָה וַיָּשִׂימוּ עַל־שְׁכֶם שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיֵּלְכוּ אֲחֹרַנִּית וַיְכַסּוּ אֵת עֶרְוַת אֲבִיהֶם וּפְנֵיהֶם אֲחֹרַנִּית וְעֶרְוַת אֲבִיהֶם לֹא רָאוּ: וַיִּיקַץ נֹחַ מִיֵּינוֹ וַיֵּדַע אֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה־לוֹ בְּנוֹ הַקָּטָן: וַיֹּאמֶר אָרוּר כְּנָעַן עֶבֶד עֲבָדִים יִהְיֶה לְאֶחָיו: | Then Shem and Japheth took the cloak, laid it across the shoulders of both of them, walked in backward, and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah woke up |

31 The Hebrew word for "bow" (*qeshet*) is the ordinary word for a warrior's bow; here it is the rainbow.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | from his wine and learned what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves shall he be to his brothers." |
| Gen 9:26 וַיֹּאמֶר בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי שֵׁם וִיהִי כְנַעַן עֶבֶד לָמוֹ: יַפְתְּ אֱלֹהִים לְיֶפֶת וְיִשְׁכֹּן בְּאָהֳלֵי־שֵׁם וִיהִי כְנַעַן עֶבֶד לָמוֹ: וַיְחִי־נֹחַ אַחַר הַמַּבּוּל שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַחֲמִשִּׁים שָׁנָה: וַיִּהְיוּ כָּל־יְמֵי־נֹחַ תְּשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַחֲמִשִּׁים שָׁנָה וַיָּמֹת: | He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and let Canaan be his slave. May God make room for Japheth, and let him live in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his slave." After the flood Noah lived three hundred and fifty years. Altogether Noah lived nine hundred and fifty years; then he died.[32] |

## CHAPTER 10

*The peoples descended from Noah's sons Japheth, Ham and Shem.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 10:1 וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת בְּנֵי־נֹחַ שֵׁם חָם וָיֶפֶת וַיִּוָּלְדוּ לָהֶם בָּנִים אַחַר הַמַּבּוּל: בְּנֵי יֶפֶת גֹּמֶר וּמָגוֹג וּמָדַי וְיָוָן וְתֻבַל וּמֶשֶׁךְ וְתִירָס: וּבְנֵי גֹמֶר אַשְׁכְּנַז וְרִיפַת וְתֹגַרְמָה: וּבְנֵי יָוָן אֱלִישָׁה וְתַרְשִׁישׁ כִּתִּים וְדֹדָנִים: | This is the line of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth; sons were born to them after the flood. The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittim, and the Dodanim.[33] |
| Gen 10:5 מֵאֵלֶּה נִפְרְדוּ אִיֵּי הַגּוֹיִם בְּאַרְצֹתָם אִישׁ לִלְשֹׁנוֹ לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם בְּגוֹיֵהֶם: וּבְנֵי חָם כּוּשׁ וּמִצְרַיִם וּפוּט וּכְנָעַן: וּבְנֵי כוּשׁ סְבָא וַחֲוִילָה וְסַבְתָּה וְרַעְמָה וְסַבְתְּכָא וּבְנֵי רַעְמָה שְׁבָא וּדְדָן: | From these the coastland peoples spread out into their lands, each with its own language, by their clans, in their nations. The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.[34] |
| Gen 10:8 וְכוּשׁ יָלַד אֶת־נִמְרֹד הוּא הֵחֵל לִהְיוֹת גִּבֹּר בָּאָרֶץ: הוּא־הָיָה גִבֹּר־צַיִד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה עַל־כֵּן יֵאָמַר כְּנִמְרֹד גִּבּוֹר צַיִד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: וַתְּהִי רֵאשִׁית מַמְלַכְתּוֹ בָּבֶל וְאֶרֶךְ וְאַכַּד וְכַלְנֵה בְּאֶרֶץ שִׁנְעָר: | Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first to become a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD." The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.[35] |
| Gen 10:11 מִן־הָאָרֶץ הַהִוא יָצָא אַשּׁוּר וַיִּבֶן אֶת־נִינְוֵה וְאֶת־רְחֹבֹת עִיר וְאֶת־כָּלַח: וְאֶת־רֶסֶן בֵּין נִינְוֵה וּבֵין כָּלַח הִוא הָעִיר הַגְּדֹלָה: וּמִצְרַיִם יָלַד אֶת־לוּדִים וְאֶת־עֲנָמִים וְאֶת־לְהָבִים וְאֶת־נַפְתֻּחִים: וְאֶת־פַּתְרֻסִים וְאֶת־כַּסְלֻחִים אֲשֶׁר יָצְאוּ מִשָּׁם פְּלִשְׁתִּים וְאֶת־כַּפְתֹּרִים: | From that land he went out to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, and Calah, and Resen, between Nineveh and Calah—that is the great city. Egypt fathered the Ludim, the Anamim, the Lehabim, the Naphtuhim, the Pathrusim, the Casluhim, from whom the Philistines came, and the Caphtorim.[36] |
| Gen 10:15 וּכְנַעַן יָלַד אֶת־צִידֹן בְּכֹרוֹ וְאֶת־חֵת: וְאֶת־הַיְבוּסִי וְאֶת־הָאֱמֹרִי וְאֶת־הַגִּרְגָּשִׁי: וְאֶת־הַחִוִּי וְאֶת־הַעַרְקִי וְאֶת־הַסִּינִי: וְאֶת־הָאַרְוָדִי וְאֶת־ | Canaan fathered Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth, and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, |

32 "Make room" (*yapht*) plays on the name Japheth (*Yephet*).
33 Many names in this list are peoples and places: Madai is Media, Javan the Greeks (Ionia), and the Kittim the people of Cyprus.
34 Cush is the land south of Egypt along the Nile (ancient Nubia); Put is probably Libya.
35 Shinar is Mesopotamia (Babylonia); Babel is Babylon, and Erech is Uruk.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| הַצְּמָרִי וְאֶת־הַחֲמָתִי וְאַחַר נָפֹצוּ מִשְׁפְּחוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי: וַיְהִי גְּבוּל הַכְּנַעֲנִי מִצִּידֹן בֹּאֲכָה גְּרָרָה עַד־עַזָּה בֹּאֲכָה סְדֹמָה וַעֲמֹרָה וְאַדְמָה וּצְבֹיִם עַד־לֶשַׁע: אֵלֶּה בְנֵי־חָם לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם לִלְשֹׁנֹתָם בְּאַרְצֹתָם בְּגוֹיֵהֶם: | the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites, the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites spread out. The territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar, as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha. These are the sons of Ham by their clans, by their languages, in their lands, in their nations. |
| Gen 10:21 וּלְשֵׁם יֻלַּד גַּם־הוּא אֲבִי כָל־בְּנֵי־עֵבֶר אֲחִי יֶפֶת הַגָּדוֹל: בְּנֵי שֵׁם עֵילָם וְאַשּׁוּר וְאַרְפַּכְשַׁד וְלוּד וַאֲרָם: וּבְנֵי אֲרָם עוּץ וְחוּל וְגֶתֶר וָמַשׁ: וְאַרְפַּכְשַׁד יָלַד אֶת־שָׁלַח וְשֶׁלַח יָלַד אֶת־עֵבֶר: | To Shem also, the father of all the children of Eber and the elder brother of Japheth, children were born. The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. The sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash. Arpachshad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber.[37] |
| Gen 10:25 וּלְעֵבֶר יֻלַּד שְׁנֵי בָנִים שֵׁם הָאֶחָד פֶּלֶג כִּי בְיָמָיו נִפְלְגָה הָאָרֶץ וְשֵׁם אָחִיו יָקְטָן: וְיָקְטָן יָלַד אֶת־אַלְמוֹדָד וְאֶת־שָׁלֶף וְאֶת־חֲצַרְמָוֶת וְאֶת־יָרַח: וְאֶת־הֲדוֹרָם וְאֶת־אוּזָל וְאֶת־דִּקְלָה: וְאֶת־עוֹבָל וְאֶת־אֲבִימָאֵל וְאֶת־שְׁבָא: | To Eber two sons were born. The name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided, and his brother's name was Joktan. Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, Obal, Abimael, Sheba,[38] |
| Gen 10:29 וְאֶת־אוֹפִר וְאֶת־חֲוִילָה וְאֶת־יוֹבָב כָּל־אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי יָקְטָן: וַיְהִי מוֹשָׁבָם מִמֵּשָׁא בֹּאֲכָה סְפָרָה הַר הַקֶּדֶם: אֵלֶּה בְנֵי־שֵׁם לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם לִלְשֹׁנֹתָם בְּאַרְצֹתָם לְגוֹיֵהֶם: אֵלֶּה מִשְׁפְּחֹת בְּנֵי־נֹחַ לְתוֹלְדֹתָם בְּגוֹיֵהֶם וּמֵאֵלֶּה נִפְרְדוּ הַגּוֹיִם בָּאָרֶץ אַחַר הַמַּבּוּל: | Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan. The region where they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar, the hill country of the east. These are the sons of Shem by their clans, by their languages, in their lands, by their nations. These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines, in their nations; and from these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood. |

## CHAPTER 11

*People build a city and a tower at Babel, and the LORD confuses their language.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| Gen 11:1 וַיְהִי כָל־הָאָרֶץ שָׂפָה אֶחָת וּדְבָרִים אֲחָדִים: וַיְהִי בְּנָסְעָם מִקֶּדֶם וַיִּמְצְאוּ בִקְעָה בְּאֶרֶץ שִׁנְעָר וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ הָבָה נִלְבְּנָה לְבֵנִים וְנִשְׂרְפָה לִשְׂרֵפָה וַתְּהִי לָהֶם הַלְּבֵנָה לְאָבֶן וְהַחֵמָר הָיָה לָהֶם לַחֹמָר: | Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. As people journeyed from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and fire them thoroughly." So they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. |
| Gen 11:4 וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָבָה נִבְנֶה־לָּנוּ עִיר וּמִגְדָּל וְרֹאשׁוֹ בַּשָּׁמַיִם וְנַעֲשֶׂה־לָּנוּ שֵׁם פֶּן־נָפוּץ עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ: וַיֵּרֶד יְהוָה לִרְאֹת אֶת־הָעִיר וְאֶת־הַמִּגְדָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּנוּ בְּנֵי הָאָדָם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הֵן עַם אֶחָד וְשָׂפָה אַחַת לְכֻלָּם וְזֶה הַחִלָּם לַעֲשׂוֹת וְעַתָּה לֹא־יִבָּצֵר מֵהֶם כֹּל אֲשֶׁר יָזְמוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת: | Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the sky, and let us make a name for ourselves, so that we are not scattered over the face of the whole earth." The LORD came down to see the city and the tower |

36 Or "From that land Asshur went out"; the Hebrew can be read either way.
37 The name Eber is traditionally linked with the word "Hebrew" (*'ivri*).
38 Peleg sounds like the Hebrew for "was divided" (*niflegah*).

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | that humankind had built. And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they all have one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do; now nothing they plan to do will be beyond them. |
| Gen 11:7 הָבָה נֵרְדָה וְנָבְלָה שָׁם שְׂפָתָם אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ אִישׁ שְׂפַת רֵעֵהוּ: וַיָּפֶץ יְהוָה אֹתָם מִשָּׁם עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ וַיַּחְדְּלוּ לִבְנֹת הָעִיר: עַל־כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ בָּבֶל כִּי־שָׁם בָּלַל יְהוָה שְׂפַת כָּל־הָאָרֶץ וּמִשָּׁם הֱפִיצָם יְהוָה עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ: | Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech." So the LORD scattered them from there over the face of the whole earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth, and from there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.[39] |

## THE LINE OF SHEM

*The generations from Shem to Terah, Abram's father, and the family's move to Haran.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 11:10 אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת שֵׁם שֵׁם בֶּן־מְאַת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־אַרְפַּכְשָׁד שְׁנָתַיִם אַחַר הַמַּבּוּל: וַיְחִי־שֵׁם אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־אַרְפַּכְשָׁד חֲמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | This is the line of Shem. When Shem was a hundred years old, he fathered Arpachshad, two years after the flood. After he fathered Arpachshad, Shem lived five hundred years and had other sons and daughters. |
| Gen 11:12 וְאַרְפַּכְשַׁד חַי חֲמֵשׁ וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־שָׁלַח: וַיְחִי אַרְפַּכְשַׁד אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־שֶׁלַח שָׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים וְאַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | When Arpachshad had lived thirty-five years, he fathered Shelah. After he fathered Shelah, Arpachshad lived four hundred and three years and had other sons and daughters. |
| Gen 11:14 וְשֶׁלַח חַי שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־עֵבֶר: וַיְחִי־שֶׁלַח אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־עֵבֶר שָׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים וְאַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | When Shelah had lived thirty years, he fathered Eber. After he fathered Eber, Shelah lived four hundred and three years and had other sons and daughters. |
| Gen 11:16 וַיְחִי־עֵבֶר אַרְבַּע וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־פָּלֶג: וַיְחִי־עֵבֶר אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־פֶּלֶג שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וְאַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | When Eber had lived thirty-four years, he fathered Peleg. After he fathered Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years and had other sons and daughters. |
| Gen 11:18 וַיְחִי־פֶלֶג שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־רְעוּ: וַיְחִי־פֶלֶג אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־רְעוּ תֵּשַׁע שָׁנִים וּמָאתַיִם שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | When Peleg had lived thirty years, he fathered Reu. After he fathered Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years and had other sons and daughters. |
| Gen 11:20 וַיְחִי רְעוּ שְׁתַּיִם וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־שְׂרוּג: וַיְחִי רְעוּ אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־שְׂרוּג שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים וּמָאתַיִם שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | When Reu had lived thirty-two years, he fathered Serug. After he fathered Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years and had other sons and daughters. |

39 Babel (Babylon) sounds like *balal*, "confuse." God's "Come, let us" answers the people's "Come, let us" of 11:3–4.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 11:22 וַיְחִי שְׂרוּג שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־נָחוֹר: וַיְחִי שְׂרוּג אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־נָחוֹר מָאתַיִם שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | When Serug had lived thirty years, he fathered Nahor. After he fathered Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years and had other sons and daughters. |
| Gen 11:24 וַיְחִי נָחוֹר תֵּשַׁע וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־תָּרַח: וַיְחִי נָחוֹר אַחֲרֵי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־תֶּרַח תְּשַׁע־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה וּמְאַת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: | When Nahor had lived twenty-nine years, he fathered Terah. After he fathered Terah, Nahor lived a hundred and nineteen years and had other sons and daughters. |
| Gen 11:26 וַיְחִי־תֶרַח שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־אַבְרָם אֶת־נָחוֹר וְאֶת־הָרָן: וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת תֶּרַח תֶּרַח הוֹלִיד אֶת־אַבְרָם אֶת־נָחוֹר וְאֶת־הָרָן וְהָרָן הוֹלִיד אֶת־לוֹט: וַיָּמָת הָרָן עַל־פְּנֵי תֶּרַח אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹלַדְתּוֹ בְּאוּר כַּשְׂדִּים: | When Terah had lived seventy years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran. This is the line of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran fathered Lot. Haran died in the lifetime of his father Terah, in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.[40] |
| Gen 11:29 וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם וְנָחוֹר לָהֶם נָשִׁים שֵׁם אֵשֶׁת־אַבְרָם שָׂרָי וְשֵׁם אֵשֶׁת־נָחוֹר מִלְכָּה בַּת־הָרָן אֲבִי־מִלְכָּה וַאֲבִי יִסְכָּה: וַתְּהִי שָׂרַי עֲקָרָה אֵין לָהּ וָלָד: | Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. |
| Gen 11:31 וַיִּקַּח תֶּרַח אֶת־אַבְרָם בְּנוֹ וְאֶת־לוֹט בֶּן־הָרָן בֶּן־בְּנוֹ וְאֵת שָׂרַי כַּלָּתוֹ אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָם בְּנוֹ וַיֵּצְאוּ אִתָּם מֵאוּר כַּשְׂדִּים לָלֶכֶת אַרְצָה כְּנַעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ עַד־חָרָן וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם: וַיִּהְיוּ יְמֵי־תֶרַח חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וּמָאתַיִם שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת תֶּרַח בְּחָרָן: | Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and they set out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. Altogether Terah lived two hundred and five years; then Terah died in Haran.[41] |

40 Ur was an ancient city in southern Mesopotamia; "Chaldeans" is a later name for the people of that region.
41 The town of Haran (*Charan*) is spelled differently in Hebrew from the name of Terah's son Haran.

# Abraham

*God calls Abraham and promises him land and descendants; Sodom and Gomorrah; the birth of Isaac and the binding of Isaac; the deaths of Sarah and Abraham.*

## CHAPTER 12

*The LORD calls Abram to leave his homeland for Canaan, promising to make him a great nation.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 12:1 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם לֶךְ־לְךָ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַרְאֶךָּ: וְאֶעֶשְׂךָ לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל וַאֲבָרֶכְךָ וַאֲגַדְּלָה שְׁמֶךָ וֶהְיֵה בְּרָכָה: וַאֲבָרְכָה מְבָרְכֶיךָ וּמְקַלֶּלְךָ אָאֹר וְנִבְרְכוּ בְךָ כֹּל מִשְׁפְּחֹת הָאֲדָמָה: | The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your land, from your kindred and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and all the families of the earth will be blessed through you."[1] |
| Gen 12:4 וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֵלָיו יְהוָה וַיֵּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ לוֹט וְאַבְרָם בֶּן־חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה בְּצֵאתוֹ מֵחָרָן: וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָם אֶת־שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־לוֹט בֶּן־אָחִיו וְאֶת־כָּל־רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר רָכָשׁוּ וְאֶת־הַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר־ עָשׂוּ בְחָרָן וַיֵּצְאוּ לָלֶכֶת אַרְצָה כְּנַעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ אַרְצָה כְּנָעַן: | So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, all the possessions they had gathered and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. And they came to the land of Canaan. |
| Gen 12:6 וַיַּעֲבֹר אַבְרָם בָּאָרֶץ עַד מְקוֹם שְׁכֶם עַד אֵלוֹן מוֹרֶה וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי אָז בָּאָרֶץ: וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר לְזַרְעֲךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וַיִּבֶן שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה הַנִּרְאֶה אֵלָיו: | Abram passed through the land as far as the place of Shechem, as far as the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.[2] |
| Gen 12:8 וַיִּעְתֵּק מִשָּׁם הָהָרָה מִקֶּדֶם לְבֵית־אֵל וַיֵּט אָהֳלָה בֵּית־אֵל מִיָּם וְהָעַי מִקֶּדֶם וַיִּבֶן־שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה: וַיִּסַּע אַבְרָם הָלוֹךְ וְנָסוֹעַ הַנֶּגְבָּה: | From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. Then Abram journeyed on, moving by stages toward the Negev.[3] |

1 The last clause can also mean "will bless themselves by you," that is, use Abram's name when they bless one another.
2 Or "terebinth." The tree was probably a well-known landmark, and *moreh* can mean "teacher," which suggests a place where oracles were sought.
3 The Negev is the dry region in the south of the land.

### ABRAM IN EGYPT

*During a famine Abram passes Sarai off as his sister, and Pharaoh takes her.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 12:10 וַיְהִי רָעָב בָּאָרֶץ וַיֵּרֶד אַבְרָם מִצְרַיְמָה לָגוּר שָׁם כִּי־כָבֵד הָרָעָב בָּאָרֶץ: וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיב לָבוֹא מִצְרָיְמָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־שָׂרַי אִשְׁתּוֹ הִנֵּה־נָא יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אִשָּׁה יְפַת־מַרְאֶה אָתְּ: | There was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there as a foreigner, because the famine was severe in the land. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “Listen, I know that you are a beautiful woman. |
| Gen 12:12 וְהָיָה כִּי־יִרְאוּ אֹתָךְ הַמִּצְרִים וְאָמְרוּ אִשְׁתּוֹ זֹאת וְהָרְגוּ אֹתִי וְאֹתָךְ יְחַיּוּ: אִמְרִי־נָא אֲחֹתִי אָתְּ לְמַעַן יִיטַב־לִי בַעֲבוּרֵךְ וְחָיְתָה נַפְשִׁי בִּגְלָלֵךְ: וַיְהִי כְּבוֹא אַבְרָם מִצְרָיְמָה וַיִּרְאוּ הַמִּצְרִים אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה כִּי־יָפָה הִוא מְאֹד: | When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but let you live. Please say that you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and my life will be spared thanks to you.” When Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. |
| Gen 12:15 וַיִּרְאוּ אֹתָהּ שָׂרֵי פַּרְעֹה וַיְהַלְלוּ אֹתָהּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וַתֻּקַּח הָאִשָּׁה בֵּית פַּרְעֹה: וּלְאַבְרָם הֵיטִיב בַּעֲבוּרָהּ וַיְהִי־לוֹ צֹאן־וּבָקָר וַחֲמֹרִים וַעֲבָדִים וּשְׁפָחֹת וַאֲתֹנֹת וּגְמַלִּים: וַיְנַגַּע יְהוָה אֶת־פַּרְעֹה נְגָעִים גְּדֹלִים וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ עַל־דְּבַר שָׂרַי אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָם: | Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. He treated Abram well because of her, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male donkeys, male slaves and slave women, female donkeys and camels. But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his household with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.[4] |
| Gen 12:18 וַיִּקְרָא פַרְעֹה לְאַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי לָמָּה לֹא־הִגַּדְתָּ לִּי כִּי אִשְׁתְּךָ הִוא: לָמָּה אָמַרְתָּ אֲחֹתִי הִוא וָאֶקַּח אֹתָהּ לִי לְאִשָּׁה וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה אִשְׁתְּךָ קַח וָלֵךְ: וַיְצַו עָלָיו פַּרְעֹה אֲנָשִׁים וַיְשַׁלְּחוּ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ: | Pharaoh summoned Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why didn’t you tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go.” Pharaoh gave his men orders about him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had. |

### CHAPTER 13

*Abram and Lot part ways, and Lot settles near Sodom.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 13:1 וַיַּעַל אַבְרָם מִמִּצְרַיִם הוּא וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְלוֹט עִמּוֹ הַנֶּגְבָּה: וְאַבְרָם כָּבֵד מְאֹד בַּמִּקְנֶה בַּכֶּסֶף וּבַזָּהָב: וַיֵּלֶךְ לְמַסָּעָיו מִנֶּגֶב וְעַד־בֵּית־אֵל עַד־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה שָׁם אָהֳלוֹ בַּתְּחִלָּה בֵּין בֵּית־אֵל וּבֵין הָעָי: | So Abram went up from Egypt into the Negev, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him. Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. He went on from stage to stage, from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at first, between Bethel and Ai, |
| Gen 13:4 אֶל־מְקוֹם הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה שָׁם בָּרִאשֹׁנָה וַיִּקְרָא שָׁם אַבְרָם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה: וְגַם־לְלוֹט הַהֹלֵךְ אֶת־אַבְרָם הָיָה צֹאן־וּבָקָר וְאֹהָלִים: וְלֹא־נָשָׂא אֹתָם הָאָרֶץ לָשֶׁבֶת יַחְדָּו כִּי־הָיָה רְכוּשָׁם רָב וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לָשֶׁבֶת יַחְדָּו: | to the place of the altar he had made there before; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. The land could not support them |

4 “Pharaoh” is the title of the king of Egypt, not a personal name.

HEBREW ENGLISH

living together, for their possessions were so great that they could not live together.

Gen 13:7 וַיְהִי־רִיב בֵּין רֹעֵי מִקְנֵה־אַבְרָם וּבֵין רֹעֵי מִקְנֵה־לוֹט וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי אָז יֹשֵׁב בָּאָרֶץ: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־לוֹט אַל־נָא תְהִי מְרִיבָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ וּבֵין רֹעַי וּבֵין רֹעֶיךָ כִּי־אֲנָשִׁים אַחִים אֲנָחְנוּ: הֲלֹא כָל־הָאָרֶץ לְפָנֶיךָ הִפָּרֶד נָא מֵעָלָי אִם־הַשְּׂמֹאל וְאֵימְנָה וְאִם־הַיָּמִין וְאַשְׂמְאִילָה:

There was quarreling between the herders of Abram's livestock and the herders of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land. Abram said to Lot, "Please, let there be no quarrel between me and you, or between my herders and your herders, for we are kinsmen. Isn't the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left."

Gen 13:10 וַיִּשָּׂא־לוֹט אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא אֶת־כָּל־כִּכַּר הַיַּרְדֵּן כִּי כֻלָּהּ מַשְׁקֶה לִפְנֵי שַׁחֵת יְהוָה אֶת־סְדֹם וְאֶת־עֲמֹרָה כְּגַן־יְהוָה כְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בֹּאֲכָה צֹעַר: וַיִּבְחַר־לוֹ לוֹט אֵת כָּל־כִּכַּר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיִּסַּע לוֹט מִקֶּדֶם וַיִּפָּרְדוּ אִישׁ מֵעַל אָחִיו: אַבְרָם יָשַׁב בְּאֶרֶץ־כְּנָעַן וְלוֹט יָשַׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכִּכָּר וַיֶּאֱהַל עַד־סְדֹם:

Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as far as Zoar. So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. So they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the plain and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

Gen 13:13 וְאַנְשֵׁי סְדֹם רָעִים וְחַטָּאִים לַיהוָה מְאֹד: וַיהוָה אָמַר אֶל־אַבְרָם אַחֲרֵי הִפָּרֶד־לוֹט מֵעִמּוֹ שָׂא נָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה מִן־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה שָׁם צָפֹנָה וָנֶגְבָּה וָקֵדְמָה וָיָמָּה: כִּי אֶת־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה רֹאֶה לְךָ אֶתְּנֶנָּה וּלְזַרְעֲךָ עַד־עוֹלָם:

Now the people of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD. After Lot had separated from him, the LORD said to Abram, "Lift up your eyes and look out from the place where you are, north and south, east and west. For all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.

Gen 13:16 וְשַׂמְתִּי אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ כַּעֲפַר הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אִם־יוּכַל אִישׁ לִמְנוֹת אֶת־עֲפַר הָאָרֶץ גַּם־זַרְעֲךָ יִמָּנֶה: קוּם הִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּאָרֶץ לְאָרְכָּהּ וּלְרָחְבָּהּ כִּי לְךָ אֶתְּנֶנָּה: וַיֶּאֱהַל אַבְרָם וַיָּבֹא וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּאֵלֹנֵי מַמְרֵא אֲשֶׁר בְּחֶבְרוֹן וַיִּבֶן־שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה:

I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust of the earth, your offspring too could be counted. Get up, walk through the land, its length and its breadth, for I will give it to you." So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

## CHAPTER 14

*Four kings raid the cities of the plain and capture Lot; Abram pursues them and rescues him.*

HEBREW ENGLISH

Gen 14:1 וַיְהִי בִּימֵי אַמְרָפֶל מֶלֶךְ־שִׁנְעָר אַרְיוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֶלָּסָר כְּדָרְלָעֹמֶר מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם וְתִדְעָל מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם: עָשׂוּ מִלְחָמָה אֶת־בֶּרַע מֶלֶךְ סְדֹם וְאֶת־בִּרְשַׁע מֶלֶךְ עֲמֹרָה שִׁנְאָב מֶלֶךְ אַדְמָה וְשֶׁמְאֵבֶר מֶלֶךְ צְבוֹיִים וּמֶלֶךְ בָּלַע הִיא־צֹעַר: כָּל־אֵלֶּה חָבְרוּ אֶל־עֵמֶק הַשִּׂדִּים הוּא יָם הַמֶּלַח:

It happened in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim, that they made war on Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). All these joined

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| | forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).[5] |
| Gen 14:4 שְׁתֵּים עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה עָבְדוּ אֶת־כְּדָרְלָע�omֶר וּשְׁלֹשׁ־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה מָרָדוּ: וּבְאַרְבַּע עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה בָּא כְדָרְלָע�omֶר וְהַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ וַיַּכּוּ אֶת־ רְפָאִים בְּעַשְׁתְּרֹת קַרְנַיִם וְאֶת־הַזּוּזִים בְּהָם וְאֵת הָאֵימִים בְּשָׁוֵה קִרְיָתָיִם: וְאֶת־הַחֹרִי בְּהַרְרָם שֵׂעִיר עַד אֵיל פָּארָן אֲשֶׁר עַל־ הַמִּדְבָּר: | For twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, and the Horites in their hill country of Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness. |
| Gen 14:7 וַיָּשֻׁבוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־עֵין מִשְׁפָּט הִוא קָדֵשׁ וַיַּכּוּ אֶת־כָּל־שְׂדֵה הָעֲמָלֵקִי וְגַם אֶת־הָאֱמֹרִי הַיֹּשֵׁב בְּחַצְצֹן תָּמָר: וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ־סְדֹם וּמֶלֶךְ עֲמֹרָה וּמֶלֶךְ אַדְמָה וּמֶלֶךְ צְבוֹיִם וּמֶלֶךְ בֶּלַע הִוא־צֹעַר וַיַּעַרְכוּ אִתָּם מִלְחָמָה בְּעֵמֶק הַשִּׂ דִּים: | Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they defeated the whole territory of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who lived in Hazazon-tamar. Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and drew up their battle lines against them in the Valley of Siddim, |
| Gen 14:9 אֵת כְּדָרְלָע�omֶר מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם וְתִדְעָל מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם וְאַמְרָפֶל מֶלֶךְ שִׁנְעָר וְאַרְיוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֶלָסָר אַרְבָּעָה מְלָכִים אֶת־הַחֲמִשָּׁ ה: וְעֵמֶק הַשִּׂדִּים בְּאֵרֹת בֶּאֵרֹת חֵמָר וַיָּנֻסוּ מֶלֶךְ־סְדֹם וַעֲמֹרָה וַיִּפְּלוּ־שָׁמָּה וְהַנִּשְׁאָרִים הָרָה נָסוּ: | against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against the five. Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits. As the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, they fell into them, and the rest fled to the hills. |
| Gen 14:11 וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־כָּל־רְכֻשׁ סְדֹם וַעֲמֹרָה וְאֶת־כָּל־אָכְלָם וַיֵּלֵכוּ: וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־לוֹט וְאֶת־רְכֻשׁוֹ בֶּן־אֲחִי אַבְרָם וַיֵּלֵכוּ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בִּסְדֹם: וַיָּבֹא הַפָּלִיט וַיַּגֶּד לְאַבְרָם הָעִבְרִי וְהוּא שֹׁכֵן בְּאֵלֹנֵי מַמְרֵא הָאֱמֹרִי אֲחִי אֶשְׁכֹּל וַאֲחִי עָנֵר וְהֵם בַּעֲלֵי בְרִית־אַבְרָם: | The enemy took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food, and went away. They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son, and his goods, and went away; for he was living in Sodom. A survivor came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; these men had a covenant with Abram. |
| Gen 14:14 וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם כִּי נִשְׁבָּה אָחִיו וַיָּרֶק אֶת־חֲנִיכָיו יְלִידֵי בֵיתוֹ שְׁמֹנָה עָשָׂר וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת וַיִּרְדֹּף עַד־דָּן: וַיֵּחָלֵק עֲלֵיהֶם לַיְלָה הוּא וַעֲבָדָיו וַיַּכֵּם וַיִּרְדְּפֵם עַד־חוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר מִשְּׂ מֹאל לְדַמָּשֶׂק: וַיָּשֶׁב אֵת כָּל־ הָרְכֻשׁ וְגַם אֶת־לוֹט אָחִיו וּרְכֻשׁוֹ הֵשִׁיב וְגַם אֶת־הַנָּשִׁים וְאֶת־ הָעָם: | When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he called out his trained men, born in his household, three hundred and eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and struck them and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. He brought back all the goods, and he also brought back his kinsman Lot and his goods, and the women and the people as well. |

5 Shinar is Babylonia. The Salt Sea is the Dead Sea.

### MELCHIZEDEK

*Melchizedek king of Salem blesses Abram, who refuses the spoils from the king of Sodom.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 14:17 וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ־סְדֹם לִקְרָאתוֹ אַחֲרֵי שׁוּבוֹ מֵהַכּוֹת אֶת־כְּדָרְלָעֹמֶר וְאֶת־ הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ אֶל־עֵמֶק שָׁוֵה הוּא עֵמֶק הַמֶּלֶךְ: וּמַלְכִּי־צֶדֶק מֶלֶךְ שָׁלֵם הוֹצִיא לֶחֶם וְיָיִן וְהוּא כֹהֵן לְאֵל עֶלְיוֹן: וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ וַיֹּאמַר בָּרוּךְ אַבְרָם לְאֵל עֶלְיוֹן קֹנֵה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ: | After he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth.[6] |
| Gen 14:20 וּבָרוּךְ אֵל עֶלְיוֹן אֲשֶׁר־מִגֵּן צָרֶיךָ בְּיָדֶךָ וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ מַעֲשֵׂר מִכֹּל: וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ־סְדֹם אֶל־אַבְרָם תֶּן־לִי הַנֶּפֶשׁ וְהָרְכֻשׁ קַח־לָךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־מֶלֶךְ סְדֹם הֲרִימֹתִי יָדִי אֶל־יְהוָה אֵל עֶלְיוֹן קֹנֵה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ: | And blessed be God Most High, who has handed your enemies over to you." And he gave him a tenth of everything. The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, and take the goods for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I raise my hand in an oath to the LORD, God Most High, maker of heaven and earth, |
| Gen 14:23 אִם־מִחוּט וְעַד שְׂרוֹךְ־נַעַל וְאִם־אֶקַּח מִכָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לָךְ וְלֹא תֹאמַר אֲנִי הֶעֱשַׁרְתִּי אֶת־אַבְרָם: בִּלְעָדַי רַק אֲשֶׁר אָכְלוּ הַנְּעָרִים וְחֵלֶק הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר הָלְכוּ אִתִּי עָנֵר אֶשְׁכֹּל וּמַמְרֵא הֵם יִקְחוּ חֶלְקָם: | that I will not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, so that you will never say, 'I made Abram rich.' Nothing for me—only what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol and Mamre. Let them take their share." |

### CHAPTER 15

*God promises Abram countless offspring and makes a covenant with him over divided animals.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 15:1 אַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הָיָה דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם בַּמַּחֲזֶה לֵאמֹר אַל־ תִּירָא אַבְרָם אָנֹכִי מָגֵן לָךְ שְׂכָרְךָ הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֲדֹנָי יֱהוִה מַה־תִּתֶּן־לִי וְאָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ עֲרִירִי וּבֶן־מֶשֶׁק בֵּיתִי הוּא דַּמֶּשֶׂק אֱלִיעֶזֶר: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם הֵן לִי לֹא נָתַתָּה זָרַע וְהִנֵּה בֶן־בֵּיתִי יוֹרֵשׁ אֹתִי: | After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great." But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will you give me, when I go on childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a member of my household will be my heir."[7] |
| Gen 15:4 וְהִנֵּה דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא יִירָשְׁךָ זֶה כִּי־אִם אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֵּעֶיךָ הוּא יִירָשֶׁךָ: וַיּוֹצֵא אֹתוֹ הַחוּצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הַבֶּט־נָא הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וּסְפֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים אִם־תּוּכַל לִסְפֹּר אֹתָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה יִהְיֶה זַרְעֶךָ: וְהֶאֱמִן בַּיהוָה וַיַּחְשְׁבֶהָ לּוֹ צְדָקָה: | But then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir. One who comes from your own body will be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can count them." Then he said to him, "So will your offspring be." And he trusted |

6 Salem is often identified with Jerusalem.
7 The divine name after "Lord" is printed GOD to avoid "Lord LORD." The phrase "heir of my house" is obscure in Hebrew and seems to play on the name Damascus.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. |
| Gen 15:7 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאוּר כַּשְׂדִּים לָתֶת לְךָ אֶת־ הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: וַיֹּאמַר אֲדֹנָי יֱהוִה בַּמָּה אֵדַע כִּי אִירָשֶׁנָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו קְחָה לִי עֶגְלָה מְשֻׁלֶּשֶׁת וְעֵז מְשֻׁלֶּשֶׁת וְאַיִל מְשֻׁלָּשׁ וְתֹר וְגוֹזָל: | He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." But he said, "Lord GOD, how am I to know that I will possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon." |
| Gen 15:10 וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ אֶת־כָּל־אֵלֶּה וַיְבַתֵּר אֹתָם בַּתָּוֶךְ וַיִּתֵּן אִישׁ־בִּתְרוֹ לִקְרַאת רֵעֵהוּ וְאֶת־הַצִּפֹּר לֹא בָתָר: וַיֵּרֶד הָעַיִט עַל־הַפְּגָרִים וַיַּשֵּׁ ב אֹתָם אַבְרָם: וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁ מֶשׁ לָבוֹא וְתַרְדֵּמָה נָפְלָה עַל־אַבְרָם וְהִנֵּה אֵימָה חֲשֵׁכָה גְדֹלָה נֹפֶלֶת עָלָיו: | He took all these for him, cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut in two. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and a dread, a great darkness, fell upon him. |
| Gen 15:13 וַיֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָם יָדֹעַ תֵּדַע כִּי־גֵר יִהְיֶה זַרְעֲךָ בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהֶם וַעֲבָדוּם וְעִנּוּ אֹתָם אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה: וְגַם אֶת־הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר יַעֲבֹדוּ דָן אָנֹכִי וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֵצְאוּ בִּרְכֻשׁ גָּדוֹל: | Then he said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be foreigners in a land not their own, and they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will judge the nation they serve, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. |
| Gen 15:15 וְאַתָּה תָּבוֹא אֶל־אֲבֹתֶיךָ בְּשָׁלוֹם תִּקָּבֵר בְּשֵׂיבָה טוֹבָה: וְדוֹר רְבִיעִי יָשׁוּבוּ הֵנָּה כִּי לֹא־שָׁלֵם עֲוֹן הָאֱמֹרִי עַד־הֵנָּה: וַיְהִי הַשֶּׁ מֶשׁ בָּאָה וַעֲלָטָה הָיְתָה וְהִנֵּה תַנּוּר עָשָׁן וְלַפִּיד אֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר עָבַר בֵּין הַגְּזָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: | As for you, you will go to your ancestors in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation they will come back here, for the guilt of the Amorites is not yet complete." When the sun had set and it was dark, there was a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passing between these pieces.[8] |
| Gen 15:18 בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא כָּרַת יְהוָה אֶת־אַבְרָם בְּרִית לֵאמֹר לְזַרְעֲךָ נָתַתִּי אֶת־ הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מִנְּהַר מִצְרַיִם עַד־הַנָּהָר הַגָּדֹל נְהַר־פְּרָת: אֶת־הַקֵּינִי וְאֶת־הַקְּנִזִּי וְאֶת הַקַּדְמֹנִי: וְאֶת־הַחִתִּי וְאֶת־הַפְּרִזִּי וְאֶת־הָרְפָאִים: וְאֶת־הָאֱמֹרִי וְאֶת־הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְאֶת־הַגִּרְגָּשִׁי וְאֶת־הַיְבוּסִי: | On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates—the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."[9] |

## CHAPTER 16

*Sarai gives Hagar to Abram; Hagar flees and bears Ishmael.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 16:1 וְשָׂרַי אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָם לֹא יָלְדָה לוֹ וְלָהּ שִׁפְחָה מִצְרִית וּשְׁמָהּ הָגָר: וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל־אַבְרָם הִנֵּה־נָא עֲצָרַנִי יְהוָה מִלֶּדֶת בֹּא־נָא אֶל־ שִׁפְחָתִי אוּלַי אִבָּנֶה מִמֶּנָּה וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָם לְקוֹל שָׂרָי: | Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had an Egyptian slave woman named Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "Look, the LORD has kept me from bearing children. Please sleep with |

8 Parties to a treaty might pass between the halves of slain animals, calling the same fate down on themselves if they broke it (compare Jer 34:18).
9 The Hebrew idiom for making a covenant is literally "to cut" one.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| | my slave woman; perhaps I can build a family through her." And Abram listened to Sarai.[10] |
| Gen 16:3 וַתִּקַּח שָׂרַי אֵשֶׁת־אַבְרָם אֶת־הָגָר הַמִּצְרִית שִׁפְחָתָהּ מִקֵּץ עֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים לְשֶׁבֶת אַבְרָם בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַתִּתֵּן אֹתָהּ לְאַבְרָם אִישָׁהּ לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה: וַיָּבֹא אֶל־הָגָר וַתַּהַר וַתֵּרֶא כִּי הָרָתָה וַתֵּקַל גְּבִרְתָּהּ בְּעֵינֶיהָ: | So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave woman—after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan—and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she saw that she had conceived, her mistress lost standing in her eyes. |
| Gen 16:5 וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרַי אֶל־אַבְרָם חֲמָסִי עָלֶיךָ אָנֹכִי נָתַתִּי שִׁפְחָתִי בְּחֵיקֶךָ וַתֵּרֶא כִּי הָרָתָה וָאֵקַל בְּעֵינֶיהָ יִשְׁפֹּט יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָם אֶל־שָׂרַי הִנֵּה שִׁפְחָתֵךְ בְּיָדֵךְ עֲשִׂי־לָהּ הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינָיִךְ וַתְּעַנֶּהָ שָׂרַי וַתִּבְרַח מִפָּנֶיהָ: | Then Sarai said to Abram, "The wrong done to me is on you! I myself put my slave woman in your arms, and now that she sees she has conceived, I have lost standing in her eyes. May the LORD judge between me and you." Abram said to Sarai, "Look, your slave woman is in your hands. Do to her whatever is good in your eyes." Then Sarai treated her harshly, and she ran away from her. |
| Gen 16:7 וַיִּמְצָאָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה עַל־עֵין הַמַּיִם בַּמִּדְבָּר עַל־הָעַיִן בְּדֶרֶךְ שׁוּר: וַיֹּאמַר הָגָר שִׁפְחַת שָׂרַי אֵי־מִזֶּה בָאת וְאָנָה תֵלֵכִי וַתֹּאמֶר מִפְּנֵי שָׂרַי גְּבִרְתִּי אָנֹכִי בֹרַחַת: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה שׁוּבִי אֶל־גְּבִרְתֵּךְ וְהִתְעַנִּי תַּחַת יָדֶיהָ: | The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the road to Shur. He said, "Hagar, Sarai's slave woman, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the LORD said to her, "Go back to your mistress, and humble yourself under her hand." |
| Gen 16:10 וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה הַרְבָּה אַרְבֶּה אֶת־זַרְעֵךְ וְלֹא יִסָּפֵר מֵרֹב: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה הִנָּךְ הָרָה וְיֹלַדְתְּ בֵּן וְקָרָאת שְׁמוֹ יִשְׁמָעֵאל כִּי־שָׁמַע יְהוָה אֶל־עָנְיֵךְ: | The angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, so that they will be too many to count." And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Look, you are pregnant and will bear a son, and you shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard your misery.[11] |
| Gen 16:12 וְהוּא יִהְיֶה פֶּרֶא אָדָם יָדוֹ בַכֹּל וְיַד כֹּל בּוֹ וְעַל־פְּנֵי כָל־אֶחָיו יִשְׁכֹּן: וַתִּקְרָא שֵׁם־יְהוָה הַדֹּבֵר אֵלֶיהָ אַתָּה אֵל רֳאִי כִּי אָמְרָה הֲגַם הֲלֹם רָאִיתִי אַחֲרֵי רֹאִי: | He will be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live over against all his brothers." She called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are El-roi," for she said, "Have I really seen here the one who sees me?"[12] |
| Gen 16:14 עַל־כֵּן קָרָא לַבְּאֵר בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי הִנֵּה בֵּין־קָדֵשׁ וּבֵין בָּרֶד: וַתֵּלֶד הָגָר לְאַבְרָם בֵּן וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָם שֵׁם־בְּנוֹ אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָה הָגָר יִשְׁמָעֵאל: וְאַבְרָם בֶּן־שְׁמֹנִים שָׁנָה וְשֵׁשׁ שָׁנִים בְּלֶדֶת־הָגָר אֶת־יִשְׁמָעֵאל לְאַבְרָם: | That is why the well is called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.[13] |

10 "Build a family" is literally "be built up," a play on *ben*, "son."
11 Ishmael means "God hears." "Treated harshly," "humble yourself" and "misery" come from one Hebrew root.
12 *El-roi* means "God of seeing" or "God who sees me"; the rest of verse 13 is obscure in Hebrew. "Over against" may also mean "east of."
13 Beer-lahai-roi means "well of the Living One who sees me."

## CHAPTER 17

*God renames Abram and Sarai, promises Isaac, and commands circumcision.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 17:1 וַיְהִי אַבְרָם בֶּן־תִּשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וְתֵשַׁע שָׁנִים וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי־אֵל שַׁדַּי הִתְהַלֵּךְ לְפָנַי וֶהְיֵה תָמִים: וְאֶתְּנָה בְרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ וְאַרְבֶּה אוֹתְךָ בִּמְאֹד מְאֹד: וַיִּפֹּל אַבְרָם עַל־פָּנָיו וַיְדַבֵּר אִתּוֹ אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר: | When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Shaddai. Walk before me and be blameless, and I will set my covenant between me and you, and I will multiply you very greatly." Abram fell on his face, and God spoke with him, saying:[14] |
| Gen 17:4 אֲנִי הִנֵּה בְרִיתִי אִתָּךְ וְהָיִיתָ לְאַב הֲמוֹן גּוֹיִם: וְלֹא־יִקָּרֵא עוֹד אֶת־שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אַב־הֲמוֹן גּוֹיִם נְתַתִּיךָ: וְהִפְרֵתִי אוֹתְךָ בִּמְאֹד מְאֹד וּנְתַתִּיךָ לְגוֹיִם וּמְלָכִים מִמְּךָ יֵצֵאוּ: | "As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you very, very fruitful. I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.[15] |
| Gen 17:7 וַהֲקִמֹתִי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ וּבֵין זַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ לְדֹרֹתָם לִבְרִית עוֹלָם לִהְיוֹת לְךָ לֵאלֹהִים וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ: וְנָתַתִּי לְךָ וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ אֵת אֶרֶץ מְגֻרֶיךָ אֵת כָּל־אֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן לַאֲחֻזַּת עוֹלָם וְהָיִיתִי לָהֶם לֵאלֹהִים: | I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you, throughout their generations, as an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land where you now live as a foreigner, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting holding, and I will be their God." |
| Gen 17:9 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם וְאַתָּה אֶת־בְּרִיתִי תִּשְׁמֹר אַתָּה וְזַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ לְדֹרֹתָם: זֹאת בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמְרוּ בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין זַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ הִמּוֹל לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר: וּנְמַלְתֶּם אֵת בְּשַׂר עָרְלַתְכֶם וְהָיָה לְאוֹת בְּרִית בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם: | God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. |
| Gen 17:12 וּבֶן־שְׁמֹנַת יָמִים יִמּוֹל לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם יְלִיד בָּיִת וּמִקְנַת־כֶּסֶף מִכֹּל בֶּן־נֵכָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא מִזַּרְעֲךָ הוּא: הִמּוֹל יִמּוֹל יְלִיד בֵּיתְךָ וּמִקְנַת כַּסְפֶּךָ וְהָיְתָה בְרִיתִי בִּבְשַׂרְכֶם לִבְרִית עוֹלָם: וְעָרֵל זָכָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִמּוֹל אֶת־בְּשַׂר עָרְלָתוֹ וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מֵעַמֶּיהָ אֶת־בְּרִיתִי הֵפַר: | Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So my covenant will be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin—that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." |
| Gen 17:15 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שָׂרַי אִשְׁתְּךָ לֹא־תִקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָהּ שָׂרָי כִּי שָׂרָה שְׁמָהּ: וּבֵרַכְתִּי אֹתָהּ וְגַם נָתַתִּי מִמֶּנָּה לְךָ בֵּן וּבֵרַכְתִּיהָ | God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai; Sarah shall be her name. I |

14 Shaddai is an ancient divine title, traditionally rendered "the Almighty."
15 Abram means "exalted father"; Abraham is explained by its sound, like *av hamon*, "father of a multitude."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| וְהָיְתָה לְגוֹיִם מַלְכֵי עַמִּים מִמֶּנָּה יִהְיוּ: וַיִּפֹּל אַבְרָהָם עַל־פָּנָיו וַיִּצְחָק וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלִבּוֹ הַלְּבֶן מֵאָה־שָׁנָה יִוָּלֵד וְאִם־שָׂרָה הֲבַת־תִּשְׁעִים שָׁנָה תֵּלֵד: | will bless her, and I will also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will become nations; kings of peoples will come from her." Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man a hundred years old? Can Sarah, at ninety, give birth?"[16] |
| Gen 17:18 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים לוּ יִשְׁמָעֵאל יִחְיֶה לְפָנֶיךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֲבָל שָׂרָה אִשְׁתְּךָ יֹלֶדֶת לְךָ בֵּן וְקָרָאתָ אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יִצְחָק וַהֲקִמֹתִי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אִתּוֹ לִבְרִית עוֹלָם לְזַרְעוֹ אַחֲרָיו: | Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live before you!" God said, "No, Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. |
| Gen 17:20 וּלְיִשְׁמָעֵאל שְׁמַעְתִּיךָ הִנֵּה בֵּרַכְתִּי אֹתוֹ וְהִפְרֵיתִי אֹתוֹ וְהִרְבֵּיתִי אֹתוֹ בִּמְאֹד מְאֹד שְׁנֵים־עָשָׂר נְשִׂיאִם יוֹלִיד וּנְתַתִּיו לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל: וְאֶת־בְּרִיתִי אָקִים אֶת־יִצְחָק אֲשֶׁר תֵּלֵד לְךָ שָׂרָה לַמּוֹעֵד הַזֶּה בַּשָּׁנָה הָאַחֶרֶת: | As for Ishmael, I have heard you. Look, I will bless him and make him fruitful and multiply him very greatly. He will father twelve chieftains, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year." |
| Gen 17:22 וַיְכַל לְדַבֵּר אִתּוֹ וַיַּעַל אֱלֹהִים מֵעַל אַבְרָהָם: וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּנוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־יְלִידֵי בֵיתוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־מִקְנַת כַּסְפּוֹ כֹּל־זָכָר בְּאַנְשֵׁי בֵּית אַבְרָהָם וַיָּמָל אֶת־בְּשַׂר עָרְלָתָם בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אִתּוֹ אֱלֹהִים: | When he had finished speaking with him, God went up from Abraham. Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all the slaves born in his house and all those bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's household, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had told him. |
| Gen 17:24 וְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן־תִּשְׁעִים וְתֵשַׁע שָׁנָה בְּהִמֹּלוֹ בְּשַׂר עָרְלָתוֹ: וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּנוֹ בֶּן־שְׁלֹשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה בְּהִמֹּלוֹ אֶת בְּשַׂר עָרְלָתוֹ: בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִמּוֹל אַבְרָהָם וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּנוֹ: וְכָל־אַנְשֵׁי בֵיתוֹ יְלִיד בָּיִת וּמִקְנַת־כֶּסֶף מֵאֵת בֶּן־נֵכָר נִמְּלוּ אִתּוֹ: | Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, and Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. On that very day Abraham and Ishmael his son were circumcised; and all the men of his household, those born in the house and those bought with money from foreigners, were circumcised with him. |

## CHAPTER 18

*Three visitors come to Abraham at Mamre and promise that Sarah will have a son.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 18:1 וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה בְּאֵלֹנֵי מַמְרֵא וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב פֶּתַח־הָאֹהֶל כְּחֹם הַיּוֹם: וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲנָשִׁים נִצָּבִים עָלָיו וַיַּרְא וַיָּרָץ לִקְרָאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אָרְצָה: וַיֹּאמַר אֲדֹנָי אִם־נָא מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אַל־נָא תַעֲבֹר מֵעַל עַבְדֶּךָ: | The LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre as he sat at the entrance of the tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, bowed down to the ground, and said, "My lord, if I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass your servant by.[17] |

16 Sarai and Sarah are forms of a name meaning "princess." "Laughed" (*yitshaq*) anticipates the name Isaac, "he laughs."
17 The Hebrew vowels here point to "Lord," meaning God, though Abraham may simply be greeting a guest with courtesy.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 18:4 יֻקַּח־נָא מְעַט־מַיִם וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשָּׁעֲנוּ תַּחַת הָעֵץ: וְאֶקְחָה פַּת־לֶחֶם וְסַעֲדוּ לִבְּכֶם אַחַר תַּעֲבֹרוּ כִּי־עַל־כֵּן עֲבַרְתֶּם עַל־עַבְדְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵּן תַּעֲשֶׂה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ: וַיְמַהֵר אַבְרָהָם הָאֹהֱלָה אֶל־שָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר מַהֲרִי שְׁלֹשׁ סְאִים קֶמַח סֹלֶת לוּשִׁי וַעֲשִׂי עֻגוֹת: | Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest under the tree. Let me bring a bit of bread, so you can refresh yourselves; after that you can go on—since that is why you have come your servant's way." They said, "Do as you have said." Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make cakes." |
| Gen 18:7 וְאֶל־הַבָּקָר רָץ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח בֶּן־בָּקָר רַךְ וְטוֹב וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הַנַּעַר וַיְמַהֵר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוֹ: וַיִּקַּח חֶמְאָה וְחָלָב וּבֶן־הַבָּקָר אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּתֵּן לִפְנֵיהֶם וְהוּא־עֹמֵד עֲלֵיהֶם תַּחַת הָעֵץ וַיֹּאכֵלוּ: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו אַיֵּה שָׂרָה אִשְׁתֶּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בָאֹהֶל: | Abraham ran to the herd, took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the young man, who hurried to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf he had prepared and set them before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" He said, "There, in the tent." |
| Gen 18:10 וַיֹּאמֶר שׁוֹב אָשׁוּב אֵלֶיךָ כָּעֵת חַיָּה וְהִנֵּה־בֵן לְשָׂרָה אִשְׁתֶּךָ וְשָׂרָה שֹׁמַעַת פֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וְהוּא אַחֲרָיו: וְאַבְרָהָם וְשָׂרָה זְקֵנִים בָּאִים בַּיָּמִים חָדַל לִהְיוֹת לְשָׂרָה אֹרַח כַּנָּשִׁים: וַתִּצְחַק שָׂרָה בְּקִרְבָּהּ לֵאמֹר אַחֲרֵי בְלֹתִי הָיְתָה־לִּי עֶדְנָה וַאדֹנִי זָקֵן: | Then he said, "I will surely come back to you at this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were old, well on in years; Sarah no longer had the monthly periods of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, shall I have pleasure, and my lord so old?" |
| Gen 18:13 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָהָם לָמָּה זֶּה צָחֲקָה שָׂרָה לֵאמֹר הַאַף אָמְנָם אֵלֵד וַאֲנִי זָקַנְתִּי: הֲיִפָּלֵא מֵיְהוָה דָּבָר לַמּוֹעֵד אָשׁוּב אֵלֶיךָ כָּעֵת חַיָּה וּלְשָׂרָה בֵן: וַתְּכַחֵשׁ שָׂרָה לֵאמֹר לֹא צָחַקְתִּי כִּי יָרְאָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא כִּי צָחָקְתְּ: | The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I really give birth, old as I am?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the appointed time I will come back to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." But Sarah denied it, saying, "I didn't laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, you did laugh." |

### ABRAHAM PLEADS FOR SODOM

*Abraham bargains with the LORD to spare Sodom for the sake of the righteous.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 18:16 וַיָּקֻמוּ מִשָּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיַּשְׁקִפוּ עַל־פְּנֵי סְדֹם וְאַבְרָהָם הֹלֵךְ עִמָּם לְשַׁלְּחָם: וַיהוָה אָמָר הַמְכַסֶּה אֲנִי מֵאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה: וְאַבְרָהָם הָיוֹ יִהְיֶה לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל וְעָצוּם וְנִבְרְכוּ בוֹ כֹּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ: | The men set out from there and looked down over Sodom, and Abraham went with them to see them on their way. The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him? |
| Gen 18:19 כִּי יְדַעְתִּיו לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יְצַוֶּה אֶת־בָּנָיו וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ אַחֲרָיו וְשָׁמְרוּ דֶּרֶךְ יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט לְמַעַן הָבִיא יְהוָה עַל־אַבְרָהָם אֵת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר עָלָיו: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה זַעֲקַת סְדֹם וַעֲמֹרָה כִּי־רָבָּה וְחַטָּאתָם כִּי כָבְדָה מְאֹד: | For I have singled him out, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Go- |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | morrah—how great it is! And their sin—how very grave! |
| Gen 18:21 אֵרְדָה־נָּא וְאֶרְאֶה הַכְּצַעֲקָתָהּ הַבָּאָה אֵלַי עָשׂוּ כְלָה וְאִם־לֹא אֵדָעָה: וַיִּפְנוּ מִשָּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיֵּלְכוּ סְדֹמָה וְאַבְרָהָם עוֹדֶנּוּ עֹמֵד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: וַיִּגַּשׁ אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמַר הַאַף תִּסְפֶּה צַדִּיק עִם־רָשָׁע: | I will go down and see whether they have done altogether as the outcry that has come to me says; and if not, I will know." The men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. Abraham came near and said, "Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? |
| Gen 18:24 אוּלַי יֵשׁ חֲמִשִּׁ ים צַדִּיקִם בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר הַאַף תִּסְפֶּה וְלֹא־תִשָּׂ א לַמָּקוֹם לְמַעַן חֲמִשִּׁ ים הַצַּדִּיקִם אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּהּ: חָלִלָה לְךָ מֵעֲשֹׂת כַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה לְהָמִית צַדִּיק עִם־רָשָׁע וְהָיָה כַצַּדִּיק כָּרָשָׁע חָלִלָה לָךְ הֲשֹׁפֵט כָּל־הָאָרֶץ לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט: | Suppose there are fifty righteous people within the city. Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare like the wicked! Far be it from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do justice?" |
| Gen 18:26 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אִם־אֶמְצָא בִסְדֹם חֲמִשִּׁ ים צַדִּיקִם בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וְנָשָׂאתִי לְכָל־הַמָּקוֹם בַּעֲבוּרָם: וַיַּעַן אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמַר הִנֵּה־נָא הוֹאַלְתִּי לְדַבֵּר אֶל־אֲדֹנָי וְאָנֹכִי עָפָר וָאֵפֶר: אוּלַי יַחְסְרוּן חֲמִשִּׁ ים הַצַּדִּיקִם חֲמִשָּׁ ה הֲתַשְׁחִית בַּחֲמִשָּׁ ה אֶת־כָּל־הָעִיר וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אַשְׁחִית אִם־אֶמְצָא שָׁם אַרְבָּעִים וַחֲמִשָּׁ ה: | The LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous people within the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Look, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord, though I am dust and ashes. Suppose the fifty righteous are five short. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." |
| Gen 18:29 וַיֹּסֶף עוֹד לְדַבֵּר אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמַר אוּלַי יִמָּצְאוּן שָׁם אַרְבָּעִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֶעֱשֶׂה בַּעֲבוּר הָאַרְבָּעִים: וַיֹּאמֶר אַל־נָא יִחַר לַאדֹנָי וַאֲדַבֵּרָה אוּלַי יִמָּצְאוּן שָׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֶעֱשֶׂה אִם־אֶמְצָא שָׁם שְׁלֹשִׁים: | Once again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He said, "For the sake of the forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Please, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." |
| Gen 18:31 וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה־נָא הוֹאַלְתִּי לְדַבֵּר אֶל־אֲדֹנָי אוּלַי יִמָּצְאוּן שָׁם עֶשְׂרִים וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אַשְׁחִית בַּעֲבוּר הָעֶשְׂרִים: וַיֹּאמֶר אַל־נָא יִחַר לַאדֹנָי וַאֲדַבְּרָה אַךְ־הַפַּעַם אוּלַי יִמָּצְאוּן שָׁם עֲשָׂרָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אַשְׁחִית בַּעֲבוּר הָעֲשָׂרָה: וַיֵּלֶךְ יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר כִּלָּה לְדַבֵּר אֶל־אַבְרָהָם וְאַבְרָהָם שָׁב לִמְקֹמוֹ: | He said, "Look, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He said, "For the sake of the twenty I will not destroy it." He said, "Please, let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He said, "For the sake of the ten I will not destroy it." When the LORD had finished speaking to Abraham, he went his way, and Abraham returned to his place. |

## CHAPTER 19

*Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed; Lot escapes, and his wife looks back.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 19:1 וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סְדֹמָה בָּעֶרֶב וְלוֹט יֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר־סְדֹם וַיַּרְא־לוֹט וַיָּקָם לִקְרָאתָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַפַּיִם אָרְצָה: וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֶּה נָא־אֲדֹנַי סוּרוּ נָא אֶל־בֵּית עַבְדְּכֶם וְלִינוּ וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁכַּמְתֶּם וְהַלַכְתֶּם לְדַרְכְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִּי בָרְחוֹב נָלִין: | The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, while Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed with his face to the ground. He said, "Please, my |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | lords, turn aside to your servant's house. Spend the night and wash your feet; then you can rise early and go on your way." They said, "No, we will spend the night in the square." |
| Gen 19:3 וַיִּפְצַר־בָּם מְאֹד וַיָּסֻרוּ אֵלָיו וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתֶּה וּמַצּוֹת אָפָה וַיֹּאכֵלוּ: טֶרֶם יִשְׁכָּבוּ וְאַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר אַנְשֵׁי סְדֹם נָסַבּוּ עַל־הַבַּיִת מִנַּעַר וְעַד־זָקֵן כָּל־הָעָם מִקָּצֶה: וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל־לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אַיֵּה הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ הַלָּיְלָה הוֹצִיאֵם אֵלֵינוּ וְנֵדָעָה אֹתָם: | But he pressed them hard, so they turned aside to him and came into his house. He made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, young and old, all the people from every quarter. They called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we can have sex with them."[18] |
| Gen 19:6 וַיֵּצֵא אֲלֵהֶם לוֹט הַפֶּתְחָה וְהַדֶּלֶת סָגַר אַחֲרָיו: וַיֹּאמַר אַל־נָא אַחַי תָּרֵעוּ: הִנֵּה־נָא לִי שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּ אִישׁ אוֹצִיאָה־נָּא אֶתְהֶן אֲלֵיכֶם וַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶן כַּטּוֹב בְּעֵינֵיכֶם רַק לָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵל אַל־תַּעֲשׂוּ דָבָר כִּי־עַל־כֵּן בָּאוּ בְּצֵל קֹרָתִי: | Lot went out to them at the doorway and shut the door behind him. He said, "Please, my brothers, do not do such evil. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever is good in your eyes. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." |
| Gen 19:9 וַיֹּאמְרוּ גֶּשׁ־הָלְאָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֶחָד בָּא־לָגוּר וַיִּשְׁפֹּט שָׁפוֹט עַתָּה נָרַע לְךָ מֵהֶם וַיִּפְצְרוּ בָאִישׁ בְּלוֹט מְאֹד וַיִּגְּשׁוּ לִשְׁבֹּר הַדָּלֶת: וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֶת־יָדָם וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת־לוֹט אֲלֵיהֶם הַבָּיְתָה וְאֶת־הַדֶּלֶת סָגָרוּ: | But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This one came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! Now we will do more evil to you than to them." They pressed hard against the man, against Lot, and came close to break down the door. But the men reached out their hands, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. |
| Gen 19:11 וְאֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־פֶּתַח הַבַּיִת הִכּוּ בַּסַּנְוֵרִים מִקָּטֹן וְעַד־גָּדוֹל וַיִּלְאוּ לִמְצֹא הַפָּתַח: וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֶל־לוֹט עֹד מִי־לְךָ פֹּה חָתָן וּבָנֶיךָ וּבְנֹתֶיךָ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ בָּעִיר הוֹצֵא מִן־הַמָּקוֹם: כִּי־מַשְׁחִתִים אֲנַחְנוּ אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי־גָדְלָה צַעֲקָתָם אֶת־פְּנֵי יְהוָה וַיְשַׁלְּחֵנוּ יְהוָה לְשַׁחֲתָהּ: | And the men who were at the doorway of the house they struck with blindness, from the smallest to the greatest, so that they wore themselves out trying to find the doorway. Then the men said to Lot, "Whom else do you have here? A son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, anyone you have in the city—bring them out of this place. For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has grown great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." |
| Gen 19:14 וַיֵּצֵא לוֹט וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־חֹתְנָיו ל�קְחֵי בְנֹתָיו וַיֹּאמֶר קוּמוּ צְאוּ מִן־הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי־מַשְׁחִית יְהוָה אֶת־הָעִיר וַיְהִי כִמְצַחֵק בְּעֵינֵי חֲתָנָיו: וּכְמוֹ הַשַּׁחַר עָלָה וַיָּאִיצוּ הַמַּלְאָכִים בְּלוֹט לֵאמֹר קוּם קַח אֶת־אִשְׁתְּךָ וְאֶת־שְׁתֵּי בְנֹתֶיךָ הַנִּמְצָאֹת פֶּן־תִּסָּפֶה בַּעֲוֹן הָעִיר: | So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. As dawn was breaking, the angels urged Lot on, saying, "Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away because of the city's guilt." |

18 Literally "know them," a common Hebrew euphemism for sexual relations; the same verb appears in verse 8.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 19:16 וַיִּתְמַהְמָהּ וַיַּחֲזִקוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּיָדוֹ וּבְיַד־אִשְׁתּוֹ וּבְיַד שְׁתֵּי בְנֹתָיו בְּחֶמְלַת יְהוָה עָלָיו וַיּוֹצִאֻהוּ וַיַּנִּחֻהוּ מִחוּץ לָעִיר: וַיְהִי כְהוֹצִיאָם אֹתָם הַחוּצָה וַיֹּאמֶר הִמָּלֵט עַל־נַפְשֶׁךָ אַל־תַּבִּיט אַחֲרֶיךָ וְאַל־תַּעֲמֹד בְּכָל־הַכִּכָּר הָהָרָה הִמָּלֵט פֶּן־תִּסָּפֶה: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹט אֲלֵהֶם אַל־נָא אֲדֹנָי: | But he lingered. So the men seized his hand and the hands of his wife and his two daughters—because the LORD had pity on him—and brought him out and set him down outside the city. When they had brought them outside, one of them said, “Run for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stop anywhere in the plain. Run to the hills, or you will be swept away.” But Lot said to them, “Oh no, my lord! |
| Gen 19:19 הִנֵּה־נָא מָצָא עַבְדְּךָ חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ וַתַּגְדֶּל חַסְדְּךָ אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי לְהַחֲיוֹת אֶת־נַפְשִׁי וְאָנֹכִי לֹא אוּכַל לְהִמָּלֵט הָהָרָה פֶּן־תִּדְבָקַנִי הָרָעָה וָמַתִּי: הִנֵּה־נָא הָעִיר הַזֹּאת קְרֹבָה לָנוּס שָׁמָּה וְהִיא מִצְעָר אִמָּלְטָה נָּא שָׁמָּה הֲלֹא מִצְעָר הִוא וּתְחִי נַפְשִׁי: | Look, your servant has found favor in your eyes, and great is the steadfast love you have shown me in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills; the disaster will overtake me, and I will die. Look, this city here is near enough to flee to, and it is a small one. Let me escape there—it is only small, isn’t it?—and my life will be saved.” |
| Gen 19:21 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הִנֵּה נָשָׂאתִי פָנֶיךָ גַּם לַדָּבָר הַזֶּה לְבִלְתִּי הָפְכִּי אֶת־הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ: מַהֵר הִמָּלֵט שָׁמָּה כִּי לֹא אוּכַל לַעֲשׂוֹת דָּבָר עַד־בֹּאֲךָ שָׁמָּה עַל־כֵּן קָרָא שֵׁם־הָעִיר צוֹעַר: הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ יָצָא עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְלוֹט בָּא צֹעֲרָה: | He said to him, “Very well, I grant you this request too: I will not overthrow the city you speak of. Hurry, escape there, for I can do nothing until you arrive there.” That is why the city was called Zoar. The sun had risen over the land when Lot came to Zoar.[19] |
| Gen 19:24 וַיהוָה הִמְטִיר עַל־סְדֹם וְעַל־עֲמֹרָה גָּפְרִית וָאֵשׁ מֵאֵת יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמָיִם: וַיַּהֲפֹךְ אֶת־הֶעָרִים הָאֵל וְאֵת כָּל־הַכִּכָּר וְאֵת כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי הֶעָרִים וְצֶמַח הָאֲדָמָה: וַתַּבֵּט אִשְׁתּוֹ מֵאַחֲרָיו וַתְּהִי נְצִיב מֶלַח: וַיַּשְׁכֵּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֶר אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־עָמַד שָׁם אֶת־פְּנֵי יְהוָה: | Then the LORD rained sulfur and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. He overthrew those cities and the whole plain, with all the inhabitants of the cities and what grew from the ground. But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. Abraham rose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD. |
| Gen 19:28 וַיַּשְׁקֵף עַל־פְּנֵי סְדֹם וַעֲמֹרָה וְעַל־כָּל־פְּנֵי אֶרֶץ הַכִּכָּר וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה עָלָה קִיטֹר הָאָרֶץ כְּקִיטֹר הַכִּבְשָׁן: וַיְהִי בְּשַׁחֵת אֱלֹהִים אֶת־עָרֵי הַכִּכָּר וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיְשַׁלַּח אֶת־לוֹט מִתּוֹךְ הַהֲפֵכָה בַּהֲפֹךְ אֶת־הֶעָרִים אֲשֶׁר־יָשַׁב בָּהֶן לוֹט: | He looked down over Sodom and Gomorrah and over all the land of the plain, and he saw smoke rising from the land like the smoke of a kiln. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. |

### LOT AND HIS DAUGHTERS

*Lot’s daughters make him drunk and bear the ancestors of Moab and Ammon.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 19:30 וַיַּעַל לוֹט מִצּוֹעַר וַיֵּשֶׁב בָּהָר וּשְׁתֵּי בְנֹתָיו עִמּוֹ כִּי יָרֵא לָשֶׁבֶת בְּצוֹעַר וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּמְּעָרָה הוּא וּשְׁתֵּי בְנֹתָיו: וַתֹּאמֶר הַבְּכִירָה אֶל־הַצְּעִירָה אָבִינוּ זָקֵן וְאִישׁ אֵין בָּאָרֶץ לָבוֹא עָלֵינוּ כְּדֶרֶךְ כָּל־הָאָרֶץ: לְכָה נַשְׁקֶה אֶת־אָבִינוּ יַיִן וְנִשْכְּבָה עִמּוֹ וּנְחַיֶּה מֵאָבִינוּ זָרַע: | Lot went up from Zoar and settled in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he lived in a cave, he and his two daughters. The firstborn said to the younger, “Our father |

**19** Zoar sounds like *mits‘ar*, “a small one.”

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | is old, and there is no man in the land to sleep with us, as is the way of all the earth. Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, so that we may keep offspring alive through our father." |
| Gen 19:33 וַתַּשְׁקֶיןָ אֶת־אֲבִיהֶן יַיִן בַּלַּיְלָה הוּא וַתָּבֹא הַבְּכִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב אֶת־ אֲבִיהָ וְלֹא־יָדַע בְּשִׁכְבָהּ וּבְקוּמָהּ: וַיְהִי מִמָּחֳרָת וַתֹּאמֶר הַבְּכִירָה אֶל־הַצָּעִירָה הֵן־שָׁכַבְתִּי אֶמֶשׁ אֶת־אָבִי נַשְׁקֶנּוּ יַיִן גַּם־הַלַּיְלָה וּבֹאִי שִׁכְבִי עִמּוֹ וּנְחַיֶּה מֵאֲבִינוּ זָרַע: | So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and lay with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she rose. The next day the firstborn said to the younger, "Look, last night I lay with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight as well, and then you go in and lie with him, so that we may keep offspring alive through our father." |
| Gen 19:35 וַתַּשְׁקֶיןָ גַּם בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא אֶת־אֲבִיהֶן יַיִן וַתָּקָם הַצָּעִירָה וַתִּשְׁכַּב עִמּוֹ וְלֹא־יָדַע בְּשִׁכְבָהּ וּבְקֻמָהּ: וַתַּהֲרֶיןָ שְׁתֵּי בְנוֹת־לוֹט מֵאֲבִיהֶן: וַתֵּלֶד הַבְּכִירָה בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ מוֹאָב הוּא אֲבִי־מוֹאָב עַד־הַיּוֹם: וְהַצָּעִירָה גַּם־הִוא יָלְדָה בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בֶּן־עַמִּי הוּא אֲבִי בְנֵי־ עַמּוֹן עַד־הַיּוֹם: | So that night too they made their father drink wine, and the younger rose and lay with him; he did not know when she lay down or when she rose. So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. The firstborn bore a son and named him Moab; he is the ancestor of the Moabites to this day. The younger also bore a son and named him Ben-ammi; he is the ancestor of the Ammonites to this day.[20] |

## CHAPTER 20

*Abraham again calls Sarah his sister, this time to Abimelech of Gerar.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 20:1 וַיִּסַּע מִשָּׁם אַבְרָהָם אַרְצָה הַנֶּגֶב וַיֵּשֶׁב בֵּין־קָדֵשׁ וּבֵין שׁוּר וַיָּגָר בִּגְרָר: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲחֹתִי הִוא וַיִּשְׁלַח אֲבִימֶלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ גְּרָר וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שָׂרָה: וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אֲבִימֶלֶךְ בַּחֲלוֹם הַלָּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִנְּךָ מֵת עַל־הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־לָקַחְתָּ וְהוּא בְּעֻלַת בָּעַל: | Abraham set out from there for the land of the Negev. He settled between Kadesh and Shur, and he lived for a time as a foreigner in Gerar. Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "You are a dead man because of the woman you have taken, for she is a married woman."[21] |
| Gen 20:4 וַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא קָרַב אֵלֶיהָ וַיֹּאמַר אֲדֹנָי הֲגוֹי גַּם־צַדִּיק תַּהֲרֹג: הֲלֹא הוּא אָמַר־לִי אֲחֹתִי הִוא וְהִיא־גַם־הִוא אָמְרָה אָחִי הוּא בְּתָם־ לְבָבִי וּבְנִקְיֹן כַּפַּי עָשִׂיתִי זֹאת: | Now Abimelech had not come near her. He said, "Lord, will you kill a nation even if it is righteous? Did he not say to me himself, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' I did this with a blameless heart and clean hands." |
| Gen 20:6 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הָאֱלֹהִים בַּחֲלֹם גַּם אָנֹכִי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי בְתָם־לְבָבְךָ עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת וָאֶחְשֹׂךְ גַּם־אָנֹכִי אוֹתְךָ מֵחֲטוֹ־לִי עַל־כֵּן לֹא־נְתַתִּיךָ לִנְגֹּעַ אֵלֶיהָ: וְעַתָּה הָשֵׁב אֵשֶׁת־הָאִישׁ כִּי־נָבִיא הוּא וְיִתְפַּלֵּל בַּעַדְךָ וֶחְיֵה וְאִם־אֵינְךָ מֵשִׁיב דַּע כִּי־מוֹת תָּמוּת אַתָּה וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לָךְ: | God said to him in the dream, "I too know that you did this with a blameless heart. It was I who kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. Now give the man's wife back, |

20 Moab sounds like *me-av*, "from father"; Ben-ammi means "son of my kin." Moab and Ammon were Israel's neighbors east of the Jordan.

21 Gerar was a town in the western Negev.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | for he is a prophet. He will pray for you, and you will live. But if you do not give her back, know that you will surely die, you and everyone who belongs to you." |
| Gen 20:8 וַיַּשְׁכֵּם אֲבִימֶלֶךְ בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקְרָא לְכָל־עֲבָדָיו וַיְדַבֵּר אֶת־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם וַיִּירְאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים מְאֹד: וַיִּקְרָא אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לְאַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מֶה־עָשִׂיתָ לָּנוּ וּמֶה־חָטָאתִי לְךָ כִּי־הֵבֵאתָ עָלַי וְעַל־מַמְלַכְתִּי חֲטָאָה גְדֹלָה מַעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יֵעָשׂוּ עָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי: | Abimelech rose early in the morning. He called all his servants and told them all these things, and the men were very much afraid. Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you, that you have brought so great a sin on me and on my kingdom? You have done things to me that ought not to be done." |
| Gen 20:10 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם מָה רָאִיתָ כִּי עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם כִּי אָמַרְתִּי רַק אֵין־יִרְאַת אֱלֹהִים בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וַהֲרָגוּנִי עַל־דְּבַר אִשְׁתִּי: וְגַם־אָמְנָה אֲחֹתִי בַת־אָבִי הִוא אַךְ לֹא בַת־אִמִּי וַתְּהִי־לִי לְאִשָּׁה: | And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What were you thinking of, that you did this thing?" Abraham said, "I thought, 'Surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.' Besides, she really is my sister—my father's daughter, though not my mother's daughter—and she became my wife. |
| Gen 20:13 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר הִתְעוּ אֹתִי אֱלֹהִים מִבֵּית אָבִי וָאֹמַר לָהּ זֶה חַסְדֵּךְ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשִׂי עִמָּדִי אֶל כָּל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר נָבוֹא שָׁמָּה אִמְרִי־לִי אָחִי הוּא: וַיִּקַּח אֲבִימֶלֶךְ צֹאן וּבָקָר וַעֲבָדִים וּשְׁפָחֹת וַיִּתֵּן לְאַבְרָהָם וַיָּשֶׁב לוֹ אֶת שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ הִנֵּה אַרְצִי לְפָנֶיךָ בַּטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ שֵׁב: | When God made me wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the loyalty you must show me: everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'" Then Abimelech took sheep and cattle, and male slaves and slave women, and gave them to Abraham, and he returned his wife Sarah to him. And Abimelech said, "Look, my land lies before you. Settle wherever you please." |
| Gen 20:16 וּלְשָׂרָה אָמַר הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי אֶלֶף כֶּסֶף לְאָחִיךְ הִנֵּה הוּא־לָךְ כְּסוּת עֵינַיִם לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר אִתָּךְ וְאֵת כֹּל וְנֹכָחַת: וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אַבְרָהָם אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּרְפָּא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וְאֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאַמְהֹתָיו וַיֵּלֵדוּ: כִּי־עָצֹר עָצַר יְהוָה בְּעַד כָּל־רֶחֶם לְבֵית אֲבִימֶלֶךְ עַל־דְּבַר שָׂרָה אֵשֶׁת אַבְרָהָם: | To Sarah he said, "Look, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. Let it be a covering of the eyes for you before all who are with you; before everyone you are set right." Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave women, so that they bore children. For the LORD had closed every womb in Abimelech's household because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.[22] |

## CHAPTER 21

*Sarah gives birth to Isaac in her old age.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 21:1 וַיהוָה פָּקַד אֶת־שָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמָר וַיַּעַשׂ יְהוָה לְשָׂרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֵּר: וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה לְאַבְרָהָם בֵּן לִזְקֻנָיו לַמּוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים: וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־שֵׁם־בְּנוֹ הַנּוֹלַד־לוֹ אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָה־לּוֹ שָׂרָה יִצְחָק: | The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time God had spoken of to him. Abraham |

22 "A covering of the eyes" seems to mean a payment that publicly clears her honor; the Hebrew at the end of the verse is uncertain.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | gave the son born to him, the son Sarah bore him, the name Isaac. |
| Gen 21:4 וַיָּמָל אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ בֶּן־שְׁמֹנַת יָמִים כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים: וְאַבְרָהָם בֶּן־מְאַת שָׁנָה בְּהִוָּלֶד לוֹ אֵת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ: וַתֹּאמֶר שָׂרָה צְחֹק עָשָׂה לִי אֱלֹהִים כָּל־הַשֹּׁמֵעַ יִצְחַק־לִי: וַתֹּאמֶר מִי מִלֵּל לְאַבְרָהָם הֵינִיקָה בָנִים שָׂרָה כִּי־יָלַדְתִּי בֵן לְזִקְנָיו: | Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."[23] |

### HAGAR AND ISHMAEL SENT AWAY

*Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael into the wilderness, where God saves the boy.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 21:8 וַיִּגְדַּל הַיֶּלֶד וַיִּגָּמַל וַיַּעַשׂ אַבְרָהָם מִשְׁתֶּה גָּדוֹל בְּיוֹם הִגָּמֵל אֶת־יִצְחָק: וַתֵּרֶא שָׂרָה אֶת־בֶּן־הָגָר הַמִּצְרִית אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָה לְאַבְרָהָם מְצַחֵק: וַתֹּאמֶר לְאַבְרָהָם גָּרֵשׁ הָאָמָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת־בְּנָהּ כִּי לֹא יִירַשׁ בֶּן־הָאָמָה הַזֹּאת עִם־בְּנִי עִם־יִצְחָק: | The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham laughing. So she said to Abraham, "Drive out this slave woman and her son, for the son of this slave woman will not share the inheritance with my son, with Isaac."[24] |
| Gen 21:11 וַיֵּרַע הַדָּבָר מְאֹד בְּעֵינֵי אַבְרָהָם עַל אוֹדֹת בְּנוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אַל־יֵרַע בְּעֵינֶיךָ עַל־הַנַּעַר וְעַל־אֲמָתֶךָ כֹּל אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלֶיךָ שָׂרָה שְׁמַע בְּקֹלָהּ כִּי בְיִצְחָק יִקָּרֵא לְךָ זָרַע: | The matter seemed very bad in Abraham's eyes because of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it seem bad in your eyes because of the boy and your slave woman. Whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her voice, for it is through Isaac that offspring will be named for you. |
| Gen 21:13 וְגַם אֶת־בֶּן־הָאָמָה לְגוֹי אֲשִׂימֶנּוּ כִּי זַרְעֲךָ הוּא: וַיַּשְׁכֵּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקַּח־לֶחֶם וְחֵמַת מַיִם וַיִּתֵּן אֶל־הָגָר שָׂם עַל־שִׁכְמָהּ וְאֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וַיְשַׁלְּחֶהָ וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּתַע בְּמִדְבַּר בְּאֵר שָׁבַע: וַיִּכְלוּ הַמַּיִם מִן־הַחֵמֶת וַתַּשְׁלֵךְ אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד תַּחַת אַחַד הַשִּׂחִים: | As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him too, for he is your offspring." Abraham rose early in the morning, took bread and a skin of water, and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, along with the child, and he sent her away. She went off and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. |
| Gen 21:16 וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתֵּשֶׁב לָהּ מִנֶּגֶד הַרְחֵק כִּמְטַחֲוֵי קֶשֶׁת כִּי אָמְרָה אַל־אֶרְאֶה בְּמוֹת הַיֶּלֶד וַתֵּשֶׁב מִנֶּגֶד וַתִּשָּׂא אֶת־קֹלָהּ וַתֵּבְךְּ: וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶת־קוֹל הַנַּעַר וַיִּקְרָא מַלְאַךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶל־הָגָר מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ מַה־לָּךְ הָגָר אַל־תִּירְאִי כִּי־שָׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל־קוֹל הַנַּעַר בַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא־שָׁם: | Then she went and sat down by herself opposite him, a good way off, about a bowshot away, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." As she sat opposite him, she raised her voice and wept. God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is wrong, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. |

23 "Laughter" (*tsehoq*) and "will laugh" (*yitshaq*) play on the name Isaac (*Yitshaq*), "he laughs."
24 The word for "laughing" (*metsaheq*), another play on Isaac's name, can also mean "playing" or "mocking"; the text does not say which.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 21:18 קוּמִי שְׂאִי אֶת־הַנַּעַר וְהַחֲזִיקִי אֶת־יָדֵךְ בּוֹ כִּי־לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל אֲשִׂימֶנּוּ: וַיִּפְקַח אֱלֹהִים אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרֶא בְּאֵר מָיִם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתְּמַלֵּא אֶת־ הַחֵמֶת מַיִם וַתַּשְׁקְ אֶת־הַנָּעַר: וַיְהִי אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הַנַּעַר וַיִּגְדָּל וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּמִּדְבָּר וַיְהִי רֹבֶה קַשָּׁ ת: וַיֵּשֶׁב בְּמִדְבַּר פָּארָן וַתִּקַּח־לוֹ אִמּוֹ אִשָּׁ ה מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: | Get up, lift the boy, and hold him firmly by the hand, for I will make him a great nation." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an archer. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt. |
| Gen 21:22 וַיְהִי בָּעֵת הַהִוא וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שַׂר־צְבָאוֹ אֶל־אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר אֱלֹהִים עִמְּךָ בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה: וְעַתָּה הִשָּׁ בְעָה לִ י בֵּאלֹהִים הֵנָּה אִם־תִּשְׁקֹר לִי וּלְנִינִי וּלְנֶכְדִּי כַּחֶסֶד אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי עִמְּךָ תַּעֲשֶׂה עִמָּדִי וְעִם־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־גַּרְתָּה בָּהּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אָנֹכִי אִשָּׁ בֵעַ: | At that time Abimelech, with Phicol the commander of his army, said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do. Now swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me, or with my children, or with my descendants. As I have shown you loyalty, so you will show it to me and to the land where you have lived as a foreigner." And Abraham said, "I swear it." |
| Gen 21:25 וְהוֹכַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־אֲבִימֶלֶךְ עַל־אֹדוֹת בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר גָּזְלוּ עַבְדֵי אֲבִימֶלֶךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי מִי עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְגַם־אַתָּה לֹא־הִגַּדְתָּ לִ י וְגַם אָנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי בִּלְתִּי הַיּוֹם: וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם צֹאן וּבָקָר וַיִּתֵּן לַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ וַיִּכְרְתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם בְּרִית: | Then Abraham reproached Abimelech about the well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized. Abimelech said, "I do not know who did this thing. You did not tell me, and I myself heard nothing of it until today." So Abraham took sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant. |
| Gen 21:28 וַיַּצֵּב אַבְרָהָם אֶת־שֶׁבַע כִּבְשֹׂת הַצֹּאן לְבַדֶּהָן: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אֶל־ אַבְרָהָם מָה הֵנָּה שֶׁבַע כְּבָשֹׂת הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר הִצַּבְתָּ לְבַדֶּנָה: וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי אֶת־שֶׁבַע כְּבָשֹׂת תִּקַּח מִיָּדִי בַּעֲבוּר תִּהְיֶה־לִּ י לְעֵדָה כִּי חָפַרְתִּי אֶת־הַבְּאֵר הַזֹּאת: | Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart by themselves. Abimelech said to Abraham, "What are these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart by themselves?" He said, "You are to take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, so that they may be a witness for me that I dug this well." |
| Gen 21:31 עַל־כֵּן קָרָא לַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בְּאֵר שָׁבַע כִּי שָׁם נִשְׁבְּעוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם: וַיִּכְרְתוּ בְרִית בִּבְאֵר שָׁבַע וַיָּקָם אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שַׂר־צְבָאוֹ וַיָּשֻׁבוּ אֶל־אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים: וַיִּטַּע אֶשֶׁל בִּבְאֵר שָׁבַע וַיִּקְרָא־שָׁם בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה אֵל עוֹלָם: וַיָּגָר אַבְרָהָם בְּאֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים יָמִים רַבִּים: | That is why that place was called Beersheba, because there the two of them swore an oath. When they had made a covenant at Beersheba, Abimelech rose, with Phicol the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines. Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, God Everlasting. And Abraham lived as a foreigner in the land of the Philistines for many days.[25] |

## CHAPTER 22

*God tells Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, then stops him.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 22:1 | |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| וַיְהִי אַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְהָאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר קַח־נָא אֶת־בִּנְךָ אֶת־יְחִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר־אָהַבְתָּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וְלֶךְ־לְךָ אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרִיָּה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אַחַד הֶהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֹמַר אֵלֶיךָ: | After these things, it happened that God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, please—your only son, whom you love, Isaac—and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will tell you of."[26] |
| Gen 22:3 וַיַּשְׁכֵּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֹּקֶר וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת־חֲמֹרוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי נְעָרָיו אִתּוֹ וְאֵת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיְבַקַּע עֲצֵי עֹלָה וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר־לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים: בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם מֵרָחֹק: | Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. He split the wood for the burnt offering, then set out and went to the place God had told him of. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place far away. |
| Gen 22:5 וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נְעָרָיו שְׁבוּ־לָכֶם פֹּה עִם־הַחֲמוֹר וַאֲנִי וְהַנַּעַר נֵלְכָה עַד־כֹּה וְנִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וְנָשׁוּבָה אֲלֵיכֶם: וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֲצֵי הָעֹלָה וַיָּשֶׂם עַל־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּקַּח בְּיָדוֹ אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת־הַמַּאֲכֶלֶת וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו: | Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there; we will worship and then come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he took the fire and the knife in his own hand. And the two of them walked on together. |
| Gen 22:7 וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֶּנִּי בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה הָאֵשׁ וְהָעֵצִים וְאַיֵּה הַשֶּׂה ה לְעֹלָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהִים יִרְאֶה־לּוֹ הַשֶּׂה ה לְעֹלָה בְּנִי וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו: | Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will see to the lamb for a burnt offering himself, my son." And the two of them walked on together. |
| Gen 22:9 וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אָמַר־לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּבֶן שָׁם אַבְרָהָם אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וַיַּעֲרֹךְ אֶת־הָעֵצִים וַיַּעֲקֹד אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיָּשֶׂם אֹתוֹ עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִמַּעַל לָעֵצִים: וַיִּשְׁלַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־יָדוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הַמַּאֲכֶלֶת לִשְׁחֹט אֶת־בְּנוֹ: וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּנִי: | They came to the place God had told him of. Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham! Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."[27] |
| Gen 22:12 וַיֹּאמֶר אַל־תִּשְׁלַח יָדְךָ אֶל־הַנַּעַר וְאַל־תַּעַשׂ לוֹ מְאוּמָה כִּי עַתָּה יָדַעְתִּי כִּי־יְרֵא אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה וְלֹא חָשַׂכְתָּ אֶת־בִּנְךָ אֶת־יְחִידְךָ מִמֶּנִּי: וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה־אַיִל אַחַר נֶאֱחַז בַּסְּבַךְ בְּקַרְנָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאַיִל וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ לְעֹלָה תַּחַת בְּנוֹ: | He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and there was a ram behind him, caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son. |
| Gen 22:14 וַיִּקְרָא אַבְרָהָם שֵׁם־הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא יְהוָה יִרְאֶה אֲשֶׁר יֵאָמֵר הַיּוֹם בְּהַר יְהוָה יֵרָאֶה: וַיִּקְרָא מַלְאַךְ יְהוָה אֶל־אַבְרָהָם שֵׁנִית מִן־הַשָּׁמָיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם־יְהוָה כִּי יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא חָשַׂכְתָּ אֶת־בִּנְךָ אֶת־יְחִידֶךָ: | Abraham called that place "The LORD will see," as it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be seen." The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By |

25 Beersheba can mean "well of seven" or "well of the oath"; the story plays on both (*sheva*, "seven"; *nishbe'u*, "they swore").
26 "Go" renders the same unusual phrase (*lekh-lekha*) with which God first called Abraham in 12:1.
27 The verb "bound" (*'aqad*) gives the episode its traditional Jewish name, the *Aqedah*, "the Binding."

HEBREW | ENGLISH

myself I swear, says the LORD: because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,[28]

Gen 22:17 כִּי־בָרֵךְ אֲבָרֶכְךָ וְהַרְבָּה אַרְבֶּה אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ כְּכוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְכַחוֹל אֲשֶׁר עַל־שְׂפַת הַיָּם וְיִרַשׁ זַרְעֲךָ אֵת שַׁעַר אֹיְבָיו: וְהִתְבָּרֲכוּ בְזַרְעֲךָ כֹּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ עֵקֶב אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקֹלִי: וַיָּשָׁב אַבְרָהָם אֶל־נְעָרָיו וַיָּקֻמוּ וַיֵּלְכוּ יַחְדָּו אֶל־בְּאֵר שָׁבַע וַיֵּשֶׁב אַבְרָהָם בִּבְאֵר שָׁבַע:

I will surely bless you, and I will greatly multiply your offspring, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore, and your offspring will take possession of the gate of their enemies. And all the nations of the earth will bless themselves by your offspring, because you have listened to my voice." Then Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived in Beersheba.

Gen 22:20 וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֻּגַּד לְאַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה יָלְדָה מִלְכָּה גַּם־הִוא בָּנִים לְנָחוֹר אָחִיךָ: אֶת־עוּץ בְּכֹרוֹ וְאֶת־בּוּז אָחִיו וְאֶת־קְמוּאֵל אֲבִי אֲרָם:

After these things Abraham was told, "Milcah too has borne children to your brother Nahor: Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

Gen 22:22 וְאֶת־כֶּשֶׂד וְאֶת־חֲזוֹ וְאֶת־פִּלְדָּשׁ וְאֶת־יִדְלָף וְאֵת בְּתוּאֵל: וּבְתוּאֵל יָלַד אֶת־רִבְקָה שְׁמֹנָה אֵלֶּה יָלְדָה מִלְכָּה לְנָחוֹר אֲחִי אַבְרָהָם: וּפִילַגְשׁוֹ וּשְׁמָהּ רְאוּמָה וַתֵּלֶד גַּם־הִוא אֶת־טֶבַח וְאֶת־גַּחַם וְאֶת־תַּחַשׁ וְאֶת־מַעֲכָה:

Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph and Bethuel." Bethuel fathered Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore children: Tebah, Gaham, Tahash and Maacah.

## CHAPTER 23

*Sarah dies, and Abraham buys the cave of Machpelah to bury her.*

HEBREW | ENGLISH

Gen 23:1 וַיִּהְיוּ חַיֵּי שָׂרָה מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְשֶׁבַע שָׁנִים שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה: וַתָּמָת שָׂרָה בְּקִרְיַת אַרְבַּע הִוא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹא אַבְרָהָם לִסְפֹּד לְשָׂרָה וְלִבְכֹּתָהּ: וַיָּקָם אַבְרָהָם מֵעַל פְּנֵי מֵתוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי־חֵת לֵאמֹר:

Sarah's life lasted a hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of Sarah's life. Sarah died at Kiriath-arba—that is, Hebron—in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. Then Abraham rose from beside his dead and spoke to the Hittites, saying,

Gen 23:4 גֵּר־וְתוֹשָׁב אָנֹכִי עִמָּכֶם תְּנוּ לִי אֲחֻזַּת־קֶבֶר עִמָּכֶם וְאֶקְבְּרָה מֵתִי מִלְּפָנָי: וַיַּעֲנוּ בְנֵי־חֵת אֶת־אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר לוֹ: שְׁמָעֵנוּ אֲדֹנִי נְשִׂיא אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה בְּתוֹכֵנוּ בְּמִבְחַר קְבָרֵינוּ קְבֹר אֶת־מֵתֶךָ אִישׁ מִמֶּנּוּ אֶת־קִבְרוֹ לֹא־יִכְלֶה מִמְּךָ מִקְּבֹר מֵתֶךָ:

"I am a foreigner and a resident among you. Give me property among you for a burial site, so that I may bury my dead out of my sight." The Hittites answered Abraham, saying to him, "Hear us, my lord: you are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold his tomb from you for burying your dead."[29]

Gen 23:7 וַיָּקָם אַבְרָהָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְעַם־הָאָרֶץ לִבְנֵי־חֵת: וַיְדַבֵּר אִתָּם לֵאמֹר אִם־יֵשׁ אֶת־נַפְשְׁכֶם לִקְבֹּר אֶת־מֵתִי מִלְּפָנַי שִׁמְעוּנִי וּפִגְעוּ־לִי בְּעֶפְרוֹן בֶּן־צֹחַר: וְיִתֶּן־לִי אֶת־מְעָרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ אֲשֶׁר בִּקְצֵה שָׂדֵהוּ בְּכֶסֶף מָלֵא יִתְּנֶנָּה לִי בְּתוֹכְכֶם לַאֲחֻזַּת־קָבֶר:

Abraham rose and bowed down to the people of the land, the Hittites. He spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish that I bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and speak for me to Ephron son of

28 The name echoes Abraham's words in 22:8, "God will see to it"; the saying can also be read "on the mountain the LORD appears."
29 "A mighty prince" is literally "a prince of God," probably an idiom for someone very great.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | Zohar, so that he will give me the cave of Machpelah, which belongs to him and lies at the end of his field. Let him give it to me for the full price in your presence, as property for a burial site." |
| Gen 23:10 וְעֶפְרוֹן יֹשֵׁב בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי־חֵת וַיַּעַן עֶפְרוֹן הַחִתִּי אֶת־אַבְרָהָם בְּאָזְנֵי בְנֵי־חֵת לְכֹל בָּאֵי שַׁעַר־עִירוֹ לֵאמֹר: לֹא־אֲדֹנִי שְׁמָעֵנִי הַשָּׂדֶה נָתַתִּי לְךָ וְהַמְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ לְךָ נְתַתִּיהָ לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי־עַמִּי נְתַתִּיהָ לְךָ קְבֹר מֵתֶךָ: וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַבְרָהָם לִפְנֵי עַם הָאָרֶץ: | Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, saying, "No, my lord, hear me. I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead." Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. |
| Gen 23:13 וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־עֶפְרוֹן בְּאָזְנֵי עַם־הָאָרֶץ לֵאמֹר אַךְ אִם־אַתָּה לוּ שְׁמָעֵנִי נָתַתִּי כֶּסֶף הַשָּׂדֶה קַח מִמֶּנִּי וְאֶקְבְּרָה אֶת־מֵתִי שָׁמָּה: וַיַּעַן עֶפְרוֹן אֶת־אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר לוֹ: אֲדֹנִי שְׁמָעֵנִי אֶרֶץ אַרְבַּע מֵאֹת שֶׁקֶל־כֶּסֶף בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ מַה־הִוא וְאֶת־מֵתְךָ קְבֹר: | He spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If only you would hear me: I will give the price of the field. Take it from me, so that I may bury my dead there." Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, "My lord, hear me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver—what is that between me and you? Bury your dead."[30] |
| Gen 23:16 וַיִּשְׁמַע אַבְרָהָם אֶל־עֶפְרוֹן וַיִּשְׁקֹל אַבְרָהָם לְעֶפְרֹן אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בְּאָזְנֵי בְנֵי־חֵת אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שֶׁקֶל כֶּסֶף עֹבֵר לַסֹּחֵר: וַיָּקָם שְׂדֵה עֶפְרוֹן אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּכְפֵּלָה אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי מַמְרֵא הַשָּׂדֶה וְהַמְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ וְכָל־הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־גְּבֻלוֹ סָבִיב: | Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of silver at the rate current among merchants. So Ephron's field in Machpelah, facing Mamre—the field and the cave that was in it, and all the trees in the field throughout its whole boundary all around—were made over |
| Gen 23:18 לְאַבְרָהָם לְמִקְנָה לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי־חֵת בְּכֹל בָּאֵי שַׁעַר־עִירוֹ: וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן קָבַר אַבְרָהָם אֶת־שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ אֶל־מְעָרַת שְׂדֵה הַמַּכְפֵּלָה עַל־פְּנֵי מַמְרֵא הִוא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: וַיָּקָם הַשָּׂדֶה וְהַמְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ לְאַבְרָהָם לַאֲחֻזַּת־קֶבֶר מֵאֵת בְּנֵי־חֵת: | to Abraham as his purchase in the sight of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city. After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah facing Mamre—that is, Hebron—in the land of Canaan. So the field and the cave that was in it were made over to Abraham by the Hittites as property for a burial site. |

## CHAPTER 24

*Abraham's servant finds Rebekah in Aram as a wife for Isaac.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 24:1 וְאַבְרָהָם זָקֵן בָּא בַּיָּמִים וַיהוָה בֵּרַךְ אֶת־אַבְרָהָם בַּכֹּל: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־עַבְדּוֹ זְקַן בֵּיתוֹ הַמֹּשֵׁל בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ שִׂים־נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יָרֵכִי: וְאַשְׁבִּיעֲךָ בַּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וֵאלֹהֵי הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה לִבְנִי מִבְּנוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי יוֹשֵׁב בְּקִרְבּוֹ: | Abraham was old, well on in years, and the LORD had blessed Abraham in everything. Abraham said to his servant, the elder of his household, who managed all that he had, "Please put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the |

30 A shekel was a unit of weight, about 11 grams (0.4 ounce).

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| | daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living,[31] |
| Gen 24:4 כִּי אֶל־אַרְצִי וְאֶל־מוֹלַדְתִּי תֵּלֵךְ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לִבְנִי לְיִצְחָק: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הָעֶבֶד אוּלַי לֹא־תאבֶה הָאִשָּׁה לָלֶכֶת אַחֲרַי אֶל־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הֶהָשֵׁב אָשִׁיב אֶת־בִּנְךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יָצָאתָ מִשָּׁם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַבְרָהָם הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ פֶּן־תָּשִׁיב אֶת־בְּנִי שָׁמָּה: | but will go to my country and my kindred and take a wife for my son Isaac.” The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land you came from?” Abraham said to him, “Take care that you do not take my son back there. |
| Gen 24:7 יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר לָקָחַנִי מִבֵּית אָבִי וּמֵאֶרֶץ מוֹלַדְתִּי וַאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר־לִי וַאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע־לִי לֵאמֹר לְזַרְעֲךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הוּא יִשְׁלַח מַלְאָכוֹ לְפָנֶיךָ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לִבְנִי מִשָּׁם: וְאִם־לֹא תאבֶה הָאִשָּׁה לָלֶכֶת אַחֲרֶיךָ וְנִקִּיתָ מִשְּׁבֻעָתִי זֹאת רַק אֶת־בְּנִי לֹא תָשֵׁב שָׁמָּה: | The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give this land’—he will send his angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you, you will be free of this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.” |
| Gen 24:9 וַיָּשֶׂם הָעֶבֶד אֶת־יָדוֹ תַּחַת יֶרֶךְ אַבְרָהָם אֲדֹנָיו וַיִּשָּׁבַע לוֹ עַל־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה: וַיִּקַּח הָעֶבֶד עֲשָׂרָה גְמַלִּים מִגְּמַלֵּי אֲדֹנָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ וְכָל־טוּב אֲדֹנָיו בְּיָדוֹ וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־אֲרַם נַהֲרַיִם אֶל־עִיר נָחוֹר: | So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter. Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and went, with all kinds of his master’s goods in his hand. He set out and went to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor.[32] |
| Gen 24:11 וַיַּבְרֵךְ הַגְּמַלִּים מִחוּץ לָעִיר אֶל־בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם לְעֵת עֶרֶב לְעֵת צֵאת הַשֹּׁאֲבֹת: וַיֹּאמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם הַקְרֵה־נָא לְפָנַי הַיּוֹם וַעֲשֵׂה־חֶסֶד עִם אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם: הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי נִצָּב עַל־עֵין הַמָּיִם וּבְנוֹת אַנְשֵׁי הָעִיר יֹצְאוֹת לִשְׁאֹב מָיִם: | He made the camels kneel outside the city by the well of water, at evening, the time when the women go out to draw water. And he said, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. Here I am, standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. |
| Gen 24:14 וְהָיָה הַנַּעֲרָ אֲשֶׁר אֹמַר אֵלֶיהָ הַטִּי־נָא כַדֵּךְ וְאֶשְׁתֶּה וְאָמְרָה שְׁתֵה וְגַם־גְּמַלֶּיךָ אַשְׁקֶה אֹתָהּ הֹכַחְתָּ לְעַבְדְּךָ לְיִצְחָק וּבָהּ אֵדַע כִּי־עָשִׂיתָ חֶסֶד עִם־אֲדֹנִי: וַיְהִי־הוּא טֶרֶם כִּלָּה לְדַבֵּר וְהִנֵּה רִבְקָה יֹצֵאת אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לִבְתוּאֵל בֶּן־מִלְכָּה אֵשֶׁת נָחוֹר אֲחִי אַבְרָהָם וְכַדָּהּ עַל־שִׁכְמָהּ: | Let it be that the girl to whom I say, ‘Please lower your jar so that I may drink,’ and who says, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels too’—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.” Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah coming out—she had been born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother—with her jar on her shoulder. |
| Gen 24:16 וְהַנַּעֲרָ טֹבַת מַרְאֶה מְאֹד בְּתוּלָה וְאִישׁ לֹא יְדָעָהּ וַתֵּרֶד הָעַיְנָה וַתְּמַלֵּא כַדָּהּ וַתָּעַל: וַיָּרָץ הָעֶבֶד לִקְרָאתָהּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַגְמִיאִינִי נָא מְעַט־מַיִם מִכַּדֵּךְ: וַתֹּאמֶר שְׁתֵה אֲדֹנִי וַתְּמַהֵר וַתּוֹרֶד כַּדָּהּ עַל־יָדָהּ וַתַּשְׁקֵהוּ: | The girl was very beautiful to look at, a virgin; no man had slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up. The servant ran to meet her and said, “Please let me sip a little water from your jar.” She said, “Drink, my lord,” and |

31 Placing a hand under the thigh (perhaps a euphemism for the genitals) was a solemn gesture accompanying an oath.
32 Aram-naharaim, “Aram of the two rivers,” lay in northern Mesopotamia.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| | she quickly lowered her jar onto her hand and gave him a drink. |
| Gen 24:19 וַתְּכַל לְהַשְׁקֹתוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר גַּם לִגְמַלֶּיךָ אֶשְׁאָב עַד אִם־כִּלּוּ לִשְׁתֹּת: וַתְּמַהֵר וַתְּעַר כַּדָּהּ אֶל־הַשֹּׁקֶת וַתָּרָץ עוֹד אֶל־הַבְּאֵר לִשְׁאֹב וַתִּשְׁאַב לְכָל־גְּמַלָּיו: וְהָאִישׁ מִשְׁתָּאֵה לָהּ מַחֲרִישׁ לָדַעַת הַהִצְלִיחַ יְהוָה דַּרְכּוֹ אִם־לֹא: | When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking.” She quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw, and drew for all his camels. The man stood gazing at her in silence, waiting to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not. |
| Gen 24:22 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר כִּלּוּ הַגְּמַלִּים לִשְׁתּוֹת וַיִּקַּח הָאִישׁ נֶזֶם זָהָב בֶּקַע מִשְׁקָלוֹ וּשְׁנֵי צְמִידִים עַל־יָדֶיהָ עֲשָׂרָה זָהָב מִשְׁקָלָם: וַיֹּאמֶר בַּת־מִי אַתְּ הַגִּידִי נָא לִי הֲיֵשׁ בֵּית־אָבִיךְ מָקוֹם לָנוּ לָלִין: וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בַּת־בְּתוּאֵל אָנֹכִי בֶּן־מִלְכָּה אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְנָחוֹר: | When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten shekels of gold. He said, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me: is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?” She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son whom Milcah bore to Nahor.” |
| Gen 24:25 וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו גַּם־תֶּבֶן גַּם־מִסְפּוֹא רַב עִמָּנוּ גַּם־מָקוֹם לָלוֹן: וַיִּקֹּד הָאִישׁ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לַיהוָה: וַיֹּאמֶר בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָזַב חַסְדּוֹ וַאֲמִתּוֹ מֵעִם אֲדֹנִי אָנֹכִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ נָחַנִי יְהוָה בֵּית אֲחֵי אֲדֹנִי: | And she said to him, “We have plenty of straw and fodder, and room to spend the night as well.” The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD. He said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his steadfast love and faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.” |
| Gen 24:28 וַתָּרָץ הַנַּעֲרָ וַתַּגֶּד לְבֵית אִמָּהּ כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: וּלְרִבְקָה אָח וּשְׁמוֹ לָבָן וַיָּרָץ לָבָן אֶל־הָאִישׁ הַחוּצָה אֶל־הָעָיִן: וַיְהִי כִּרְאֹת אֶת־הַנֶּזֶם וְאֶת־הַצְּמִדִים עַל־יְדֵי אֲחֹתוֹ וּכְשָׁמְעוֹ אֶת־דִּבְרֵי רִבְקָה אֲחֹתוֹ לֵאמֹר כֹּה־דִבֶּר אֵלַי הָאִישׁ וַיָּבֹא אֶל־הָאִישׁ וְהִנֵּה עֹמֵד עַל־הַגְּמַלִּים עַל־הָעָיִן: | The girl ran and told her mother’s household about these things. Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man at the spring. When he saw the nose ring and the bracelets on his sister’s arms, and when he heard his sister Rebekah say, “This is what the man said to me,” he went to the man; and there he was, standing by the camels at the spring. |
| Gen 24:31 וַיֹּאמֶר בּוֹא בְרוּךְ יְהוָה לָמָּה תַעֲמֹד בַּחוּץ וְאָנֹכִי פִּנִּיתִי הַבַּיִת וּמָקוֹם לַגְּמַלִּים: וַיָּבֹא הָאִישׁ הַבַּיְתָה וַיְפַתַּח הַגְּמַלִּים וַיִּתֵּן תֶּבֶן וּמִסְפּוֹא לַגְּמַלִּים וּמַיִם לִרְחֹץ רַגְלָיו וְרַגְלֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ: | He said, “Come in, you who are blessed by the LORD. Why are you standing outside? I have made the house ready, and a place for the camels.” So the man came into the house. He unloaded the camels and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. |
| Gen 24:33 וַיּוּשַׂם לְפָנָיו לֶאֱכֹל וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֹכַל עַד אִם־דִּבַּרְתִּי דְבָרָי וַיֹּאמֶר דַּבֵּר: וַיֹּאמַר עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם אָנֹכִי: וַיהוָה בֵּרַךְ אֶת־אֲדֹנִי מְאֹד וַיִּגְדָּל וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ צֹאן וּבָקָר וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב וַעֲבָדִם וּשְׁפָחֹת וּגְמַלִּים וַחֲמֹרִים: | Food was set before him to eat, but he said, “I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.” And he said, “Speak.” So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male slaves and slave women, camels and donkeys. |
| Gen 24:36 | |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה אֵשֶׁת אֲדֹנִי בֵן לַאדֹנִי אַחֲרֵי זִקְנָתָהּ וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ אֶת־כָּל־ אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ: וַיַּשְׁבִּעֵנִי אֲדֹנִי לֵאמֹר לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה לִבְנִי מִבְּנוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי יֹשֵׁב בְּאַרְצוֹ: אִם־לֹא אֶל־בֵּית־אָבִי תֵּלֵךְ וְאֶל־ מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לִבְנִי: | Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I am living. Instead you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.' |
| Gen 24:39 וָאֹמַר אֶל־אֲדֹנִי אֻלַי לֹא־תֵלֵךְ הָאִשָּׁה אַחֲרָי: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־הִתְהַלַּכְתִּי לְפָנָיו יִשְׁלַח מַלְאָכוֹ אִתָּךְ וְהִצְלִיחַ דַּרְכֶּךָ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לִבְנִי מִמִּשְׁפַּחְתִּי וּמִבֵּית אָבִי: אָז תִּנָּקֶה מֵאָלָתִי כִּי תָבוֹא אֶל־מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי וְאִם־לֹא יִתְּנוּ לָךְ וְהָיִיתָ נָקִי מֵאָלָתִי: | I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' He said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house. Then you will be free of my oath, when you come to my family; and if they will not give her to you, you will be free of my oath.' |
| Gen 24:42 וָאָבֹא הַיּוֹם אֶל־הָעַיִן וָאֹמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם אִם־יֶשְׁךָ־נָא מַצְלִיחַ דַּרְכִּי אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי הֹלֵךְ עָלֶיהָ: הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי נִצָּב עַל־עֵין הַמָּיִם וְהָיָה הָעַלְמָה הַיֹּצֵאת לִשְׁאֹב וְאָמַרְתִּי אֵלֶיהָ הַשְׁקִינִי־נָא מְעַט־ מַיִם מִכַּדֵּךְ: | Today I came to the spring and said, 'LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will indeed make successful the journey I am on—here I am, standing by the spring of water. Let it be that the young woman who comes out to draw water, to whom I say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,"' |
| Gen 24:44 וְאָמְרָה אֵלַי גַּם־אַתָּה שְׁתֵה וְגַם לִגְמַלֶּיךָ אֶשְׁאָב הִוא הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־ הֹכִיחַ יְהוָה לְבֶן־אֲדֹנִי: אֲנִי טֶרֶם אֲכֻלֶּה לְדַבֵּר אֶל־לִבִּי וְהִנֵּה רִבְקָה יֹצֵאת וְכַדָּהּ עַל־שִׁכְמָהּ וַתֵּרֶד הָעַיְנָה וַתִּשְׁאָב וָאֹמַר אֵלֶיהָ הַשְׁקִינִי נָא: | and who says to me, "Drink, and I will draw water for your camels too"—let her be the woman the LORD has chosen for my master's son.' Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' |
| Gen 24:46 וַתְּמַהֵר וַתּוֹרֶד כַּדָּהּ מֵעָלֶיהָ וַתֹּאמֶר שְׁתֵה וְגַם־גְּמַלֶּיךָ אַשְׁקֶה וָאֶשְׁתְּ וְגַם הַגְּמַלִּים הִשְׁקָתָה: וָאֶשְׁאַל אֹתָהּ וָאֹמַר בַּת־מִי אַתְּ וַתֹּאמֶר בַּת־בְּתוּאֵל בֶּן־נָחוֹר אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה־לוֹ מִלְכָּה וָאָשִׂם הַנֶּזֶם עַל־ אַפָּהּ וְהַצְּמִידִים עַל־יָדֶיהָ: | She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels too. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. |
| Gen 24:48 וָאֶקֹּד וָאֶשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לַיהוָה וָאֲבָרֵךְ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר הִנְחַנִי בְּדֶרֶךְ אֱמֶת לָקַחַת אֶת־בַּת־אֲחִי אֲדֹנִי לִבְנוֹ: וְעַתָּה אִם־יֶשְׁכֶם עֹשִׂים חֶסֶד וֶאֱמֶת אֶת־אֲדֹנִי הַגִּידוּ לִי וְאִם־לֹא הַגִּידוּ לִי וְאֶפְנֶה עַל־יָמִין אוֹ עַל־שְׂמֹאל: | Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and I blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now, if you will deal loyally and faithfully with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn to the right or to the left." |
| Gen 24:50 וַיַּעַן לָבָן וּבְתוּאֵל וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵיְהוָה יָצָא הַדָּבָר לֹא נוּכַל דַּבֵּר אֵלֶיךָ רַע אוֹ־טוֹב: הִנֵּה־רִבְקָה לְפָנֶיךָ קַח וָלֵךְ וּתְהִי אִשָּׁה לְבֶן־אֲדֹנֶיךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה: וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁמַע עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם אֶת־דִּבְרֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַרְצָה לַיהוָה: | Laban and Bethuel answered, "This thing comes from the LORD; we cannot say anything to you, bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you. Take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| | son, as the LORD has spoken." When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed down to the ground before the LORD. |
| Gen 24:53 וַיּוֹצֵא הָעֶבֶד כְּלֵי־כֶסֶף וּכְלֵי זָהָב וּבְגָדִים וַיִּתֵּן לְרִבְקָה וּמִגְדָּנֹת נָתַן לְאָחִיהָ וּלְאִמָּהּ: וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׁתּוּ הוּא וְהָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־עִמּוֹ וַיָּלִינוּ וַיָּקוּמוּ בַבֹּקֶר וַיֹּאמֶר שַׁלְּחֻנִי לַאדֹנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר אָחִיהָ וְאִמָּהּ תֵּשֶׁב הַנַּעַר אִתָּנוּ יָמִים אוֹ עָשׂוֹר אַחַר תֵּלֵךְ: | The servant brought out objects of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; and he gave costly gifts to her brother and her mother. Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they rose in the morning, he said, "Send me back to my master." Her brother and her mother said, "Let the girl stay with us a few days, ten or so; after that she may go." |
| Gen 24:56 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אַל־תְּאַחֲרוּ אֹתִי וַיהוָה הִצְלִיחַ דַּרְכִּי שַׁלְּחוּנִי וְאֵלְכָה לַאדֹנִי: וַיֹּאמְרוּ נִקְרָא לַנַּעַר וְנִשְׁאֲלָה אֶת־פִּיהָ: וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְרִבְקָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶיהָ הֲתֵלְכִי עִם־הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלֵךְ: וַיְשַׁלְּחוּ אֶת־רִבְקָה אֲחֹתָם וְאֶת־מֵנִקְתָּהּ וְאֶת־עֶבֶד אַבְרָהָם וְאֶת־אֲנָשָׁיו: | He said to them, "Do not delay me, now that the LORD has made my journey successful. Send me away, so that I may go to my master." They said, "Let us call the girl and ask what she says." They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." So they sent off their sister Rebekah and her nurse, with Abraham's servant and his men. |
| Gen 24:60 וַיְבָרֲכוּ אֶת־רִבְקָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהּ אֲחֹתֵנוּ אַתְּ הֱיִי לְאַלְפֵי רְבָבָה וְיִירַשׁ זַרְעֵךְ אֵת שַׁעַר שֹׂנְאָיו: וַתָּקָם רִבְקָה וְנַעֲרֹתֶיהָ וַתִּרְכַּבְנָה עַל־הַגְּמַלִּים וַתֵּלַכְנָה אַחֲרֵי הָאִישׁ וַיִּקַּח הָעֶבֶד אֶת־רִבְקָה וַיֵּלֶךְ: | They blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring take possession of the gate of those who hate them." Then Rebekah and her young women rose, mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way. |
| Gen 24:62 וְיִצְחָק בָּא מִבּוֹא בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי וְהוּא יוֹשֵׁב בְּאֶרֶץ הַנֶּגֶב: וַיֵּצֵא יִצְחָק לָשׂוּחַ בַּשָּׂדֶה לִפְנוֹת עָרֶב וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה גְמַלִּים בָּאִים: וַתִּשָּׂא רִבְקָה אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ וַתֵּרֶא אֶת־יִצְחָק וַתִּפֹּל מֵעַל הַגָּמָל: | Now Isaac had come in from the way to Beer-lahai-roi, for he was living in the land of the Negev. Isaac went out to walk in the field toward evening. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and there were camels coming. Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac, and she slipped down from the camel.[33] |
| Gen 24:65 וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָעֶבֶד מִי־הָאִישׁ הַלָּזֶה הַהֹלֵךְ בַּשָּׂדֶה לִקְרָאתֵנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הָעֶבֶד הוּא אֲדֹנִי וַתִּקַּח הַצָּעִיף וַתִּתְכָּס: וַיְסַפֵּר הָעֶבֶד לְיִצְחָק אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: וַיְבִאֶהָ יִצְחָק הָאֹהֱלָה שָׂרָה אִמּוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־רִבְקָה וַתְּהִי־לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַיֶּאֱהָבֶהָ וַיִּנָּחֵם יִצְחָק אַחֲרֵי אִמּוֹ: | She said to the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. The servant told Isaac all the things he had done. Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after the loss of his mother. |

33 The Hebrew word rendered "to walk" occurs only here and is uncertain; it may mean "to stroll," "to meditate" or "to lament."

## CHAPTER 25

*Abraham's sons by Keturah; his death and burial; the line of Ishmael.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 25:1 וַיֹּסֶף אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אִשָּׁה וּשְׁמָהּ קְטוּרָה: וַתֵּלֶד לוֹ אֶת־זִמְרָן וְאֶת־יָקְשָׁן וְאֶת־מְדָן וְאֶת־מִדְיָן וְאֶת־יִשְׁבָּק וְאֶת־שׁוּחַ: וְיָקְשָׁן יָלַד אֶת־שְׁבָא וְאֶת־דְּדָן וּבְנֵי דְדָן הָיוּ אַשּׁוּרִם וּלְטוּשִׁים וּלְאֻמִּים: וּבְנֵי מִדְיָן עֵיפָה וָעֵפֶר וַחֲנֹךְ וַאֲבִידָע וְאֶלְדָּעָה כָּל־אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי קְטוּרָה: וַיִּתֵּן אַבְרָהָם אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ לְיִצְחָק: | Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were the Asshurim, the Letushim and the Leummim. The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah. Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. |
| Gen 25:6 וְלִבְנֵי הַפִּילַגְשִׁים אֲשֶׁר לְאַבְרָהָם נָתַן אַבְרָהָם מַתָּנֹת וַיְשַׁלְּחֵם מֵעַל יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ בְּעוֹדֶנּוּ חַי קֵדְמָה אֶל־אֶרֶץ קֶדֶם: וְאֵלֶּה יְמֵי שְׁנֵי־חַיֵּי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר־חָי מְאַת שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וְחָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים: וַיִּגְוַע וַיָּמָת אַבְרָהָם בְּשֵׂיבָה טוֹבָה זָקֵן וְשָׂבֵעַ וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל־עַמָּיו: | But to the sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward, to the land of the East. These are the days of the years of Abraham's life that he lived: a hundred and seventy-five years. Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, old and full of years, and he was gathered to his people. |
| Gen 25:9 וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ יִצְחָק וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל בָּנָיו אֶל־מְעָרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֶל־שְׂדֵה עֶפְרֹן בֶּן־צֹחַר הַחִתִּי אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מַמְרֵא: הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר־קָנָה אַבְרָהָם מֵאֵת בְּנֵי־חֵת שָׁמָּה קֻבַּר אַבְרָהָם וְשָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ: וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי מוֹת אַבְרָהָם וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיֵּשֶׁב יִצְחָק עִם־בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי: | His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, which faces Mamre—the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife. After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac lived near Beer-lahai-roi. |
| Gen 25:12 וְאֵלֶּה תֹּלְדֹת יִשְׁמָעֵאל בֶּן־אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה הָגָר הַמִּצְרִית שִׁפְחַת שָׂרָה לְאַבְרָהָם: וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּשֹׁמֹתָם לְתוֹלְדֹתָם בְּכֹר יִשְׁמָעֵאל נְבָיֹת וְקֵדָר וְאַדְבְּאֵל וּמִבְשָׂם: וּמִשְׁמָע וְדוּמָה וּמַשָּׂא: חֲדַד וְתֵימָא יְטוּר נָפִישׁ וְקֶדְמָה: | This is the line of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's slave woman, bore to Abraham. These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, Ishmael's firstborn; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. |
| Gen 25:16 אֵלֶּה הֵם בְּנֵי יִשְׁמָעֵאל וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמֹתָם בְּחַצְרֵיהֶם וּבְטִירֹתָם שְׁנֵים־עָשָׂר נְשִׂיאִם לְאֻמֹּתָם: וְאֵלֶּה שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי יִשְׁמָעֵאל מְאַת שָׁנָה וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וְשֶׁבַע שָׁנִים וַיִּגְוַע וַיָּמָת וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל־עַמָּיו: וַיִּשְׁכְּנוּ מֵחֲוִילָה עַד־שׁוּר אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מִצְרַיִם בֹּאֲכָה אַשּׁוּרָה עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־אֶחָיו נָפָל: | These are the sons of Ishmael, and these are their names, by their villages and their encampments: twelve chieftains according to their tribes. These are the years of Ishmael's life: a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people. They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt, in the direction of Asshur. He settled down alongside all his kin.[34] |

34 The last phrase echoes 16:12; it can mean he settled "alongside" or "in defiance of" all his kin.

# Jacob

*Jacob and Esau; the stolen blessing; Jacob's dream at Bethel, his years with Laban, the wrestling at the Jabbok, and his return to Canaan.*

## JACOB AND ESAU

*Rebekah bears twins, and Esau sells his birthright for a bowl of stew.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 25:19 וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת יִצְחָק בֶּן־אַבְרָהָם אַבְרָהָם הוֹלִיד אֶת־יִצְחָק: וַיְהִי יִצְחָק בֶּן־אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה בְּקַחְתּוֹ אֶת־רִבְקָה בַּת־בְּתוּאֵל הָאֲרַמִּי מִפַּדַּן אֲרָם אֲחוֹת לָבָן הָאֲרַמִּי לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה: וַיֶּעְתַּר יִצְחָק לַיהוָה לְנֹכַח אִשְׁתּוֹ כִּי עֲקָרָה הִוא וַיֵּעָתֶר לוֹ יְהוָה וַתַּהַר רִבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ: | This is the line of Isaac son of Abraham. Abraham fathered Isaac. Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as his wife. She was the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram and the sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac pleaded with the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD granted his plea, and his wife Rebekah conceived.[1] |
| Gen 25:22 וַיִּתְרֹצַצוּ הַבָּנִים בְּקִרְבָּהּ וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־כֵּן לָמָּה זֶּה אָנֹכִי וַתֵּלֶךְ לִדְרֹשׁ אֶת־יְהוָה: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לָהּ שְׁנֵי גוֹיִם בְּבִטְנֵךְ וּשְׁנֵי לְאֻמִּים מִמֵּעַיִךְ יִפָּרֵדוּ וּלְאֹם מִלְאֹם יֶאֱמָץ וְרַב יַעֲבֹד צָעִיר: וַיִּמְלְאוּ יָמֶיהָ לָלֶדֶת וְהִנֵּה תוֹמִם בְּבִטְנָהּ: | The children crushed against each other inside her, and she said, "If this is how it is, why am I—?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples will separate from your body. One people will be stronger than the other, and the elder will serve the younger." When her days to give birth were complete, there were twins in her womb.[2] |
| Gen 25:25 וַיֵּצֵא הָרִאשׁוֹן אַדְמוֹנִי כֻּלּוֹ כְּאַדֶּרֶת שֵׂעָר וַיִּקְרְאוּ שְׁמוֹ עֵשָׂו: וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן יָצָא אָחִיו וְיָדוֹ אֹחֶזֶת בַּעֲקֵב עֵשָׂו וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב וְיִצְחָק בֶּן־שִׁשִּׁים שָׁנָה בְּלֶדֶת אֹתָם: וַיִּגְדְּלוּ הַנְּעָרִים וַיְהִי עֵשָׂו אִישׁ יֹדֵעַ צַיִד אִישׁ שָׂדֶה וְיַעֲקֹב אִישׁ תָּם יֹשֵׁב אֹהָלִים: | The first came out red, all of him like a hairy cloak, and they named him Esau. After that his brother came out with his hand gripping Esau's heel, and he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. The boys grew up. Esau became a skilled hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man who stayed among the tents.[3] |
| Gen 25:28 וַיֶּאֱהַב יִצְחָק אֶת־עֵשָׂו כִּי־צַיִד בְּפִיו וְרִבְקָה אֹהֶבֶת אֶת־יַעֲקֹב: וַיָּזֶד יַעֲקֹב נָזִיד וַיָּבֹא עֵשָׂו מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה וְהוּא עָיֵף: וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו אֶל־יַעֲקֹב הַלְעִיטֵנִי נָא מִן־הָאָדֹם הָאָדֹם הַזֶּה כִּי עָיֵף אָנֹכִי עַל־כֵּן קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ אֱדוֹם: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב מִכְרָה כַיּוֹם אֶת־בְּכֹרָתְךָ לִי: | Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once Jacob was cooking a stew when Esau came in from the open country, exhausted. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me gulp down some of that red stuff, that red stuff there, because I'm exhausted." That is why he was called Edom. Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."[4] |
| Gen 25:32 וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ לָמוּת וְלָמָּה־זֶּה לִי בְּכֹרָה: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב הִשָּׁבְעָה לִּי כַיּוֹם וַיִּשָּׁבַע לוֹ וַיִּמְכֹּר אֶת־בְּכֹרָתוֹ לְיַעֲקֹב: | Esau said, "Look, I'm about to die. What use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." |

1 Paddan-aram is the region of northern Mesopotamia around Haran, where Abraham's relatives had settled.
2 Rebekah's words are terse in the Hebrew, literally "If so, why this I?"; their exact sense is uncertain.
3 "Red" (*admoni*) recalls Edom, and "hairy" (*se'ar*) recalls Seir, Esau's later homeland. Jacob (*Ya'aqov*) sounds like *'aqev*, "heel."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| וַיַּעֲקֹב נָתַן לְעֵשָׂו לֶחֶם וּנְזִיד עֲדָשִׁים וַיֹּאכַל וַיֵּשְׁתְּ וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלַךְ וַיִּבֶז עֵשָׂו אֶת־הַבְּכֹרָה: | So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew. He ate and drank, got up and went away. So Esau despised the birthright. |

## CHAPTER 26

*Isaac in Gerar: the wife-sister story again and quarrels over wells.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 26:1 וַיְהִי רָעָב בָּאָרֶץ מִלְּבַד הָרָעָב הָרִאשׁוֹן אֲשֶׁר הָיָה בִּימֵי אַבְרָהָם וַיֵּלֶךְ יִצְחָק אֶל־אֲבִימֶלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ־פְּלִשְׁתִּים גְּרָרָה: וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אַל־תֵּרֵד מִצְרַיְמָה שְׁכֹן בָּאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֹמַר אֵלֶיךָ: | There was a famine in the land, besides the earlier famine that had happened in Abraham's days, and Isaac went to Abimelech, king of the Philistines, at Gerar. The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt. Settle in the land I tell you of. |
| Gen 26:3 גּוּר בָּאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וְאֶהְיֶה עִמְּךָ וַאֲבָרְכֶךָּ כִּי־לְךָ וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת־כָּל־הָאֲרָצֹת הָאֵל וַהֲקִמֹתִי אֶת־הַשְּׁבֻעָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם אָבִיךָ: וְהִרְבֵּיתִי אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ כְּכוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְנָתַתִּי לְזַרְעֲךָ אֵת כָּל־הָאֲרָצֹת הָאֵל וְהִתְבָּרְכוּ בְזַרְעֲךָ כֹּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ: | Stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be with you and bless you. To you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will fulfill the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your offspring as many as the stars of the sky, and I will give your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth will bless themselves by your offspring, |
| Gen 26:5 עֵקֶב אֲשֶׁר־שָׁמַע אַבְרָהָם בְּקֹלִי וַיִּשְׁמֹר מִשְׁמַרְתִּי מִצְוֹתַי חֻקּוֹתַי וְתוֹרֹתָי: וַיֵּשֶׁב יִצְחָק בִּגְרָר: וַיִּשְׁאֲלוּ אַנְשֵׁי הַמָּקוֹם לְאִשְׁתּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲחֹתִי הִוא כִּי יָרֵא לֵאמֹר אִשְׁתִּי פֶּן־יַהַרְגֻנִי אַנְשֵׁי הַמָּקוֹם עַל־רִבְקָה כִּי־טוֹבַת מַרְאֶה הִיא: | because Abraham listened to my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes and my teachings." So Isaac settled in Gerar. When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "She is my sister." He was afraid to say, "My wife," thinking, "The men of the place might kill me over Rebekah, because she is beautiful." |
| Gen 26:8 וַיְהִי כִּי אָרְכוּ־לוֹ שָׁם הַיָּמִים וַיַּשְׁקֵף אֲבִימֶלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ פְּלִשְׁתִּים בְּעַד הַחַלּוֹן וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה יִצְחָק מְצַחֵק אֵת רִבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ: וַיִּקְרָא אֲבִימֶלֶךְ לְיִצְחָק וַיֹּאמֶר אַךְ הִנֵּה אִשְׁתְּךָ הִוא וְאֵיךְ אָמַרְתָּ אֲחֹתִי הִוא וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יִצְחָק כִּי אָמַרְתִּי פֶּן־אָמוּת עָלֶיהָ: | When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down through the window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. Abimelech summoned Isaac and said, "So she is your wife! How could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'I might die on account of her.'"[5] |
| Gen 26:10 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לָּנוּ כִּמְעַט שָׁכַב אַחַד הָעָם אֶת־אִשְׁתֶּךָ וְהֵבֵאתָ עָלֵינוּ אָשָׁם: וַיְצַו אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אֶת־כָּל־הָעָם לֵאמֹר הַנֹּגֵעַ בָּאִישׁ הַזֶּה וּבְאִשְׁתּוֹ מוֹת יוּמָת: וַיִּזְרַע יִצְחָק בָּאָרֶץ הַהִוא וַיִּמְצָא בַּשָּׁנָה הַהִוא מֵאָה שְׁעָרִים וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ יְהוָה: | Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us." Then Abimelech commanded all the people: "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall be put to death." Isaac sowed seed in that land, and that year he reaped a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, |

4 Edom sounds like *adom*, "red."

5 "Caressing" (*metsaheq*) plays on Isaac's name, *Yitshaq*, "he laughs."

HEBREW

ENGLISH

Gen 26:13 וַיִּגְדַּל הָאִישׁ וַיֵּלֶךְ הָלוֹךְ וְגָדֵל עַד כִּי־גָדַל מְאֹד: וַיְהִי־לוֹ מִקְנֵה־צֹאן
וּמִקְנֵה בָקָר וַעֲבֻדָּה רַבָּה וַיְקַנְאוּ אֹתוֹ פְּלִשְׁתִּים: וְכָל־הַבְּאֵרֹת
אֲשֶׁר חָפְרוּ עַבְדֵי אָבִיו בִּימֵי אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו סִתְמוּם פְּלִשְׁתִּים
וַיְמַלְאוּם עָפָר: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ אֶל־יִצְחָק לֵךְ מֵעִמָּנוּ כִּי־עָצַמְתָּ־
מִמֶּנּוּ מְאֹד:

and the man became great. He went on growing greater until he was very great indeed. He had flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle and a large household of servants, and the Philistines envied him. The Philistines had stopped up all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of his father Abraham, and they had filled them with dirt. Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you have become much too powerful for us."

Gen 26:17 וַיֵּלֶךְ מִשָּׁם יִצְחָק וַיִּחַן בְּנַחַל־גְּרָר וַיֵּשֶׁב שָׁם: וַיָּשָׁב יִצְחָק וַיַּחְפֹּר
אֶת־בְּאֵרֹת הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר חָפְרוּ בִּימֵי אַבְרָהָם אָבִיו וַיְסִתְמוּם
פְּלִשְׁתִּים אַחֲרֵי מוֹת אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקְרָא לָהֶן שֵׁמוֹת כַּשֵּׁמֹת אֲשֶׁר־קָרָא
לָהֶן אָבִיו: וַיַּחְפְּרוּ עַבְדֵי־יִצְחָק בַּנָּחַל וַיִּמְצְאוּ־שָׁם בְּאֵר מַיִם חַיִּים:

So Isaac left there, camped in the valley of Gerar and settled there. Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham's death, and he gave them the same names his father had given them. Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of fresh, flowing water.

Gen 26:20 וַיָּרִיבוּ רֹעֵי גְרָר עִם־רֹעֵי יִצְחָק לֵאמֹר לָנוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם־הַבְּאֵר
עֵשֶׂק כִּי הִתְעַשְּׂקוּ עִמּוֹ: וַיַּחְפְּרוּ בְּאֵר אַחֶרֶת וַיָּרִיבוּ גַּם־עָלֶיהָ
וַיִּקְרָא שִׁמָּהּ שִׂטְנָה: וַיַּעְתֵּק מִשָּׁם וַיַּחְפֹּר בְּאֵר אַחֶרֶת וְלֹא רָבוּ
עָלֶיהָ וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמָהּ רְחֹבוֹת וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי־עַתָּה הִרְחִיב יְהוָה לָנוּ
וּפָרִינוּ בָּאָרֶץ:

The herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he named the well Esek, because they had contended with him. They dug another well, and they quarreled over that one too, so he named it Sitnah. He moved on from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he named it Rehoboth, saying, "Now the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."[6]

Gen 26:23 וַיַּעַל מִשָּׁם בְּאֵר שָׁבַע: וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי
אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אָבִיךָ אַל־תִּירָא כִּי־אִתְּךָ אָנֹכִי וּבֵרַכְתִּיךָ וְהִרְבֵּיתִי
אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ בַּעֲבוּר אַבְרָהָם עַבְדִּי: וַיִּבֶן שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה
וַיֵּט־שָׁם אָהֳלוֹ וַיִּכְרוּ־שָׁם עַבְדֵי־יִצְחָק בְּאֵר:

From there he went up to Beersheba. That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your offspring for the sake of my servant Abraham." He built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. He pitched his tent there, and Isaac's servants dug a well there.

Gen 26:26 וַאֲבִימֶלֶךְ הָלַךְ אֵלָיו מִגְּרָר וַאֲחֻזַּת מֵרֵעֵהוּ וּפִיכֹל שַׂר־צְבָאוֹ:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יִצְחָק מַדּוּעַ בָּאתֶם אֵלַי וְאַתֶּם שְׂנֵאתֶם אֹתִי
וַתְּשַׁלְּחוּנִי מֵאִתְּכֶם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ רָאוֹ רָאִינוּ כִּי־הָיָה יְהוָה עִמָּךְ וַנֹּאמֶר
תְּהִי נָא אָלָה בֵּינוֹתֵינוּ בֵּינֵינוּ וּבֵינֶךָ וְנִכְרְתָה בְרִית עִמָּךְ:

Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar, with his adviser Ahuzzath and Phicol the commander of his army. Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, when you hate me and sent me away from you?" They said, "We have clearly seen that the LORD has been with you. So we said, 'Let there be a sworn agreement between us, between us and you, and let us make a covenant with you

Gen 26:29 אִם־תַּעֲשֶׂה עִמָּנוּ רָעָה כַּאֲשֶׁר לֹא נְגַעֲנוּךָ וְכַאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂינוּ עִמְּךָ רַק־
טוֹב וַנְּשַׁלֵּחֲךָ בְּשָׁלוֹם אַתָּה עַתָּה בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה: וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתֶּה

that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you, and just as we have done you nothing but good and sent you away in peace.' You are

6 Esek means "contention," Sitnah "hostility," and Rehoboth "wide spaces," echoing "made room."

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׁתּוּ: וַיַּשְׁכִּימוּ בַבֹּקֶר וַיִּשָּׁבְעוּ אִישׁ לְאָחִיו וַיְשַׁלַּח יִצְחָק וַיֵּלְכוּ מֵאִתּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם: | now the one blessed by the LORD." He made them a feast, and they ate and drank. They rose early in the morning and swore an oath to one another. Then Isaac sent them off, and they left him in peace. |
| Gen 26:32 | וַיְהִי בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא וַיָּבֹאוּ עַבְדֵי יִצְחָק וַיַּגִּדוּ לוֹ עַל־אֹדוֹת הַבְּאֵר אֲשֶׁר חָפָרוּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ מָצָאנוּ מָיִם: וַיִּקְרָא אֹתָהּ שִׁבְעָה עַל־כֵּן שֵׁם־הָעִיר בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: | That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well they had dug. "We have found water," they said. He named it Shibah. That is why the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.[7] |
| Gen 26:34 | וַיְהִי עֵשָׂו בֶּן־אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה וַיִּקַּח אִשָּׁה אֶת־יְהוּדִית בַּת־בְּאֵרִי הַחִתִּי וְאֶת־בָּשְׂמַת בַּת־אֵילֹן הַחִתִּי: וַתִּהְיֶיןָ מֹרַת רוּחַ לְיִצְחָק וּלְרִבְקָה: | When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite and Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite. They were a source of bitter grief to Isaac and Rebekah. |

## CHAPTER 27

*Rebekah and Jacob trick blind Isaac into blessing Jacob instead of Esau.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 27:1 | וַיְהִי כִּי־זָקֵן יִצְחָק וַתִּכְהֶיןָ עֵינָיו מֵרְאֹת וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־עֵשָׂו בְּנוֹ הַגָּדֹל וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בְּנִי וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הִנֵּנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה־נָא זָקַנְתִּי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי יוֹם מוֹתִי: וְעַתָּה שָׂא־נָא כֵלֶיךָ תֶּלְיְךָ וְקַשְׁתֶּךָ וְצֵא הַשָּׂדֶה וְצוּדָה לִי צָיִד: | When Isaac was old and his eyes had grown too dim to see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, "My son." He answered, "Here I am." Isaac said, "Look, I am old, and I do not know the day of my death. So now take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out into the open country and hunt some game for me. |
| Gen 27:4 | וַעֲשֵׂה־לִי מַטְעַמִּים כַּאֲשֶׁר אָהַבְתִּי וְהָבִיאָה לִי וְאֹכְלָה בַּעֲבוּר תְּבָרֶכְךָ נַפְשִׁי בְּטֶרֶם אָמוּת: וְרִבְקָה שֹׁמַעַת בְּדַבֵּר יִצְחָק אֶל־עֵשָׂו בְּנוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ עֵשָׂו הַשָּׂדֶה לָצוּד צַיִד לְהָבִיא: וְרִבְקָה אָמְרָה אֶל־יַעֲקֹב בְּנָהּ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה שָׁמַעְתִּי אֶת־אָבִיךָ מְדַבֵּר אֶל־עֵשָׂו אָחִיךָ לֵאמֹר: | Then make me a tasty dish, the kind I love, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may give you my blessing before I die." Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau went out to the open country to hunt game and bring it back, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Listen, I heard your father speaking to your brother Esau. He said, |
| Gen 27:7 | הָבִיאָה לִי צַיִד וַעֲשֵׂה־לִי מַטְעַמִּים וְאֹכֵלָה וַאֲבָרֶכְכָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לִפְנֵי מוֹתִי: וְעַתָּה בְנִי שְׁמַע בְּקֹלִי לַאֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה אֹתָךְ: לֶךְ־נָא אֶל־הַצֹּאן וְקַח־לִי מִשָּׁם שְׁנֵי גְדָיֵי עִזִּים טֹבִים וְאֶעֱשֶׂה אֹתָם מַטְעַמִּים לְאָבִיךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר אָהֵב: | 'Bring me some game and make me a tasty dish to eat, so that I may bless you in the presence of the LORD before I die.' Now, my son, listen to me and do what I tell you. Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats from there, and I will make them into a tasty dish for your father, the kind he loves. |
| Gen 27:10 | וְהֵבֵאתָ לְאָבִיךָ וְאָכָל בַּעֲבֻר אֲשֶׁר יְבָרֶכְךָ לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־רִבְקָה אִמּוֹ הֵן עֵשָׂו אָחִי אִישׁ שָׂעִר וְאָנֹכִי אִישׁ חָלָק: אוּלַי יְמֻשֵּׁנִי אָבִי וְהָיִיתִי בְעֵינָיו כִּמְתַעְתֵּעַ וְהֵבֵאתִי עָלַי קְלָלָה וְלֹא בְרָכָה: | Then you will bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man. What if my father touches me? I would seem to him like |

7 Shibah sounds like the Hebrew for both "seven" and "oath"; Beersheba means "well of seven" or "well of the oath" (compare 21:31).

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| | a fraud, and I would bring a curse on myself instead of a blessing." |
| Gen 27:13 וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִמּוֹ עָלַי קִלְלָתְךָ בְּנִי אַךְ שְׁמַע בְּקֹלִי וְלֵךְ קַח־לִי: וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיִּקַּח וַיָּבֵא לְאִמּוֹ וַתַּעַשׂ אִמּוֹ מַטְעַמִּים כַּאֲשֶׁר אָהֵב אָבִיו: וַתִּקַּח רִבְקָה אֶת־בִּגְדֵי עֵשָׂו בְּנָהּ הַגָּדֹל הַחֲמַדֹּת אֲשֶׁר אִתָּהּ בַּבָּיִת וַתַּלְבֵּשׁ אֶת־יַעֲקֹב בְּנָהּ הַקָּטָן: | His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son. Just listen to me. Go and get them for me." So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made a tasty dish, the kind his father loved. Then Rebekah took the finest clothes of her elder son Esau, which she had with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. |
| Gen 27:16 וְאֵת עֹרֹת גְּדָיֵי הָעִזִּים הִלְבִּישָׁה עַל־יָדָיו וְעַל חֶלְקַת צַוָּארָיו: וַתִּתֵּן אֶת־הַמַּטְעַמִּים וְאֶת־הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂתָה בְּיַד יַעֲקֹב בְּנָהּ: וַיָּבֹא אֶל־אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֶּנִּי מִי אַתָּה בְּנִי: | She put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she placed the tasty dish and the bread she had made in the hand of her son Jacob. He went in to his father and said, "My father." Isaac said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" |
| Gen 27:19 וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־אָבִיו אָנֹכִי עֵשָׂו בְּכֹרֶךָ עָשִׂיתִי כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ אֵלָי קוּם־נָא שְׁבָה וְאָכְלָה מִצֵּידִי בַּעֲבוּר תְּבָרֲכַנִּי נַפְשֶׁךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־בְּנוֹ מַה־זֶּה מִהַרְתָּ לִמְצֹא בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי הִקְרָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְפָנָי: | Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing." Isaac said to his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" He said, "Because the LORD your God put it in my way." |
| Gen 27:21 וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־יַעֲקֹב גְּשָׁה־נָּא וַאֲמֻשְׁךָ בְּנִי הַאַתָּה זֶה בְּנִי עֵשָׂו אִם־לֹא: וַיִּגַּשׁ יַעֲקֹב אֶל־יִצְחָק אָבִיו וַיְמֻשֵׁהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַקֹּל קוֹל יַעֲקֹב וְהַיָּדַיִם יְדֵי עֵשָׂו: וְלֹא הִכִּירוֹ כִּי־הָיוּ יָדָיו כִּידֵי עֵשָׂו אָחִיו שְׂעִרֹת וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ: | Isaac said to Jacob, "Come close, so that I may touch you, my son, and know whether you really are my son Esau or not." So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like the hands of his brother Esau, so he blessed him. |
| Gen 27:24 וַיֹּאמֶר אַתָּה זֶה בְּנִי עֵשָׂו וַיֹּאמֶר אָנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר הַגִּשָׁה לִּי וְאֹכְלָה מִצֵּיד בְּנִי לְמַעַן תְּבָרֶכְךָ נַפְשִׁי וַיַּגֶּשׁ־לוֹ וַיֹּאכַל וַיָּבֵא לוֹ יַיִן וַיִּשְׁתְּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יִצְחָק אָבִיו גְּשָׁה־נָּא וּשְׁקָה־לִּי בְּנִי: | He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." Then Isaac said, "Bring it to me, and let me eat some of my son's game, so that I may give you my blessing." So Jacob brought it to him, and he ate. He brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come close and kiss me, my son." |
| Gen 27:27 וַיִּגַּשׁ וַיִּשַּׁק־לוֹ וַיָּרַח אֶת־רֵיחַ בְּגָדָיו וַיְבָרֲכֵהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר רְאֵה רֵיחַ בְּנִי כְּרֵיחַ שָׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר בֵּרְכוֹ יְהוָה: וְיִתֶּן־לְךָ הָאֱלֹהִים מִטַּל הַשָּׁמַיִם וּמִשְׁמַנֵּי הָאָרֶץ וְרֹב דָּגָן וְתִירֹשׁ: יַעַבְדוּךָ עַמִּים וְיִשְׁתַּחֲווּ לְךָ לְאֻמִּים הֱוֵה גְבִיר לְאַחֶיךָ וְיִשְׁתַּחֲווּ לְךָ בְּנֵי אִמֶּךָ אֹרְרֶיךָ אָרוּר וּמְבָרֲכֶיךָ בָּרוּךְ: | So he came close and kissed him. When Isaac smelled the smell of his clothes, he blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed. May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the richness of the earth, plenty of grain and new wine. May peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed be those who bless you." |
| Gen 27:30 | |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר כִּלָּה יִצְחָק לְבָרֵךְ אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וַיְהִי אַךְ יָצֹא יָצָא יַעֲקֹב מֵאֵת פְּנֵי יִצְחָק אָבִיו וְעֵשָׂו אָחִיו בָּא מִצֵּידוֹ: וַיַּעַשׂ גַּם־הוּא מַטְעַמִּים וַיָּבֵא לְאָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר לְאָבִיו יָקֻם אָבִי וְיֹאכַל מִצֵּיד בְּנוֹ בַּעֲבוּר תְּבָרֲכַנִי נַפְשֶׁךָ: | Just as Isaac finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had barely left the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau came in from his hunting. He too made a tasty dish and brought it to his father. He said to his father, “Let my father sit up and eat some of his son’s game, so that you may give me your blessing.” |
| Gen 27:32 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יִצְחָק אָבִיו מִי־אָתָּה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי בִּנְךָ בְכֹרְךָ עֵשָׂו: וַיֶּחֱרַד יִצְחָק חֲרָדָה גְדֹלָה עַד־מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר מִי־אֵפוֹא הוּא הַצָּד־צַיִד וַיָּבֵא לִי וְאֹכַל מִכֹּל בְּטֶרֶם תָּבוֹא וָאֲבָרֲכֵהוּ גַּם־בָּרוּךְ יִהְיֶה: | His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” He said, “I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.” Isaac trembled violently, beyond all measure, and said, “Who was it, then, who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it all before you came, and I blessed him. And blessed he will be!” |
| Gen 27:34 כִּשְׁמֹעַ עֵשָׂו אֶת־דִּבְרֵי אָבִיו וַיִּצְעַק צְעָקָה גְּדֹלָה וּמָרָה עַד־מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר לְאָבִיו בָּרֲכֵנִי גַם־אֲנִי אָבִי: וַיֹּאמֶר בָּא אָחִיךָ בְּמִרְמָה וַיִּקַּח בִּרְכָתֶךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר הֲכִי קָרָא שְׁמוֹ יַעֲקֹב וַיַּעְקְבֵנִי זֶה פַּעֲמַיִם אֶת־בְּכֹרָתִי לָקָח וְהִנֵּה עַתָּה לָקַח בִּרְכָתִי וַיֹּאמֶר הֲלֹא־אָצַלְתָּ לִּי בְּרָכָה: | When Esau heard his father’s words, he cried out with a great and exceedingly bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me, me too, my father!” But Isaac said, “Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.” Esau said, “Isn’t he rightly named Jacob? He has cheated me these two times. He took my birthright, and look, now he has taken my blessing.” Then he said, “Haven’t you kept back a blessing for me?”[8] |
| Gen 27:37 וַיַּעַן יִצְחָק וַיֹּאמֶר לְעֵשָׂו הֵן גְּבִיר שַׂמְתִּיו לָךְ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֶחָיו נָתַתִּי לוֹ לַעֲבָדִים וְדָגָן וְתִירֹשׁ סְמַכְתִּיו וּלְכָה אֵפוֹא מָה אֶעֱשֶׂה בְּנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו אֶל־אָבִיו הַבְרָכָה אַחַת הִוא־לְךָ אָבִי בָּרֲכֵנִי גַם־אֲנִי אָבִי וַיִּשָּׂא עֵשָׂו קֹלוֹ וַיֵּבְךְּ: | Isaac answered Esau, “Look, I have made him lord over you. I have given him all his brothers as servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. What then can I do for you, my son?” Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me, me too, my father!” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. |
| Gen 27:39 וַיַּעַן יִצְחָק אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הִנֵּה מִשְׁמַנֵּי הָאָרֶץ יִהְיֶה מוֹשָׁבֶךָ וּמִטַּל הַשָּׁמַיִם מֵעָל: וְעַל־חַרְבְּךָ תִחְיֶה וְאֶת־אָחִיךָ תַּעֲבֹד וְהָיָה כַּאֲשֶׁר תָּרִיד וּפָרַקְתָּ עֻלּוֹ מֵעַל צַוָּארֶךָ: וַיִּשְׂטֹם עֵשָׂו אֶת־יַעֲקֹב עַל־הַבְּרָכָה אֲשֶׁר בֵּרֲכוֹ אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו בְּלִבּוֹ יִקְרְבוּ יְמֵי אֵבֶל אָבִי וְאַהַרְגָה אֶת־יַעֲקֹב אָחִי: | Then his father Isaac answered him, “Look, away from the richness of the earth will be your dwelling, and away from the dew of heaven above. By your sword you will live, and your brother you will serve. But when you break loose, you will tear his yoke from your neck.” Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near. Then I will kill my brother Jacob.”[9] |
| Gen 27:42 וַיֻּגַּד לְרִבְקָה אֶת־דִּבְרֵי עֵשָׂו בְּנָהּ הַגָּדֹל וַתִּשְׁלַח וַתִּקְרָא לְיַעֲקֹב בְּנָהּ הַקָּטָן וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הִנֵּה עֵשָׂו אָחִיךָ מִתְנַחֵם לְךָ לְהָרְגֶךָ: וְעַתָּה בְנִי שְׁמַע בְּקֹלִי וְקוּם בְּרַח־לְךָ אֶל־לָבָן אָחִי חָרָנָה: וְיָשַׁבְתָּ עִמּוֹ יָמִים אֲחָדִים עַד אֲשֶׁר־תָּשׁוּב חֲמַת אָחִיךָ: | When the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, “Look, your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you. Now, my son, listen to me. Get up and flee to my brother |

8 “He has cheated me” (*ya‘qeveni,* literally “he has grabbed my heel”) plays on the name Jacob.
9 The Hebrew “from the richness … from the dew” echoes Jacob’s blessing in v. 28. It can mean either “of” or “away from”; most readers take it here as “away from.”

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | Laban in Haran. Stay with him a while, until your brother's fury subsides— |
| Gen 27:45 עַד־שׁוּב אַף־אָחִיךָ מִמְּךָ וְשָׁכַח אֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתָ לּוֹ וְשָׁלַחְתִּי וּלְקָחְתִּיךָ מִשָּׁם לָמָּה אֶשְׁכַּל גַּם־שְׁנֵיכֶם יוֹם אֶחָד: וַתֹּאמֶר רִבְקָה אֶל־יִצְחָק קַצְתִּי בְחַיַּי מִפְּנֵי בְּנוֹת חֵת אִם־לֹקֵחַ יַעֲקֹב אִשָּׁה מִבְּנוֹת־חֵת כָּאֵלֶּה מִבְּנוֹת הָאָרֶץ לָמָּה לִי חַיִּים: | until your brother's anger turns away from you and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send and bring you back from there. Why should I lose the two of you in one day?" Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am sick of my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the Hittite women like these, from the women of this land, what good will my life be to me?" |

## CHAPTER 28

*Isaac sends Jacob to Paddan-aram to find a wife; Esau marries a daughter of Ishmael.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 28:1 וַיִּקְרָא יִצְחָק אֶל־יַעֲקֹב וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ וַיְצַוֵּהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה מִבְּנוֹת כְּנָעַן: קוּם לֵךְ פַּדֶּנָה אֲרָם בֵּיתָה בְתוּאֵל אֲבִי אִמֶּךָ וְקַח־לְךָ מִשָּׁם אִשָּׁה מִבְּנוֹת לָבָן אֲחִי אִמֶּךָ: | So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him. He gave him this command: "You shall not take a wife from the Canaanite women. Get up, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and take a wife from there, from the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. |
| Gen 28:3 וְאֵל שַׁדַּי יְבָרֵךְ אֹתְךָ וְיַפְרְךָ וְיַרְבֶּךָ וְהָיִיתָ לִקְהַל עַמִּים: וְיִתֶּן־לְךָ אֶת־בִּרְכַּת אַבְרָהָם לְךָ וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אִתָּךְ לְרִשְׁתְּךָ אֶת־אֶרֶץ מְגֻרֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן אֱלֹהִים לְאַבְרָהָם: וַיִּשְׁלַח יִצְחָק אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וַיֵּלֶךְ פַּדֶּנָה אֲרָם אֶל־לָבָן בֶּן־בְּתוּאֵל הָאֲרַמִּי אֲחִי רִבְקָה אֵם יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָׂו: | May God Shaddai bless you and make you fruitful and numerous, so that you become an assembly of peoples. May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham." Then Isaac sent Jacob off, and he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau. |
| Gen 28:6 וַיַּרְא עֵשָׂו כִּי־בֵרַךְ יִצְחָק אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וְשִׁלַּח אֹתוֹ פַּדֶּנָה אֲרָם לָקַחַת־לוֹ מִשָּׁם אִשָּׁה בְּבָרְכוֹ אֹתוֹ וַיְצַו עָלָיו לֵאמֹר לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה מִבְּנוֹת כְּנָעַן: וַיִּשְׁמַע יַעֲקֹב אֶל־אָבִיו וְאֶל־אִמּוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ פַּדֶּנָה אֲרָם: | Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he had commanded him, "You shall not take a wife from the Canaanite women," and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram. |
| Gen 28:8 וַיַּרְא עֵשָׂו כִּי רָעוֹת בְּנוֹת כְּנָעַן בְּעֵינֵי יִצְחָק אָבִיו: וַיֵּלֶךְ עֵשָׂו אֶל־יִשְׁמָעֵאל וַיִּקַּח אֶת־מָחֲלַת בַּת־יִשְׁמָעֵאל בֶּן־אַבְרָהָם אֲחוֹת נְבָיוֹת עַל־נָשָׁיו לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה: | Esau saw that the Canaanite women displeased his father Isaac. So Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife Mahalath daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, the sister of Nebaioth, in addition to the wives he had. |

## JACOB'S LADDER

*Jacob dreams of a stairway to heaven and names the place Bethel.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 28:10 וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּאֵר שָׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חָרָנָה: וַיִּפְגַּע בַּמָּקוֹם וַיָּלֶן שָׁם כִּי־בָא הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּקַּח מֵאַבְנֵי הַמָּקוֹם וַיָּשֶׂם מְרַאֲשֹׁתָיו וַיִּשְׁכַּב בַּמָּקוֹם | Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. He came upon a certain place and spent the night |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| הַהוּא: וַיַּחֲלֹם וְהִנֵּה סֻלָּם מֻצָּב אַרְצָה וְרֹאשׁוֹ מַגִּיעַ הַשׁ מָיְמָה וְהִנֵּה מַלְאֲכֵי אֱלֹהִים עֹלִים וְיֹרְדִים בּוֹ: | there, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones of the place, put it under his head and lay down in that place. He had a dream: there was a stairway set up on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and there were angels of God going up and coming down on it.[10] |
| Gen 28:13 וְהִנֵּה יְהוָה נִצָּב עָלָיו וַיֹּאמַר אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֲבִיךָ וֵאלֹהֵי יִצְחָק הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה שֹׁכֵב עָלֶיהָ לְךָ אֶתְּנֶנָּה וּלְזַרְעֶךָ: וְהָיָה זַרְעֲךָ כַּעֲפַר הָאָרֶץ וּפָרַצְתָּ יָמָּה וָקֵדְמָה וְצָפֹנָה וָנֶגְבָּה וְנִבְרְכוּ בְךָ כֹּל מִשְׁפְּחֹת הָאֲדָמָה וּבְזַרְעֶךָ: | And there was the LORD, standing over him. He said, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. |
| Gen 28:15 וְהִנֵּה אָנֹכִי עִמָּךְ וּשְׁמַרְתִּיךָ בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־תֵּלֵךְ וַהֲשִׁבֹתִיךָ אֶל־הָאֲדָמָה הַזֹּאת כִּי לֹא אֶעֶזָבְךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר אִם־עָשִׂיתִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי לָךְ: וַיִּיקַץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְּׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אָכֵן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאָנֹכִי לֹא יָדָעְתִּי: | Look, I am with you. I will keep you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” |
| Gen 28:17 וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמַר מַה־נּוֹרָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם־בֵּית אֱלֹהִים וְזֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁ מָיִם: וַיַּשְׁכֵּם יַעֲקֹב בַּבֹּקֶר וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֶבֶן אֲשֶׁר־שָׂם מְרַאֲשֹׁתָיו וַיָּשֶׂם אֹתָהּ מַצֵּבָה וַיִּצֹק שֶׁמֶן עַל־רֹאשָׁהּ: וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־ שֵׁם־הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא בֵּית־אֵל וְאוּלָם לוּז שֵׁם־הָעִיר לָרִאשֹׁנָה: | He was afraid and said, “How awesome this place is! This is nothing other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Jacob rose early in the morning, took the stone he had put under his head, set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He named that place Bethel, though the city had earlier been called Luz.[11] |
| Gen 28:20 וַיִּדַּר יַעֲקֹב נֶדֶר לֵאמֹר אִם־יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּדִי וּשְׁמָרַנִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי הוֹלֵךְ וְנָתַן־לִי לֶחֶם לֶאֱכֹל וּבֶגֶד לִלְבֹּשׁ: וְשַׁבְתִּי בְשָׁלוֹם אֶל־בֵּית אָבִי וְהָיָה יְהוָה לִי לֵאלֹהִים: וְהָאֶבֶן הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר־שַׂמְתִּי מַצֵּבָה יִהְיֶה בֵּית אֱלֹהִים וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּן־לִי עַשֵּׂ ר אֲעַשֵּׂ רֶנּוּ לָךְ: | Then Jacob made a vow: “If God will be with me and keep me on this journey I am making, and give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, and if I come back in peace to my father’s house, then the LORD will be my God, and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be a house of God, and of everything you give me I will surely give you a tenth.” |

## CHAPTER 29

*Jacob meets Rachel, serves Laban seven years, and is given Leah instead.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 29:1 וַיִּשָּׂ א יַעֲקֹב רַגְלָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ אַרְצָה בְּנֵי־קֶדֶם: וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה בְאֵר בַּשָּׂ דֶה וְהִנֵּה־שָׁם שְׁלֹשָׁה עֲדָרֵי־צֹאן רֹבְצִים עָלֶיהָ כִּי מִן־הַבְּאֵר הַהִוא יַשְׁקוּ הָעֲדָרִים וְהָאֶבֶן גְּדֹלָה עַל־פִּי הַבְּאֵר: וְנֶאֶסְפוּ־שָׁמָּה כָּל־ הָעֲדָרִים וְגָלְלוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר וְהִשְׁקוּ אֶת־הַצֹּאן וְהֵשִׁיבוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן עַל־פִּי הַבְּאֵר לִמְקֹמָהּ: | Then Jacob set out and went to the land of the people of the East. He looked, and there in the open country was a well, with three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for the flocks were watered |

10 The word for “stairway” (*sullam*) occurs only here; it is traditionally rendered “ladder” but may mean a stairway or ramp.
11 Bethel means “house of God.” The pillar (*matsevah*) was a stone set upright as a memorial or sacred marker.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. When all the flocks had gathered there, they would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and then put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well. |
| Gen 29:4 וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם יַעֲקֹב אַחַי מֵאַיִן אַתֶּם וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵחָרָן אֲנָחְנוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הַיְדַעְתֶּם אֶת־לָבָן בֶּן־נָחוֹר וַיֹּאמְרוּ יָדָעְנוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם הֲשָׁלוֹם לוֹ וַיֹּאמְרוּ שָׁלוֹם וְהִנֵּה רָחֵל בִּתּוֹ בָּאָה עִם־הַצֹּאן: | Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where are you from?" They said, "We are from Haran." He said to them, "Do you know Laban son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him." He said to them, "Is he well?" They said, "He is well. And look, here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep." |
| Gen 29:7 וַיֹּאמֶר הֵן עוֹד הַיּוֹם גָּדוֹל לֹא־עֵת הֵאָסֵף הַמִּקְנֶה הַשְׁקוּ הַצֹּאן וּלְכוּ רְעוּ: וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נוּכַל עַד אֲשֶׁר יֵאָסְפוּ כָּל־הָעֲדָרִים וְגָלֲלוּ אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר וְהִשְׁקִינוּ הַצֹּאן: עוֹדֶנּוּ מְדַבֵּר עִמָּם וְרָחֵל בָּאָה עִם־הַצֹּאן אֲשֶׁר לְאָבִיהָ כִּי רֹעָה הִוא: | He said, "Look, it is still broad daylight; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered. Water the sheep, and go and pasture them." They said, "We cannot, until all the flocks have gathered and the stone has been rolled from the mouth of the well. Then we water the sheep." While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherd. |
| Gen 29:10 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאָה יַעֲקֹב אֶת־רָחֵל בַּת־לָבָן אֲחִי אִמּוֹ וְאֶת־צֹאן לָבָן אֲחִי אִמּוֹ וַיִּגַּשׁ יַעֲקֹב וַיָּגֶל אֶת־הָאֶבֶן מֵעַל פִּי הַבְּאֵר וַיַּשְׁקְ אֶת־צֹאן לָבָן אֲחִי אִמּוֹ: וַיִּשַּׁ ק יַעֲקֹב לְרָחֵל וַיִּשָּׂ א אֶת־קֹלוֹ וַיִּבְךְּ: | When Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his mother's brother Laban, and the sheep of his mother's brother Laban, Jacob went up, rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the sheep of his mother's brother Laban. Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and he lifted up his voice and wept. |
| Gen 29:12 וַיַּגֶּד יַעֲקֹב לְרָחֵל כִּי אֲחִי אָבִיהָ הוּא וְכִי בֶן־רִבְקָה הוּא וַתָּרָץ וַתַּגֶּד לְאָבִיהָ: וַיְהִי כִּשְׁמֹעַ לָבָן אֶת־שֵׁמַע יַעֲקֹב בֶּן־אֲחֹתוֹ וַיָּרָץ לִקְרָאתוֹ וַיְחַבֵּק־לוֹ וַיְנַשֵּׁ ק־לוֹ וַיְבִיאֵהוּ אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וַיְסַפֵּר לְלָבָן אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: | Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father. As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house, and Jacob told Laban all these things. |
| Gen 29:14 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לָבָן אַךְ עַצְמִי וּבְשָׂרִי אָתָּה וַיֵּשֶׁב עִמּוֹ חֹדֶשׁ יָמִים: וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב הֲכִי־אָחִי אַתָּה וַעֲבַדְתַּנִי חִנָּם הַגִּידָה לִּ י מַה־ מַּשְׂכֻּרְתֶּךָ: וּלְלָבָן שְׁתֵּי בָנוֹת שֵׁם הַגְּדֹלָה לֵאָה וְשֵׁם הַקְּטַנָּה רָחֵל: | Laban said to him, "You are truly my bone and my flesh!" And Jacob stayed with him for a full month. Then Laban said to Jacob, "Just because you are my relative, should you serve me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. |
| Gen 29:17 וְעֵינֵי לֵאָה רַכּוֹת וְרָחֵל הָיְתָה יְפַת־תֹּאַר וִיפַת מַרְאֶה: וַיֶּאֱהַב יַעֲקֹב אֶת־רָחֵל וַיֹּאמֶר אֶעֱבָדְךָ שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים בְּרָחֵל בִּתְּךָ הַקְּטַנָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן טוֹב תִּתִּי אֹתָהּ לָךְ מִתִּתִּי אֹתָהּ לְאִישׁ אַחֵר שְׁבָה עִמָּדִי: | Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was shapely and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, and he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than give her to another man. Stay with me."[12] |
| Gen 29:20 וַיַּעֲבֹד יַעֲקֹב בְּרָחֵל שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים וַיִּהְיוּ בְעֵינָיו כְּיָמִים אֲחָדִים בְּאַהֲבָתוֹ אֹתָהּ: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־לָבָן הָבָה אֶת־אִשְׁתִּי כִּי מָלְאוּ | So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him like a few days because of his love |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| יְמֵי וְאִבוֹאָה אֵלֶיהָ: וַיֶּאֱסֹף לָבָן אֶת־כָּל־אַנְשֵׁי הַמָּקוֹם וַיַּעַשׂ מִשְׁתֶּה: | for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is completed, so that I may sleep with her." So Laban gathered all the people of the place and made a feast. |
| Gen 29:23 וַיְהִי בָּעֶרֶב וַיִּקַּח אֶת־לֵאָה בִתּוֹ וַיָּבֵא אֹתָהּ אֵלָיו וַיָּבֹא אֵלֶיהָ: וַיִּתֵּן לָבָן לָהּ אֶת־זilpָּה שִׁפְחָתוֹ לְלֵאָה בִתּוֹ שִׁפְחָה: וַיְהִי בַבֹּקֶר וְהִנֵּה־הִוא לֵאָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־לָבָן מַה־זֹּאת עָשִׂיתָ לִּי ׀ הֲלֹא בְרָחֵל עָבַדְתִּי עִמָּךְ וְלָמָּה רִמִּיתָנִי: | In the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob slept with her. Laban gave his slave woman Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her slave woman. In the morning, there she was: Leah! Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Wasn't it for Rachel that I served you? Why have you deceived me?" |
| Gen 29:26 וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לֹא־יֵעָשֶׂה כֵן בִּמְקוֹמֵנוּ לָתֵת הַצָּעִירָה לִפְנֵי הַבְּכִירָה: מַלֵּא שְׁבֻעַ זֹאת וְנִתְּנָה לְךָ גַּם־אֶת־זֹאת בַּעֲבֹדָה אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲבֹד עִמָּדִי עוֹד שֶׁבַע־שָׁנִים אֲחֵרוֹת: וַיַּעַשׂ יַעֲקֹב כֵּן וַיְמַלֵּא שְׁבֻעַ זֹאת וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ אֶת־רָחֵל בִּתּוֹ לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה: | Laban said, "It is not done in our place to give the younger before the firstborn. Complete this one's week, and we will give you the other one too, in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so. He completed this one's week, and Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.[13] |
| Gen 29:29 וַיִּתֵּן לָבָן לְרָחֵל בִּתּוֹ אֶת־בִּלְהָה שִׁפְחָתוֹ לָהּ לְשִׁפְחָה: וַיָּבֹא גַּם אֶל־רָחֵל וַיֶּאֱהַב גַּם־אֶת־רָחֵל מִלֵּאָה וַיַּעֲבֹד עִמּוֹ עוֹד שֶׁבַע־שָׁנִים אֲחֵרוֹת: וַיַּרְא יְהוָה כִּי־שְׂנוּאָה לֵאָה וַיִּפְתַּח אֶת־רַחְמָהּ וְרָחֵל עֲקָרָה: | Laban gave his slave woman Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her slave woman. Jacob slept with Rachel too, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. He served Laban another seven years. When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. |
| Gen 29:32 וַתַּהַר לֵאָה וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ רְאוּבֵן כִּי אָמְרָה כִּי־רָאָה יְהוָה בְּעָנְיִי כִּי עַתָּה יֶאֱהָבֵנִי אִישִׁי: וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתֹּאמֶר כִּי־שָׁמַע יְהוָה כִּי־שְׂנוּאָה אָנֹכִי וַיִּתֶּן־לִי גַּם־אֶת־זֶה וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ שִׁמְעוֹן: | Leah conceived and bore a son, and she named him Reuben, for she said, "The LORD has seen my misery. Surely now my husband will love me." She conceived again and bore a son and said, "Because the LORD heard that I am unloved, he has given me this one too." So she named him Simeon.[14] |
| Gen 29:34 וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתֹּאמֶר עַתָּה הַפַּעַם יִלָּוֶה אִישִׁי אֵלַי כִּי־יָלַדְתִּי לוֹ שְׁלֹשָׁה בָנִים עַל־כֵּן קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ לֵוִי: וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתֹּאמֶר הַפַּעַם אוֹדֶה אֶת־יְהוָה עַל־כֵּן קָרְאָה שְׁמוֹ יְהוּדָה וַתַּעֲמֹד מִלֶּדֶת: | She conceived again and bore a son and said, "Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons." That is why he was named Levi. She conceived again and bore a son and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." That is why she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing children.[15] |

## CHAPTER 30

*Jacob's children are born, and Jacob grows rich from Laban's flocks.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 30:1 וַתֵּרֶא רָחֵל כִּי לֹא יָלְדָה לְיַעֲקֹב וַתְּקַנֵּא רָחֵל בַּאֲחֹתָהּ וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־יַעֲקֹב הָבָה־לִּי בָנִים וְאִם־אַיִן מֵתָה אָנֹכִי: וַיִּחַר־אַף יַעֲקֹב בְּרָחֵל וַיֹּאמֶר הֲתַחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנֹכִי אֲשֶׁר־מָנַע מִמֵּךְ פְּרִי־בָטֶן: | When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I will die!" Jacob became angry |

12 The word for "delicate" literally means "soft" or "tender"; whether it praises Leah's eyes or calls them weak is uncertain.
13 The "week" is the seven days of wedding celebration.
14 Reuben sounds like "See, a son!" and echoes "the LORD has seen"; Simeon sounds like *shama'*, "he heard."
15 Levi sounds like *yillaweh*, "will be joined"; Judah sounds like *odeh*, "I will praise."

HEBREW

ENGLISH

with Rachel and said, “Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from bearing children?”

Gen 30:3 וַתֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה אֲמָתִי בִלְהָה בֹּא אֵלֶיהָ וְתֵלֶד עַל־בִּרְכַּי וְאִבָּנֶה גַּם־ אָנֹכִי מִמֶּנָּה: וַתִּתֶּן־לוֹ אֶת־בִּלְהָה שִׁפְחָתָהּ לְאִשָּׁה וַיָּבֹא אֵלֶיהָ יַעֲקֹב: וַתַּהַר בִּלְהָה וַתֵּלֶד לְיַעֲקֹב בֵּן: וַתֹּאמֶר רָחֵל דָּנַנִי אֱלֹהִים וְגַם שָׁמַע בְּקֹלִי וַיִּתֶּן־לִי בֵּן עַל־כֵּן קָרְאָה שְׁמוֹ דָּן:

She said, “Here is my slave woman Bilhah. Sleep with her, so that she may give birth on my knees and I too may have children through her.” So she gave him her slave woman Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob slept with her. Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. Rachel said, “God has judged in my favor. He has heard my voice and given me a son.” That is why she named him Dan.[16]

Gen 30:7 וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בִּלְהָה שִׁפְחַת רָחֵל בֵּן שֵׁנִי לְיַעֲקֹב: וַתֹּאמֶר רָחֵל נַפְתּוּלֵי אֱלֹהִים נִפְתַּלְתִּי עִם־אֲחֹתִי גַּם־יָכֹלְתִּי וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ נַפְתָּלִי: וַתֵּרֶא לֵאָה כִּי עָמְדָה מִלֶּדֶת וַתִּקַּח אֶת־זִלְפָּה שִׁפְחָתָהּ וַתִּתֵּן אֹתָהּ לְיַעֲקֹב לְאִשָּׁה:

Rachel’s slave woman Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. Rachel said, “I have wrestled mighty wrestlings with my sister, and I have won.” So she named him Naphtali. When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing children, she took her slave woman Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.[17]

Gen 30:10 וַתֵּלֶד זִלְפָּה שִׁפְחַת לֵאָה לְיַעֲקֹב בֵּן: וַתֹּאמֶר לֵאָה בָּא גָד וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ גָּד: וַתֵּלֶד זִלְפָּה שִׁפְחַת לֵאָה בֵּן שֵׁנִי לְיַעֲקֹב: וַתֹּאמֶר לֵאָה בְּאָשְׁרִי כִּי אִשְּׁרוּנִי בָּנוֹת וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ אָשֵׁר:

Leah’s slave woman Zilpah bore Jacob a son. Leah said, “Good fortune has come!” So she named him Gad. Leah’s slave woman Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. Leah said, “How happy I am! Women will call me happy.” So she named him Asher.[18]

Gen 30:14 וַיֵּלֶךְ רְאוּבֵן בִּימֵי קְצִיר־חִטִּים וַיִּמְצָא דוּדָאִים בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיָּבֵא אֹתָם אֶל־לֵאָה אִמּוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר רָחֵל אֶל־לֵאָה תְּנִי־נָא לִי מִדּוּדָאֵי בְנֵךְ: וַתֹּאמֶר לָהּ הַמְעַט קַחְתֵּךְ אֶת־אִישִׁי וְלָקַחַת גַּם אֶת־דּוּדָאֵי בְנִי וַתֹּאמֶר רָחֵל לָכֵן יִשְׁכַּב עִמָּךְ הַלַּיְלָה תַּחַת דּוּדָאֵי בְנֵךְ:

In the days of the wheat harvest Reuben went out, found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.” But Leah said to her, “Isn’t it enough that you have taken my husband? Will you take my son’s mandrakes too?” Rachel said, “Then he may sleep with you tonight in exchange for your son’s mandrakes.”[19]

Gen 30:16 וַיָּבֹא יַעֲקֹב מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה בָּעֶרֶב וַתֵּצֵא לֵאָה לִקְרָאתוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלַי תָּבוֹא כִּי שָׂכֹר שְׂכַרְתִּיךְ בְּדוּדָאֵי בְּנִי וַיִּשְׁכַּב עִמָּהּ בַּלַּיְלָה הוּא: וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים אֶל־לֵאָה וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד לְיַעֲקֹב בֵּן חֲמִישִׁי:

When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must sleep with me, for I have hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So he slept with her that night. God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

Gen 30:18 וַתֹּאמֶר לֵאָה נָתַן אֱלֹהִים שְׂכָרִי אֲשֶׁר־נָתַתִּי שִׁפְחָתִי לְאִישִׁי וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ יִשָּׂשכָר: וַתַּהַר עוֹד לֵאָה וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן־שִׁשִּׁי ׃ לְיַעֲקֹב: וַתֹּאמֶר לֵאָה זְבָדַנִי אֱלֹהִים אֹתִי זֵבֶד טוֹב הַפַּעַם יִזְבְּלֵנִי אִישִׁי כִּי־יָלַדְתִּי לוֹ שִׁשָּׁה ה בָנִים וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ זְבֻלוּן:

Leah said, “God has given me my wages, because I gave my slave woman to my husband.” So she named him Issachar. Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. Leah said, “God has given me a fine gift. This time my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons.” So she named him Zebulun.[20]

16 Giving birth on another woman’s knees seems to have been a sign of adoption. “Have children” is literally “be built up,” a play on *ben*, “son”; Dan sounds like *dan*, “judged.”

17 Naphtali sounds like *niftalti*, “I have wrestled.” “Mighty” is literally “of God.”

18 Gad means “fortune”; Asher sounds like *osher*, “happiness.”

19 Mandrakes are plants with fragrant fruit and forked roots, widely believed in the ancient world to promote fertility.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 30:21 וְאַחַר יָלְדָה בַּת וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמָהּ דִּינָה: וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־רָחֵל וַיִּשְׁמַע אֵלֶיהָ אֱלֹהִים וַיִּפְתַּח אֶת־רַחְמָהּ: וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתֹּאמֶר אָסַף אֱלֹהִים אֶת־חֶרְפָּתִי: וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר יֹסֵף יְהוָה לִי בֵּן אַחֵר: | Afterward she bore a daughter and named her Dinah. Then God remembered Rachel. God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." She named him Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add another son for me."[21] |
| Gen 30:25 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה רָחֵל אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־לָבָן שַׁלְּחֵנִי וְאֵלְכָה אֶל־מְקוֹמִי וּלְאַרְצִי: תְּנָה אֶת־נָשַׁי וְאֶת־יְלָדַי אֲשֶׁר עָבַדְתִּי אֹתְךָ בָּהֶן וְאֵלֵכָה כִּי אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ אֶת־עֲבֹדָתִי אֲשֶׁר עֲבַדְתִּיךָ: | After Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, so that I may go to my own place and my own country. Give me my wives and my children, for whom I have served you, and let me go, for you know the service I have given you." |
| Gen 30:27 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו לָבָן אִם־נָא מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ נִחַשְׁתִּי וַיְבָרְכֵנִי יְהוָה בִּגְלָלֶךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר נָקְבָה שְׂכָרְךָ עָלַי וְאֶתֵּנָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אַתָּה יָדַעְתָּ אֵת אֲשֶׁר עֲבַדְתִּיךָ וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה מִקְנְךָ אִתִּי: | Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes—I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you." He said, "Name your wages, and I will pay them." Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has fared with me.[22] |
| Gen 30:30 כִּי מְעַט אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה לְךָ לְפָנַי וַיִּפְרֹץ לְרֹב וַיְבָרֶךְ יְהוָה אֹתְךָ לְרַגְלִי וְעַתָּה מָתַי אֶעֱשֶׂה גַּם־אָנֹכִי לְבֵיתִי: וַיֹּאמֶר מָה אֶתֶּן־לָךְ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב לֹא־תִתֶּן־לִי מְאוּמָה אִם־תַּעֲשֶׂה־לִּי הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה אָשׁוּבָה אֶרְעֶה צֹאנְךָ אֶשְׁמֹר: | The little you had before I came has grown into a great deal, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I set foot. But now, when shall I provide for my own household too?" Laban said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You don't need to give me anything. If you will do this one thing for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it. |
| Gen 30:32 אֶעֱבֹר בְּכָל־צֹאנְךָ הַיּוֹם הָסֵר מִשָּׁם כָּל־שֶׂה נָקֹד וְטָלוּא וְכָל־שֶׂה־חוּם בַּכְּשָׂבִים וְטָלוּא וְנָקֹד בָּעִזִּים וְהָיָה שְׂכָרִי: וְעָנְתָה־בִּי צִדְקָתִי בְּיוֹם מָחָר כִּי־תָבוֹא עַל־שְׂכָרִי לְפָנֶיךָ כֹּל אֲשֶׁר־אֵינֶנּוּ נָקֹד וְטָלוּא בָּעִזִּים וְחוּם בַּכְּשָׂבִים גָּנוּב הוּא אִתִּי: | Let me go through your whole flock today and remove from it every speckled and spotted animal, every dark one among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats. They will be my wages. My honesty will answer for me later, when you come to check my wages: any goat with me that is not speckled and spotted, and any lamb that is not dark, will count as stolen." |
| Gen 30:34 וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן הֵן לוּ יְהִי כִדְבָרֶךָ: וַיָּסַר בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶת־הַתְּיָשִׁים הָעֲקֻדִּים וְהַטְּלָאִים וְאֵת כָּל־הָעִזִּים הַנְּקֻדּוֹת וְהַטְלָאֹת כֹּל אֲשֶׁר־לָבָן בּוֹ וְכָל־חוּם בַּכְּשָׂבִים וַיִּתֵּן בְּיַד־בָּנָיו: וַיָּשֶׂם דֶּרֶךְ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים בֵּינוֹ וּבֵין יַעֲקֹב וְיַעֲקֹב רֹעֶה אֶת־צֹאן לָבָן הַנּוֹתָרֹת: | Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you say." That same day he removed the streaked and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats, every one with white on it, and every dark one among the lambs, and he put them in the care of his sons. Then he put a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock. |
| Gen 30:37 וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ יַעֲקֹב מַקַּל לִבְנֶה לַח וְלוּז וְעֶרְמוֹן וַיְפַצֵּל בָּהֶן פְּצָלוֹת לְבָנוֹת מַחְשֹׂף הַלְּבָן אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַמַּקְלוֹת: וַיַּצֵּג אֶת־הַמַּקְלוֹת אֲשֶׁר | Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar, almond and plane trees and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white of the rods. He set the rods he |

20 Issachar sounds like *sakhar*, "wages, hire." Zebulun plays on *zeved*, "gift," and on a verb that may mean "honor" or "dwell with"; its sense is uncertain.

21 Joseph sounds like both *asaf*, "he has taken away," and *yosef*, "may he add."

22 The verb rendered "learned by divination" may instead mean "grown rich." Laban's opening sentence is left unfinished in the Hebrew.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| פְּצֹל בָּרָהָטִים בְּשִׁקָּתוֹת הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר תָּבֹאן הַצֹּאן לִשְׁתּוֹת לְנֹכַח הַצֹּאן וַיֵּחַמְנָה בְּבֹאָן לִשְׁתּוֹת: | had peeled in the troughs, the watering channels where the flock came to drink, right in front of the flock, and the animals mated when they came to drink.[23] |
| Gen 30:39 וַיֵּחֻמוּ הַצֹּאן אֶל־הַמַּקְלוֹת וַתֵּלַדְן הַצֹּאן עֲקֻדִּים נְקֻדִּים וּטְלָאִים: וְהַכְּשָׂבִים הִפְרִיד יַעֲקֹב וַיִּתֵּן פְּנֵי הַצֹּאן אֶל־עָקֹד וְכָל־חוּם בְּצֹאן לָבָן וַיָּשֶׁת־לוֹ עֲדָרִים לְבַדּוֹ וְלֹא שָׁתָם עַל־צֹאן לָבָן: | The flock mated in front of the rods, and the flock bore young that were streaked, speckled and spotted. Jacob separated out the lambs and made the flock face the streaked and all the dark animals in Laban's flock. So he set apart flocks of his own and did not put them with Laban's flock. |
| Gen 30:41 וְהָיָה בְּכָל־יַחֵם הַצֹּאן הַמְקֻשָּׁר רוֹת וְשָׂם יַעֲקֹב אֶת־הַמַּקְלוֹת לְעֵינֵי הַצֹּאן בָּרָהָטִים לְיַחְמֵנָּה בַּמַּקְלוֹת: וּבְהַעֲטִיף הַצֹּאן לֹא יָשִׂים וְהָיָה הָעֲטֻפִים לְלָבָן וְהַקְשָׁרִים לְיַעֲקֹב: וַיִּפְרֹץ הָאִישׁ מְאֹד מְאֹד וַיְהִי־לוֹ צֹאן רַבּוֹת וּשְׁפָחוֹת וַעֲבָדִים וּגְמַלִּים וַחֲמֹרִים: | Whenever the stronger animals of the flock were mating, Jacob would put the rods in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, so that they would mate among the rods. But when the animals were feeble, he would not put them there. So the feeble ones went to Laban and the stronger ones to Jacob. The man grew exceedingly rich. He had large flocks, slave women and slave men, camels and donkeys. |

## CHAPTER 31

*Jacob flees from Laban, Rachel steals the household gods, and the two men make a covenant.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 31:1 וַיִּשְׁמַע אֶת־דִּבְרֵי בְנֵי־לָבָן לֵאמֹר לָקַח יַעֲקֹב אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לְאָבִינוּ וּמֵאֲשֶׁר לְאָבִינוּ עָשָׂה אֶת כָּל־הַכָּבֹד הַזֶּה: וַיַּרְא יַעֲקֹב אֶת־פְּנֵי לָבָן וְהִנֵּה אֵינֶנּוּ עִמּוֹ כִּתְמוֹל שִׁלְשׁוֹם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יַעֲקֹב שׁוּב אֶל־אֶרֶץ אֲבוֹתֶיךָ וּלְמוֹלַדְתֶּךָ וְאֶהְיֶה עִמָּךְ: | Jacob heard what Laban's sons were saying: "Jacob has taken everything that belonged to our father. He has made all this wealth out of what was our father's." And Jacob saw Laban's face, and it was not toward him as it had been before. Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." |
| Gen 31:4 וַיִּשְׁלַח יַעֲקֹב וַיִּקְרָא לְרָחֵל וּלְלֵאָה הַשָּׂדֶה אֶל־צֹאנוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶן רֹאָה אָנֹכִי אֶת־פְּנֵי אֲבִיכֶן כִּי־אֵינֶנּוּ אֵלַי כִּתְמוֹל שִׁלְשֹׁם וֵאלֹהֵי אָבִי הָיָה עִמָּדִי: וְאַתֵּנָה יְדַעְתֶּן כִּי בְּכָל־כֹּחִי עָבַדְתִּי אֶת־אֲבִיכֶן: | So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah out to the field where his flock was. He said to them, "I see your father's face, and it is not toward me as it was before. But the God of my father has been with me. You yourselves know that I have served your father with all my strength. |
| Gen 31:7 וַאֲבִיכֶן הֵתֶל בִּי וְהֶחֱלִף אֶת־מַשְׂכֻּרְתִּי עֲשֶׂרֶת מֹנִים וְלֹא־נְתָנוֹ אֱלֹהִים לְהָרַע עִמָּדִי: אִם־כֹּה יֹאמַר נְקֻדִּים יִהְיֶה שְׂכָרֶךָ וְיָלְדוּ כָל־הַצֹּאן נְקֻדִּים וְאִם־כֹּה יֹאמַר עֲקֻדִּים יִהְיֶה שְׂכָרֶךָ וְיָלְדוּ כָל־הַצֹּאן עֲקֻדִּים: וַיַּצֵּל אֱלֹהִים אֶת־מִקְנֵה אֲבִיכֶם וַיִּתֶּן־לִי: | Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not let him do me harm. If he said, 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then the whole flock bore speckled young. If he said, 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then the whole flock bore streaked young. So God has taken your father's livestock away and given it to me. |

23 "Poplar" (*livneh*) and "white" (*lavan*) play on the name Laban.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 31:10 וַיְהִי בְּעֵת יַחֵם הַצֹּאן וָאֶשָּׂא עֵינַי וָאֵרֶא בַּחֲלוֹם וְהִנֵּה הָעַתֻּדִים הָעֹלִים עַל־הַצֹּאן עֲקֻדִּים נְקֻדִּים וּבְרֻדִּים: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי מַלְאַךְ הָאֱלֹהִים בַּחֲלוֹם יַעֲקֹב וָאֹמַר הִנֵּנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׂא־נָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה כָּל־הָעַתֻּדִים הָעֹלִים עַל־הַצֹּאן עֲקֻדִּים נְקֻדִּים וּבְרֻדִּים כִּי רָאִיתִי אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לָבָן עֹשֶׂה לָךְ: | In the season when the flock was mating, I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the male goats mounting the flock were streaked, speckled and mottled. And the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob!' and I said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Lift up your eyes and see: all the male goats mounting the flock are streaked, speckled and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. |
| Gen 31:13 אָנֹכִי הָאֵל בֵּית־אֵל אֲשֶׁר מָשַׁחְתָּ שָּׁם מַצֵּבָה אֲשֶׁר נָדַרְתָּ לִּי שָׁם נֶדֶר עַתָּה קוּם צֵא מִן־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וְשׁוּב אֶל־אֶרֶץ מוֹלַדְתֶּךָ: וַתַּעַן רָחֵל וְלֵאָה וַתֹּאמַרְנָה לוֹ הַעוֹד לָנוּ חֵלֶק וְנַחֲלָה בְּבֵית אָבִינוּ: | I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now get up, leave this land and go back to the land of your birth.'" Then Rachel and Leah answered him, "Do we still have any share or inheritance in our father's house? |
| Gen 31:15 הֲלוֹא נָכְרִיּוֹת נֶחְשַׁבְנוּ לוֹ כִּי מְכָרָנוּ וַיֹּאכַל גַּם־אָכוֹל אֶת־כַּסְפֵּנוּ: כִּי כָל־הָעשֶׁר אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֱלֹהִים מֵאָבִינוּ לָנוּ הוּא וּלְבָנֵינוּ וְעַתָּה כֹּל אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים אֵלֶיךָ עֲשֵׂה: וַיָּקָם יַעֲקֹב וַיִּשָּׂא אֶת־בָּנָיו וְאֶת־נָשָׁיו עַל־הַגְּמַלִּים: | Doesn't he regard us as foreigners? For he sold us, and what is more, he has eaten up the money paid for us. All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. So now, do whatever God has told you." Then Jacob got up and set his children and his wives on the camels. |
| Gen 31:18 וַיִּנְהַג אֶת־כָּל־מִקְנֵהוּ וְאֶת־כָּל־רְכֻשׁוֹ אֲשֶׁר רָכַשׁ מִקְנֵה קִנְיָנוֹ אֲשֶׁר רָכַשׁ בְּפַדַּן אֲרָם לָבוֹא אֶל־יִצְחָק אָבִיו אַרְצָה כְּנָעַן: וְלָבָן הָלַךְ לִגְזֹז אֶת־צֹאנוֹ וַתִּגְנֹב רָחֵל אֶת־הַתְּרָפִים אֲשֶׁר לְאָבִיהָ: וַיִּגְנֹב יַעֲקֹב אֶת־לֵב לָבָן הָאֲרַמִּי עַל־בְּלִי הִגִּיד לוֹ כִּי בֹרֵחַ הוּא: | He drove off all his livestock and all the property he had acquired, the livestock he had gained in Paddan-aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan. Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole the household gods that belonged to her father. And Jacob stole the heart of Laban the Aramean by not telling him that he was fleeing.[24] |
| Gen 31:21 וַיִּבְרַח הוּא וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וַיָּקָם וַיַּעֲבֹר אֶת־הַנָּהָר וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת־פָּנָיו הַר הַגִּלְעָד: וַיֻּגַּד לְלָבָן בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי כִּי בָרַח יַעֲקֹב: וַיִּקַּח אֶת־אֶחָיו עִמּוֹ וַיִּרְדֹּף אַחֲרָיו דֶּרֶךְ שִׁבְעַת יָמִים וַיַּדְבֵּק אֹתוֹ בְּהַר הַגִּלְעָד: | So he fled with all that he had. He set out, crossed the River and headed for the hill country of Gilead. On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled. He took his kinsmen with him, pursued him for seven days' journey and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead.[25] |
| Gen 31:24 וַיָּבֹא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־לָבָן הָאֲרַמִּי בַּחֲלֹם הַלָּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ פֶּן־תְּדַבֵּר עִם־יַעֲקֹב מִטּוֹב עַד־רָע: וַיַּשֵּׂג לָבָן אֶת־יַעֲקֹב וְיַעֲקֹב תָּקַע אֶת־אָהֳלוֹ בָּהָר וְלָבָן תָּקַע אֶת־אֶחָיו בְּהַר הַגִּלְעָד: | But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, whether good or bad." Laban overtook Jacob. Jacob had pitched his tent on the mountain, and Laban pitched camp with his kinsmen in the hill country of Gilead. |
| Gen 31:26 וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב מֶה עָשִׂיתָ וַתִּגְנֹב אֶת־לְבָבִי וַתְּנַהֵג אֶת־בְּנֹתַי כִּשְׁבֻיוֹת חָרֶב: לָמָּה נָחְבֵאתָ לִבְרֹחַ וַתִּגְנֹב אֹתִי וְלֹא־הִגַּדְתָּ לִי וָאֲשַׁלֵּחֲךָ בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשִׁרִים בְּתֹף וּבְכִנּוֹר: וְלֹא נְטַשְׁתַּנִי לְנַשֵּׁק לְבָנַי וְלִבְנֹתָי עַתָּה הִסְכַּלְתָּ עָשׂוֹ: | Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have stolen my heart and carried off my daughters like captives of the sword. Why did you flee in secret and steal away from me? You did not tell |

24 Household gods: Hebrew *teraphim*, small figures kept in the home. "Stole the heart" is an idiom for deceiving; the text uses the same verb as for Rachel's theft.
25 The River is the Euphrates; Gilead is the hill country east of the Jordan.

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יֶשׁ־לְאֵל יָדִי לַעֲשׂוֹת עִמָּכֶם רָע וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבִיכֶם אֶמֶשׁ אָמַר אֵלַי לֵאמֹר הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ מְדַבֵּר עִם־יַעֲקֹב מִטּוֹב עַד־רָע: וְעַתָּה הָלֹךְ הָלַכְתָּ כִּי־נִכְסֹף נִכְסַפְתָּה לְבֵית אָבִיךָ לָמָּה גָנַבְתָּ אֶת־אֱלֹהָי: וַיַּעַן יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר לְלָבָן כִּי יָרֵאתִי כִּי אָמַרְתִּי פֶּן־תִּגְזֹל אֶת־בְּנוֹתֶיךָ מֵעִמִּי: Gen 31:29

me, or I would have sent you off with celebration and songs, with tambourine and lyre. You did not even let me kiss my sons and my daughters goodbye. Now you have acted foolishly.

It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, whether good or bad.' Now, you have gone away because you longed so much for your father's house—but why did you steal my gods?" Jacob answered Laban, "Because I was afraid. I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force.

עִם אֲשֶׁר תִּמְצָא אֶת־אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא יִחְיֶה נֶגֶד אַחֵינוּ הַכֶּר־לְךָ מָה עִמָּדִי וְקַח־לָךְ וְלֹא־יָדַע יַעֲקֹב כִּי רָחֵל גְּנָבָתַם: וַיָּבֹא לָבָן בְּאֹהֶל יַעֲקֹב וּבְאֹהֶל לֵאָה וּבְאֹהֶל שְׁתֵּי הָאֲמָהֹת וְלֹא מָצָא וַיֵּצֵא מֵאֹהֶל לֵאָה וַיָּבֹא בְּאֹהֶל רָחֵל: Gen 31:32

Anyone you find with your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen, point out what of yours is with me, and take it." Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. So Laban went into Jacob's tent, into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two slave women, but he did not find them. He came out of Leah's tent and went into Rachel's tent.

וְרָחֵל לָקְחָה אֶת־הַתְּרָפִים וַתְּשִׂמֵם בְּכַר הַגָּמָל וַתֵּשֶׁב עֲלֵיהֶם וַיְמַשֵּׁשׁ שׁ לָבָן אֶת־כָּל־הָאֹהֶל וְלֹא מָצָא: וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־אָבִיהָ אַל־יִחַר בְּעֵינֵי אֲדֹנִי כִּי לוֹא אוּכַל לָקוּם מִפָּנֶיךָ כִּי־דֶרֶךְ נָשִׁים לִי וַיְחַפֵּשׂ וְלֹא מָצָא אֶת־הַתְּרָפִים: Gen 31:34

Now Rachel had taken the household gods, put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt through the whole tent but did not find them. She said to her father, "Let my lord not be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods.

וַיִּחַר לְיַעֲקֹב וַיָּרֶב בְּלָבָן וַיַּעַן יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר לְלָבָן מַה־פִּשְׁעִי מַה חַטָּאתִי כִּי דָלַקְתָּ אַחֲרָי: כִּי־מִשַּׁשְׁתָּ אֶת־כָּל־כֵּלַי מַה־מָּצָאתָ מִכֹּל כְּלֵי־בֵיתֶךָ שִׂים כֹּה נֶגֶד אַחַי וְאַחֶיךָ וְיוֹכִיחוּ בֵּין שְׁנֵינוּ: Gen 31:36

Then Jacob became angry and quarreled with Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me? You have felt through all my belongings—what have you found of all your household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, and let them decide between the two of us.

זֶה עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה אָנֹכִי עִמָּךְ רְחֵלֶיךָ וְעִזֶּיךָ לֹא שִׁכֵּלוּ וְאֵילֵי צֹאנְךָ לֹא אָכָלְתִּי: טְרֵפָה לֹא־הֵבֵאתִי אֵלֶיךָ אָנֹכִי אֲחַטֶּנָּה מִיָּדִי תְּבַקְּשֶׁנָּה גְּנֻבְתִּי יוֹם וּגְנֻבְתִּי לָיְלָה: הָיִיתִי בַיּוֹם אֲכָלַנִי חֹרֶב וְקֶרַח בַּלָּיְלָה וַתִּדַּד שְׁנָתִי מֵעֵינָי: Gen 31:38

These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock. What was torn by wild animals I did not bring to you; I bore the loss myself. You demanded it from me, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. This is how I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and sleep fled from my eyes.

זֶה־לִּי עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה בְּבֵיתֶךָ עֲבַדְתִּיךָ אַרְבַּע־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה בִּשְׁתֵּי בְנֹתֶיךָ וְשֵׁשׁ שָׁנִים בְּצֹאנֶךָ וַתַּחֲלֵף אֶת־מַשְׂכֻּרְתִּי עֲשֶׂרֶת מֹנִים: לוּלֵי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וּפַחַד יִצְחָק הָיָה לִי כִּי עַתָּה רֵיקָם שִׁלַּחְתָּנִי אֶת־עָנְיִי וְאֶת־יְגִיעַ כַּפַּי רָאָה אֱלֹהִים וַיּוֹכַח אָמֶשׁ: Gen 31:41

These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you changed my wages ten times. If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, you would surely have sent me away

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empty-handed by now. God saw my hardship and the toil of my hands, and he gave judgment last night."[26]

Gen 31:43 וַיַּעַן לָבָן וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־יַעֲקֹב הַבָּנוֹת בְּנֹתַי וְהַבָּנִים בָּנַי וְהַצֹּאן צֹאנִי וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־אַתָּה רֹאֶה לִי־הוּא וְלִבְנֹתַי מָה־אֶעֱשֶׂה לָאֵלֶּה הַיּוֹם אוֹ לִבְנֵיהֶן אֲשֶׁר יָלָדוּ: וְעַתָּה לְכָה נִכְרְתָה בְרִית אֲנִי וָאָתָּה וְהָיָה לְעֵד בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ:

Laban answered Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flock is my flock; all that you see is mine. But what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne? So now come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between me and you."

Gen 31:45 וַיִּקַּח יַעֲקֹב אֶבֶן וַיְרִימֵהָ מַצֵּבָה: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב לְאֶחָיו לִקְטוּ אֲבָנִים וַיִּקְחוּ אֲבָנִים וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־גָל וַיֹּאכְלוּ שָׁם עַל־הַגָּל: וַיִּקְרָא־לוֹ לָבָן יְגַר שָׂהֲדוּתָא וְיַעֲקֹב קָרָא לוֹ גַּלְעֵד: וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן הַגַּל הַזֶּה עֵד בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ הַיּוֹם עַל־כֵּן קָרָא־שְׁמוֹ גַּלְעֵד:

So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. And Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." They took stones and made a heap, and they ate there beside the heap. Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, and Jacob called it Galeed. Laban said, "This heap is a witness between me and you today." That is why it was named Galeed.[27]

Gen 31:49 וְהַמִּצְפָּה אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יִצֶף יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ כִּי נִסָּתֵר אִישׁ מֵרֵעֵהוּ: אִם־תְּעַנֶּה אֶת־בְּנֹתַי וְאִם־תִּקַּח נָשִׁים עַל־בְּנֹתַי אֵין אִישׁ עִמָּנוּ רְאֵה אֱלֹהִים עֵד בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב הִנֵּה הַגַּל הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה הַמַּצֵּבָה אֲשֶׁר יָרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ:

It was also called Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD keep watch between me and you when we are out of each other's sight. If you mistreat my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters—though no one is with us, see, God is witness between me and you." Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap, and here is the pillar that I have set up between me and you.[28]

Gen 31:52 עֵד הַגַּל הַזֶּה וְעֵדָה הַמַּצֵּבָה אִם־אָנִי לֹא־אֶעֱבֹר אֵלֶיךָ אֶת־הַגַּל הַזֶּה וְאִם־אַתָּה לֹא־תַעֲבֹר אֵלַי אֶת־הַגַּל הַזֶּה וְאֶת־הַמַּצֵּבָה הַזֹּאת לָרָעָה: אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וֵאלֹהֵי נָחוֹר יִשְׁפְּטוּ בֵינֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵי אֲבִיהֶם וַיִּשָּׁבַע יַעֲקֹב בְּפַחַד אָבִיו יִצְחָק: וַיִּזְבַּח יַעֲקֹב זֶבַח בָּהָר וַיִּקְרָא לְאֶחָיו לֶאֱכָל־לֶחֶם וַיֹּאכְלוּ לֶחֶם וַיָּלִינוּ בָּהָר:

This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and that you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm. May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor—the God of their father—judge between us." So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac. Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain and invited his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night on the mountain.

## CHAPTER 32

*Jacob sends messengers and gifts ahead to placate his brother Esau.*

HEBREW | ENGLISH

Gen 32:1 וַיַּשְׁכֵּם לָבָן בַּבֹּקֶר וַיְנַשֵּׁק לְבָנָיו וְלִבְנוֹתָיו וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיָּשָׁב לָבָן לִמְקֹמוֹ: וְיַעֲקֹב הָלַךְ לְדַרְכּוֹ וַיִּפְגְּעוּ־בוֹ מַלְאֲכֵי אֱלֹהִים: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאָם מַחֲנֵה אֱלֹהִים זֶה וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם־הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא מַחֲנָיִם:

Early in the morning Laban got up, kissed his sons and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban left and went back home. Jacob went on his way, and angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them,

26 "The Fear of Isaac" is a title of God found only here and in 31:53; the exact sense of the Hebrew is debated.
27 Jegar-sahadutha is Aramaic and Galeed is Hebrew; both mean "heap of witness," and Galeed echoes the name Gilead.
28 Mizpah means "watchpost," echoing the verb *yitsef*, "keep watch."

HEBREW

ENGLISH

he said, “This is God’s camp!” So he named that place Mahanaim.[29]

Gen 32:4 וַיִּשְׁלַח יַעֲקֹב מַלְאָכִים לְפָנָיו אֶל־עֵשָׂו אָחִיו אַרְצָה שֵׂעִיר שְׂדֵה אֱדוֹם: וַיְצַו אֹתָם לֵאמֹר כֹּה תֹאמְרוּן לַאדֹנִי לְעֵשָׂו כֹּה אָמַר עַבְדְּךָ יַעֲקֹב עִם־לָבָן גַּרְתִּי וָאֵחַר עַד־עָתָּה: וַיְהִי־לִי שׁוֹר וַחֲמוֹר צֹאן וְעֶבֶד וְשִׁפְחָה וָאֶשְׁלְחָה לְהַגִּיד לַאדֹנִי לִמְצֹא־חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ:

Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. He instructed them, “This is what you shall say to my lord Esau: ‘This is what your servant Jacob says: I have been staying with Laban, and I have stayed on until now. I have oxen and donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves, and I have sent to tell my lord, in order to find favor in your eyes.’”[30]

Gen 32:7 וַיָּשֻׁבוּ הַמַּלְאָכִים אֶל־יַעֲקֹב לֵאמֹר בָּאנוּ אֶל־אָחִיךָ אֶל־עֵשָׂו וְגַם הֹלֵךְ לִקְרָאתְךָ וְאַרְבַּע־מֵאוֹת אִישׁ עִמּוֹ: וַיִּירָא יַעֲקֹב מְאֹד וַיֵּצֶר לוֹ וַיַּחַץ אֶת־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר־אִתּוֹ וְאֶת־הַצֹּאן וְאֶת־הַבָּקָר וְהַגְּמַלִּים לִשְׁנֵי מַחֲנוֹת: וַיֹּאמֶר אִם־יָבוֹא עֵשָׂו אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה הָאַחַת וְהִכָּהוּ וְהָיָה הַמַּחֲנֶה הַנִּשְׁאָר לִפְלֵיטָה:

The messengers came back to Jacob and said, “We went to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him.” Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks, the herds and the camels, into two camps. He thought, “If Esau comes to one camp and attacks it, the camp that is left will escape.”

Gen 32:10 וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי אַבְרָהָם וֵאלֹהֵי אָבִי יִצְחָק יְהוָה הָאֹמֵר אֵלַי שׁוּב לְאַרְצְךָ וּלְמוֹלַדְתֶּךָ וְאֵיטִיבָה עִמָּךְ: קָטֹנְתִּי מִכֹּל הַחֲסָדִים וּמִכָּל־הָאֱמֶת אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ אֶת־עַבְדֶּךָ כִּי בְמַקְלִי עָבַרְתִּי אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן הַזֶּה וְעַתָּה הָיִיתִי לִשְׁנֵי מַחֲנוֹת:

Then Jacob said, “God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, LORD, who said to me, ‘Go back to your land and to your kindred, and I will deal well with you’: I am too small for all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness you have shown your servant. With only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.

Gen 32:12 הַצִּילֵנִי נָא מִיַּד אָחִי מִיַּד עֵשָׂו כִּי־יָרֵא אָנֹכִי אֹתוֹ פֶּן־יָבוֹא וְהִכַּנִי אֵם עַל־בָּנִים: וְאַתָּה אָמַרְתָּ הֵיטֵב אֵיטִיב עִמָּךְ וְשַׂמְתִּי אֶת־זַרְעֲךָ כְּחוֹל הַיָּם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִסָּפֵר מֵרֹב: וַיָּלֶן שָׁם בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא וַיִּקַּח מִן־הַבָּא בְיָדוֹ מִנְחָה לְעֵשָׂו אָחִיו:

Rescue me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him, that he will come and attack me, the mothers along with the children. Yet you said, ‘I will surely deal well with you and make your offspring like the sand of the sea, too many to be counted.’” He spent the night there. Then from what he had with him he took a gift for his brother Esau:

Gen 32:15 עִזִּים מָאתַיִם וּתְיָשִׁים עֶשְׂרִים רְחֵלִים מָאתַיִם וְאֵילִים עֶשְׂרִים: גְּמַלִּים מֵינִיקוֹת וּבְנֵיהֶם שְׁלֹשִׁים פָּרוֹת אַרְבָּעִים וּפָרִים עֲשָׂרָה אֲתֹנֹת עֶשְׂרִים וַעְיָרִם עֲשָׂרָה: וַיִּתֵּן בְּיַד־עֲבָדָיו עֵדֶר עֵדֶר לְבַדּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־עֲבָדָיו עִבְרוּ לְפָנַי וְרֶוַח תָּשִׂימוּ בֵּין עֵדֶר וּבֵין עֵדֶר:

two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, thirty nursing camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. He put them in the charge of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, “Go on ahead of me, and keep a space between one herd and the next.”

Gen 32:18 וַיְצַו אֶת־הָרִאשׁוֹן לֵאמֹר כִּי יִפְגָּשְׁךָ עֵשָׂו אָחִי וּשְׁאָלְךָ לֵאמֹר לְמִי־אַתָּה וְאָנָה תֵלֵךְ וּלְמִי אֵלֶּה לְפָנֶיךָ: וְאָמַרְתָּ לְעַבְדְּךָ לְיַעֲקֹב מִנְחָה הִוא שְׁלוּחָה לַאדֹנִי לְעֵשָׂו וְהִנֵּה גַם־הוּא אַחֲרֵינוּ:

He instructed the first, “When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, ‘Whose are you? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?’ then you shall say, ‘They belong to your servant

29 Mahanaim means “two camps,” from *mahaneh*, “camp.”
30 The Hebrew word for “messengers” is the same as the word for “angels” in 32:2.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and look, he himself is behind us.'" |
| Gen 32:20 וַיְצַו גַּם אֶת־הַשֵּׁנִי גַּם אֶת־הַשְּׁלִישִׁי גַּם אֶת־כָּל־הַהֹלְכִים אַחֲרֵי הָעֲדָרִים לֵאמֹר כַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה תְּדַבְּרוּן אֶל־עֵשָׂו בְּמֹצַאֲכֶם אֹתוֹ: וַאֲמַרְתֶּם גַּם הִנֵּה עַבְדְּךָ יַעֲקֹב אַחֲרֵינוּ כִּי־אָמַר אֲכַפְּרָה פָנָיו בַּמִּנְחָה הַהֹלֶכֶת לְפָנָי וְאַחֲרֵי־כֵן אֶרְאֶה פָנָיו אוּלַי יִשָּׂא פָנָי: | He instructed the second as well, and the third, and all who followed the herds: "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you meet him. And you shall say, 'Look, your servant Jacob is behind us too.'" For he thought, "I will appease his face with the gift that goes ahead of me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will lift up my face."[31] |

## JACOB WRESTLES

*Jacob wrestles with a man until dawn and is renamed Israel.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 32:22 וַתַּעֲבֹר הַמִּנְחָה עַל־פָּנָיו וְהוּא לָן בַּלַּיְלָה־הַהוּא בַּמַּחֲנֶה: וַיָּקָם בַּלַּיְלָה הוּא וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שְׁתֵּי נָשָׁיו וְאֶת־שְׁתֵּי שִׁפְחֹתָיו וְאֶת־אַחַד עָשָׂר יְלָדָיו וַיַּעֲבֹר אֵת מַעֲבַר יַבֹּק: וַיִּקָּחֵם וַיַּעֲבִרֵם אֶת־הַנָּחַל וַיַּעֲבֵר אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ: | So the gift went on ahead of him, while he himself spent that night in the camp. That same night he got up, took his two wives, his two slave women and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and sent across everything he had.[32] |
| Gen 32:25 וַיִּוָּתֵר יַעֲקֹב לְבַדּוֹ וַיֵּאָבֵק אִישׁ עִמּוֹ עַד עֲלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר: וַיַּרְא כִּי לֹא יָכֹל לוֹ וַיִּגַּע בְּכַף־יְרֵכוֹ וַתֵּקַע כַּף־יֶרֶךְ יַעֲקֹב בְּהֵאָבְקוֹ עִמּוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר שַׁלְּחֵנִי כִּי עָלָה הַשָּׁחַר וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא אֲשַׁלֵּחֲךָ כִּי אִם־בֵּרַכְתָּנִי: | Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he could not prevail against him, he touched the socket of his hip, and the socket of Jacob's hip was wrenched as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."[33] |
| Gen 32:28 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו מַה־שְּׁמֶךָ וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב: וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יַעֲקֹב יֵאָמֵר עוֹד שִׁמְךָ כִּי אִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־שָׂרִיתָ עִם־אֱלֹהִים וְעִם־אֲנָשִׁים וַתּוּכָל: וַיִּשְׁאַל יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הַגִּידָה־נָּא שְׁמֶךָ וַיֹּאמֶר לָמָּה זֶּה תִּשְׁאַל לִשְׁמִי וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ שָׁם: | He said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Jacob asked, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there.[34] |
| Gen 32:31 וַיִּקְרָא יַעֲקֹב שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם פְּנִיאֵל כִּי־רָאִיתִי אֱלֹהִים פָּנִים אֶל־פָּנִים וַתִּנָּצֵל נַפְשִׁי: וַיִּזְרַח־לוֹ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ כַּאֲשֶׁר עָבַר אֶת־פְּנוּאֵל וְהוּא צֹלֵעַ עַל־יְרֵכוֹ: עַל־כֵּן לֹא־יֹאכְלוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־גִּיד הַנָּשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר עַל־כַּף הַיָּרֵךְ עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי נָגַע בְּכַף־יֶרֶךְ יַעֲקֹב בְּגִיד הַנָּשֶׁה: | Jacob named the place Peniel, "for I have seen God face to face, and my life has been spared." The sun rose on him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. That is why to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh sinew that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip at the thigh sinew.[35] |

31 The word "face" runs through this episode: "appease his face" means win him over, and "lift up my face" means accept me kindly.
32 The Jabbok is a river that flows into the Jordan from the east.
33 The Hebrew verb "wrestled" (*yeaveq*) sounds like the names Jabbok and Jacob (*Yaaqov*).
34 The name Israel is explained here as "he strives with God."
35 Peniel means "face of God"; Penuel is another form of the same name.

## CHAPTER 33

*Jacob and Esau meet and are reconciled; Jacob settles near Shechem.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 33:1 וַיִּשָּׂא יַעֲקֹב עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא וְהִנֵּה עֵשָׂו בָּא וְעִמּוֹ אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת אִישׁ וַיַּחַץ אֶת־הַיְלָדִים עַל־לֵאָה וְעַל־רָחֵל וְעַל שְׁתֵּי הַשִּׁפְחוֹת: וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת־הַשִּׁפְחוֹת וְאֶת־יַלְדֵיהֶן רִאשֹׁנָה וְאֶת־לֵאָה וִילָדֶיהָ אַחֲרֹנִים וְאֶת־רָחֵל וְאֶת־יוֹסֵף אַחֲרֹנִים: | Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and there was Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two slave women. He put the slave women and their children in front, Leah and her children behind them, and Rachel and Joseph at the back. |
| Gen 33:3 וְהוּא עָבַר לִפְנֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַרְצָה שֶׁבַע פְּעָמִים עַד־גִּשְׁתּוֹ עַד־אָחִיו: וַיָּרָץ עֵשָׂו לִקְרָאתוֹ וַיְחַבְּקֵהוּ וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צַוָּארָו וַיִּשָּׁקֵהוּ וַיִּבְכּוּ: וַיִּשָּׂא אֶת־עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא אֶת־הַנָּשִׁים וְאֶת־הַיְלָדִים וַיֹּאמֶר מִי־אֵלֶּה לָךְ וַיֹּאמֶר הַיְלָדִים אֲשֶׁר־חָנַן אֱלֹהִים אֶת־עַבְדֶּךָ: | He himself went on ahead of them and bowed to the ground seven times until he came near his brother. But Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. When Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and the children, he said, "Who are these with you?" He said, "The children with whom God has graciously favored your servant."[36] |
| Gen 33:6 וַתִּגַּשְׁן הַשִּׁפְחוֹת הֵנָּה וְיַלְדֵיהֶן וַתִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶיןָ: וַתִּגַּשׁ גַּם־לֵאָה וִילָדֶיהָ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ וְאַחַר נִגַּשׁ יוֹסֵף וְרָחֵל וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ: וַיֹּאמֶר מִי לָךְ כָּל־הַמַּחֲנֶה הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר פָּגָשְׁתִּי וַיֹּאמֶר לִמְצֹא־חֵן בְּעֵינֵי אֲדֹנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו יֶשׁ־לִי רָב אָחִי יְהִי לְךָ אֲשֶׁר־לָךְ: | Then the slave women came near, they and their children, and bowed down. Leah too came near with her children, and they bowed down; and after that Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down. Esau said, "What do you mean by all this camp that I met?" He said, "To find favor in the eyes of my lord." But Esau said, "I have plenty, my brother. Let what is yours remain yours." |
| Gen 33:10 וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אַל־נָא אִם־נָא מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ וְלָקַחְתָּ מִנְחָתִי מִיָּדִי כִּי עַל־כֵּן רָאִיתִי פָנֶיךָ כִּרְאֹת פְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים וַתִּרְצֵנִי: קַח־נָא אֶת־בִּרְכָתִי אֲשֶׁר הֻבָאת לָךְ כִּי־חַנַּנִי אֱלֹהִים וְכִי יֶשׁ־לִי־כֹל וַיִּפְצַר־בּוֹ וַיִּקָּח: וַיֹּאמֶר נִסְעָה וְנֵלֵכָה וְאֵלְכָה לְנֶגְדֶּךָ: | Jacob said, "No, please! If I have found favor in your eyes, accept my gift from my hand. For indeed, seeing your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me kindly. Please take my blessing that has been brought to you, for God has been gracious to me, and I have everything." He urged him, and Esau took it. Then Esau said, "Let us set out and go, and I will go alongside you."[37] |
| Gen 33:13 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדֹנִי יֹדֵעַ כִּי־הַיְלָדִים רַכִּים וְהַצֹּאן וְהַבָּקָר עָלוֹת עָלָי וּדְפָקוּם יוֹם אֶחָד וָמֵתוּ כָּל־הַצֹּאן: יַעֲבָר־נָא אֲדֹנִי לִפְנֵי עַבְדּוֹ וַאֲנִי אֶתְנַהֲלָה לְאִטִּי לְרֶגֶל הַמְּלָאכָה אֲשֶׁר־לְפָנַי וּלְרֶגֶל הַיְלָדִים עַד אֲשֶׁר־אָבֹא אֶל־אֲדֹנִי שֵׂעִירָה: | But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the flocks and herds nursing their young are in my care. If they are driven hard for a single day, all the flocks will die. Let my lord go on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir." |
| Gen 33:15 וַיֹּאמֶר עֵשָׂו אַצִּיגָה־נָּא עִמְּךָ מִן־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתִּי וַיֹּאמֶר לָמָּה זֶּה אֶמְצָא־חֵן בְּעֵינֵי אֲדֹנִי: וַיָּשָׁב בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא עֵשָׂו לְדַרְכּוֹ שֵׂעִירָה: | Esau said, "Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need |

36 In the Hebrew manuscript tradition the word "kissed him" is marked with dots above its letters, a feature much discussed by ancient interpreters.

37 "My blessing" here means a gift, but it recalls the blessing Jacob took from Esau in chapter 27.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| וַיַּעֲקֹב נָסַע סֻכֹּתָה וַיִּבֶן לוֹ בָּיִת וּלְמִקְנֵהוּ עָשָׂה סֻכֹּת עַל־כֵּן קָרָא שֵׁם־הַמָּקוֹם סֻכּוֹת׃ | is there? Let me only find favor in the eyes of my lord." So that day Esau went back on his way to Seir. But Jacob journeyed to Succoth. He built himself a house and made shelters for his livestock; that is why the place is called Succoth.[38] |
| Gen 33:18 וַיָּבֹא יַעֲקֹב שָׁלֵם עִיר שְׁכֶם אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן בְּבֹאוֹ מִפַּדַּן אֲרָם וַיִּחַן אֶת־פְּנֵי הָעִיר׃ וַיִּקֶן אֶת־חֶלְקַת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר נָטָה־שָׁם אָהֳלוֹ מִיַּד בְּנֵי־חֲמוֹר אֲבִי שְׁכֶם בְּמֵאָה קְשִׂיטָה׃ וַיַּצֵּב־שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ וַיִּקְרָא־לוֹ אֵל אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל׃ | Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped in front of the city. He bought the plot of land where he had pitched his tent from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred *kesitah*. There he set up an altar and called it El-elohe-Israel.[39] |

## CHAPTER 34

*Shechem violates Dinah, and Simeon and Levi take revenge on the city.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 34:1 וַתֵּצֵא דִינָה בַּת־לֵאָה אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְיַעֲקֹב לִרְאוֹת בִּבְנוֹת הָאָרֶץ׃ וַיַּרְא אֹתָהּ שְׁכֶם בֶּן־חֲמוֹר הַחִוִּי נְשִׂיא הָאָרֶץ וַיִּקַּח אֹתָהּ וַיִּשְׁכַּב אֹתָהּ וַיְעַנֶּהָ׃ וַתִּדְבַּק נַפְשׁוֹ בְּדִינָה בַּת־יַעֲקֹב וַיֶּאֱהַב אֶת־הַנַּעֲרָ וַיְדַבֵּר עַל־לֵב הַנַּעֲרָ׃ | Dinah, the daughter whom Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her; he took her, lay with her and violated her. But he became deeply attached to Dinah, Jacob's daughter; he loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. |
| Gen 34:4 וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁכֶם אֶל־חֲמוֹר אָבִיו לֵאמֹר קַח־לִי אֶת־הַיַּלְדָּה הַזֹּאת לְאִשָּׁה׃ וְיַעֲקֹב שָׁמַע כִּי טִמֵּא אֶת־דִּינָה בִתּוֹ וּבָנָיו הָיוּ אֶת־מִקְנֵהוּ בַּשָּׂדֶה וְהֶחֱרִשׁ יַעֲקֹב עַד־בֹּאָם׃ וַיֵּצֵא חֲמוֹר אֲבִי־שְׁכֶם אֶל־יַעֲקֹב לְדַבֵּר אִתּוֹ׃ | Shechem said to his father Hamor, "Get me this girl as my wife." Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah, but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept silent until they came. Then Hamor, Shechem's father, went out to Jacob to speak with him. |
| Gen 34:7 וּבְנֵי יַעֲקֹב בָּאוּ מִן־הַשָּׂדֶה כְּשָׁמְעָם וַיִּתְעַצְּבוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיִּחַר לָהֶם מְאֹד כִּי־נְבָלָה עָשָׂה בְיִשְׂרָאֵל לִשְׁכַּב אֶת־בַּת־יַעֲקֹב וְכֵן לֹא יֵעָשֶׂה׃ וַיְדַבֵּר חֲמוֹר אִתָּם לֵאמֹר שְׁכֶם בְּנִי חָשְׁקָה נַפְשׁוֹ בְּבִתְּכֶם תְּנוּ נָא אֹתָהּ לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה׃ | Jacob's sons came in from the field when they heard of it. The men were distressed and very angry, because he had committed an outrage in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter—a thing that ought not to be done. But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "My son Shechem's heart longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife. |
| Gen 34:9 וְהִתְחַתְּנוּ אֹתָנוּ בְּנֹתֵיכֶם תִּתְּנוּ־לָנוּ וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵינוּ תִּקְחוּ לָכֶם׃ וְאִתָּנוּ תֵּשֵׁבוּ וְהָאָרֶץ תִּהְיֶה לִפְנֵיכֶם שְׁבוּ וּסְחָרוּהָ וְהֵאָחֲזוּ בָּהּ׃ וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁכֶם אֶל־אֲבִיהָ וְאֶל־אֶחֶיהָ אֶמְצָא־חֵן בְּעֵינֵיכֶם וַאֲשֶׁר תֹּאמְרוּ אֵלַי אֶתֵּן׃ הַרְבּוּ עָלַי מְאֹד מֹהַר וּמַתָּן וְאֶתְּנָה כַּאֲשֶׁר תֹּאמְרוּ אֵלַי וּתְנוּ־לִי אֶת־הַנַּעֲרָ לְאִשָּׁה׃ | Intermarry with us: give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves. You shall live with us, and the land will be open before you. Live in it, trade in it and acquire property in it." Shechem also said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you tell me, I will give. Ask of me ever so great a bride- |

38 Succoth means "shelters" or "booths."
39 "Safely" (*shalem*) can also be read as a place name, Shalem. A *kesitah* was a unit of value of uncertain amount; El-elohe-Israel means "God, the God of Israel."

HEBREW

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price and gift, and I will give whatever you tell me; only give me the young woman as my wife."[40]

Gen 34:13 וַיַּעֲנוּ בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב אֶת־שְׁכֶם וְאֶת־חֲמוֹר אָבִיו בְּמִרְמָה וַיְדַבֵּרוּ אֲשֶׁר טִמֵּא אֶת דִּינָה אֲחֹתָם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵיהֶם לֹא נוּכַל לַעֲשׂוֹת הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה לָתֵת אֶת־אֲחֹתֵנוּ לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ עָרְלָה כִּי־חֶרְפָּה הִוא לָנוּ: אַךְ־בְּזֹאת נֵאוֹת לָכֶם אִם תִּהְיוּ כָמֹנוּ לְהִמּוֹל לָכֶם כָּל־זָכָר:

Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, speaking as they did because he had defiled their sister Dinah. They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, giving our sister to a man who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us. Only on this condition will we agree with you: that you become like us, every male among you being circumcised.

Gen 34:16 וְנָתַנּוּ אֶת־בְּנֹתֵינוּ לָכֶם וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵיכֶם נִקַּח־לָנוּ וְיָשַׁבְנוּ אִתְּכֶם וְהָיִינוּ לְעַם אֶחָד: וְאִם־לֹא תִשְׁמְעוּ אֵלֵינוּ לְהִמּוֹל וְלָקַחְנוּ אֶת־בִּתֵּנוּ וְהָלָכְנוּ: וַיִּיטְבוּ דִבְרֵיהֶם בְּעֵינֵי חֲמוֹר וּבְעֵינֵי שְׁכֶם בֶּן־חֲמוֹר: וְלֹא־אֵחַר הַנַּעַר לַעֲשׂוֹת הַדָּבָר כִּי חָפֵץ בְּבַת־יַעֲקֹב וְהוּא נִכְבָּד מִכֹּל בֵּית אָבִיו:

Then we will give our daughters to you and take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live with you and become one people. But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, we will take our daughter and go." Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor's son Shechem. The young man did not delay to do the thing, for he delighted in Jacob's daughter. And he was the most honored of all his father's house.

Gen 34:20 וַיָּבֹא חֲמוֹר וּשְׁכֶם בְּנוֹ אֶל־שַׁעַר עִירָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֶל־אַנְשֵׁי עִירָם לֵאמֹר: הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה שְׁלֵמִים הֵם אִתָּנוּ וְיֵשְׁבוּ בָאָרֶץ וְיִסְחֲרוּ אֹתָהּ וְהָאָרֶץ הִנֵּה רַחֲבַת־יָדַיִם לִפְנֵיהֶם אֶת־בְּנֹתָם נִקַּח־לָנוּ לְנָשִׁים וְאֶת־בְּנֹתֵינוּ נִתֵּן לָהֶם:

So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city: "These men are at peace with us. Let them live in the land and trade in it; look, the land is wide enough for them. Let us take their daughters as our wives, and give them our daughters.

Gen 34:22 אַךְ־בְּזֹאת יֵאֹתוּ לָנוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לָשֶׁבֶת אִתָּנוּ לִהְיוֹת לְעַם אֶחָד בְּהִמּוֹל לָנוּ כָּל־זָכָר כַּאֲשֶׁר הֵם נִמֹּלִים: מִקְנֵהֶם וְקִנְיָנָם וְכָל־בְּהֶמְתָּם הֲלוֹא לָנוּ הֵם אַךְ נֵאוֹתָה לָהֶם וְיֵשְׁבוּ אִתָּנוּ:

Only on this condition will the men agree to live with us and become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised. Their livestock, their property and all their animals—will they not be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will live with us."

Gen 34:24 וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶל־חֲמוֹר וְאֶל־שְׁכֶם בְּנוֹ כָּל־יֹצְאֵי שַׁעַר עִירוֹ וַיִּמֹּלוּ כָּל־זָכָר כָּל־יֹצְאֵי שַׁעַר עִירוֹ: וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בְּהְיוֹתָם כֹּאֲבִים וַיִּקְחוּ שְׁנֵי־בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב שִׁמְעוֹן וְלֵוִי אֲחֵי דִינָה אִישׁ חַרְבּוֹ וַיָּבֹאוּ עַל־הָעִיר בֶּטַח וַיַּהַרְגוּ כָּל־זָכָר:

All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city. On the third day, while they were in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword, fell on the unsuspecting city and killed every male.

Gen 34:26 וְאֶת־חֲמוֹר וְאֶת־שְׁכֶם בְּנוֹ הָרְגוּ לְפִי־חָרֶב וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־דִּינָה מִבֵּית שְׁכֶם וַיֵּצֵאוּ: בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב בָּאוּ עַל־הַחֲלָלִים וַיָּבֹזּוּ הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר טִמְּאוּ אֲחוֹתָם: אֶת־צֹאנָם וְאֶת־בְּקָרָם וְאֶת־חֲמֹרֵיהֶם וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר־בָּעִיר וְאֶת־אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה לָקָחוּ:

They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword, took Dinah out of Shechem's house and left. Jacob's sons came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister. They took their flocks, their herds and their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field.

Gen 34:29 וְאֶת־כָּל־חֵילָם וְאֶת־כָּל־טַפָּם וְאֶת־נְשֵׁיהֶם שָׁבוּ וַיָּבֹזּוּ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר בַּבָּיִת: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־שִׁמְעוֹן וְאֶל־לֵוִי עֲכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי

All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives they took captive and plundered, along with

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| לְהַבְאִישֵׁנִי בְּיֹשֵׁב הָאָרֶץ בַּכְּנַעֲנִי וּבַפְּרִזִּי וַאֲנִי מְתֵי מִסְפָּר וְנֶאֶסְפוּ עָלַי וְהִכּוּנִי וְנִשְׁמַדְתִּי אֲנִי וּבֵיתִי: וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֲכְזוֹנָה יַעֲשֶׂה אֶת־ אֲחוֹתֵנוּ: | everything in the houses. Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me, making me a stench to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. I am few in number; if they gather against me and attack me, I will be destroyed, I and my household." But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?" |

## CHAPTER 35

*Jacob returns to Bethel and is renamed Israel; Rachel and Isaac die.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 35:1 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־יַעֲקֹב קוּם עֲלֵה בֵית־אֵל וְשֶׁב־שָׁם וַעֲשֵׂה־שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לָאֵל הַנִּרְאֶה אֵלֶיךָ בְּבָרְחֲךָ מִפְּנֵי עֵשָׂו אָחִיךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ וְאֶל כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עִמּוֹ הָסִרוּ אֶת־אֱלֹהֵי הַנֵּכָר אֲשֶׁר בְּתֹכְכֶם וְהִטַּהֲרוּ וְהַחֲלִיפוּ שִׂמְלֹתֵיכֶם: | God said to Jacob, "Get up, go up to Bethel and settle there, and make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau." So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you; purify yourselves and change your clothes. |
| Gen 35:3 וְנָקוּמָה וְנַעֲלֶה בֵּית־אֵל וְאֶעֱשֶׂה־שָּׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לָאֵל הָעֹנֶה אֹתִי בְּיוֹם צָרָתִי וַיְהִי עִמָּדִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר הָלָכְתִּי: וַיִּתְּנוּ אֶל־יַעֲקֹב אֵת כָּל־ אֱלֹהֵי הַנֵּכָר אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדָם וְאֶת־הַנְּזָמִים אֲשֶׁר בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם וַיִּטְמֹן אֹתָם יַעֲקֹב תַּחַת הָאֵלָה אֲשֶׁר עִם־שְׁכֶם: | Then let us get up and go up to Bethel, so that I can make an altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me on the way I have gone." So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had, and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak near Shechem. |
| Gen 35:5 וַיִּסָּעוּ וַיְהִי חִתַּת אֱלֹהִים עַל־הֶעָרִים אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתֵיהֶם וְלֹא רָדְפוּ אַחֲרֵי בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב: וַיָּבֹא יַעֲקֹב לוּזָה אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן הִוא בֵּית־אֵל הוּא וְכָל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר־עִמּוֹ: | As they set out, a terror from God fell on the cities around them, and they did not pursue Jacob's sons. Jacob came to Luz in the land of Canaan—that is, Bethel—he and all the people who were with him. |
| Gen 35:7 וַיִּבֶן שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ וַיִּקְרָא לַמָּקוֹם אֵל בֵּית־אֵל כִּי שָׁם נִגְלוּ אֵלָיו הָאֱלֹהִים בְּבָרְחוֹ מִפְּנֵי אָחִיו: וַתָּמָת דְּבֹרָה מֵינֶקֶת רִבְקָה וַתִּקָּבֵר מִתַּחַת לְבֵית־אֵל תַּחַת הָאַלּוֹן וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ אַלּוֹן בָּכוּת: | There he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because it was there that God had revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother. Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried below Bethel under the oak; so it was named Allon-bacuth.[41] |
| Gen 35:9 וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶל־יַעֲקֹב עוֹד בְּבֹאוֹ מִפַּדַּן אֲרָם וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר־ לוֹ אֱלֹהִים שִׁמְךָ יַעֲקֹב לֹא־יִקָּרֵא שִׁמְךָ עוֹד יַעֲקֹב כִּי אִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל יִהְיֶה שְׁמֶךָ וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל: | God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he named him Israel. |
| Gen 35:11 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֱלֹהִים אֲנִי אֵל שַׁדָּי פְּרֵה וּרְבֵה גּוֹי וּקְהַל גּוֹיִם יִהְיֶה מִמֶּךָּ וּמְלָכִים מֵחָלָצֶיךָ יֵצֵאוּ: וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם | God said to him, "I am God Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed a company of nations, shall come from you, and kings shall come |

40 The bride-price was a payment from the groom to the bride's family.
41 El-bethel means "God of Bethel"; Allon-bacuth means "oak of weeping."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| וּלְיִצְחָק לְךָ אֶתְּנֶנָּה וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת־הָאָרֶץ: וַיַּעַל מֵעָלָיו אֱלֹהִים בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר אִתּוֹ: | from your body. The land that I gave to Abraham and to Isaac I will give to you, and to your offspring after you I will give the land." Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him. |
| Gen 35:14 וַיַּצֵּב יַעֲקֹב מַצֵּבָה בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר אִתּוֹ מַצֶּבֶת אֶבֶן וַיַּסֵּךְ עָלֶיהָ נֶסֶךְ וַיִּצֹק עָלֶיהָ שָׁמֶן: וַיִּקְרָא יַעֲקֹב אֶת־שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אִתּוֹ שָׁם אֱלֹהִים בֵּית־אֵל: וַיִּסְעוּ מִבֵּית אֵל וַיְהִי־עוֹד כִּבְרַת־הָאָרֶץ לָבוֹא אֶפְרָתָה וַתֵּלֶד רָחֵל וַתְּקַשׁ בְּלִדְתָּהּ: | Jacob set up a pillar at the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him Bethel. Then they set out from Bethel. When there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and her labor was hard. |
| Gen 35:17 וַיְהִי בְהַקְשֹׁתָהּ בְּלִדְתָּהּ וַתֹּאמֶר לָהּ הַמְיַלֶּדֶת אַל־תִּירְאִי כִּי־גַם־זֶה לָךְ בֵּן: וַיְהִי בְּצֵאת נַפְשָׁהּ כִּי מֵתָה וַתִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ בֶּן־אוֹנִי וְאָבִיו קָרָא־לוֹ בִנְיָמִין: וַתָּמָת רָחֵל וַתִּקָּבֵר בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶפְרָתָה הִוא בֵּית לָחֶם: | When her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not be afraid, for this one too is a son for you." As her life was departing—for she was dying—she named him Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. So Rachel died, and she was buried on the road to Ephrath, that is, Bethlehem.[42] |
| Gen 35:20 וַיַּצֵּב יַעֲקֹב מַצֵּבָה עַל־קְבֻרָתָהּ הִוא מַצֶּבֶת קְבֶרֶת־רָחֵל עַד־הַיּוֹם: וַיִּסַּע יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּט אָהֳלָה מֵהֲלְאָה לְמִגְדַּל־עֵדֶר: וַיְהִי בִּשְׁכֹּן יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאָרֶץ הַהִוא וַיֵּלֶךְ רְאוּבֵן וַיִּשְׁכַּב אֶת־בִּלְהָה פִּילֶגֶשׁ אָבִיו וַיִּשְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּהְיוּ בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר: | Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; it is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day. Israel set out and pitched his tent beyond Migdal-eder. While Israel was living in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and Israel heard of it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve. |
| Gen 35:23 בְּנֵי לֵאָה בְּכוֹר יַעֲקֹב רְאוּבֵן וְשִׁמְעוֹן וְלֵוִי וִיהוּדָה וְיִשָּׂשכָר וּזְבוּלֻן: בְּנֵי רָחֵל יוֹסֵף וּבִנְיָמִן: וּבְנֵי בִלְהָה שִׁפְחַת רָחֵל דָּן וְנַפְתָּלִי: וּבְנֵי זִלְפָּה שִׁפְחַת לֵאָה גָּד וְאָשֵׁר אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר יֻלַּד־לוֹ בְּפַדַּן אֲרָם: | The sons of Leah: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun. The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's slave woman: Dan and Naphtali. And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's slave woman: Gad and Asher. These are the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram. |
| Gen 35:27 וַיָּבֹא יַעֲקֹב אֶל־יִצְחָק אָבִיו מַמְרֵא קִרְיַת הָאַרְבַּע הִוא חֶבְרוֹן אֲשֶׁר־גָּר־שָׁם אַבְרָהָם וְיִצְחָק: וַיִּהְיוּ יְמֵי יִצְחָק מְאַת שָׁנָה וּשְׁמֹנִים שָׁנָה: וַיִּגְוַע יִצְחָק וַיָּמָת וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל־עַמָּיו זָקֵן וּשְׂבַע יָמִים וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ עֵשָׂו וְיַעֲקֹב בָּנָיו: | Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, at Kiriath-arba—that is, Hebron—where Abraham and Isaac had lived as foreigners. Isaac's days came to a hundred and eighty years. Then Isaac breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people, old and full of days; and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. |

## CHAPTER 36

*The descendants of Esau, the chiefs and kings of Edom.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 36:1 וְאֵלֶּה תֹּלְדוֹת עֵשָׂו הוּא אֱדוֹם: עֵשָׂו לָקַח אֶת־נָשָׁיו מִבְּנוֹת כְּנָעַן אֶת־עָדָה בַּת־אֵילוֹן הַחִתִּי וְאֶת־אָהֳלִיבָמָה בַּת־עֲנָה בַּת־צִבְעוֹן | This is the line of Esau, that is, Edom. Esau took his wives from the women of Canaan: Adah daugh- |

42 Ben-oni means "son of my sorrow" (or possibly "son of my strength"); Benjamin means "son of the right hand."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| הַחִוִּי: וְאֶת־בָּשְׂמַת בַּת־יִשְׁמָעֵאל אֲחוֹת נְבָיוֹת: וַתֵּלֶד עָדָה לְעֵשָׂו אֶת־אֱלִיפָז וּבָשְׂמַת יָלְדָה אֶת־רְעוּאֵל: | ter of Elon the Hittite, and Oholibamah daughter of Anah, daughter of Zibeon the Hivite, and Basemath daughter of Ishmael, sister of Nebaioth. Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel. |
| Gen 36:5 וְאָהֳלִיבָמָה יָלְדָה אֶת־יְעוּשׁ וְאֶת־יַעְלָם וְאֶת־קֹרַח אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי עֵשָׂו אֲשֶׁר יֻלַּד־לוֹ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: וַיִּקַּח עֵשָׂו אֶת־נָשָׁיו וְאֶת־בָּנָיו וְאֶת־בְּנֹתָיו וְאֵת כָּל־נַפְשׁוֹת בֵּיתוֹ וְאֶת־מִקְנֵהוּ וְאֵת־כָּל־בְּהֶמְתּוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־קִנְיָנוֹ אֲשֶׁר רָכַשׁ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־אֶרֶץ מִפְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב אָחִיו: | Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam and Korah. These are the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan. Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters and all the people of his household, his livestock, all his animals and all the property he had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to a land away from his brother Jacob. |
| Gen 36:7 כִּי־הָיָה רְכוּשָׁם רָב מִשֶּׁבֶת יַחְדָּו וְלֹא יָכְלָה אֶרֶץ מְגוּרֵיהֶם לָשֵׂאת אֹתָם מִפְּנֵי מִקְנֵיהֶם: וַיֵּשֶׁב עֵשָׂו בְּהַר שֵׂעִיר עֵשָׂו הוּא אֱדוֹם: וְאֵלֶּה תֹּלְדוֹת עֵשָׂו אֲבִי אֱדוֹם בְּהַר שֵׂעִיר: אֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי־עֵשָׂו אֱלִיפַז בֶּן־עָדָה אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו רְעוּאֵל בֶּן־בָּשְׂמַת אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו: | For their possessions were too great for them to live together; the land where they were staying could not support them because of their livestock. So Esau settled in the hill country of Seir; Esau is Edom. This is the line of Esau, the father of Edom, in the hill country of Seir. These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz son of Adah, Esau's wife; Reuel son of Basemath, Esau's wife. |
| Gen 36:11 וַיִּהְיוּ בְּנֵי אֱלִיפַז תֵּימָן אוֹמָר צְפוֹ וְגַעְתָּם וּקְנַז: וְתִמְנַע הָיְתָה פִּילֶגֶשׁ לֶאֱלִיפַז בֶּן־עֵשָׂו וַתֵּלֶד לֶאֱלִיפַז אֶת־עֲמָלֵק אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי עָדָה אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו: וְאֵלֶּה בְּנֵי רְעוּאֵל נַחַת וָזֶרַח שַׁמָּה וּמִזָּה אֵלֶּה הָיוּ בְּנֵי בָשְׂמַת אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו: | The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam and Kenaz. Timna was a concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These are the sons of Adah, Esau's wife. These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. |
| Gen 36:14 וְאֵלֶּה הָיוּ בְּנֵי אָהֳלִיבָמָה בַת־עֲנָה בַּת־צִבְעוֹן אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו וַתֵּלֶד לְעֵשָׂו אֶת־יְעוּשׁ וְאֶת־יַעְלָם וְאֶת־קֹרַח: אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי בְנֵי־עֵשָׂו בְּנֵי אֱלִיפַז בְּכוֹר עֵשָׂו אַלּוּף תֵּימָן אַלּוּף אוֹמָר אַלּוּף צְפוֹ אַלּוּף קְנַז: | These were the sons of Oholibamah daughter of Anah, daughter of Zibeon, Esau's wife: she bore Jeush, Jalam and Korah to Esau. These are the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, Esau's firstborn: Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz,[43] |
| Gen 36:16 אַלּוּף־קֹרַח אַלּוּף גַּעְתָּם אַלּוּף עֲמָלֵק אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי אֱלִיפַז בְּאֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי עָדָה: וְאֵלֶּה בְּנֵי רְעוּאֵל בֶּן־עֵשָׂו אַלּוּף נַחַת אַלּוּף זֶרַח אַלּוּף שַׁמָּה אַלּוּף מִזָּה אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי רְעוּאֵל בְּאֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי בָשְׂמַת אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו: | Chief Korah, Chief Gatam and Chief Amalek. These are the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Adah. These are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah and Chief Mizzah. These are the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife. |
| Gen 36:18 וְאֵלֶּה בְּנֵי אָהֳלִיבָמָה אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו אַלּוּף יְעוּשׁ אַלּוּף יַעְלָם אַלּוּף קֹרַח אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי אָהֳלִיבָמָה בַּת־עֲנָה אֵשֶׁת עֵשָׂו: אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי־עֵשָׂו וְאֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵיהֶם הוּא אֱדוֹם: | These are the sons of Oholibamah, Esau's wife: Chief Jeush, Chief Jalam and Chief Korah. These are the chiefs of Oholibamah daughter of Anah, Esau's wife. These are the sons of Esau, and these are their chiefs; that is, Edom. |
| Gen 36:20 | |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| אֵלֶּה בְנֵי־שֵׂעִיר הַחֹרִי יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ לוֹטָן וְשׁוֹבָל וְצִבְעוֹן וַעֲנָה: וְדִשׁוֹן וְאֶצֶר וְדִישָׁן אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי הַחֹרִי בְּנֵי שֵׂעִיר בְּאֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם: וַיִּהְיוּ בְנֵי־לוֹטָן חֹרִי וְהֵימָם וַאֲחוֹת לוֹטָן תִּמְנָע: וְאֵלֶּה בְּנֵי שׁוֹבָל עַלְוָן וּמָנַחַת וְעֵיבָל שְׁפוֹ וְאוֹנָם: | These are the sons of Seir the Horite, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer and Dishan. These are the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir in the land of Edom. The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam, and Lotan's sister was Timna. These are the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho and Onam.[44] |
| Gen 36:24 וְאֵלֶּה בְנֵי־צִבְעוֹן וְאַיָּה וַעֲנָה הוּא עֲנָה אֲשֶׁר מָצָא אֶת־הַיֵּמִם בַּמִּדְבָּר בְּרָעֹתוֹ אֶת־חֲמֹרִים לְצִבְעוֹן אָבִיו: וְאֵלֶּה בְנֵי־עֲנָה דִּשֹׁן וְאָהֳלִיבָמָה בַּת־עֲנָה: וְאֵלֶּה בְּנֵי דִישָׁן חֶמְדָּן וְאֶשְׁבָּן וְיִתְרָן וּכְרָן: אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי־אֵצֶר בִּלְהָן וְזַעֲוָן וַעֲקָן: | These are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah. This is the Anah who found the *yemim* in the wilderness while he was pasturing the donkeys of his father Zibeon. These are the children of Anah: Dishon, and Oholibamah daughter of Anah. These are the sons of Dishan: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran and Cheran. These are the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan and Akan.[45] |
| Gen 36:28 אֵלֶּה בְנֵי־דִישָׁן עוּץ וַאֲרָן: אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי הַחֹרִי אַלּוּף לוֹטָן אַלּוּף שׁוֹבָל אַלּוּף צִבְעוֹן אַלּוּף עֲנָה: אַלּוּף דִּשֹׁן אַלּוּף אֵצֶר אַלּוּף דִּישָׁן אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי הַחֹרִי לְאַלֹּפֵיהֶם בְּאֶרֶץ שֵׂעִיר: | These are the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran. These are the chiefs of the Horites: Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah, Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer and Chief Dishan. These are the chiefs of the Horites, chief by chief, in the land of Seir. |
| Gen 36:31 וְאֵלֶּה הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר מָלְכוּ בְּאֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם לִפְנֵי מְלֹךְ־מֶלֶךְ לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּמְלֹךְ בֶּאֱדוֹם בֶּלַע בֶּן־בְּעוֹר וְשֵׁם עִירוֹ דִּנְהָבָה: וַיָּמָת בֶּלַע וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו יוֹבָב בֶּן־זֶרַח מִבָּצְרָה: וַיָּמָת יוֹבָב וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו חֻשָׁם מֵאֶרֶץ הַתֵּימָנִי: | These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the Israelites. Bela son of Beor reigned in Edom; the name of his city was Dinhabah. Bela died, and Jobab son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place. Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place. |
| Gen 36:35 וַיָּמָת חֻשָׁם וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו הֲדַד בֶּן־בְּדַד הַמַּכֶּה אֶת־מִדְיָן בִּשְׂדֵה מוֹאָב וְשֵׁם עִירוֹ עֲוִית: וַיָּמָת הֲדַד וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו שַׂמְלָה מִמַּשְׂרֵקָה: וַיָּמָת שַׂמְלָה וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו שָׁאוּל מֵרְחֹבוֹת הַנָּהָר: וַיָּמָת שָׁאוּל וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו בַּעַל חָנָן בֶּן־עַכְבּוֹר: | Husham died, and Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, reigned in his place; the name of his city was Avith. Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place. Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth on the River reigned in his place. Shaul died, and Baal-hanan son of Achbor reigned in his place. |
| Gen 36:39 וַיָּמָת בַּעַל חָנָן בֶּן־עַכְבּוֹר וַיִּמְלֹךְ תַּחְתָּיו הֲדַר וְשֵׁם עִירוֹ פָּעוּ וְשֵׁם אִשְׁתּוֹ מְהֵיטַבְאֵל בַּת־מַטְרֵד בַּת מֵי זָהָב: וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת אַלּוּפֵי עֵשָׂו לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם לִמְקֹמֹתָם בְּשֵׁמֹתָם אַלּוּף תִּמְנָע אַלּוּף עַלְוָה אַלּוּף יְתֵת: | Baal-hanan son of Achbor died, and Hadar reigned in his place; the name of his city was Pau, and his wife's name was Mehetabel daughter of Matred, daughter of Me-zahab. These are the names of the chiefs of Esau, by their clans and their places, name by name: Chief Timna, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth, |
| Gen 36:41 אַלּוּף אָהֳלִיבָמָה אַלּוּף אֵלָה אַלּוּף פִּינֹן: אַלּוּף קְנַז אַלּוּף תֵּימָן אַלּוּף מִבְצָר: אַלּוּף מַגְדִּיאֵל אַלּוּף עִירָם אֵלֶּה אַלּוּפֵי אֱדוֹם לְמוֹשְׁבֹתָם בְּאֶרֶץ אֲחֻזָּתָם הוּא עֵשָׂו אֲבִי אֱדוֹם: | Chief Oholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon, Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar, Chief Magdiel and Chief Iram. These are the chiefs of Edom, by |

43 "Chief" (Hebrew *alluf*) is the head of a clan or tribal group.
44 The Horites were earlier inhabitants of the region of Seir.
45 The meaning of *yemim* is uncertain; suggestions include hot springs or mules.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| | their settlements in the land they possessed. This is Esau, the father of Edom. |

# Joseph

*Joseph is sold into Egypt by his brothers, rises to rule the land, and is reunited with his family; Jacob's blessing and death.*

## CHAPTER 37

*Jacob favors Joseph, whose dreams of his family bowing to him make his brothers hate him.*

| | HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| Gen 37:1 | וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מְגוּרֵי אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בֶּן־שְׁבַע־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה הָיָה רֹעֶה אֶת־אֶחָיו בַּצֹּאן וְהוּא נַעַר אֶת־בְּנֵי בִלְהָה וְאֶת־בְּנֵי זִלְפָּה נְשֵׁי אָבִיו וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דִּבָּתָם רָעָה אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם: | Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as a foreigner, the land of Canaan. This is the story of Jacob. Joseph, at seventeen years old, was tending the flock with his brothers. He was a young helper with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report about them to their father. |
| Gen 37:3 | וְיִשְׂרָאֵל אָהֵב אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכָּל־בָּנָיו כִּי־בֶן־זְקֻנִים הוּא לוֹ וְעָשָׂה לוֹ כְּתֹנֶת פַּסִּים: וַיִּרְאוּ אֶחָיו כִּי־אֹתוֹ אָהַב אֲבִיהֶם מִכָּל־אֶחָיו וַיִּשְׂנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַּבְּרוֹ לְשָׁלֹם: | Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a long robe with sleeves. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak a peaceable word to him.[1] |
| Gen 37:5 | וַיַּחֲלֹם יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם וַיַּגֶּד לְאֶחָיו וַיּוֹסִפוּ עוֹד שְׂנֹא אֹתוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שִׁמְעוּ־נָא הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חָלָמְתִּי: וְהִנֵּה אֲנַחְנוּ מְאַלְּמִים אֲלֻמִּים בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׂדֶה וְהִנֵּה קָמָה אֲלֻמָּתִי וְגַם־נִצָּבָה וְהִנֵּה תְסֻבֶּינָה אֲלֻמֹּתֵיכֶם וַתִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶיןָ לַאֲלֻמָּתִי: | Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, "Please listen to this dream I have had. There we were, binding sheaves out in the field, and suddenly my sheaf rose up and stood upright, and then your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf." |
| Gen 37:8 | וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֶחָיו הֲמָלֹךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ אִם־מָשׁוֹל תִּמְשֹׁל בָּנוּ וַיּוֹסִפוּ עוֹד שְׂנֹא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלֹמֹתָיו וְעַל־דְּבָרָיו: וַיַּחֲלֹם עוֹד חֲלוֹם אַחֵר וַיְסַפֵּר אֹתוֹ לְאֶחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חָלַמְתִּי חֲלוֹם עוֹד וְהִנֵּה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְאַחַד עָשָׂר כּוֹכָבִים מִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לִי: | His brothers said to him, "Are you really going to be king over us? Are you really going to rule over us?" And they hated him even more because of his dreams and because of what he said. Then he had yet another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I have had another dream, and there were the sun and the moon and eleven stars, bowing down to me." |
| Gen 37:10 | וַיְסַפֵּר אֶל־אָבִיו וְאֶל־אֶחָיו וַיִּגְעַר־בּוֹ אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חָלָמְתָּ הֲבוֹא נָבוֹא אֲנִי וְאִמְּךָ וְאַחֶיךָ לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לְךָ אָרְצָה: וַיְקַנְאוּ־בוֹ אֶחָיו וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת־הַדָּבָר: וַיֵּלְכוּ אֶחָיו לִרְעוֹת אֶת־צֹאן אֲבִיהֶם בִּשְׁכֶם: | He told it to his father as well as to his brothers, and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream you have had? Are we really going to come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter |

1 Traditionally "a coat of many colors." The Hebrew phrase probably means a robe reaching to the wrists or ankles, but its exact sense is uncertain.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | in mind. His brothers went off to tend their father's flock at Shechem. |

## JOSEPH SOLD

*The brothers throw Joseph into a pit and sell him to traders bound for Egypt.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 37:13 וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא אַחֶיךָ רֹעִים בִּשְׁכֶם לְכָה וְאֶשְׁלָחֲךָ אֲלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִנֵּנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֶךְ־נָא רְאֵה אֶת־שְׁלוֹם אַחֶיךָ וְאֶת־שְׁלוֹם הַצֹּאן וַהֲשִׁבֵנִי דָּבָר וַיִּשְׁלָחֵהוּ מֵעֵמֶק חֶבְרוֹן וַיָּבֹא שְׁכֶמָה: וַיִּמְצָאֵהוּ אִישׁ וְהִנֵּה תֹעֶה בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּשְׁאַלֵהוּ הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר מַה־תְּבַקֵּשׁ: | Israel said to Joseph, "Aren't your brothers tending the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now and see whether all is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him off from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. A man found him wandering in the countryside, and the man asked him, "What are you looking for?" |
| Gen 37:16 וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת־אַחַי אָנֹכִי מְבַקֵּשׁ הַגִּידָה־נָּא לִי אֵיפֹה הֵם רֹעִים: וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ נָסְעוּ מִזֶּה כִּי שָׁמַעְתִּי אֹמְרִים נֵלְכָה דֹתָיְנָה וַיֵּלֶךְ יוֹסֵף אַחַר אֶחָיו וַיִּמְצָאֵם בְּדֹתָן: וַיִּרְאוּ אֹתוֹ מֵרָחֹק וּבְטֶרֶם יִקְרַב אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּתְנַכְּלוּ אֹתוֹ לַהֲמִיתוֹ: | "I am looking for my brothers," he said. "Please tell me where they are tending the flock." The man said, "They have moved on from here. I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he reached them they plotted to kill him. |
| Gen 37:19 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אָחִיו הִנֵּה בַּעַל הַחֲלֹמוֹת הַלָּזֶה בָּא: וְעַתָּה לְכוּ וְנַהַרְגֵהוּ וְנַשְׁלִכֵהוּ בְּאַחַד הַבֹּרוֹת וְאָמַרְנוּ חַיָּה רָעָה אֲכָלָתְהוּ וְנִרְאֶה מַה־יִּהְיוּ חֲלֹמֹתָיו: וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֵן וַיַּצִּלֵהוּ מִיָּדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא נַכֶּנּוּ נָפֶשׁ: | They said to one another, "Here comes that master of dreams! Now come, let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We will say a wild animal devoured him, and we will see what becomes of his dreams." But Reuben heard it and rescued him from their hands. He said, "Let's not take his life." |
| Gen 37:22 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם רְאוּבֵן אַל־תִּשְׁפְּכוּ־דָם הַשְׁלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל־הַבּוֹר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר וְיָד אַל־תִּשְׁלְחוּ־בוֹ לְמַעַן הַצִּיל אֹתוֹ מִיָּדָם לַהֲשִׁיבוֹ אֶל־אָבִיו: וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר־בָּא יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו וַיַּפְשִׁיטוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף אֶת־כֻּתָּנְתּוֹ אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת הַפַּסִּים אֲשֶׁר עָלָיו: וַיִּקָּחֻהוּ וַיַּשְׁלִכוּ אֹתוֹ הַבֹּרָה וְהַבּוֹר רֵק אֵין בּוֹ מָיִם: | "Don't shed blood," Reuben said to them. "Throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." He meant to rescue him from their hands and bring him back to his father. So when Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he was wearing, and they took him and threw him into the pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. |
| Gen 37:25 וַיֵּשְׁבוּ לֶאֱכָל־לֶחֶם וַיִּשְׂאוּ עֵינֵיהֶם וַיִּרְאוּ וְהִנֵּה אֹרְחַת יִשְׁמְעֵאלִים בָּאָה מִגִּלְעָד וּגְמַלֵּיהֶם נֹשְׂאִים נְכֹאת וּצְרִי וָלֹט הוֹלְכִים לְהוֹרִיד מִצְרָיְמָה: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל־אֶחָיו מַה־בֶּצַע כִּי נַהֲרֹג אֶת־אָחִינוּ וְכִסִּינוּ אֶת־דָּמוֹ: לְכוּ וְנִמְכְּרֶנּוּ לַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים וְיָדֵנוּ אַל־תְּהִי־בוֹ כִּי־אָחִינוּ בְשָׂרֵנוּ הוּא וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶחָיו: | Then they sat down to eat a meal. They lifted up their eyes and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels loaded with gum, balm, and resin, on their way to take it down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. |
| Gen 37:28 | |

HEBREW

ENGLISH

וַיַּעַבְרוּ אֲנָשִׁים מִדְיָנִים סֹחֲרִים וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִן־הַבּוֹר וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף לַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים בְּעֶשְׂרִים כָּסֶף וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִצְרָיְמָה: וַיָּשָׁב רְאוּבֵן אֶל־הַבּוֹר וְהִנֵּה אֵין־יוֹסֵף בַּבּוֹר וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־בְּגָדָיו: וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־אֶחָיו וַיֹּאמַר הַיֶּלֶד אֵינֶנּוּ וַאֲנִי אָנָה אֲנִי־בָא:

Midianite traders passed by, and they pulled Joseph up out of the pit and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt. When Reuben went back to the pit, Joseph was not in the pit! He tore his clothes, went back to his brothers, and said, "The boy is gone! And I—where can I go?"[2]

Gen 37:31 וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁחֲטוּ שְׂעִיר עִזִּים וַיִּטְבְּלוּ אֶת־הַכְּתֹנֶת בַּדָּם: וַיְשַׁלְּחוּ אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת הַפַּסִּים וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ זֹאת מָצָאנוּ הַכֶּר־נָא הַכְּתֹנֶת בִּנְךָ הִוא אִם־לֹא: וַיַּכִּירָהּ וַיֹּאמֶר כְּתֹנֶת בְּנִי חַיָּה רָעָה אֲכָלְתְהוּ טָרֹף טֹרַף יוֹסֵף:

They took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a male goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. Then they sent the long robe with sleeves to their father and said, "We found this. See if you recognize it: is it your son's robe or not?" He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! A wild animal has devoured him. Joseph has been torn to pieces!"

Gen 37:34 וַיִּקְרַע יַעֲקֹב שִׂמְלֹתָיו וַיָּשֶׂם שַׂק בְּמָתְנָיו וַיִּתְאַבֵּל עַל־בְּנוֹ יָמִים רַבִּים: וַיָּקֻמוּ כָל־בָּנָיו וְכָל־בְּנֹתָיו לְנַחֲמוֹ וַיְמָאֵן לְהִתְנַחֵם וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי־אֵרֵד אֶל־בְּנִי אָבֵל שְׁאֹלָה וַיֵּבְךְּ אֹתוֹ אָבִיו: וְהַמְּדָנִים מָכְרוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל־מִצְרַיִם לְפוֹטִיפַר סְרִיס פַּרְעֹה שַׂר הַטַּבָּחִים:

Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around his waist, and mourned for his son for many days. All his sons and all his daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, "No, I will go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." And his father wept for him. Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.[3]

## CHAPTER 38

*Judah and his daughter-in-law Tamar; the birth of Perez and Zerah.*

HEBREW

ENGLISH

Gen 38:1 וַיְהִי בָּעֵת הַהִוא וַיֵּרֶד יְהוּדָה מֵאֵת אֶחָיו וַיֵּט עַד־אִישׁ עֲדֻלָּמִי וּשְׁמוֹ חִירָה: וַיַּרְא־שָׁם יְהוּדָה בַּת־אִישׁ כְּנַעֲנִי וּשְׁמוֹ שׁוּעַ וַיִּקָּחֶהָ וַיָּבֹא אֵלֶיהָ: וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ עֵר: וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ אוֹנָן:

At that time Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah. There Judah saw the daughter of a Canaanite man named Shua. He married her and slept with her, and she conceived and bore a son, and he named him Er. She conceived again and bore a son, and she named him Onan.

Gen 38:5 וַתֹּסֶף עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ שֵׁלָה וְהָיָה בְכְזִיב בְּלִדְתָּהּ אֹתוֹ: וַיִּקַּח יְהוּדָה אִשָּׁה לְעֵר בְּכוֹרוֹ וּשְׁמָהּ תָּמָר: וַיְהִי עֵר בְּכוֹר יְהוּדָה רַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה וַיְמִתֵהוּ יְהוָה:

Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. Judah was at Chezib when she bore him. Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death.

Gen 38:8 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְאוֹנָן בֹּא אֶל־אֵשֶׁת אָחִיךָ וְיַבֵּם אֹתָהּ וְהָקֵם זֶרַע לְאָחִיךָ: וַיֵּדַע אוֹנָן כִּי לֹא לוֹ יִהְיֶה הַזֶּרַע וְהָיָה אִם־בָּא אֶל־אֵשֶׁת אָחִיו וְשִׁחֵת אַרְצָה לְבִלְתִּי נְתָן־זֶרַע לְאָחִיו: וַיֵּרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיָּמֶת גַּם־אֹתוֹ:

Then Judah said to Onan, "Sleep with your brother's wife and do your duty as her brother-in-law; raise up offspring for your brother." But Onan knew that the offspring would not count as his, so whenever he slept with his brother's wife, he

2 The story names both Midianites and Ishmaelites here and in 37:36 and 39:1; just who sold Joseph to whom has long been debated by readers.
3 Sheol is the shadowy realm of the dead.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | spilled his semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother. What he did was evil in the eyes of the LORD, and he put him to death as well.[4] |
| Gen 38:11 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְתָמָר כַּלָּתוֹ שְׁבִי אַלְמָנָה בֵּית־אָבִיךְ עַד־יִגְדַּל שֵׁלָה בְנִי כִּי אָמַר פֶּן־יָמוּת גַּם־הוּא כְּאֶחָיו וַתֵּלֶךְ תָּמָר וַתֵּשֶׁב בֵּית אָבִיהָ: וַיִּרְבּוּ הַיָּמִים וַתָּמָת בַּת־שׁוּעַ אֵשֶׁת־יְהוּדָה וַיְנָּחֶם יְהוּדָה וַיַּעַל עַל־גֹּזְזֵי צֹאנוֹ הוּא וְחִירָה רֵעֵהוּ הָעֲדֻלָּמִי תִּמְנָתָה: | Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Live as a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up." For he thought, "He too might die, like his brothers." So Tamar went and lived in her father's house. A long time passed, and Shua's daughter, Judah's wife, died. When Judah had been comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. |
| Gen 38:13 וַיֻּגַּד לְתָמָר לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה חָמִיךְ עֹלֶה תִמְנָתָה לָגֹז צֹאנוֹ: וַתָּסַר בִּגְדֵי אַלְמְנוּתָהּ מֵעָלֶיהָ וַתְּכַס בַּצָּעִיף וַתִּתְעַלָּף וַתֵּשֶׁב בְּפֶתַח עֵינַיִם אֲשֶׁר עַל־דֶּרֶךְ תִּמְנָתָה כִּי רָאָתָה כִּי־גָדַל שֵׁלָה וְהוּא לֹא־נִתְּנָה לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה: | Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." So she took off her widow's clothes, covered herself with a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah had grown up, and she had not been given to him as his wife. |
| Gen 38:15 וַיִּרְאֶהָ יְהוּדָה וַיַּחְשְׁבֶהָ לְזוֹנָה כִּי כִסְּתָה פָּנֶיהָ: וַיֵּט אֵלֶיהָ אֶל־הַדֶּרֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר הָבָה־נָּא אָבוֹא אֵלַיִךְ כִּי לֹא יָדַע כִּי כַלָּתוֹ הִוא וַתֹּאמֶר מַה־תִּתֶּן־לִי כִּי תָבוֹא אֵלָי: וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי אֲשַׁלַּח גְּדִי־עִזִּים מִן־הַצֹּאן וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־תִּתֵּן עֵרָבוֹן עַד שָׁלְחֶךָּ: | When Judah saw her, he took her for a prostitute, because she had covered her face. He turned aside to her by the road and said, "Come, let me sleep with you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me for sleeping with me?" He said, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." She said, "Only if you give me a pledge until you send it." |
| Gen 38:18 וַיֹּאמֶר מָה הָעֵרָבוֹן אֲשֶׁר אֶתֶּן־לָךְ וַתֹּאמֶר חֹתָמְךָ וּפְתִילֶךָ וּמַטְּךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדֶךָ וַיִּתֶּן־לָהּ וַיָּבֹא אֵלֶיהָ וַתַּהַר לוֹ: וַתָּקָם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתָּסַר צְעִיפָהּ מֵעָלֶיהָ וַתִּלְבַּשׁ בִּגְדֵי אַלְמְנוּתָהּ: וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוּדָה אֶת־גְּדִי הָעִזִּים בְּיַד רֵעֵהוּ הָעֲדֻלָּמִי לָקַחַת הָעֵרָבוֹן מִיַּד הָאִשָּׁה וְלֹא מְצָאָהּ: | He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She said, "Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand." So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she conceived by him. Then she got up and went away, took off her veil, and put on her widow's clothes again. Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to get the pledge back from the woman, but he could not find her.[5] |
| Gen 38:21 וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־אַנְשֵׁי מְקֹמָהּ לֵאמֹר אַיֵּה הַקְּדֵשָׁה הִוא בָעֵינַיִם עַל־הַדָּרֶךְ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא־הָיְתָה בָזֶה קְדֵשָׁה: וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא מְצָאתִיהָ וְגַם אַנְשֵׁי הַמָּקוֹם אָמְרוּ לֹא־הָיְתָה בָזֶה קְדֵשָׁה: | He asked the men of the place, "Where is the consecrated woman who was at Enaim by the road?" They said, "There has been no consecrated woman here." So he went back to Judah and said, "I could not find her. The men of the place also said, 'There has been no consecrated woman here.'"[6] |
| Gen 38:23 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה תִּקַּח־לָהּ פֶּן נִהְיֶה לְבוּז הִנֵּה שָׁלַחְתִּי הַגְּדִי הַזֶּה וְאַתָּה לֹא מְצָאתָהּ: וַיְהִי כְּמִשְׁלֹשׁ חֳדָשִׁים וַיֻּגַּד לִיהוּדָה לֵאמֹר | Judah said, "Let her keep them, or we will become a laughingstock. I did send this young goat, and |

4 When a man died without a son, his brother was expected to father a child with the widow, who would carry on the dead man's name (compare Deut 25:5–10).
5 A seal worn on a cord was used to sign documents; with the staff, it identified its owner.
6 Hirah uses a different word from the "prostitute" of 38:15: *qedeshah*, related to "holy." Its exact meaning is debated.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| זָנְתָה תָּמָר כַּלָּתֶךָ וְגַם הִנֵּה הָרָה לִזְנוּנִים וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה הוֹצִיאוּהָ וְתִשָּׂרֵף׃ | you could not find her." About three months later Judah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has prostituted herself, and what is more, she is pregnant from her prostitution." Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." |
| Gen 38:25 הִוא מוּצֵאת וְהִיא שָׁלְחָה אֶל־חָמִיהָ לֵאמֹר לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־אֵלֶּה לּוֹ אָנֹכִי הָרָה וַתֹּאמֶר הַכֶּר־נָא לְמִי הַחֹתָמֶת וְהַפְּתִילִים וְהַמַּטֶּה הָאֵלֶּה׃ וַיַּכֵּר יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר צָדְקָה מִמֶּנִּי כִּי־עַל־כֵּן לֹא־נְתַתִּיהָ לְשֵׁלָה בְנִי וְלֹא־יָסַף עוֹד לָדַעְתָּהּ׃ וַיְהִי בְּעֵת לִדְתָּהּ וְהִנֵּה תְאוֹמִים בְּבִטְנָהּ׃ | As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law: "I am pregnant by the man to whom these belong." And she said, "See if you recognize whose these are: the seal, the cords, and the staff." Judah recognized them and said, "She is more in the right than I am, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he was not intimate with her again. When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb.[7] |
| Gen 38:28 וַיְהִי בְלִדְתָּהּ וַיִּתֵּן יָד וַתִּקַּח הַמְיַלֶּדֶת וַתִּקְשֹׁר עַל־יָדוֹ שָׁנִי לֵאמֹר זֶה יָצָא רִאשֹׁנָה׃ וַיְהִי כְּמֵשִׁיב יָדוֹ וְהִנֵּה יָצָא אָחִיו וַתֹּאמֶר מַה־פָּרַצְתָּ עָלֶיךָ פָּרֶץ וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ פָּרֶץ׃ וְאַחַר יָצָא אָחִיו אֲשֶׁר עַל־יָדוֹ הַשָּׁנִי וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ זָרַח׃ | While she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and the midwife took a crimson thread and tied it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first." But as he drew back his hand, out came his brother, and she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" So he was named Perez. Afterward his brother came out, the one with the crimson thread on his hand, and he was named Zerah.[8] |

## CHAPTER 39

*Joseph prospers in Potiphar's house until Potiphar's wife accuses him.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 39:1 וְיוֹסֵף הוּרַד מִצְרַיְמָה וַיִּקְנֵהוּ פּוֹטִיפַר סְרִיס פַּרְעֹה שַׂר הַטַּבָּחִים אִישׁ מִצְרִי מִיַּד הַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדֻהוּ שָׁמָּה׃ וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי אִישׁ מַצְלִיחַ וַיְהִי בְּבֵית אֲדֹנָיו הַמִּצְרִי׃ וַיַּרְא אֲדֹנָיו כִּי יְהוָה אִתּוֹ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מַצְלִיחַ בְּיָדוֹ׃ | Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he lived in the house of his master, the Egyptian. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did succeed in his hands. |
| Gen 39:4 וַיִּמְצָא יוֹסֵף חֵן בְּעֵינָיו וַיְשָׁרֶת אֹתוֹ וַיַּפְקִדֵהוּ עַל־בֵּיתוֹ וְכָל־יֶשׁ־לוֹ נָתַן בְּיָדוֹ׃ וַיְהִי מֵאָז הִפְקִיד אֹתוֹ בְּבֵיתוֹ וְעַל כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יֶשׁ־לוֹ וַיְבָרֶךְ יְהוָה אֶת־בֵּית הַמִּצְרִי בִּגְלַל יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי בִּרְכַּת יְהוָה בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר יֶשׁ־לוֹ בַּבַּיִת וּבַשָּׂדֶה׃ | Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his household and placed everything he owned in his hands. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of everything he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's household because of Joseph. The LORD's blessing was on everything he owned, in the house and in the field. |
| Gen 39:6 וַיַּעֲזֹב כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ בְּיַד־יוֹסֵף וְלֹא־יָדַע אִתּוֹ מְאוּמָה כִּי אִם־הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר־הוּא אוֹכֵל וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יְפֵה־תֹאַר וִיפֵה מַרְאֶה׃ וַיְהִי אַחַר | So he left everything he owned in Joseph's hands, and with him there he gave no thought to anything |

7 "See if you recognize" echoes the brothers' words to Judah's father in 37:32.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּשָּׂא אֵשֶׁת־אֲדֹנָיו אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ אֶל־יוֹסֵף וַתֹּאמֶר שִׁכְבָה עִמִּי: וַיְמָאֵן וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־אֵשֶׁת אֲדֹנָיו הֵן אֲדֹנִי לֹא־יָדַע אִתִּי מַה־בַּבָּיִת וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־יֶשׁ־לוֹ נָתַן בְּיָדִי: | except the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and handsome in appearance. Some time after these things, his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused, and he said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here my master gives no thought to anything in the house, and he has placed everything he owns in my hands. |
| Gen 39:9 אֵינֶנּוּ גָדוֹל בַּבַּיִת הַזֶּה מִמֶּנִּי וְלֹא־חָשַׂךְ מִמֶּנִּי מְאוּמָה כִּי אִם־אוֹתָךְ בַּאֲשֶׁר אַתְּ־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֵיךְ אֶעֱשֶׂה הָרָעָה הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת וְחָטָאתִי לֵאלֹהִים: וַיְהִי כְּדַבְּרָהּ אֶל־יוֹסֵף יוֹם יוֹם וְלֹא־שָׁמַע אֵלֶיהָ לִשְׁכַּב אֶצְלָהּ לִהְיוֹת עִמָּהּ: | No one in this house is greater than I am, and he has kept nothing back from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wrong and sin against God?" She spoke to Joseph day after day, but he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. |
| Gen 39:11 וַיְהִי כְּהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַיָּבֹא הַבַּיְתָה לַעֲשׂוֹת מְלַאכְתּוֹ וְאֵין אִישׁ מֵאַנְשֵׁי הַבַּיִת שָׁם בַּבָּיִת: וַתִּתְפְּשֵׂהוּ בְּבִגְדּוֹ לֵאמֹר שִׁכְבָה עִמִּי וַיַּעֲזֹב בִּגְדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיָּנָס וַיֵּצֵא הַחוּצָה: וַיְהִי כִּרְאוֹתָהּ כִּי־עָזַב בִּגְדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיָּנָס הַחוּצָה: | One day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the household staff were there in the house. She caught hold of him by his garment and said, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand and fled and went outside. When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, |
| Gen 39:14 וַתִּקְרָא לְאַנְשֵׁי בֵיתָהּ וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם לֵאמֹר רְאוּ הֵבִיא לָנוּ אִישׁ עִבְרִי לְצַחֵק בָּנוּ בָּא אֵלַי לִשְׁכַּב עִמִּי וָאֶקְרָא בְקוֹל גָּדוֹל: וַיְהִי כְשָׁמְעוֹ כִּי־הֲרִימֹתִי קוֹלִי וָאֶקְרָא וַיַּעֲזֹב בִּגְדוֹ אֶצְלִי וַיָּנָס וַיֵּצֵא הַחוּצָה: | she called the men of her household and said to them, "Look, he has brought us a Hebrew to make sport of us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I screamed loudly. When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his garment beside me and fled and went outside." |
| Gen 39:16 וַתַּנַּח בִּגְדוֹ אֶצְלָהּ עַד־בּוֹא אֲדֹנָיו אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ: וַתְּדַבֵּר אֵלָיו כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה לֵאמֹר בָּא־אֵלַי הָעֶבֶד הָעִבְרִי אֲשֶׁר־הֵבֵאתָ לָנוּ לְצַחֵק בִּי: וַיְהִי כַּהֲרִימִי קוֹלִי וָאֶקְרָא וַיַּעֲזֹב בִּגְדוֹ אֶצְלִי וַיָּנָס הַחוּצָה: | She kept his garment beside her until his master came home. Then she told him the same story: "The Hebrew slave you brought us came in to me to make sport of me. But when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside." |
| Gen 39:19 וַיְהִי כִשְׁמֹעַ אֲדֹנָיו אֶת־דִּבְרֵי אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר דִּבְּרָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה עָשָׂה לִי עַבְדֶּךָ וַיִּחַר אַפּוֹ: וַיִּקַּח אֲדֹנֵי יוֹסֵף אֹתוֹ וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ אֶל־בֵּית הַסֹּהַר מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אֲסִירֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲסוּרִים וַיְהִי־שָׁם בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר: | When his master heard the words his wife spoke to him—"This is what your slave did to me"—he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he stayed there in the prison. |
| Gen 39:21 וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיֵּט אֵלָיו חָסֶד וַיִּתֵּן חִנּוֹ בְּעֵינֵי שַׂר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר: וַיִּתֵּן שַׂר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר בְּיַד־יוֹסֵף אֵת כָּל־הָאֲסִירִם אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עֹשִׂים שָׁם הוּא הָיָה עֹשֶׂה: אֵין שַׂר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר רֹאֶה אֶת־כָּל־מְאוּמָה בְּיָדוֹ בַּאֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אִתּוֹ וַאֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מַצְלִיחַ: | But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love, and he gave him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. The prison warden put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The prison warden paid no attention to anything in his charge, because the LORD was with |

**8** Perez sounds like the Hebrew for "breach" or "breaking through."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | him, and whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed. |

## CHAPTER 40

*In prison Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 40:1 וַיְהִי אַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה חָטְאוּ מַשְׁקֵה מֶלֶךְ־מִצְרַיִם וְהָאֹפֶה לַאֲדֹנֵיהֶם לְמֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיִם: וַיִּקְצֹף פַּרְעֹה עַל שְׁנֵי סָרִיסָיו עַל שַׂר הַמַּשְׁקִים וְעַל שַׂר הָאוֹפִים: וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָם בְּמִשְׁמַר בֵּית שַׂר הַטַּבָּחִים אֶל־בֵּית הַסֹּהַר מְקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יוֹסֵף אָסוּר שָׁם: | Some time after these things, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker offended their lord, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. |
| Gen 40:4 וַיִּפְקֹד שַׂר הַטַּבָּחִים אֶת־יוֹסֵף אִתָּם וַיְשָׁרֶת אֹתָם וַיִּהְיוּ יָמִים בְּמִשְׁמָר: וַיַּחַלְמוּ חֲלוֹם שְׁנֵיהֶם אִישׁ חֲלֹמוֹ בְּלַיְלָה אֶחָד אִישׁ כְּפִתְרוֹן חֲלֹמוֹ הַמַּשְׁקֶה וְהָאֹפֶה אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר אֲסוּרִים בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר: | The captain of the guard assigned Joseph to them, and he attended them. They had been in custody for some time when they both had a dream on the same night, each his own dream, and each dream with its own meaning—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison. |
| Gen 40:6 וַיָּבֹא אֲלֵיהֶם יוֹסֵף בַּבֹּקֶר וַיַּרְא אֹתָם וְהִנָּם זֹעֲפִים: וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־סְרִיסֵי פַרְעֹה אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בְּמִשְׁמַר בֵּית אֲדֹנָיו לֵאמֹר מַדּוּעַ פְּנֵיכֶם רָעִים הַיּוֹם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו חָלוֹם חָלָמְנוּ וּפֹתֵר אֵין אֹתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא לֵאלֹהִים פִּתְרֹנִים סַפְּרוּ־נָא לִי: | When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were downcast. So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why do you look so troubled today?" They said to him, "Each of us has had a dream, and there is no one to interpret it." Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Please tell me." |
| Gen 40:9 וַיְסַפֵּר שַׂר־הַמַּשְׁקִים אֶת־חֲלֹמוֹ לְיוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ בַּחֲלוֹמִי וְהִנֵּה־גֶפֶן לְפָנָי: וּבַגֶּפֶן שְׁלֹשָׁה שָׂרִיגִם וְהִיא כְּפֹרַחַת עָלְתָה נִצָּהּ הִבְשִׁילוּ אַשְׁכְּלֹתֶיהָ עֲנָבִים: וְכוֹס פַּרְעֹה בְּיָדִי וָאֶקַּח אֶת־הָעֲנָבִים וָאֶשְׂחַט אֹתָם אֶל־כּוֹס פַּרְעֹה וָאֶתֵּן אֶת־הַכּוֹס עַל־כַּף פַּרְעֹה: | So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph. He said to him, "In my dream, there was a vine in front of me, and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot up, and its clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand. I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and put the cup in Pharaoh's hand." |
| Gen 40:12 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יוֹסֵף זֶה פִּתְרֹנוֹ שְׁלֹשֶׁת הַשָּׂרִגִים שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים הֵם: בְּעוֹד שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים יִשֵּׂא פַרְעֹה אֶת־רֹאשֶׁךָ וְהֵשִׁיבְךָ עַל־כַּנֶּךָ וְנָתַתָּ כוֹס־פַּרְעֹה בְּיָדוֹ כַּמִּשְׁפָּט הָרִאשׁוֹן אֲשֶׁר הָיִיתָ מַשְׁקֵהוּ: | Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your post, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.[9] |
| Gen 40:14 כִּי אִם־זְכַרְתַּנִי אִתְּךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר יִיטַב לָךְ וְעָשִׂיתָ־נָּא עִמָּדִי חָסֶד וְהִזְכַּרְתַּנִי אֶל־פַּרְעֹה וְהוֹצֵאתַנִי מִן־הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה: כִּי־גָנֹב גֻּנַּבְתִּי מֵאֶרֶץ הָעִבְרִים וְגַם־פֹּה לֹא־עָשִׂיתִי מְאוּמָה כִּי־שָׂמוּ אֹתִי בַּבּוֹר: | Only remember me when things go well for you, and please show me loyalty: mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this place. For I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and here |

9 To "lift up someone's head" means to restore them to favor; in 40:19 Joseph turns the phrase grimly.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| וַיַּ֕רְא שַׂר־הָאֹפִ֖ים כִּי טוֹב פָּתָ֣ר וַיֹּ֔אמֶר אֶל־יוֹסֵ֖ף אַף־אֲנִ֣י בַּחֲלוֹמִ֑י וְהִנֵּ֥ה שְׁלֹשָׁ֛ה סַלֵּ֥י חֹרִ֖י עַל־רֹאשִֽׁי׃ | too I have done nothing for which they should have put me in the pit." When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream, and there were three baskets of white bread on my head. |
| Gen 40:17 וּבַסַּ֣ל הָעֶלְי֗וֹן מִכֹּל֙ מַאֲכַ֣ל פַּרְעֹ֔ה מַעֲשֵׂ֖ה אֹפֶ֑ה וְהָע֛וֹף אֹכֵ֥ל אֹתָ֖ם מִן־הַסַּ֥ל מֵעַ֖ל רֹאשִֽׁי׃ וַיַּ֥עַן יוֹסֵ֖ף וַיֹּ֑אמֶר זֶ֚ה פִּתְרֹנ֔וֹ שְׁלֹ֥שֶׁת הַסַּלִּ֖ים שְׁלֹ֣שֶׁת יָמִ֑ים הֵֽם׃ בְּע֗וֹד שְׁלֹשֶׁת֙ יָמִ֔ים יִשָּׂ֥א פַרְעֹ֖ה אֶת־רֹאשְׁךָ֣ מֵעָלֶ֑יךָ וְתָלָ֤ה אוֹתְךָ֙ עַל־עֵ֔ץ וְאָכַ֥ל הָע֛וֹף אֶת־בְּשָׂרְךָ֖ מֵעָלֶֽיךָ׃ | In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head." Joseph answered, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—right off you—and hang you on a pole, and the birds will eat the flesh off you." |
| Gen 40:20 וַיְהִ֣י בַיּ֣וֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁ֗י י֚וֹם הֻלֶּ֣דֶת אֶת־פַּרְעֹ֔ה וַיַּ֥עַשׂ מִשְׁתֶּ֖ה לְכָל־עֲבָדָ֑יו וַיִּשָּׂ֣א אֶת־רֹ֤אשׁ שַׂר־הַמַּשְׁקִים֙ וְאֶת־רֹ֣אשׁ שַׂר־הָאֹפִ֔ים בְּת֖וֹךְ עֲבָדָֽיו׃ וַיָּ֤שֶׁב אֶת־שַׂר־הַמַּשְׁקִים֙ עַל־מַשְׁקֵ֔הוּ וַיִּתֵּ֥ן הַכּ֖וֹס עַל־כַּ֣ף פַּרְעֹ֑ה׃ וְאֵת֙ שַׂ֣ר הָאֹפִ֔ים תָּלָ֕ה כַּאֲשֶׁ֥ר פָּתַ֖ר לָהֶ֥ם יוֹסֵֽף׃ וְלֹא־זָכַ֥ר שַׂר־הַמַּשְׁקִ֖ים אֶת־יוֹסֵ֑ף וַיִּשְׁכָּחֵֽהוּ׃ | On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he gave a feast for all his servants, and he lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. He restored the chief cupbearer to his cupbearing, and he put the cup in Pharaoh's hand; but the chief baker he hanged, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. |

## CHAPTER 41

*Pharaoh dreams of cows and ears of grain, and Joseph interprets the dreams.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 41:1 וַיְהִ֣י מִקֵּ֔ץ שְׁנָתַ֖יִם יָמִ֑ים וּפַרְעֹ֕ה חֹלֵ֖ם וְהִנֵּ֥ה עֹמֵ֖ד עַל־הַיְאֹֽר׃ וְהִנֵּ֣ה מִן־הַיְאֹ֗ר עֹלֹת֙ שֶׁ֣בַע פָּר֔וֹת יְפ֥וֹת מַרְאֶ֖ה וּבְרִיא֣וֹת בָּשָׂ֑ר וַתִּרְעֶ֖ינָה בָּאָֽחוּ׃ וְהִנֵּ֣ה שֶׁ֣בַע פָּר֤וֹת אֲחֵרוֹת֙ עֹל֣וֹת אַחֲרֵיהֶ֔ן מִן־הַיְאֹ֖ר רָע֣וֹת מַרְאֶ֑ה וְדַקּ֣וֹת בָּשָׂ֔ר וַתַּעֲמֹ֥דְנָה אֵצֶ֛ל הַפָּר֖וֹת עַל־שְׂפַ֥ת הַיְאֹֽר׃ | At the end of two full years, Pharaoh had a dream. He was standing by the Nile, and there, coming up out of the Nile, were seven cows, fine-looking and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. Then seven other cows came up out of the Nile after them, ugly and thin, and stood beside the other cows on the bank of the Nile. |
| Gen 41:4 וַתֹּאכַ֜לְנָה הַפָּר֣וֹת רָע֧וֹת הַמַּרְאֶ֛ה וְדַקֹּ֖ת הַבָּשָׂ֑ר אֵ֚ת שֶׁ֣בַע הַפָּר֔וֹת יְפֹ֥ת הַמַּרְאֶ֖ה וְהַבְּרִיאֹ֑ת וַיִּ֖יקַץ פַּרְעֹֽה׃ וַיִּישָׁ֖ן וַיַּחֲלֹ֥ם שֵׁנִ֖ית וְהִנֵּ֣ה שֶׁ֣בַע שִׁבֳּלִ֗ים עֹלֹ֛ת בְּקָנֶ֥ה אֶחָ֖ד בְּרִיא֥וֹת וְטֹבוֹֽת׃ וְהִנֵּ֣ה שֶׁ֣בַע שִׁבֳּלִ֗ים דַּקּוֹת֙ וּשְׁדוּפֹ֣ת קָדִ֔ים צֹמְח֖וֹת אַחֲרֵיהֶֽן׃ | And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven fine-looking, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. He fell asleep and dreamed a second time: there were seven ears of grain, plump and good, growing on a single stalk. Then seven ears, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted after them. |
| Gen 41:7 וַתִּבְלַ֜עְנָה הַשִּׁבֳּלִ֣ים הַדַּקּ֗וֹת אֵ֚ת שֶׁ֣בַע הַשִּׁבֳּלִ֣ים הַבְּרִיא֔וֹת וְהַמְּלֵאוֹת֙ וַיִּ֣יקַץ פַּרְעֹ֔ה וְהִנֵּ֥ה חֲלֽוֹם׃ וַיְהִ֥י בַבֹּ֖קֶר וַתִּפָּ֣עֶם רוּח֑וֹ וַיִּשְׁלַ֞ח וַיִּקְרָ֣א אֶת־כָּל־חַרְטֻמֵּ֣י מִצְרַ֔יִם וְאֶת־כָּל־חֲכָמֶ֖יהָ וַיְסַפֵּ֣ר פַּרְעֹ֣ה לָהֶ֔ם אֶת־חֲלֹמ֑וֹ וְאֵין־פּוֹתֵ֥ר אוֹתָ֖ם לְפַרְעֹֽה׃ | And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. Then Pharaoh woke up—and it was a dream. In the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for Pharaoh. |
| Gen 41:9 וַיְדַבֵּ֣ר שַׂר־הַמַּשְׁקִ֗ים אֶת־פַּרְעֹה֙ לֵאמֹ֔ר אֶת־חֲטָאַ֖י אֲנִ֣י מַזְכִּ֑יר הַיּֽוֹם׃ פַּרְעֹ֞ה קָצַ֣ף עַל־עֲבָדָ֗יו וַיִּתֵּ֤ן אֹתִי֙ בְּמִשְׁמַ֣ר בֵּית֔ שַׂ֖ר הַטַּבָּחִ֑ים אֹתִ֖י | Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I must call my offenses to mind. Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and he put me in custody in the |

HEBREW

וְאֶת שַׂר הָאֹפִים: וַנַּחַלְמָה חֲלוֹם בְּלַיְלָה אֶחָד אֲנִי וְהוּא אִישׁ כְּפִתְרוֹן חֲלֹמוֹ חָלָמְנוּ:

Gen 41:12 וְשָׁם אִתָּנוּ נַעַר עִבְרִי עֶבֶד לְשַׂר הַטַּבָּחִים וַנְּסַפֶּר־לוֹ וַיִּפְתָּר־לָנוּ אֶת־חֲלֹמֹתֵינוּ אִישׁ כַּחֲלֹמוֹ פָּתָר: וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר פָּתַר־לָנוּ כֵּן הָיָה אֹתִי הֵשִׁיב עַל־כַּנִּי וְאֹתוֹ תָלָה: וַיִּשְׁלַח פַּרְעֹה וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיְרִיצֻהוּ מִן־הַבּוֹר וַיְגַלַּח וַיְחַלֵּף שִׂמְלֹתָיו וַיָּבֹא אֶל־פַּרְעֹה:

Gen 41:15 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם חָלַמְתִּי וּפֹתֵר אֵין אֹתוֹ וַאֲנִי שָׁמַעְתִּי עָלֶיךָ לֵאמֹר תִּשְׁמַע חֲלוֹם לִפְתֹּר אֹתוֹ: וַיַּעַן יוֹסֵף אֶת־פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר בִּלְעָדָי אֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֶה אֶת־שְׁלוֹם פַּרְעֹה: וַיְדַבֵּר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף בַּחֲלֹמִי הִנְנִי עֹמֵד עַל־שְׂפַת הַיְאֹר:

Gen 41:18 וְהִנֵּה מִן־הַיְאֹר עֹלֹת שֶׁבַע פָּרוֹת בְּרִיאוֹת בָּשָׂר וִיפֹת תֹּאַר וַתִּרְעֶינָה בָּאָחוּ: וְהִנֵּה שֶׁבַע־פָּרוֹת אֲחֵרוֹת עֹלוֹת אַחֲרֵיהֶן דַּלוֹת וְרָעוֹת תֹּאַר מְאֹד וְרָקוֹת בָּשָׂר לֹא־רָאִיתִי כָהֵנָּה בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לָרֹעַ: וַתֹּאכַלְנָה הַפָּרוֹת הָרַקוֹת וְהָרָעוֹת אֵת שֶׁבַע הַפָּרוֹת הָרִאשֹׁנוֹת הַבְּרִיאֹת:

Gen 41:21 וַתָּבֹאנָה אֶל־קִרְבֶּנָה וְלֹא נוֹדַע כִּי־בָאוּ אֶל־קִרְבֶּנָה וּמַרְאֵיהֶן רַע כַּאֲשֶׁר בַּתְּחִלָּה וָאִיקָץ: וָאֵרֶא בַּחֲלֹמִי וְהִנֵּה שֶׁבַע שִׁבֳּלִים עֹלֹת בְּקָנֶה אֶחָד מְלֵאוֹת וְטֹבוֹת: וְהִנֵּה שֶׁבַע שִׁבֳּלִים צְנֻמוֹת דַּקוֹת שְׁדֻפוֹת קָדִים צֹמְחוֹת אַחֲרֵיהֶם:

Gen 41:24 וַתִּבְלַעְן הַשִּׁבֳּלִים הַדַּקֹּת אֵת שֶׁבַע הַשִּׁבֳּלִים הַטֹּבוֹת וָאֹמַר אֶל־הַחַרְטֻמִּים וְאֵין מַגִּיד לִי: וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־פַּרְעֹה חֲלוֹם פַּרְעֹה אֶחָד הוּא אֵת אֲשֶׁר הָאֱלֹהִים עֹשֶׂה הִגִּיד לְפַרְעֹה: שֶׁבַע פָּרֹת הַטֹּבֹת שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים הֵנָּה וְשֶׁבַע הַשִּׁבֳּלִים הַטֹּבֹת שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים הֵנָּה חֲלוֹם אֶחָד הוּא:

Gen 41:27 וְשֶׁבַע הַפָּרוֹת הָרַקוֹת וְהָרָעֹת הָעֹלֹת אַחֲרֵיהֶן שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים הֵנָּה וְשֶׁבַע הַשִּׁבֳּלִים הָרֵקוֹת שְׁדֻפוֹת הַקָּדִים יִהְיוּ שֶׁבַע שְׁנֵי רָעָב: הוּא הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי אֶל־פַּרְעֹה אֲשֶׁר הָאֱלֹהִים עֹשֶׂה הֶרְאָה אֶת־פַּרְעֹה: הִנֵּה שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים בָּאוֹת שָׂבָע גָּדוֹל בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם:

Gen 41:30

ENGLISH

house of the captain of the guard, me and the chief baker. We had dreams on the same night, he and I, each of us a dream with its own meaning.

A young Hebrew was there with us, a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his own dream. And just as he interpreted for us, so it turned out: me Pharaoh restored to my post, and him he hanged." Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they rushed him out of the pit. He shaved, changed his clothes, and came in to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream, you can interpret it." Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer for his well-being." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream, there I was, standing on the bank of the Nile.

And there, coming up out of the Nile, were seven cows, fat and fine-looking, and they grazed among the reeds. Then seven other cows came up after them, scrawny, very ugly, and lean—I have never seen such ugly ones in all the land of Egypt. And the lean, ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows.

But when they had gone into their bellies, no one could have told that they had gone into their bellies, for they looked just as ugly as before. Then I woke up. In my dream I also saw seven ears of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk. Then seven ears, withered, thin, and scorched by the east wind, sprouted after them.

And the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. I told the magicians, but no one could explain it to me." Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same. God has told Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; it is one dream.

The seven lean, ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine. It is just as I told Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years are coming of great plenty throughout the land of Egypt.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| וְקָמוּ שֶׁבַע שְׁנֵי רָעָב אַחֲרֵיהֶן וְנִשְׁכַּח כָּל־הַשֹּׂבַע בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וְכִלָּה הָרָעָב אֶת־הָאָרֶץ: וְלֹא־יִוָּדַע הַשֹּׂבַע בָּאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵי הָרָעָב הַהוּא אַחֲרֵי־כֵן כִּי־כָבֵד הוּא מְאֹד: וְעַל הִשָּׁנוֹת הַחֲלוֹם אֶל־פַּרְעֹה פַּעֲמָיִם כִּי־נָכוֹן הַדָּבָר מֵעִם הָאֱלֹהִים וּמְמַהֵר הָאֱלֹהִים לַעֲשֹׂתוֹ: | After them will come seven years of famine, and all the plenty in the land of Egypt will be forgotten; the famine will consume the land. The plenty in the land will leave no trace because of the famine that follows, for it will be very severe. As for the dream being repeated to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is firmly settled by God, and God will soon bring it about. |
| Gen 41:33 וְעַתָּה יֵרֶא פַּרְעֹה אִישׁ נָבוֹן וְחָכָם וְיָשִׁיתֵהוּ עַל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: יַעֲשֶׂה פַּרְעֹה וְיַפְקֵד פְּקִדִים עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְחִמֵּשׁ אֶת־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּשֶׁבַע שְׁנֵי הַשָּׂבָע: וְיִקְבְּצוּ אֶת־כָּל־אֹכֶל הַשָּׁנִים הַטֹּבֹת הַבָּאֹת הָאֵלֶּה וְיִצְבְּרוּ־בָר תַּחַת יַד־פַּרְעֹה אֹכֶל בֶּעָרִים וְשָׁמָרוּ: | Now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh act: let him appoint overseers over the land and take a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven years of plenty. Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under Pharaoh's authority, food in the cities, and let them guard it. |
| Gen 41:36 וְהָיָה הָאֹכֶל לְפִקָּדוֹן לָאָרֶץ לְשֶׁבַע שְׁנֵי הָרָעָב אֲשֶׁר תִּהְיֶיןָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וְלֹא־תִכָּרֵת הָאָרֶץ בָּרָעָב: וַיִּיטַב הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי פַרְעֹה וּבְעֵינֵי כָּל־עֲבָדָיו: וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־עֲבָדָיו הֲנִמְצָא כָזֶה אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים בּוֹ: | That food will be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are coming upon the land of Egypt, so that the land will not be wiped out by the famine." The plan seemed good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. Pharaoh said to his servants, "Could we find anyone like this, a man in whom is the spirit of God?" |

### JOSEPH RULES EGYPT

*Pharaoh sets Joseph over Egypt, and Joseph stores grain for the famine.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 41:39 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף אַחֲרֵי הוֹדִיעַ אֱלֹהִים אוֹתְךָ אֶת־כָּל־זֹאת אֵין־נָבוֹן וְחָכָם כָּמוֹךָ: אַתָּה תִּהְיֶה עַל־בֵּיתִי וְעַל־פִּיךָ יִשַּׁק כָּל־עַמִּי רַק הַכִּסֵּא אֶגְדַּל מִמֶּךָּ: וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף רְאֵה נְתַתִּי אֹתְךָ עַל כָּל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: | So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my household, and all my people shall obey your command. Only in the throne will I be greater than you." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."[10] |
| Gen 41:42 וַיָּסַר פַּרְעֹה אֶת־טַבַּעְתּוֹ מֵעַל יָדוֹ וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָהּ עַל־יַד יוֹסֵף וַיַּלְבֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ בִּגְדֵי־שֵׁשׁ וַיָּשֶׂם רְבִד הַזָּהָב עַל־צַוָּארוֹ: וַיַּרְכֶּב אֹתוֹ בְּמִרְכֶּבֶת הַמִּשְׁנֶה אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְפָנָיו אַבְרֵךְ וְנָתוֹן אֹתוֹ עַל כָּל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: | Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand. He dressed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they called out before him, "Abrek!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.[11] |
| Gen 41:44 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֲנִי פַרְעֹה וּבִלְעָדֶיךָ לֹא־יָרִים אִישׁ אֶת־יָדוֹ וְאֶת־רַגְלוֹ בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: וַיִּקְרָא פַרְעֹה שֵׁם־יוֹסֵף צָפְנַת פַּעְנֵחַ וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ אֶת־אָסְנַת בַּת־פּוֹטִי פֶרַע כֹּהֵן אֹן לְאִשָּׁה וַיֵּצֵא יוֹסֵף עַל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: | Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your consent no one shall lift hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah, and he gave him |

10 The Hebrew is uncertain; literally "on your mouth all my people shall kiss."
11 *Abrek* is probably an Egyptian word, perhaps a cry like "Make way!"; its meaning is uncertain.

HEBREW

ENGLISH

Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, as his wife. And Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.[12]

Gen 41:46 וְיוֹסֵף בֶּן־שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה בְּעָמְדוֹ לִפְנֵי פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ־מִצְרָיִם וַיֵּצֵא יוֹסֵף מִלִּפְנֵי פַּרְעֹה וַיַּעֲבֹר בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: וַתַּעַשׂ הָאָרֶץ בְּשֶׁבַע שְׁנֵי הַשָּׂבָע לְקֻמָצִים: וַיִּקְבֹּץ אֶת־כָּל־אֹכֶל שֶׁבַע שְׁנִים אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּתֵּן־אֹכֶל בֶּעָרִים אֹכֶל שְׂדֵה־הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתֶיהָ נָתַן בְּתוֹכָהּ:

Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout the land of Egypt. During the seven years of plenty the land produced by the handful. He gathered all the food of the seven years that came to the land of Egypt and stored the food in the cities; in each city he stored the food from the fields around it.

Gen 41:49 וַיִּצְבֹּר יוֹסֵף בָּר כְּחוֹל הַיָּם הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד עַד כִּי־חָדַל לִסְפֹּר כִּי־אֵין מִסְפָּר: וּלְיוֹסֵף יֻלַּד שְׁנֵי בָנִים בְּטֶרֶם תְּבוֹא שְׁנַת הָרָעָב אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה־לּוֹ אָסְנַת בַּת־פּוֹטִי פֶרַע כֹּהֵן אוֹן: וַיִּקְרָא יוֹסֵף אֶת־שֵׁם הַבְּכוֹר מְנַשֶּׁה כִּי־נַשַּׁנִי אֱלֹהִים אֶת־כָּל־עָמְלִי וְאֵת כָּל־בֵּית אָבִי:

Joseph stored up grain like the sand of the sea, so very much that they stopped counting, for it was beyond counting. Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him. Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, "for God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."[13]

Gen 41:52 וְאֵת שֵׁם הַשֵּׁנִי קָרָא אֶפְרַיִם כִּי־הִפְרַנִי אֱלֹהִים בְּאֶרֶץ עָנְיִי: וַתִּכְלֶינָה שֶׁבַע שְׁנֵי הַשָּׂבָע אֲשֶׁר הָיָה בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: וַתָּחֶלְינָה שֶׁבַע שְׁנֵי הָרָעָב לָבוֹא כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי רָעָב בְּכָל־הָאֲרָצוֹת וּבְכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם הָיָה לָחֶם:

The second he named Ephraim, "for God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." The seven years of plenty in the land of Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.[14]

Gen 41:55 וַתִּרְעַב כָּל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּצְעַק הָעָם אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לַלָּחֶם וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה לְכָל־מִצְרַיִם לְכוּ אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר־יֹאמַר לָכֶם תַּעֲשׂוּ: וְהָרָעָב הָיָה עַל כָּל־פְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ וַיִּפְתַּח יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר בָּהֶם וַיִּשְׁבֹּר לְמִצְרַיִם וַיֶּחֱזַק הָרָעָב בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: וְכָל־הָאָרֶץ בָּאוּ מִצְרַיְמָה לִשְׁבֹּר אֶל־יוֹסֵף כִּי־חָזַק הָרָעָב בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ:

When all the land of Egypt grew hungry, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; do whatever he tells you." The famine spread over the whole face of the earth, and Joseph opened up all the places where there was grain and sold it to the Egyptians, and the famine grew severe in the land of Egypt. And people from all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe throughout the earth.

## CHAPTER 42

*Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to buy grain, and he accuses them of spying.*

HEBREW

ENGLISH

Gen 42:1 וַיַּרְא יַעֲקֹב כִּי יֶשׁ־שֶׁבֶר בְּמִצְרָיִם וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב לְבָנָיו לָמָּה תִתְרָאוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה שָׁמַעְתִּי כִּי יֶשׁ־שֶׁבֶר בְּמִצְרַיִם רְדוּ־שָׁמָּה וְשִׁבְרוּ־לָנוּ מִשָּׁם וְנִחְיֶה וְלֹא נָמוּת: וַיֵּרְדוּ אֲחֵי־יוֹסֵף עֲשָׂרָה לִשְׁבֹּר בָּר מִמִּצְרָיִם:

When Jacob saw that there was grain for sale in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you keep looking at one another?" He said, "I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down there

12 Zaphenath-paneah is an Egyptian name of debated meaning. On is the city later known as Heliopolis.
13 Manasseh sounds like the Hebrew for "making forget."
14 Ephraim sounds like the Hebrew for "made fruitful."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die." So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. |
| Gen 42:4 וְאֶת־בִּנְיָמִין אֲחִי יוֹסֵף לֹא־שָׁלַח יַעֲקֹב אֶת־אֶחָיו כִּי אָמַר פֶּן־ יִקְרָאֶנּוּ אָסוֹן: וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לִשְׁבֹּר בְּתוֹךְ הַבָּאִים כִּי־הָיָה הָרָעָב בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: וְיוֹסֵף הוּא הַשַּׁ֫לִּיט עַל־הָאָרֶץ הוּא הַמַּשְׁבִּיר לְכָל־עַם הָאָרֶץ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֲחֵי יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ־לוֹ אַפַּיִם אָרְצָה: | But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he thought, "Harm might come to him." So the sons of Israel came to buy grain along with the others who came, for the famine had reached the land of Canaan. Now Joseph was the governor over the land; he was the one who sold grain to all the people of the land. Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. |
| Gen 42:7 וַיַּרְא יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֶחָיו וַיַּכִּרֵם וַיִּתְנַכֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם וַיְדַבֵּר אִתָּם קָשׁוֹת וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מֵאַיִן בָּאתֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן לִשְׁבָּר־אֹכֶל: וַיַּכֵּר יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֶחָיו וְהֵם לֹא הִכִּרֻהוּ: | When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he made himself a stranger to them and spoke harshly to them. He said to them, "Where have you come from?" They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.[15] |
| Gen 42:9 וַיִּזְכֹּר יוֹסֵף אֵת הַחֲלֹמוֹת אֲשֶׁר חָלַם לָהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מְרַגְּלִים אַתֶּם לִרְאוֹת אֶת־עֶרְוַת הָאָרֶץ בָּאתֶם: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו לֹא אֲדֹנִי וַעֲבָדֶיךָ בָּאוּ לִשְׁבָּר־אֹכֶל: כֻּלָּנוּ בְּנֵי אִישׁ־אֶחָד נָחְנוּ כֵּנִים אֲנַחְנוּ לֹא־הָיוּ עֲבָדֶיךָ מְרַגְּלִים: | Joseph remembered the dreams he had dreamed about them, and he said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where the land is undefended." They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. We are all sons of one man. We are honest men; your servants are not spies." |
| Gen 42:12 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם לֹא כִּי־עֶרְוַת הָאָרֶץ בָּאתֶם לִרְאוֹת: וַיֹּאמְרוּ שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר עֲבָדֶיךָ אַחִים אֲנַחְנוּ בְּנֵי אִישׁ־אֶחָד בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְהִנֵּה הַקָּטֹן אֶת־אָבִינוּ הַיּוֹם וְהָאֶחָד אֵינֶנּוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף הוּא אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי אֲלֵכֶם לֵאמֹר מְרַגְּלִים אַתֶּם: | But he said to them, "No, you have come to see where the land is undefended." They said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest is with our father today, and one is no more." Joseph said to them, "It is just as I told you: you are spies. |
| Gen 42:15 בְּזֹאת תִּבָּחֲנוּ חֵי פַרְעֹה אִם־תֵּצְאוּ מִזֶּה כִּי אִם־בְּבוֹא אֲחִיכֶם הַקָּטֹן הֵנָּה: שִׁלְחוּ מִכֶּם אֶחָד וְיִקַּח אֶת־אֲחִיכֶם וְאַתֶּם הֵאָסְרוּ וְיִבָּחֲנוּ דִּבְרֵיכֶם הֲאֶמֶת אִתְּכֶם וְאִם־לֹא חֵי פַרְעֹה כִּי מְרַגְּלִים אַתֶּם: | This is how you will be tested: as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you to get your brother, while the rest of you are kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see whether there is truth in you. If not, as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!" |
| Gen 42:17 וַיֶּאֱסֹף אֹתָם אֶל־מִשְׁמָר שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי זֹאת עֲשׂוּ וִחְיוּ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים אֲנִי יָרֵא: אִם־כֵּנִים אַתֶּם אֲחִיכֶם אֶחָד יֵאָסֵר בְּבֵית מִשְׁמַרְכֶם וְאַתֶּם לְכוּ הָבִיאוּ שֶׁבֶר רַעֲבוֹן בָּתֵּיכֶם: | And he put them all in custody for three days. On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God. If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay confined where you are held, and the rest of you go and take grain to your starving households. |
| Gen 42:20 וְאֶת־אֲחִיכֶם הַקָּטֹן תָּבִיאוּ אֵלַי וְיֵאָמְנוּ דִבְרֵיכֶם וְלֹא תָמוּתוּ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־כֵן: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אָחִיו אֲבָל אֲשֵׁמִים אֲנַחְנוּ עַל־אָחִינוּ | But bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and you will not die." |

15 "Recognized" and "made himself a stranger" come from the same Hebrew root, a play on words.

HEBREW

אֲשֶׁר רָאִינוּ צָרַת נַפְשׁוֹ בְּהִתְחַנְנוֹ אֵלֵינוּ וְלֹא שָׁמָעְנוּ עַל־כֵּן בָּאָה אֵלֵינוּ הַצָּרָה הַזֹּאת:

Gen 42:22 וַיַּעַן רְאוּבֵן אֹתָם לֵאמֹר הֲלוֹא אָמַרְתִּי אֲלֵיכֶם לֵאמֹר אַל־תֶּחֱטְאוּ בַיֶּלֶד וְלֹא שְׁמַעְתֶּם וְגַם־דָּמוֹ הִנֵּה נִדְרָשׁ: וְהֵם לֹא יָדְעוּ כִּי שֹׁמֵעַ יוֹסֵף כִּי הַמֵּלִיץ בֵּינֹתָם: וַיִּסֹּב מֵעֲלֵיהֶם וַיֵּבְךְּ וַיָּשָׁב אֲלֵהֶם וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם וַיִּקַּח מֵאִתָּם אֶת־שִׁמְעוֹן וַיֶּאֱסֹר אֹתוֹ לְעֵינֵיהֶם:

Gen 42:25 וַיְצַו יוֹסֵף וַיְמַלְאוּ אֶת־כְּלֵיהֶם בָּר וּלְהָשִׁיב כַּסְפֵּיהֶם אִישׁ אֶל־שַׂקּוֹ וְלָתֵת לָהֶם צֵדָה לַדָּרֶךְ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם כֵּן: וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת־שִׁבְרָם עַל־חֲמֹרֵיהֶם וַיֵּלְכוּ מִשָּׁם: וַיִּפְתַּח הָאֶחָד אֶת־שַׂקּוֹ לָתֵת מִסְפּוֹא לַחֲמֹרוֹ בַּמָּלוֹן וַיַּרְא אֶת־כַּסְפּוֹ וְהִנֵּה־הוּא בְּפִי אַמְתַּחְתּוֹ:

Gen 42:28 וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־אֶחָיו הוּשַׁב כַּסְפִּי וְגַם הִנֵּה בְאַמְתַּחְתִּי וַיֵּצֵא לִבָּם וַיֶּחֶרְדוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אָחִיו לֵאמֹר מַה־זֹּאת עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים לָנוּ: וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם אַרְצָה כְּנָעַן וַיַּגִּידוּ לוֹ אֵת כָּל־הַקֹּרֹת אֹתָם לֵאמֹר:

Gen 42:30 דִּבֶּר הָאִישׁ אֲדֹנֵי הָאָרֶץ אִתָּנוּ קָשׁוֹת וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָנוּ כְּמְרַגְּלִים אֶת־הָאָרֶץ: וַנֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו כֵּנִים אֲנָחְנוּ לֹא הָיִינוּ מְרַגְּלִים: שְׁנֵים־עָשָׂר אֲנַחְנוּ אַחִים בְּנֵי אָבִינוּ הָאֶחָד אֵינֶנּוּ וְהַקָּטֹן הַיּוֹם אֶת־אָבִינוּ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:

Gen 42:33 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵינוּ הָאִישׁ אֲדֹנֵי הָאָרֶץ בְּזֹאת אֵדַע כִּי כֵנִים אַתֶּם אֲחֵיכֶם הָאֶחָד הַנִּיחוּ אִתִּי וְאֶת־רַעֲבוֹן בָּתֵּיכֶם קְחוּ וָלֵכוּ: וְהָבִיאוּ אֶת־אֲחִיכֶם הַקָּטֹן אֵלַי וְאֵדְעָה כִּי לֹא מְרַגְּלִים אַתֶּם כִּי כֵנִים אַתֶּם אֶת־אֲחִיכֶם אֶתֵּן לָכֶם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ תִּסְחָרוּ:

Gen 42:35 וַיְהִי הֵם מְרִיקִים שַׂקֵּיהֶם וְהִנֵּה־אִישׁ צְרוֹר־כַּסְפּוֹ בְּשַׂקּוֹ וַיִּרְאוּ אֶת־צְרֹרוֹת כַּסְפֵּיהֶם הֵמָּה וַאֲבִיהֶם וַיִּירָאוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם אֹתִי שִׁכַּלְתֶּם יוֹסֵף אֵינֶנּוּ וְשִׁמְעוֹן אֵינֶנּוּ וְאֶת־בִּנְיָמִן תִּקָּחוּ עָלַי הָיוּ כֻלָּנָה:

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And they did so. They said to one another, “Truly we are guilty because of our brother. We saw his distress when he pleaded with us, and we would not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”

Gen 42:22 Reuben answered them, “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t sin against the boy’? But you would not listen. Now his blood is being demanded of us.” They did not know that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them. He turned away from them and wept. Then he came back to them and spoke to them, and he took Simeon from among them and had him bound before their eyes.

Gen 42:25 Joseph gave orders to fill their containers with grain, to return each man’s silver to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey, and this was done for them. They loaded their grain on their donkeys and left. When one of them opened his sack at the lodging place to give his donkey feed, he saw his silver—there it was at the mouth of his bag.

Gen 42:28 He said to his brothers, “My silver has been returned! Here it is in my bag!” Their hearts sank, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?” When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying,

Gen 42:30 “The man who is lord of the land spoke harshly to us and treated us as men spying on the land. We said to him, ‘We are honest men; we are not spies. We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.’

Gen 42:33 Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘This is how I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, take grain for your starving households, and go. Then bring your youngest brother to me, and I will know that you are not spies but honest men. I will give your brother back to you, and you may trade in the land.’”

Gen 42:35 As they were emptying their sacks, there was each man’s bundle of silver in his sack! When they and their father saw their bundles of silver, they were afraid. Their father Jacob said to them, “You have robbed me of my children. Joseph is no more, and

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| | Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has fallen on me!" |
| Gen 42:37 וַיֹּאמֶר רְאוּבֵן אֶל־אָבִיו לֵאמֹר אֶת־שְׁנֵי בָנַי תָּמִית אִם־לֹא אֲבִיאֶנּוּ אֵלֶיךָ תְּנָה אֹתוֹ עַל־יָדִי וַאֲנִי אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ אֵלֶיךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא־יֵרֵד בְּנִי עִמָּכֶם כִּי־אָחִיו מֵת וְהוּא לְבַדּוֹ נִשְׁאָר וּקְרָאָהוּ אָסוֹן בַּדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר תֵּלְכוּ־בָהּ וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־שֵׂיבָתִי בְּיָגוֹן שְׁאוֹלָה: | Then Reuben said to his father, "You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my care, and I will bring him back to you." But he said, "My son shall not go down with you. His brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should come to him on the journey you are making, you would bring my gray head down to Sheol in grief." |

## CHAPTER 43

*The brothers return to Egypt with Benjamin and dine with Joseph.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 43:1 וְהָרָעָב כָּבֵד בָּאָרֶץ: וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר כִּלּוּ לֶאֱכֹל אֶת־הַשֶּׁבֶר אֲשֶׁר הֵבִיאוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם אֲבִיהֶם שֻׁבוּ שִׁבְרוּ־לָנוּ מְעַט־אֹכֶל: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר הֵעֵד הֵעִד בָּנוּ הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר לֹא־תִרְאוּ פָנַי בִּלְתִּי אֲחִיכֶם אִתְּכֶם: | The famine was severe in the land. When they had eaten up the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little food." But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' |
| Gen 43:4 אִם־יֶשְׁךָ מְשַׁלֵּחַ אֶת־אָחִינוּ אִתָּנוּ נֵרְדָה וְנִשְׁבְּרָה לְךָ אֹכֶל: וְאִם־אֵינְךָ מְשַׁלֵּחַ לֹא נֵרֵד כִּי־הָאִישׁ אָמַר אֵלֵינוּ לֹא־תִרְאוּ פָנַי בִּלְתִּי אֲחִיכֶם אִתְּכֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל לָמָּה הֲרֵעֹתֶם לִי לְהַגִּיד לָאִישׁ הַעוֹד לָכֶם אָח: | If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for you. But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'" Israel said, "Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man that you had another brother?" |
| Gen 43:7 וַיֹּאמְרוּ שָׁאוֹל שָׁאַל־הָאִישׁ לָנוּ וּלְמוֹלַדְתֵּנוּ לֵאמֹר הַעוֹד אֲבִיכֶם חַי הֲיֵשׁ לָכֶם אָח וַנַּגֶּד־לוֹ עַל־פִּי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הֲיָדוֹעַ נֵדַע כִּי יֹאמַר הוֹרִידוּ אֶת־אֲחִיכֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיו שִׁלְחָה הַנַּעַר אִתִּי וְנָקוּמָה וְנֵלֵכָה וְנִחְיֶה וְלֹא נָמוּת גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַם־אַתָּה גַּם־טַפֵּנוּ: | They said, "The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family: 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' And we answered him according to these questions. How could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?" Then Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the boy with me, and let us get up and go, so that we may live and not die—we and you and our little ones. |
| Gen 43:9 אָנֹכִי אֶעֶרְבֶנּוּ מִיָּדִי תְּבַקְשֶׁנּוּ אִם־לֹא הֲבִיאֹתִיו אֵלֶיךָ וְהִצַּגְתִּיו לְפָנֶיךָ וְחָטָאתִי לְךָ כָּל־הַיָּמִים: כִּי לוּלֵא הִתְמַהְמָהְנוּ כִּי־עַתָּה שַׁבְנוּ זֶה פַּעֲמָיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲבִיהֶם אִם־כֵּן אֵפוֹא זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קְחוּ מִזִּמְרַת הָאָרֶץ בִּכְלֵיכֶם וְהוֹרִידוּ לָאִישׁ מִנְחָה מְעַט צֳרִי וּמְעַט דְּבַשׁ נְכֹאת וְלֹט בָּטְנִים וּשְׁקֵדִים: | I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, let me bear the guilt before you all my life. If we had not delayed, we could have gone and come back twice by now." Their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your containers, and carry them down to the man as a gift—a little balm and a little honey, gum and resin, pistachio nuts and almonds. |
| Gen 43:12 | |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| וְכֶסֶף מִשְׁנֶה קְחוּ בְיֶדְכֶם וְאֶת־הַכֶּסֶף הַמּוּשָׁב בְּפִי אַמְתְּחֹתֵיכֶם תָּשִׁיבוּ בְיֶדְכֶם אוּלַי מִשְׁגֶּה הוּא: וְאֶת־אֲחִיכֶם קָחוּ וְקוּמוּ שׁוּבוּ אֶל־הָאִישׁ: וְאֵל שַׁדַּי יִתֵּן לָכֶם רַחֲמִים לִפְנֵי הָאִישׁ וְשִׁלַּח לָכֶם אֶת־אֲחִיכֶם אַחֵר וְאֶת־בִּנְיָמִין וַאֲנִי כַּאֲשֶׁר שָׁכֹלְתִּי שָׁכָלְתִּי: | Take double the silver with you, and carry back with you the silver that was returned in the mouths of your bags; perhaps it was a mistake. Take your brother too, and get up and go back to the man. May God Shaddai grant you mercy before the man, so that he will release your other brother and Benjamin to you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.” |
| Gen 43:15 וַיִּקְחוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֶת־הַמִּנְחָה הַזֹּאת וּמִשְׁנֶה־כֶּסֶף לָקְחוּ בְיָדָם וְאֶת־בִּנְיָמִן וַיָּקֻמוּ וַיֵּרְדוּ מִצְרַיִם וַיַּעַמְדוּ לִפְנֵי יוֹסֵף: וַיַּרְא יוֹסֵף אִתָּם אֶת־בִּנְיָמִין וַיֹּאמֶר לַאֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּיתוֹ הָבֵא אֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים הַבַּיְתָה וּטְבֹחַ טֶבַח וְהָכֵן כִּי אִתִּי יֹאכְלוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים בַּצָּהֳרָיִם: | So the men took this gift, and they took double the silver with them, and Benjamin. They got up and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph. When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, “Bring the men into the house, slaughter an animal, and prepare it, for the men are to eat with me at noon.” |
| Gen 43:17 וַיַּעַשׂ הָאִישׁ כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר יוֹסֵף וַיָּבֵא הָאִישׁ אֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים בֵּיתָה יוֹסֵף: וַיִּירְאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים כִּי הוּבְאוּ בֵּית יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַל־דְּבַר הַכֶּסֶף הַשָּׁ ב בְּאַמְתְּחֹתֵינוּ בַּתְּחִלָּה אֲנַחְנוּ מוּבָאִים לְהִתְגֹּלֵל עָלֵינוּ וּלְהִתְנַפֵּל עָלֵינוּ וְלָקַחַת אֹתָנוּ לַעֲבָדִים וְאֶת־חֲמֹרֵינוּ: | The man did as Joseph said and brought the men into Joseph’s house. The men were afraid because they had been brought into Joseph’s house, and they said, “It is because of the silver that was put back in our bags the first time that we are being brought in, so that he can turn on us and fall upon us and take us as slaves, along with our donkeys.” |
| Gen 43:19 וַיִּגְּשׁוּ אֶל־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּית יוֹסֵף וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו פֶּתַח הַבָּיִת: וַיֹּאמְרוּ בִּי אֲדֹנִי יָרֹד יָרַדְנוּ בַּתְּחִלָּה לִשְׁבָּר־אֹכֶל: וַיְהִי כִּי־בָאנוּ אֶל־הַמָּלוֹן וַנִּפְתְּחָה אֶת־אַמְתְּחֹתֵינוּ וְהִנֵּה כֶסֶף־אִישׁ בְּפִי אַמְתַּחְתּוֹ כַּסְפֵּנוּ בְּמִשְׁקְלוֹ וַנָּשֶׁב אֹתוֹ בְיָדֵנוּ: | So they went up to the steward of Joseph’s house and spoke to him at the entrance to the house. They said, “Please, my lord, we came down the first time to buy food. But when we reached the lodging place and opened our bags, there was each man’s silver in the mouth of his bag, our silver in full weight. So we have brought it back with us. |
| Gen 43:22 וְכֶסֶף אַחֵר הוֹרַדְנוּ בְיָדֵנוּ לִשְׁבָּר־אֹכֶל לֹא יָדַעְנוּ מִי־שָׂם כַּסְפֵּנוּ בְּאַמְתְּחֹתֵינוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר שָׁלוֹם לָכֶם אַל־תִּירָאוּ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וֵאלֹהֵי אֲבִיכֶם נָתַן לָכֶם מַטְמוֹן בְּאַמְתְּחֹתֵיכֶם כַּסְפְּכֶם בָּא אֵלָי וַיּוֹצֵא אֲלֵהֶם אֶת־שִׁמְעוֹן: | We have also brought down other silver with us to buy food. We do not know who put our silver in our bags.” He said, “Peace be with you; don’t be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your bags for you. I received your silver.” Then he brought Simeon out to them. |
| Gen 43:24 וַיָּבֵא הָאִישׁ אֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים בֵּיתָה יוֹסֵף וַיִּתֵּן־מַיִם וַיִּרְחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיהֶם וַיִּתֵּן מִסְפּוֹא לַחֲמֹרֵיהֶם: וַיָּכִינוּ אֶת־הַמִּנְחָה עַד־בּוֹא יוֹסֵף בַּצָּהֳרָיִם כִּי שָׁמְעוּ כִּי־שָׁם יֹאכְלוּ לָחֶם: וַיָּבֹא יוֹסֵף הַבַּיְתָה וַיָּבִיאוּ לוֹ אֶת־הַמִּנְחָה אֲשֶׁר־בְּיָדָם הַבַּיְתָה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ־לוֹ אָרְצָה: | The man brought the men into Joseph’s house and gave them water, and they washed their feet, and he gave feed to their donkeys. They got the gift ready for Joseph’s arrival at noon, for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there. When Joseph came home, they brought him the gift they had with them into the house and bowed down to the ground before him. |
| Gen 43:27 וַיִּשְׁאַל לָהֶם לְשָׁלוֹם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲשָׁלוֹם אֲבִיכֶם הַזָּקֵן אֲשֶׁר אֲמַרְתֶּם הַעוֹדֶנּוּ חָי: וַיֹּאמְרוּ שָׁלוֹם לְעַבְדְּךָ לְאָבִינוּ עוֹדֶנּוּ חָי וַיִּקְדּוּ וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ: וַיִּשָּׂ א עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא אֶת־בִּנְיָמִין אָחִיו בֶּן־אִמּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲזֶה אֲחִיכֶם הַקָּטֹן אֲשֶׁר אֲמַרְתֶּם אֵלָי וַיֹּאמַר אֱלֹהִים יְחָנְךָ בְּנִי: | He asked about their well-being and said, “Is your father well, the old man you spoke of? Is he still alive?” They said, “Your servant our father is well; he is still alive.” And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves. Then he lifted up his eyes |

HEBREW | ENGLISH

and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."

Gen 43:30 וַיְמַהֵר יוֹסֵף כִּי־נִכְמְרוּ רַחֲמָיו אֶל־אָחִיו וַיְבַקֵּשׁ לִבְכּוֹת וַיָּבֹא הַחַדְרָה וַיֵּבְךְּ שָׁמָּה: וַיִּרְחַץ פָּנָיו וַיֵּצֵא וַיִּתְאַפַּק וַיֹּאמֶר שִׂימוּ לָחֶם: וַיָּשִׂימוּ לוֹ לְבַדּוֹ וְלָהֶם לְבַדָּם וְלַמִּצְרִים הָאֹכְלִים אִתּוֹ לְבַדָּם כִּי לֹא יוּכְלוּן הַמִּצְרִים לֶאֱכֹל אֶת־הָעִבְרִים לֶחֶם כִּי־תוֹעֵבָה הִוא לְמִצְרִים:

Joseph hurried out, for his heart was overcome with tenderness for his brother, and he was close to tears. He went into an inner room and wept there. Then he washed his face, came out, and, holding himself back, said, "Serve the meal." They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is abhorrent to the Egyptians.

Gen 43:33 וַיֵּשְׁבוּ לְפָנָיו הַבְּכֹר כִּבְכֹרָתוֹ וְהַצָּעִיר כְּצָעִרְתּוֹ וַיִּתְמְהוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ: וַיִּשָּׂא מַשְׂאֹת מֵאֵת פָּנָיו אֲלֵהֶם וַתֵּרֶב מַשְׂאַת בִּנְיָמִן מִמַּשְׂאֹת כֻּלָּם חָמֵשׁ יָדוֹת וַיִּשְׁתּוּ וַיִּשְׁכְּרוּ עִמּוֹ:

They were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in amazement. Portions were carried to them from his table, and Benjamin's portion was five times larger than any of theirs. So they drank with him and grew merry.

## CHAPTER 44

*Joseph has his silver cup hidden in Benjamin's sack and accuses the brothers of theft.*

HEBREW | ENGLISH

Gen 44:1 וַיְצַו אֶת־אֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּיתוֹ לֵאמֹר מַלֵּא אֶת־אַמְתְּחֹת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֹכֶל כַּאֲשֶׁר יוּכְלוּן שְׂאֵת וְשִׂים כֶּסֶף־אִישׁ בְּפִי אַמְתַּחְתּוֹ: וְאֶת־גְּבִיעִי גְּבִיעַ הַכֶּסֶף תָּשִׂים בְּפִי אַמְתַּחַת הַקָּטֹן וְאֵת כֶּסֶף שִׁבְרוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ כִּדְבַר יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר דִּבֵּר: הַבֹּקֶר אוֹר וְהָאֲנָשִׁים שֻׁלְּחוּ הֵמָּה וַחֲמֹרֵיהֶם:

Then Joseph commanded the man in charge of his house, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack. And my cup, the silver cup, put in the mouth of the youngest one's sack, along with the silver for his grain." He did as Joseph had told him. At first light the men were sent off, they and their donkeys.

Gen 44:4 הֵם יָצְאוּ אֶת־הָעִיר לֹא הִרְחִיקוּ וְיוֹסֵף אָמַר לַאֲשֶׁר עַל־בֵּיתוֹ קוּם רְדֹף אַחֲרֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים וְהִשַּׂגְתָּם וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם לָמָּה שִׁלַּמְתֶּם רָעָה תַּחַת טוֹבָה: הֲלוֹא זֶה אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁתֶּה אֲדֹנִי בּוֹ וְהוּא נַחֵשׁ יְנַחֵשׁ בּוֹ הֲרֵעֹתֶם אֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂיתֶם:

They had left the city and had not gone far when Joseph said to the man in charge of his house, "Up, go after the men! When you catch up with them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid good with evil? Is this not what my lord drinks from, and what he uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.'"[16]

Gen 44:6 וַיַּשֵּׂג גַּם וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו לָמָּה יְדַבֵּר אֲדֹנִי כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה חָלִילָה לַעֲבָדֶיךָ מֵעֲשׂוֹת כַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה: הֵן כֶּסֶף אֲשֶׁר מָצָאנוּ בְּפִי אַמְתְּחֹתֵינוּ הֱשִׁיבֹנוּ אֵלֶיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְאֵיךְ נִגְנֹב מִבֵּית אֲדֹנֶיךָ כֶּסֶף אוֹ זָהָב:

He caught up with them and spoke these words to them. They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing! Look, the silver we found in the mouths of our sacks we brought back to you from

16 Divining with a cup, reading signs in a liquid poured into it, is attested in the ancient Near East.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your master's house? |
| Gen 44:9 אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצֵא אִתּוֹ מֵעֲבָדֶיךָ וָמֵת וְגַם־אֲנַחְנוּ נִהְיֶה לַאדֹנִי לַעֲבָדִים: וַיֹּאמֶר גַּם־עַתָּה כְּדִבְרֵיכֶם כֵּן־הוּא אֲשֶׁר יִמָּצֵא אִתּוֹ יִהְיֶה־לִּי עָבֶד וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ נְקִיִּם: וַיְמַהֲרוּ וַיּוֹרִדוּ אִישׁ אֶת־אַמְתַּחְתּוֹ אָרְצָה וַיִּפְתְּחוּ אִישׁ אַמְתַּחְתּוֹ: וַיְחַפֵּשׂ בַּגָּדוֹל הֵחֵל וּבַקָּטֹן כִּלָּה וַיִּמָּצֵא הַגְּבִיעַ בְּאַמְתַּחַת בִּנְיָמִן: | Whichever of your servants it is found with shall die, and the rest of us will become my lord's slaves." He said, "Very well, let it be as you say: the one it is found with shall be my slave, and the rest of you shall go free of blame." Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack. He searched, beginning with the oldest and finishing with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. |
| Gen 44:13 וַיִּקְרְעוּ שִׂמְלֹתָם וַיַּעֲמֹס אִישׁ עַל־חֲמֹרוֹ וַיָּשֻׁבוּ הָעִירָה: וַיָּבֹא יְהוּדָה וְאֶחָיו בֵּיתָה יוֹסֵף וְהוּא עוֹדֶנּוּ שָׁם וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו אָרְצָה: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם יוֹסֵף מָה־הַמַּעֲשֶׂה הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂיתֶם הֲלוֹא יְדַעְתֶּם כִּי־נַחֵשׁ יְנַחֵשׁ אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר כָּמוֹנִי: | They tore their clothes, each loaded his donkey, and they went back to the city. Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house—he was still there—and they threw themselves to the ground before him. Joseph said to them, "What is this thing you have done? Did you not know that a man like me can practice divination?" |
| Gen 44:16 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה מַה־נֹּאמַר לַאדֹנִי מַה־נְּדַבֵּר וּמַה־נִּצְטַדָּק הָאֱלֹהִים מָצָא אֶת־עֲוֹן עֲבָדֶיךָ הִנֶּנּוּ עֲבָדִים לַאדֹנִי גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַּם אֲשֶׁר־נִמְצָא הַגְּבִיעַ בְּיָדוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר חָלִילָה לִּי מֵעֲשׂוֹת זֹאת הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נִמְצָא הַגָּבִיעַ בְּיָדוֹ הוּא יִהְיֶה־לִּי עָבֶד וְאַתֶּם עֲלוּ לְשָׁלוֹם אֶל־אֲבִיכֶם: | Judah said, "What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? How can we clear ourselves? God has found out your servants' guilt. Here we are, my lord's slaves—we ourselves as well as the one in whose hand the cup was found." But he said, "Far be it from me to do this! The man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. As for the rest of you, go up in peace to your father." |

### JUDAH'S PLEA

*Judah begs to stay as a slave in Benjamin's place for their father's sake.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 44:18 וַיִּגַּשׁ אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנִי יְדַבֶּר־נָא עַבְדְּךָ דָבָר בְּאָזְנֵי אֲדֹנִי וְאַל־יִחַר אַפְּךָ בְּעַבְדֶּךָ כִּי כָמוֹךָ כְּפַרְעֹה: אֲדֹנִי שָׁאַל אֶת־עֲבָדָיו לֵאמֹר הֲיֵשׁ־לָכֶם אָב אוֹ־אָח: | Then Judah came up to him and said, "Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and do not let your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself. My lord asked his servants, 'Do you have a father or a brother?' |
| Gen 44:20 וַנֹּאמֶר אֶל־אֲדֹנִי יֶשׁ־לָנוּ אָב זָקֵן וְיֶלֶד זְקֻנִים קָטָן וְאָחִיו מֵת וַיִּוָּתֵר הוּא לְבַדּוֹ לְאִמּוֹ וְאָבִיו אֲהֵבוֹ: וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־עֲבָדֶיךָ הוֹרִדֻהוּ אֵלָי וְאָשִׂימָה עֵינִי עָלָיו: וַנֹּאמֶר אֶל־אֲדֹנִי לֹא־יוּכַל הַנַּעַר לַעֲזֹב אֶת־אָבִיו וְעָזַב אֶת־אָבִיו וָמֵת: | And we said to my lord, 'We have an old father, and a young son born in his old age. His brother is dead; he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.' Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, so that I may set my eyes on him.' We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father; if he were to leave his father, he would die.' |
| Gen 44:23 וַתֹּאמֶר אֶל־עֲבָדֶיךָ אִם־לֹא יֵרֵד אֲחִיכֶם הַקָּטֹן אִתְּכֶם לֹא תֹסִפוּן לִרְאוֹת פָּנָי: וַיְהִי כִּי עָלִינוּ אֶל־עַבְדְּךָ אָבִי וַנַּגֶּד־לוֹ אֵת דִּבְרֵי אֲדֹנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִינוּ שֻׁבוּ שִׁבְרוּ־לָנוּ מְעַט־אֹכֶל: | But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.' When we went up to your ser- |

HEBREW | ENGLISH

vant my father, we told him my lord's words. Then our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'

Gen 44:26 וַנֹּאמֶר לֹא נוּכַל לָרֶדֶת אִם־יֵשׁ אָחִינוּ הַקָּטֹן אִתָּנוּ וְיָרַדְנוּ כִּי־לֹא נוּכַל לִרְאוֹת פְּנֵי הָאִישׁ וְאָחִינוּ הַקָּטֹן אֵינֶנּוּ אִתָּנוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר עַבְדְּךָ אָבִי אֵלֵינוּ אַתֶּם יְדַעְתֶּם כִּי שְׁנַיִם יָלְדָה־לִּי אִשְׁתִּי: וַיֵּצֵא הָאֶחָד מֵאִתִּי וָאֹמַר אַךְ טָרֹף טֹרָף וְלֹא רְאִיתִיו עַד־הֵנָּה:

We said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down, for we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.' Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two. One went away from me, and I said, "Surely he has been torn to pieces," and I have not seen him since.

Gen 44:29 וּלְקַחְתֶּם גַּם־אֶת־זֶה מֵעִם פָּנַי וְקָרָהוּ אָסוֹן וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־שֵׂיבָתִי בְּרָעָה שְׁאֹלָה: וְעַתָּה כְּבֹאִי אֶל־עַבְדְּךָ אָבִי וְהַנַּעַר אֵינֶנּוּ אִתָּנוּ וְנַפְשׁוֹ קְשׁוּרָה בְּנַפְשׁוֹ: וְהָיָה כִּרְאוֹתוֹ כִּי־אֵין הַנַּעַר וָמֵת וְהוֹרִידוּ עֲבָדֶיךָ אֶת־שֵׂיבַת עַבְדְּךָ אָבִינוּ בְּיָגוֹן שְׁאֹלָה:

If you take this one from me too, and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to Sheol in misery.' So now, if I come to your servant my father and the boy is not with us—his life is bound up with the boy's life—when he sees that the boy is not there, he will die, and your servants will bring the gray head of your servant our father down to Sheol in grief.

Gen 44:32 כִּי עַבְדְּךָ עָרַב אֶת־הַנַּעַר מֵעִם אָבִי לֵאמֹר אִם־לֹא אֲבִיאֶנּוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְחָטָאתִי לְאָבִי כָּל־הַיָּמִים: וְעַתָּה יֵשֶׁב־נָא עַבְדְּךָ תַּחַת הַנַּעַר עֶבֶד לַאדֹנִי וְהַנַּעַר יַעַל עִם־אֶחָיו: כִּי־אֵיךְ אֶעֱלֶה אֶל־אָבִי וְהַנַּעַר אֵינֶנּוּ אִתִּי פֶּן אֶרְאֶה בָרָע אֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא אֶת־אָבִי:

For your servant pledged himself to my father for the boy, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I will stand guilty before my father all my days.' So now, please let your servant stay as my lord's slave instead of the boy, and let the boy go up with his brothers. For how can I go up to my father if the boy is not with me? I could not bear to see the misery that would come upon my father."

## CHAPTER 45

*Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and sends for his father.*

HEBREW | ENGLISH

Gen 45:1 וְלֹא־יָכֹל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכֹל הַנִּצָּבִים עָלָיו וַיִּקְרָא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אִישׁ מֵעָלָי וְלֹא־עָמַד אִישׁ אִתּוֹ בְּהִתְוַדַּע יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו: וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־קֹלוֹ בִּבְכִי וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּשְׁמַע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה:

Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all those standing around him, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave me!" So no one stood with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. He wept aloud, and the Egyptians heard it, and Pharaoh's household heard it.

Gen 45:3 וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו אֲנִי יוֹסֵף הַעוֹד אָבִי חָי וְלֹא־יָכְלוּ אֶחָיו לַעֲנוֹת אֹתוֹ כִּי נִבְהֲלוּ מִפָּנָיו: וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו גְּשׁוּ־נָא אֵלַי וַיִּגָּשׁוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יוֹסֵף אֲחִיכֶם אֲשֶׁר־מְכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי מִצְרָיְמָה:

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were terrified at the sight of him. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me, please." They came close, and he said, "I am Joseph your brother, the one you sold into Egypt.

Gen 45:5 וְעַתָּה אַל־תֵּעָצְבוּ וְאַל־יִחַר בְּעֵינֵיכֶם כִּי־מְכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי הֵנָּה כִּי לְמִחְיָה שְׁלָחַנִי אֱלֹהִים לִפְנֵיכֶם: כִּי־זֶה שְׁנָתַיִם הָרָעָב בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ וְעוֹד חֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים אֲשֶׁר אֵין־חָרִישׁ וְקָצִיר: וַיִּשְׁלָחֵנִי אֱלֹהִים לִפְנֵיכֶם לָשׂוּם לָכֶם שְׁאֵרִית בָּאָרֶץ וּלְהַחֲיוֹת לָכֶם לִפְלֵיטָה גְּדֹלָה:

And now, do not be distressed, and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, for it was to save life that God sent me ahead of you. The famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be no

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plowing or harvest. God sent me ahead of you to keep a remnant of you on the earth and to keep you alive for a great deliverance.

Gen 45:8 וְעַתָּה לֹא־אַתֶּם שְׁלַחְתֶּם אֹתִי הֵנָּה כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים וַיְשִׂימֵנִי לְאָב לְפַרְעֹה וּלְאָדוֹן לְכָל־בֵּיתוֹ וּמֹשֵׁל בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: מַהֲרוּ וַעֲלוּ אֶל־אָבִי וַאֲמַרְתֶּם אֵלָיו כֹּה אָמַר בִּנְךָ יוֹסֵף שָׂמַנִי אֱלֹהִים לְאָדוֹן לְכָל־מִצְרָיִם רְדָה אֵלַי אַל־תַּעֲמֹד:

So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. Hurry, go up to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not delay.[17]

Gen 45:10 וְיָשַׁבְתָּ בְאֶרֶץ־גֹּשֶׁן וְהָיִיתָ קָרוֹב אֵלַי אַתָּה וּבָנֶיךָ וּבְנֵי בָנֶיךָ וְצֹאנְךָ וּבְקָרְךָ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לָךְ: וְכִלְכַלְתִּי אֹתְךָ שָׁם כִּי־עוֹד חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים רָעָב פֶּן־תִּוָּרֵשׁ אַתָּה וּבֵיתְךָ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ: וְהִנֵּה עֵינֵיכֶם רֹאוֹת וְעֵינֵי אְחִי בִנְיָמִין כִּי־פִי הַמְדַבֵּר אֲלֵיכֶם:

You shall live in the land of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and your grandchildren, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, for there are still five years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not fall into poverty.' Look, you can see with your own eyes, and my brother Benjamin can see, that it is my own mouth speaking to you.[18]

Gen 45:13 וְהַגַּדְתֶּם לְאָבִי אֶת־כָּל־כְּבוֹדִי בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר רְאִיתֶם וּמִהַרְתֶּם וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־אָבִי הֵנָּה: וַיִּפ�ֹּל עַל־צַוְּארֵי בִנְיָמִן־אָחִיו וַיֵּבְךְּ וּבִנְיָמִן בָּכָה עַל־צַוָּארָיו: וַיְנַשֵּׁ ק לְכָל־אֶחָיו וַיֵּבְךְּ עֲלֵיהֶם וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן דִּבְּרוּ אֶחָיו אִתּוֹ:

Tell my father about all my glory in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. He kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Gen 45:16 וְהַקֹּל נִשְׁמַע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר בָּאוּ אֲחֵי יוֹסֵף וַיִּיטַב בְּעֵינֵי פַרְעֹה וּבְעֵינֵי עֲבָדָיו: וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֱמֹר אֶל־אַחֶיךָ זֹאת עֲשׂוּ טַעֲנוּ אֶת־בְּעִירְכֶם וּלְכוּ־בֹאוּ אַרְצָה כְּנָעַן: וּקְחוּ אֶת־אֲבִיכֶם וְאֶת־בָּתֵּיכֶם וּבֹאוּ אֵלַי וְאֶתְּנָה לָכֶם אֶת־טוּב אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וְאִכְלוּ אֶת־חֵלֶב הָאָרֶץ:

The news reached Pharaoh's house: "Joseph's brothers have come." It pleased Pharaoh and his servants. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your animals and go back to the land of Canaan. Take your father and your households and come to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.'

Gen 45:19 וְאַתָּה צֻוִּיתָה זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קְחוּ־לָכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עֲגָלוֹת לְטַפְּכֶם וְלִנְשֵׁיכֶם וּנְשָׂאתֶם אֶת־אֲבִיכֶם וּבָאתֶם: וְעֵינְכֶם אַל־תָּח�s עַל־כְּלֵיכֶם כִּי־טוּב כָּל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לָכֶם הוּא: וַיַּעֲשׂוּ־כֵן בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם יוֹסֵף עֲגָלוֹת עַל־פִּי פַרְעֹה וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם צֵדָה לַדָּרֶךְ:

You, too, have your orders: do this—take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives, and bring your father, and come. Give no thought to your belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours." The sons of Israel did so. Joseph gave them wagons, as Pharaoh had ordered, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

Gen 45:22 לְכֻלָּם נָתַן לְאִישׁ חֲלִפוֹת שְׂמָלֹת וּלְבִנְיָמִן נָתַן שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת כֶּסֶף וְחָמֵשׁ חֲלִפֹת שְׂמָלֹת: וּלְאָבִיו שָׁלַח כְּזֹאת עֲשָׂרָה חֲמֹרִים נֹשְׂאִים מִטּוּב מִצְרַיִם וְעֶשֶׂר אֲתֹנֹת נֹשְׂאֹת בָּר וְלֶחֶם וּמָזוֹן לְאָבִיו לַדָּרֶךְ:

And to each of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of clothes. And to his father he

17 "Father" here is a title for a ruler's chief adviser.
18 Goshen is a region in the eastern Nile Delta.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | sent the following: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provisions for his father for the journey. |
| Gen 45:24 וַיְשַׁלַּח אֶת־אֶחָיו וַיֵּלְכוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אַל־תִּרְגְּזוּ בַּדָּרֶךְ: וַיַּעֲלוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן אֶל־יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם: וַיַּגִּדוּ לוֹ לֵאמֹר עוֹד יוֹסֵף חַי וְכִי־הוּא מֹשֵׁל בְּכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וַיָּפָג לִבּוֹ כִּי לֹא־הֶאֱמִין לָהֶם: | Then he sent his brothers off, and as they went he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the way.” They went up from Egypt and came to the land of Canaan, to their father Jacob. They told him, “Joseph is still alive! He is ruler over the whole land of Egypt.” His heart went numb, for he did not believe them. |
| Gen 45:27 וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלָיו אֵת כָּל־דִּבְרֵי יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֲלֵהֶם וַיַּרְא אֶת־הָעֲגָלוֹת אֲשֶׁר־שָׁלַח יוֹסֵף לָשֵׂאת אֹתוֹ וַתְּחִי רוּחַ יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל רַב עוֹד־יוֹסֵף בְּנִי חַי אֵלְכָה וְאֶרְאֶנּוּ בְּטֶרֶם אָמוּת: | But when they told him all the words Joseph had spoken to them, and when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. Israel said, “Enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.” |

## CHAPTER 46

*Jacob and his family, seventy persons, go down to Egypt.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 46:1 וַיִּסַּע יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וַיָּבֹא בְּאֵרָה שָׁבַע וַיִּזְבַּח זְבָחִים לֵאלֹהֵי אָבִיו יִצְחָק: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמַרְאֹת הַלָּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר אָנֹכִי הָאֵל אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ אַל־תִּירָא מֵרְדָה מִצְרַיְמָה כִּי־לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל אֲשִׂימְךָ שָׁם: | So Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” He said, “Here I am.” He said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you a great nation. |
| Gen 46:4 אָנֹכִי אֵרֵד עִמְּךָ מִצְרַיְמָה וְאָנֹכִי אַעַלְךָ גַּם־עָלֹה וְיוֹסֵף יָשִׁית יָדוֹ עַל־עֵינֶיךָ: וַיָּקָם יַעֲקֹב מִבְּאֵר שָׁבַע וַיִּשְׂאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם וְאֶת־טַפָּם וְאֶת־נְשֵׁיהֶם בָּעֲגָלוֹת אֲשֶׁר־שָׁלַח פַּרְעֹה לָשֵׂאת אֹתוֹ: | I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I myself will surely bring you up again; and Joseph’s own hand will close your eyes.” Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives in the wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry him. |
| Gen 46:6 וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־מִקְנֵיהֶם וְאֶת־רְכוּשָׁם אֲשֶׁר רָכְשׁוּ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ מִצְרַיְמָה יַעֲקֹב וְכָל־זַרְעוֹ אִתּוֹ: בָּנָיו וּבְנֵי בָנָיו אִתּוֹ בְּנֹתָיו וּבְנוֹת בָּנָיו וְכָל־זַרְעוֹ הֵבִיא אִתּוֹ מִצְרָיְמָה: | They took their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and they came to Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him. His sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his sons’ daughters—all his offspring he brought with him to Egypt. |
| Gen 46:8 וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל הַבָּאִים מִצְרַיְמָה יַעֲקֹב וּבָנָיו בְּכֹר יַעֲקֹב רְאוּבֵן: וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן חֲנוֹךְ וּפַלּוּא וְחֶצְרוֹן וְכַרְמִי: וּבְנֵי שִׁמְעוֹן יְמוּאֵל וְיָמִין וְאֹהַד וְיָכִין וְצֹחַר וְשָׁאוּל בֶּן־הַכְּנַעֲנִית: וּבְנֵי לֵוִי גֵּרְשׁוֹן קְהָת וּמְרָרִי: | These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Jacob’s firstborn, Reuben. The sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of the Canaanite woman. The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. |

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Gen 46:12 וּבְנֵי יְהוּדָה עֵר וְאוֹנָן וְשֵׁלָה וָפֶרֶץ וָזָרַח וַיָּמָת עֵר וְאוֹנָן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיִּהְיוּ בְּנֵי־פֶרֶץ חֶצְרוֹן וְחָמוּל: וּבְנֵי יִשָּׂשכָר תּוֹלָע וּפֻוָּה וְיוֹב וְשִׁמְרוֹן: וּבְנֵי זְבוּלֻן סֶרֶד וְאֵלוֹן וְיַחְלְאֵל:

The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah—but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan; and the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Iob, and Shimron. The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

Gen 46:15 אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי לֵאָה אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְיַעֲקֹב בְּפַדַּן אֲרָם וְאֵת דִּינָה בִתּוֹ כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ בָּנָיו וּבְנוֹתָיו שְׁלֹשִׁים וְשָׁלֹשׁ: וּבְנֵי גָד צִפְיוֹן וְחַגִּי שׁוּנִי וְאֶצְבֹּן עֵרִי וַאֲרוֹדִי וְאַרְאֵלִי: וּבְנֵי אָשֵׁר יִמְנָה וְיִשְׁוָה וְיִשְׁוִי וּבְרִיעָה וְשֶׂרַח אֲחֹתָם וּבְנֵי בְרִיעָה חֶבֶר וּמַלְכִּיאֵל:

These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, together with his daughter Dinah; all the persons, his sons and his daughters, numbered thirty-three. The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.

Gen 46:18 אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי זִלְפָּה אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן לָבָן לְלֵאָה בִתּוֹ וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־אֵלֶּה לְיַעֲקֹב שֵׁשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה נָפֶשׁ: בְּנֵי רָחֵל אֵשֶׁת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף וּבִנְיָמִן: וַיִּוָּלֶד לְיוֹסֵף בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה־לּוֹ אָסְנַת בַּת־פּוֹטִי פֶרַע כֹּהֵן אֹן אֶת־מְנַשֶּׁה וְאֶת־אֶפְרָיִם:

These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah; she bore these to Jacob—sixteen persons. The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife: Joseph and Benjamin. To Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him.

Gen 46:21 וּבְנֵי בִנְיָמִן בֶּלַע וָבֶכֶר וְאַשְׁבֵּל גֵּרָא וְנַעֲמָן אֵחִי וְרֹאשׁ מֻפִּים וְחֻפִּים וָאָרְדּ: אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי רָחֵל אֲשֶׁר יֻלַּד לְיַעֲקֹב כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר: וּבְנֵי־דָן חֻשִׁים: וּבְנֵי נַפְתָּלִי יַחְצְאֵל וְגוּנִי וְיֵצֶר וְשִׁלֵּם:

The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. These are the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob—fourteen persons in all. The sons of Dan: Hushim. The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

Gen 46:25 אֵלֶּה בְּנֵי בִלְהָה אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן לָבָן לְרָחֵל בִּתּוֹ וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־אֵלֶּה לְיַעֲקֹב כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ שִׁבְעָה: כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַבָּאָה לְיַעֲקֹב מִצְרַיְמָה יֹצְאֵי יְרֵכוֹ מִלְבַד נְשֵׁי בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ שִׁשִּׁים וָשֵׁשׁ: וּבְנֵי יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר־יֻלַּד־לוֹ בְּמִצְרַיִם נֶפֶשׁ שְׁנָיִם כָּל־הַנֶּפֶשׁ לְבֵית־יַעֲקֹב הַבָּאָה מִצְרַיְמָה שִׁבְעִים:

These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel; she bore these to Jacob—seven persons in all. All the persons belonging to Jacob who came to Egypt, his own descendants, not counting the wives of Jacob's sons, numbered sixty-six persons in all. The sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came to Egypt numbered seventy.[19]

Gen 46:28 וְאֶת־יְהוּדָה שָׁלַח לְפָנָיו אֶל־יוֹסֵף לְהוֹרֹת לְפָנָיו גֹּשְׁנָה וַיָּבֹאוּ אַרְצָה גֹּשֶׁן: וַיֶּאְסֹר יוֹסֵף מֶרְכַּבְתּוֹ וַיַּעַל לִקְרַאת־יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיו גֹּשְׁנָה וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צַוְּארָיו וַיֵּבְךְּ עַל־צַוָּארָיו עוֹד:

Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph, to show the way before him to Goshen, and they came to the land of Goshen. Joseph harnessed his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel. When he appeared before him, he threw his arms around his neck and wept on his neck a long time.

Gen 46:30 וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף אָמוּתָה הַפָּעַם אַחֲרֵי רְאוֹתִי אֶת־פָּנֶיךָ כִּי עוֹדְךָ חָי: וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו וְאֶל־בֵּית אָבִיו אֶעֱלֶה וְאַגִּידָה לְפַרְעֹה וְאֹמְרָה אֵלָיו אַחַי וּבֵית־אָבִי אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ־כְּנַעַן בָּאוּ אֵלָי:

Israel said to Joseph, "Now I can die, now that I have seen your face and know that you are still alive." Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh. I

19 The total of seventy apparently adds Jacob himself, Joseph, and Joseph's two sons to the sixty-six.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | will say to him, ‘My brothers and my father’s household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. |
| Gen 46:32 וְהָאֲנָשִׁים רֹעֵי צֹאן כִּי־אַנְשֵׁי מִקְנֶה הָיוּ וְצֹאנָם וּבְקָרָם וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם הֵבִיאוּ: וְהָיָה כִּי־יִקְרָא לָכֶם פַּרְעֹה וְאָמַר מַה־מַּעֲשֵׂיכֶם: וַאֲמַרְתֶּם אַנְשֵׁי מִקְנֶה הָיוּ עֲבָדֶיךָ מִנְּעוּרֵינוּ וְעַד־עַתָּה גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַּם־אֲבֹתֵינוּ בַּעֲבוּר תֵּשְׁבוּ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן כִּי־תוֹעֲבַת מִצְרַיִם כָּל־רֹעֵה צֹאן: | The men are shepherds, for they have always kept livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.’ When Pharaoh calls you and asks, ‘What is your occupation?’ you shall say, ‘Your servants have kept livestock from our youth until now, both we and our fathers’—so that you may live in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is detestable to the Egyptians.” |

## CHAPTER 47

*Jacob meets Pharaoh, and the family settles in the land of Goshen.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 47:1 וַיָּבֹא יוֹסֵף וַיַּגֶּד לְפַרְעֹה וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וְאַחַי וְצֹאנָם וּבְקָרָם וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם בָּאוּ מֵאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְהִנָּם בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן: וּמִקְצֵה אֶחָיו לָקַח חֲמִשָּׁה אֲנָשִׁים וַיַּצִּגֵם לִפְנֵי פַּרְעֹה: וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־אֶחָיו מַה־מַּעֲשֵׂיכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה רֹעֵה צֹאן עֲבָדֶיךָ גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַּם־אֲבוֹתֵינוּ: | Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, “My father and my brothers, with their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come from the land of Canaan, and they are now in the land of Goshen.” From among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your occupation?” They said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers.” |
| Gen 47:4 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־פַּרְעֹה לָגוּר בָּאָרֶץ בָּאנוּ כִּי־אֵין מִרְעֶה לַצֹּאן אֲשֶׁר לַעֲבָדֶיךָ כִּי־כָבֵד הָרָעָב בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְעַתָּה יֵשְׁבוּ־נָא עֲבָדֶיךָ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן: וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר אָבִיךָ וְאַחֶיךָ בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ: | They said to Pharaoh, “We have come to live for a while in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks, because the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. So now, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen.” Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. |
| Gen 47:6 אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְפָנֶיךָ הִוא בְּמֵיטַב הָאָרֶץ הוֹשֵׁב אֶת־אָבִיךָ וְאֶת־אַחֶיךָ יֵשְׁבוּ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן וְאִם־יָדַעְתָּ וְיֶשׁ־בָּם אַנְשֵׁי־חַיִל וְשַׂמְתָּם שָׂרֵי מִקְנֶה עַל־אֲשֶׁר־לִי: וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־יַעֲקֹב אָבִיו וַיַּעֲמִדֵהוּ לִפְנֵי פַּרְעֹה וַיְבָרֶךְ יַעֲקֹב אֶת־פַּרְעֹה: | The land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in the land of Goshen. And if you know of capable men among them, put them in charge of my own livestock.” Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. |
| Gen 47:8 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה אֶל־יַעֲקֹב כַּמָּה יְמֵי שְׁנֵי חַיֶּיךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־פַּרְעֹה יְמֵי שְׁנֵי מְגוּרַי שְׁלֹשִׁים וּמְאַת שָׁנָה מְעַט וְרָעִים הָיוּ יְמֵי שְׁנֵי חַיַּי וְלֹא הִשִּׂיגוּ אֶת־יְמֵי שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי אֲבֹתַי בִּימֵי מְגוּרֵיהֶם: | Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many are the days of the years of your life?” Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my wandering are a hundred and thirty years. Few and hard have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not reached the days of the years of the lives of my fathers in the days of their wandering.” |
| Gen 47:10 וַיְבָרֶךְ יַעֲקֹב אֶת־פַּרְעֹה וַיֵּצֵא מִלִּפְנֵי פַּרְעֹה: וַיּוֹשֵׁב יוֹסֵף אֶת־אָבִיו וְאֶת־אֶחָיו וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם אֲחֻזָּה בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּמֵיטַב הָאָרֶץ בְּאֶרֶץ | Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from Pharaoh’s presence. Joseph settled his father and |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| רַעְמְסֵס כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה פַּרְעֹה: וַיְכַלְכֵּל יוֹסֵף אֶת־אָבִיו וְאֶת־אֶחָיו וְאֵת כָּל־בֵּית אָבִיו לֶחֶם לְפִי הַטָּף: | his brothers and gave them a holding in the land of Egypt, in the best part of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. And Joseph provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their little ones. |

### THE FAMINE IN EGYPT

*The Egyptians sell their livestock, land and selves to Pharaoh for food.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
| --- | --- |
| Gen 47:13 וְלֶחֶם אֵין בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ כִּי־כָבֵד הָרָעָב מְאֹד וַתֵּלַהּ אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וְאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן מִפְּנֵי הָרָעָב: וַיְלַקֵּט יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־הַכֶּסֶף הַנִּמְצָא בְּאֶרֶץ־מִצְרַיִם וּבְאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן בַּשֶּׁבֶר אֲשֶׁר־הֵם שֹׁבְרִים וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף בֵּיתָה פַּרְעֹה: | There was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, and the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. Joseph gathered up all the silver to be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan in exchange for the grain they were buying, and Joseph brought the silver into Pharaoh's house. |
| Gen 47:15 וַיִּתֹּם הַכֶּסֶף מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וּמֵאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן וַיָּבֹאוּ כָל־מִצְרַיִם אֶל־יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר הָבָה־לָנוּ לֶחֶם וְלָמָּה נָמוּת נֶגְדֶּךָ כִּי אָפֵס כָּסֶף: וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף הָבוּ מִקְנֵיכֶם וְאֶתְּנָה לָכֶם בְּמִקְנֵיכֶם אִם־אָפֵס כָּסֶף: | When the silver from the land of Egypt and from the land of Canaan was used up, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food! Why should we die in front of you? For our silver is gone." Joseph said, "Give me your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, since your silver is gone." |
| Gen 47:17 וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת־מִקְנֵיהֶם אֶל־יוֹסֵף וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם יוֹסֵף לֶחֶם בַּסּוּסִים וּבְמִקְנֵה הַצֹּאן וּבְמִקְנֵה הַבָּקָר וּבַחֲמֹרִים וַיְנַהֲלֵם בַּלֶּחֶם בְּכָל־מִקְנֵהֶם בַּשָּׁנָה הַהִוא: וַתִּתֹּם הַשָּׁנָה הַהִוא וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵלָיו בַּשָּׁנָה הַשֵּׁנִית וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ לֹא־נְכַחֵד מֵאֲדֹנִי כִּי אִם־תַּם הַכֶּסֶף וּמִקְנֵה הַבְּהֵמָה אֶל־אֲדֹנִי לֹא נִשְׁאַר לִפְנֵי אֲדֹנִי בִּלְתִּי אִם־גְּוִיָּתֵנוּ וְאַדְמָתֵנוּ: | So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks of sheep and goats, the herds of cattle, and the donkeys. He sustained them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. When that year was over, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide it from my lord: our silver is spent, and the herds of animals belong to my lord. Nothing is left for my lord but our bodies and our land. |
| Gen 47:19 לָמָּה נָמוּת לְעֵינֶיךָ גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַּם אַדְמָתֵנוּ קְנֵה־אֹתָנוּ וְאֶת־אַדְמָתֵנוּ בַּלֶּחֶם וְנִהְיֶה אֲנַחְנוּ וְאַדְמָתֵנוּ עֲבָדִים לְפַרְעֹה וְתֶן־זֶרַע וְנִחְיֶה וְלֹא נָמוּת וְהָאֲדָמָה לֹא תֵשָׁם: וַיִּקֶן יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־אַדְמַת מִצְרַיִם לְפַרְעֹה כִּי־מָכְרוּ מִצְרַיִם אִישׁ שָׂדֵהוּ כִּי־חָזַק עֲלֵהֶם הָרָעָב וַתְּהִי הָאָרֶץ לְפַרְעֹה: | Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. Give us seed, so that we may live and not die, and so that the land does not become desolate." So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was too severe for them. And the land became Pharaoh's. |
| Gen 47:21 וְאֶת־הָעָם הֶעֱבִיר אֹתוֹ לֶעָרִים מִקְצֵה גְבוּל־מִצְרַיִם וְעַד־קְצֵהוּ: רַק אַדְמַת הַכֹּהֲנִים לֹא קָנָה כִּי חֹק לַכֹּהֲנִים מֵאֵת פַּרְעֹה וְאָכְלוּ אֶת־חֻקָּם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָהֶם פַּרְעֹה עַל־כֵּן לֹא מָכְרוּ אֶת־אַדְמָתָם: | As for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of Egypt's territory to the other. Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh, and |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| | they lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; that is why they did not sell their land.[20] |
| Gen 47:23 וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־הָעָם הֵן קָנִיתִי אֶתְכֶם הַיּוֹם וְאֶת־אַדְמַתְכֶם לְפַרְעֹה הֵא־לָכֶם זֶרַע וּזְרַעְתֶּם אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה: וְהָיָה בַּתְּבוּאֹת וּנְתַתֶּם חֲמִישִׁית לְפַרְעֹה וְאַרְבַּע הַיָּדֹת יִהְיֶה לָכֶם לְזֶרַע הַשָּׂדֶה וּלְאָכְלְכֶם וְלַאֲשֶׁר בְּבָתֵּיכֶם וְלֶאֱכֹל לְטַפְּכֶם: | Joseph said to the people, “Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you; sow the land. At the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four parts shall be yours, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and those in your households, and food for your little ones.” |
| Gen 47:25 וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֶחֱיִתָנוּ נִמְצָא־חֵן בְּעֵינֵי אֲדֹנִי וְהָיִינוּ עֲבָדִים לְפַרְעֹה: וַיָּשֶׂם אֹתָהּ יוֹסֵף לְחֹק עַד־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה עַל־אַדְמַת מִצְרַיִם לְפַרְעֹה לַחֹמֶשׁ רַק אַדְמַת הַכֹּהֲנִים לְבַדָּם לֹא הָיְתָה לְפַרְעֹה: | They said, “You have saved our lives! May we find favor in my lord’s eyes; we will be slaves to Pharaoh.” So Joseph made it a law concerning the land of Egypt, which stands to this day, that a fifth belongs to Pharaoh. Only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh’s. |
| Gen 47:27 וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן וַיֵּאָחֲזוּ בָהּ וַיִּפְרוּ וַיִּרְבּוּ מְאֹד: וַיְחִי יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם שְׁבַע עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה וַיְהִי יְמֵי־יַעֲקֹב שְׁנֵי חַיָּיו שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים וְאַרְבָּעִים וּמְאַת שָׁנָה: | So Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. They acquired property there, and they were fruitful and multiplied greatly. Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years, and the days of Jacob, the years of his life, came to a hundred and forty-seven years. |
| Gen 47:29 וַיִּקְרְבוּ יְמֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לָמוּת וַיִּקְרָא לִבְנוֹ לְיוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם־נָא מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ שִׂים־נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יְרֵכִי וְעָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי חֶסֶד וֶאֱמֶת אַל־נָא תִקְבְּרֵנִי בְּמִצְרָיִם: וְשָׁכַבְתִּי עִם־אֲבֹתַי וּנְשָׂאתַנִי מִמִּצְרַיִם וּקְבַרְתַּנִי בִּקְבֻרָתָם וַיֹּאמַר אָנֹכִי אֶעֱשֶׂה כִּדְבָרֶךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר הִשָּׁבְעָה לִי וַיִּשָּׁבַע לוֹ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל־רֹאשׁ הַמִּטָּה: | When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and deal with me in loyalty and faithfulness: please do not bury me in Egypt. When I lie down with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place.” He said, “I will do as you say.” He said, “Swear to me.” And he swore to him. Then Israel bowed down at the head of the bed. |

## CHAPTER 48

*Jacob adopts and blesses Joseph’s sons, putting Ephraim before Manasseh.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 48:1 וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר לְיוֹסֵף הִנֵּה אָבִיךָ חֹלֶה וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי בָנָיו עִמּוֹ אֶת־מְנַשֶּׁה וְאֶת־אֶפְרָיִם: וַיַּגֶּד לְיַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בִנְךָ יוֹסֵף בָּא אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּתְחַזֵּק יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל־הַמִּטָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֵל שַׁדַּי נִרְאָה־אֵלַי בְּלוּז בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתִי: | It happened some time after these things that Joseph was told, “Your father is ill.” So he took his two sons with him, Manasseh and Ephraim. When Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to you,” Israel gathered his strength and sat up in the bed. Jacob said to Joseph, “God Shaddai appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. |
| Gen 48:4 וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הִנְנִי מַפְרְךָ וְהִרְבִּיתִךָ וּנְתַתִּיךָ לִקְהַל עַמִּים וְנָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְזַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ אֲחֻזַּת עוֹלָם: וְעַתָּה שְׁנֵי־בָנֶיךָ הַנּוֹלָדִים לְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד־בֹּאִי אֵלֶיךָ מִצְרַיְמָה לִי־הֵם אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה כִּרְאוּבֵן וְשִׁמְעוֹן יִהְיוּ־לִי: | He said to me, ‘I am going to make you fruitful and multiply you. I will make you an assembly of peoples, and I will give this land to your offspring after you as a holding forever.’ Now your two sons, |

20 Some ancient versions read “he made them slaves” instead of “he moved them into the cities.”

HEBREW

ENGLISH

who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are.

Gen 48:6 וּמוֹלַדְתְּךָ אֲשֶׁר־הוֹלַדְתָּ אַחֲרֵיהֶם לְךָ יִהְיוּ עַל שֵׁם אֲחֵיהֶם יִקָּרְאוּ בְּנַחֲלָתָם: וַאֲנִי בְּבֹאִי מִפַּדָּן מֵתָה עָלַי רָחֵל בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן בַּדֶּרֶךְ בְּעוֹד כִּבְרַת־אֶרֶץ לָבֹא אֶפְרָתָה וָאֶקְבְּרֶהָ שׁ ם בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶפְרָת הִוא בֵּית לָחֶם:

But the children born to you after them shall be yours; they shall be called by their brothers' names in their inheritance. As for me, when I was coming from Paddan, Rachel died, to my sorrow, in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

Gen 48:8 וַיַּרְא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־בְּנֵי יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר מִי־אֵלֶּה: וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָבִיו בָּנַי הֵם אֲשֶׁר־נָתַן־לִי אֱלֹהִים בָּזֶה וַיֹּאמֶר קָחֶם־נָא אֵלַי וַאֲבָרֲכֵם: וְעֵינֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּבְדוּ מִזֹּקֶן לֹא יוּכַל לִרְאוֹת וַיַּגֶּשׁ אֹתָם אֵלָיו וַיִּשַּׁ ק לָהֶם וַיְחַבֵּק לָהֶם:

When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." He said, "Bring them to me, please, so that I may bless them." Now Israel's eyes were dim with age, and he could not see. Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

Gen 48:11 וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף רְאֹה פָנֶיךָ לֹא פִלָּלְתִּי וְהִנֵּה הֶרְאָה אֹתִי אֱלֹהִים גַּם אֶת־זַרְעֶךָ: וַיּוֹצֵא יוֹסֵף אֹתָם מֵעִם בִּרְכָּיו וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְאַפָּיו אָרְצָה: וַיִּקַּח יוֹסֵף אֶת־שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת־אֶפְרַיִם בִּימִינוֹ מִשְׂ מֹאל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־מְנַשֶּׁ ה בִשְׂמֹאלוֹ מִימִין יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּגַּשׁ אֵלָיו:

Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again, and now God has let me see your offspring as well." Then Joseph took them from Israel's knees, and he bowed down with his face to the ground. Joseph took the two of them, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right, and brought them near him.

Gen 48:14 וַיִּשְׁלַח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־יְמִינוֹ וַיָּשֶׁת עַל־רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם וְהוּא הַצָּעִיר וְאֶת־שְׂמֹאלוֹ עַל־רֹאשׁ מְנַשֶּׁ ה שִׂכֵּל אֶת־יָדָיו כִּי מְנַשֶּׁ ה הַבְּכוֹר: וַיְבָרֶךְ אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמַר הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר הִתְהַלְּכוּ אֲבֹתַי לְפָנָיו אַבְרָהָם וְיִצְחָק הָאֱלֹהִים הָרֹעֶה אֹתִי מֵעוֹדִי עַד־הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:

But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh—he crossed his hands, for Manasseh was the firstborn. And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,[21]

Gen 48:16 הַמַּלְאָךְ הַגֹּאֵל אֹתִי מִכָּל־רָע יְבָרֵךְ אֶת־הַנְּעָרִים וְיִקָּרֵא בָהֶם שְׁמִי וְשֵׁם אֲבֹתַי אַבְרָהָם וְיִצְחָק וְיִדְגּוּ לָרֹב בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ: וַיַּרְא יוֹסֵף כִּי־יָשִׁית אָבִיו יַד־יְמִינוֹ עַל־רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם וַיֵּרַע בְּעֵינָיו וַיִּתְמֹךְ יַד־אָבִיו לְהָסִיר אֹתָהּ מֵעַל רֹאשׁ־אֶפְרַיִם עַל־רֹאשׁ מְנַשֶּׁ ה:

the angel who has redeemed me from all harm—may he bless the boys. May my name live on in them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." When Joseph saw that his father had laid his right hand on Ephraim's head, it displeased him, and he took hold of his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

Gen 48:18 וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָבִיו לֹא־כֵן אָבִי כִּי־זֶה הַבְּכֹר שִׂים יְמִינְךָ עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ: וַיְמָאֵן אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר יָדַעְתִּי בְנִי יָדַעְתִּי גַּם־הוּא יִהְיֶה־לְּ עָם

Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my

21 The Hebrew word rendered "crossed" may instead mean "acted knowingly."

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| וְגַם־הוּא יִגְדָּל וְאוּלָם אָחִיו הַקָּטֹן יִגְדַּל מִמֶּנּוּ וְזַרְעוֹ יִהְיֶה מְלֹא־הַגּוֹיִם: | son, I know. He too shall become a people, and he too shall be great. Yet his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations." |
| Gen 48:20 וַיְבָרֲכֵם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמוֹר בְּךָ יְבָרֵךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר יְשִׂמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכִמְנַשֶּׁה וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת־אֶפְרַיִם לִפְנֵי מְנַשֶּׁה: וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי מֵת וְהָיָה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּכֶם וְהֵשִׁיב אֶתְכֶם אֶל־אֶרֶץ אֲבֹתֵיכֶם: וַאֲנִי נָתַתִּי לְךָ שְׁכֶם אַחַד עַל־אַחֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְתִּי מִיַּד הָאֱמֹרִי בְּחַרְבִּי וּבְקַשְׁתִּי: | He blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh.'" So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh. Then Israel said to Joseph, "I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you back to the land of your fathers. And I give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow."[22] |

## CHAPTER 49

*Jacob blesses his twelve sons, gives orders for his burial, and dies.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| Gen 49:1 וַיִּקְרָא יַעֲקֹב אֶל־בָּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הֵאָסְפוּ וְאַגִּידָה לָכֶם אֵת אֲשֶׁר־יִקְרָא אֶתְכֶם בְּאַחֲרִית הַיָּמִים: הִקָּבְצוּ וְשִׁמְעוּ בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב וְשִׁמְעוּ אֶל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲבִיכֶם: רְאוּבֵן בְּכֹרִי אַתָּה כֹחִי וְרֵאשִׁית אוֹנִי יֶתֶר שְׂאֵת וְיֶתֶר עָז: פַּחַז כַּמַּיִם אַל־תּוֹתַר כִּי עָלִיתָ מִשְׁכְּבֵי אָבִיךָ אָז חִלַּלְתָּ יְצוּעִי עָלָה: | Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather around, and I will tell you what will happen to you in days to come. Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to Israel your father. Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength and the first fruit of my vigor, excelling in rank and excelling in power. Unruly as water, you shall not excel, for you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up onto my couch! |
| Gen 49:5 שִׁמְעוֹן וְלֵוִי אַחִים כְּלֵי חָמָס מְכֵרֹתֵיהֶם: בְּסֹדָם אַל־תָּבֹא נַפְשִׁי בִּקְהָלָם אַל־תֵּחַד כְּבֹדִי כִּי בְאַפָּם הָרְגוּ אִישׁ וּבִרְצֹנָם עִקְּרוּ־שׁוֹר: אָרוּר אַפָּם כִּי עָז וְעֶבְרָתָם כִּי קָשָׁתָה אֲחַלְּקֵם בְּיַעֲקֹב וַאֲפִיצֵם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: | Simeon and Levi are brothers; their swords are weapons of violence. Let my soul not enter their council; let my glory not join their assembly. For in their anger they killed men, and at their whim they hamstrung oxen. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their fury, for it is cruel. I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel.[23] |
| Gen 49:8 יְהוּדָה אַתָּה יוֹדוּךָ אַחֶיךָ יָדְךָ בְּעֹרֶף אֹיְבֶיךָ יִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לְךָ בְּנֵי אָבִיךָ: גּוּר אַרְיֵה יְהוּדָה מִטֶּרֶף בְּנִי עָלִיתָ כָּרַע רָבַץ כְּאַרְיֵה וּכְלָבִיא מִי יְקִימֶנּוּ: | Judah, you—your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down to you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He crouches, he lies down like a lion, like a lioness—who dares rouse him?[24] |
| Gen 49:10 לֹא־יָסוּר שֵׁבֶט מִיהוּדָה וּמְחֹקֵק מִבֵּין רַגְלָיו עַד כִּי־יָבֹא שִׁילֹה וְלוֹ יִקְהַת עַמִּים: אֹסְרִי לַגֶּפֶן עִירֹה וְלַשֹּׂרֵקָה בְּנִי אֲתֹנוֹ כִּבֵּס בַּיַּיִן לְבֻשׁוֹ וּבְדַם־עֲנָבִים סוּתוֹ: חַכְלִילִי עֵינַיִם מִיָּיִן וּלְבֶן־שִׁנַּיִם מֵחָלָב: | The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to Shiloh, and the obedience of the peoples is his. Binding his foal to the vine, his donkey's colt to |

22 The word for "portion," *shekem* (literally "shoulder" or "ridge"), is also the name of the city of Shechem.
23 The meaning of the word rendered "swords" is uncertain.
24 "Praise you" (*yodukha*) plays on the name Judah (*yehudah*).

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| | the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine, his robe in the blood of grapes. His eyes are dark with wine, and his teeth white with milk.[25] |
| Gen 49:13 זְבוּלֻן לְחוֹף יַמִּים יִשְׁכֹּן וְהוּא לְחוֹף אֳנִיּוֹת וְיַרְכָתוֹ עַל־צִידֹן: | Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the seas; he shall be a shore for ships, and his flank shall reach to Sidon. |
| Gen 49:14 יִשָּׂשכָר חֲמֹר גָּרֶם רֹבֵץ בֵּין הַמִּשְׁפְּתָיִם: וַיַּרְא מְנֻחָה כִּי טוֹב וְאֶת־ הָאָרֶץ כִּי נָעֳמָה וַיֵּט שִׁכְמוֹ לִסְבֹּל וַיְהִי לְמַס־עֹבֵד: | Issachar is a strong-boned donkey, lying down between the sheepfolds. When he saw that a resting place was good and that the land was pleasant, he bent his shoulder to bear the load and was put to forced labor. |
| Gen 49:16 דָּן יָדִין עַמּוֹ כְּאַחַד שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: יְהִי־דָן נָחָשׁ עֲלֵי־דָרֶךְ שְׁפִיפֹן עֲלֵי־אֹרַח הַנֹּשֵׁךְ עִקְבֵי־סוּס וַיִּפֹּל רֹכְבוֹ אָחוֹר: לִישׁוּעָתְךָ קִוִּיתִי יְהוָה: גָּד גְּדוּד יְגוּדֶנּוּ וְהוּא יָגֻד עָקֵב: | Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Let Dan be a snake on the road, a viper on the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider falls backward. I wait for your deliverance, LORD. Gad—raiders shall raid him, but he shall raid at their heels.[26] |
| Gen 49:20 מֵאָשֵׁר שְׁמֵנָה לַחְמוֹ וְהוּא יִתֵּן מַעֲדַנֵּי־מֶלֶךְ: | Asher's bread shall be rich, and he shall provide delicacies fit for a king. |
| Gen 49:21 נַפְתָּלִי אַיָּלָה שְׁלֻחָה הַנֹּתֵן אִמְרֵי־שָׁפֶר: | Naphtali is a doe let loose, who gives lovely words.[27] |
| Gen 49:22 בֵּן פֹּרָת יוֹסֵף בֵּן פֹּרָת עֲלֵי־עָיִן בָּנוֹת צָעֲדָה עָלֵי־שׁוּר: וַיְמָרְרֻהוּ וְרֹבוּ וַיִּשְׂטְמֻהוּ בַּעֲלֵי חִצִּים: וַתֵּשֶׁב בְּאֵיתָן קַשְׁתּוֹ וַיָּפֻזוּ זְרֹעֵי יָדָיו מִידֵי אֲבִיר יַעֲקֹב מִשָּׁם רֹעֶה אֶבֶן יִשְׂרָאֵל: | Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine beside a spring, whose branches climb over the wall. The archers attacked him bitterly; they shot at him and hated him. But his bow stayed steady, and his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob—from there, the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel—[28] |
| Gen 49:25 מֵאֵל אָבִיךָ וְיַעְזְרֶךָּ וְאֵת שַׁדַּי וִיבָרְכֶךָּ בִּרְכֹת שָׁמַיִם מֵעָל בִּרְכֹת תְּהוֹם רֹבֶצֶת תָּחַת בִּרְכֹת שָׁדַיִם וָרָחַם: בִּרְכֹת אָבִיךָ גָּבְרוּ עַל־ בִּרְכֹת הוֹרַי עַד־תַּאֲוַת גִּבְעֹת עוֹלָם תִּהְיֶיןָ לְרֹאשׁ יוֹסֵף וּלְקָדְקֹד נְזִיר אֶחָיו: | by the God of your father, who helps you, by Shaddai, who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that crouches below, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father surpass the blessings of my ancestors, to the bounds of the everlasting hills. May they rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the one set apart from his brothers.[29] |
| Gen 49:27 בִּנְיָמִין זְאֵב יִטְרָף בַּבֹּקֶר יֹאכַל עַד וְלָעֶרֶב יְחַלֵּק שָׁלָל: כָּל־אֵלֶּה שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר וְזֹאת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר לָהֶם אֲבִיהֶם וַיְבָרֶךְ אוֹתָם אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר כְּבִרְכָתוֹ בֵּרַךְ אֹתָם: | Benjamin is a ravenous wolf: in the morning he devours the prey, and in the evening he divides the spoil." All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, |

25 The Hebrew of "until he comes to Shiloh" is uncertain; it can also be read "until tribute comes to him" or "until the one comes to whom it belongs."
26 Dan sounds like the Hebrew for "judge," and the Gad line plays on *gad* and *gedud*, "raiding band."
27 The Hebrew is obscure; with different vowels it could mean "who bears lovely fawns."
28 The Hebrew of the Joseph lines is difficult; "fruitful" (*porat*) may echo the name Ephraim.
29 "Breasts" (*shadayim*) echoes the divine name Shaddai.

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| | and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them; he blessed each of them with the blessing that was his. |
| Gen 49:29 וַיְצַו אוֹתָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אֲנִי נֶאֱסָף אֶל־עַמִּי קִבְרוּ אֹתִי אֶל־אֲבֹתָי אֶל־הַמְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר בִּשְׂדֵה עֶפְרוֹן הַחִתִּי: בַּמְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר בִּשְׂדֵה הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי־מַמְרֵא בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֲשֶׁר קָנָה אַבְרָהָם אֶת־הַשָּׂדֶה מֵאֵת עֶפְרֹן הַחִתִּי לַאֲחֻזַּת־קָבֶר: | Then he charged them and said to them, “I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, the cave in the field of Machpelah, facing Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite as a burial site. |
| Gen 49:31 שָׁמָּה קָבְרוּ אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וְאֵת שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ שָׁמָּה קָבְרוּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וְאֵת רִבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ וְשָׁמָּה קָבַרְתִּי אֶת־לֵאָה: מִקְנֵה הַשָּׂדֶה וְהַמְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי־חֵת: וַיְכַל יַעֲקֹב לְצַוֹּת אֶת־בָּנָיו וַיֶּאֱסֹף רַגְלָיו אֶל־הַמִּטָּה וַיִּגְוַע וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל־עַמָּיו: | There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah; there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah; and there I buried Leah—the field and the cave in it, bought from the Hittites.” When Jacob had finished charging his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last, and was gathered to his people. |

## CHAPTER 50

*Joseph and the Egyptians mourn Jacob and bury him in the cave of Machpelah.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 50:1 וַיִּפֹּל יוֹסֵף עַל־פְּנֵי אָבִיו וַיֵּבְךְּ עָלָיו וַיִּשַּׁק־לוֹ: וַיְצַו יוֹסֵף אֶת־עֲבָדָיו אֶת־הָרֹפְאִים לַחֲנֹט אֶת־אָבִיו וַיַּחַנְטוּ הָרֹפְאִים אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּמְלְאוּ־לוֹ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם כִּי כֵן יִמְלְאוּ יְמֵי הַחֲנָטִים וַיִּבְכּוּ אֹתוֹ מִצְרַיִם שִׁבְעִים יוֹם: | Joseph threw himself on his father’s face and wept over him and kissed him. Then Joseph ordered his servants the physicians to embalm his father, and the physicians embalmed Israel. It took them forty days, for that is the full time required for embalming, and the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. |
| Gen 50:4 וַיַּעַבְרוּ יְמֵי בְכִיתוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר יוֹסֵף אֶל־בֵּית פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר אִם־נָא מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֵיכֶם דַּבְּרוּ־נָא בְּאָזְנֵי פַּרְעֹה לֵאמֹר: אָבִי הִשְׁבִּיעַנִי לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי מֵת בְּקִבְרִי אֲשֶׁר כָּרִיתִי לִי בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן שָׁמָּה תִּקְבְּרֵנִי וְעַתָּה אֶעֱלֶה־נָּא וְאֶקְבְּרָה אֶת־אָבִי וְאָשׁוּבָה: | When the days of weeping for him had passed, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh’s household: “If I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in Pharaoh’s ears and say, ‘My father made me swear, saying, “I am about to die. In my tomb, which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.” So now, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will come back.’” |
| Gen 50:6 וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה עֲלֵה וּקְבֹר אֶת־אָבִיךָ כַּאֲשֶׁר הִשְׁבִּיעֶךָ: וַיַּעַל יוֹסֵף לִקְבֹּר אֶת־אָבִיו וַיַּעֲלוּ אִתּוֹ כָּל־עַבְדֵי פַרְעֹה זִקְנֵי בֵיתוֹ וְכֹל זִקְנֵי אֶרֶץ־מִצְרָיִם: וְכֹל בֵּית יוֹסֵף וְאֶחָיו וּבֵית אָבִיו רַק טַפָּם וְצֹאנָם וּבְקָרָם עָזְבוּ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן: וַיַּעַל עִמּוֹ גַּם־רֶכֶב גַּם־פָּרָשִׁים וַיְהִי הַמַּחֲנֶה כָּבֵד מְאֹד: | Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.” So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all Pharaoh’s servants, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all Joseph’s household, his brothers, and his father’s household. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. Chariots and horsemen also went up with him; it was a very great company. |
| Gen 50:10 וַיָּבֹאוּ עַד־גֹּרֶן הָאָטָד אֲשֶׁר בְּעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן וַיִּסְפְּדוּ־שָׁם מִסְפֵּד גָּדוֹל וְכָבֵד מְאֹד וַיַּעַשׂ לְאָבִיו אֵבֶל שִׁבְעַת יָמִים: וַיַּרְא יוֹשֵׁב הָאָרֶץ | When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there |

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֶת־הָאֵבֶל בְּגֹרֶן הָאָטָד וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵבֶל־כָּבֵד זֶה לְמִצְרָיִם עַל־ כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ אָבֵל מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר בְּעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן׃ | with a great and very grievous lamentation, and he observed seven days of mourning for his father. When the Canaanites who lived in the land saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians." That is why the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.[30] |
| Gen 50:12 וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בָנָיו לוֹ כֵּן כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּם׃ וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֹתוֹ בָנָיו אַרְצָה כְּנַעַן וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ בִּמְעָרַת שְׂדֵה הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֲשֶׁר קָנָה אַבְרָהָם אֶת־הַשָּׂדֶה לַאֲחֻזַּת־קֶבֶר מֵאֵת עֶפְרֹן הַחִתִּי עַל־פְּנֵי מַמְרֵא׃ | So his sons did for him as he had commanded them. His sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, the field Abraham had bought as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite, facing Mamre. |

### JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

*Joseph tells his fearful brothers that God meant their evil for good.*

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 50:14 וַיָּשָׁב יוֹסֵף מִצְרַיְמָה הוּא וְאֶחָיו וְכָל־הָעֹלִים אִתּוֹ לִקְבֹּר אֶת־אָבִיו אַחֲרֵי קָבְרוֹ אֶת־אָבִיו׃ וַיִּרְאוּ אֲחֵי־יוֹסֵף כִּי־מֵת אֲבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוּ יִשְׂטְמֵנוּ יוֹסֵף וְהָשֵׁב יָשִׁיב לָנוּ אֵת כָּל־הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר גָּמַלְנוּ אֹתוֹ׃ | After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong we did him?" |
| Gen 50:16 וַיְצַוּוּ אֶל־יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר אָבִיךָ צִוָּה לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ לֵאמֹר׃ כֹּה־תֹאמְרוּ לְיוֹסֵף אָנָּא שָׂא נָא פֶּשַׁע אַחֶיךָ וְחַטָּאתָם כִּי־רָעָה גְמָלוּךָ וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא לְפֶשַׁע עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ וַיִּבְךְּ יוֹסֵף בְּדַבְּרָם אֵלָיו׃ | So they sent word to Joseph: "Before he died, your father gave this command: 'Say this to Joseph: "Please, forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong."' So now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. |
| Gen 50:18 וַיֵּלְכוּ גַּם־אֶחָיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנֶּנּוּ לְךָ לַעֲבָדִים׃ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף אַל־תִּירְאוּ כִּי הֲתַחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי׃ וְאַתֶּם חֲשַׁבְתֶּם עָלַי רָעָה אֱלֹהִים חֲשָׁבָהּ לְטֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֹׂה כַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְהַחֲיֹת עַם־רָב׃ | Then his brothers also came and threw themselves down before him and said, "Here we are, your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended evil against me, but God intended it for good, to bring about what is happening today: the saving of many lives. |
| Gen 50:21 וְעַתָּה אַל־תִּירָאוּ אָנֹכִי אֲכַלְכֵּל אֶתְכֶם וְאֶת־טַפְּכֶם וַיְנַחֵם אוֹתָם וַיְדַבֵּר עַל־לִבָּם׃ וַיֵּשֶׁב יוֹסֵף בְּמִצְרַיִם הוּא וּבֵית אָבִיו וַיְחִי יוֹסֵף מֵאָה וְעֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים׃ וַיַּרְא יוֹסֵף לְאֶפְרַיִם בְּנֵי שִׁלֵּשִׁים גַּם בְּנֵי מָכִיר בֶּן־מְנַשֶּׁה יֻלְּדוּ עַל־בִּרְכֵּי יוֹסֵף׃ | So now, do not be afraid. I myself will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke to their hearts. Joseph lived in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived a hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph's knees.[31] |

30 Abel-mizraim sounds like *evel mitsrayim,* "mourning of Egypt."
31 Being born on someone's knees seems to mark the children as acknowledged by him as his own (compare 30:3).

| HEBREW | ENGLISH |
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| Gen 50:24 וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֶחָיו אָנֹכִי מֵת וֵאלֹהִים פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד אֶתְכֶם וְהֶעֱלָה אֶתְכֶם מִן־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב: וַיַּשְׁבַּע יוֹסֵף אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד אֱלֹהִים אֶתְכֶם וְהַעֲלִתֶם אֶת־עַצְמֹתַי מִזֶּה: וַיָּמָת יוֹסֵף בֶּן־מֵאָה וְעֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים וַיַּחַנְטוּ אֹתוֹ וַיִּישֶׂם בָּאָרוֹן בְּמִצְרָיִם: | Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will surely come to your aid and bring you up out of this land to the land he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you shall carry my bones up from here.” Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten years. They embalmed him, and he was placed in a coffin in Egypt. |