

The book of Genesis

בראשית

Vayechi — ויחי

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Memorial page

For the soul elevation of

**Lazar ben
Manya**

לעילוי נשמת

רב יחיאל הלל בן רב יעקב

לעילוי נשמת

יוכבד הענא בת חיים יהושע
פאליק

For the soul elevation of
**Shayna Mindel bat
Rav Yechiel Hillel**

לעילוי נשמת

יחיה בן חיים

לעילוי נשמת

יהודית בת נחמיה

PARASHA SUMMARY

Vaychi, Vayechi or Vayhi (וַיְחִי — Hebrew for "and he lived," the first word of the parashah) is the twelfth weekly Torah portion (פָּרָשָׁה, parashah) in the annual Jewish cycle of Torah reading and the last in the Book of Genesis. It constitutes Genesis 47:28–50:26. The parashah tells of Jacob's request for burial in Canaan, Jacob's blessing of Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh, Jacob's blessing of his sons, Jacob's death and burial, and Joseph's death.

It is the shortest weekly Torah portion in the Book of Genesis (although not in the Torah). It is made up of 4,448 Hebrew letters, 1,158 Hebrew words, 85 verses, and 148 lines in a Torah scroll (סֵפֶר תּוֹרָה, Sefer Torah). Jews read it the twelfth Sabbath after Simchat Torah, generally in December or January.

In traditional Sabbath Torah reading, the parashah is divided into seven readings, or עליית, aliyot. In the Masoretic Text of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), Parashah Vayechi has 12 "open portion" (פְּתוּחָה, petuchah) divisions (roughly equivalent to paragraphs, often abbreviated with the Hebrew letter פ (peh)). Parashah Vayechi has no "closed portion" (סְתוּמָה, setumah) divisions (abbreviated with the Hebrew letter ס (samekh)) within those open portion (פְּתוּחָה, petuchah) divisions. The first open portion (פְּתוּחָה, petuchah) spans the first three readings (עליית, aliyot). Ten further open portion (פְּתוּחָה, petuchah) divisions separate Jacob's blessings for his sons in the fifth and sixth readings (עליית, aliyot). The final, twelfth open portion (פְּתוּחָה, petuchah) spans the concluding sixth and seventh readings (עליית, aliyot).

Aliya: Kohen-Chessed-Abraham

In the first reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years, and lived to be 147 years old. When Jacob's death drew near, he called his son Joseph and asked him to put his hand under Jacob's thigh and swear not to bury him in Egypt, but to bury him with his father and grandfather. Joseph agreed, but Jacob insisted that he swear to, and so he did, and Jacob bowed. Later, when one told Joseph that his father was sick, Joseph took his sons Manasseh and Ephraim to see him. Jacob sat up and told Joseph that God appeared to him at Luz, blessed him, and told him that God would multiply his descendants and give them that land forever. Jacob adopted Joseph's sons as his own and granted them inheritance with his own sons. Jacob recalled how when he came from Paddan, Rachel died on the way, and he buried her on the way to Ephrath, near Bethlehem. Jacob saw Joseph's sons and asked who they were, and Joseph told him that they were the sons whom God had given him in Egypt, so Jacob asked Joseph to bring them near so that he might bless them. The first reading (עליה, aliyah) ends here.

Chapter: 47

28. וַיֹּזֶן יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם שִׁבְעַת עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה וַיְהִי יָמֵי-יַעֲקֹב שָׁנֵי זָוָי שִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים וְאַרְבָּעִים וּמֵאֵת שָׁנָה:

28. And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years; so the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were a hundred forty and seven years.

29. וַיִּקְרָבוּ יְמֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לָמוּת וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אִם-נָא מִצָּאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ שִׁים-נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יָרְכִי וְעָשִׂיתָ עִמָּדִי חֶסֶד וְאֶמֶת אֵל-נָא תִקְבְּרֵנִי בְּמִצְרַיִם:

29. And the time drew near that Israel must die; and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him: 'If now I have found favour in your sight, put, I pray thee, your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt.

30. וְשָׁכַבְתִּי עִם-אֲבֹתִי וְנִשְׁאַתְנִי מִמִּצְרַיִם וְקִבַּרְתָּנִי בְּקִבְרֹתָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנֹכִי אֵעָשֶׂה כְּדִבְרְךָ:

30. But when I sleep with my fathers, thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying-place.' And he said: 'I will do as thou hast said.'

31. וַיֹּאמֶר הַשִּׁבְעָה לִּי וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל עַל-רֹאשׁ הַמִּטָּה: (פ)

31. And he said: 'Swear unto me.' And he swore unto him. And Israel bowed down upon the bed's head.

Chapter: 48

1. וַיְהִי אֲזֻזֵּי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר לְיוֹסֵף הִנֵּה אָבִיךָ וְזָלָה וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת-שְׁנֵי בָנָיו עִמּוֹ אֶת-מְנַשֶּׁה וְאֶת-אֶפְרַיִם:

1. And it came to pass after these things, that one said to Joseph: 'Behold, your father is sick.' And he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2. וַיֵּגֵד לְיַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה בִנְךָ יוֹסֵף בָּא אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּתְּנוּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל-הַמִּטָּה:

2. And one told Jacob, and said: 'Behold, your son Joseph cometh unto thee.' And Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.

3. וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-יוֹסֵף אֵל שַׁדַּי נִרְאָה-אֵלַי בְּלוֹז בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתִי:

3. And Jacob said unto Joseph: 'God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

4. וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הִנְנִי מְפָרֵךְ וְהִרְבִּיתִּךָ וְנִתְּתִיךָ לְקָהָל עַמִּים וְנִתַּתִּי אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְיִרְעָה אֲזֻזֹּת עוֹלָם:

4. and said unto me: Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a company of peoples; and will give this land to your seed after thee for an everlasting possession.

5. וְעָתָה שְׁנֵי-בָנֶיךָ הַזֹּלֵדִים לָךְ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד-בָּאִי אֵלֶיךָ מִצְרַיִמָּה לִי-הֵם אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה כְּרֹאשֹׁן וְשִׁמְעוֹן יִהְיוּ-לִי:

5. And now your two sons, who were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh, even as Reuben and Simeon, shall be mine.

6. וּמוֹלִדְתְּךָ אֲשֶׁר-הוֹלִדְתָּ אַחֲרֵיהֶם לְךָ יִהְיוּ עַל שֵׁם אֲחֵיהֶם יִקְרָאוּ בְּנֵוֹלָתָם:

6. And your issue, that thou begettest after them, shall be thine; they shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance.

7. וְאֲנִי בָּבְאִי מִפַּדָּן מֵתָה עָלַי רָחֵל בְּדֶרֶךְ כְּנָעַן בְּעוֹד כְּבָרְתָּ-אֶרֶץ לְבָא אֶפְרַתָּה וְאֶקְבְּרָהָ שָׁם בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶפְרַת הִוא בֵּית לָוֶהֶם:

7. And as for me, when I came from Paddan, Rachel died unto me in the land of Canaan in the way, when there was still some way to come unto Ephrath; and I buried her there in the way to Ephrath--the same is Beth-lehem.'

8. וַיֵּרָא יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-בְּנֵי יוֹסֵף וַיֹּסֶף וַיֹּאמֶר מִי-אֵלֶּה:

8. And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said: 'Who are these?'

9. וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל-אֲבִיו בְּנֵי הֵם אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן-לִי אֱלֹהִים בָּוָה וַיֹּאמֶר קָוֹם-נָא אֵלַי וְאֲבָרְכֶם:

9. And Joseph said unto his father: 'They are my sons, whom God hath given me here.' And he said: 'Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.'

Aliya: Levi-Gevurah-Isaac

In the second reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob's sight had dimmed with age, so Joseph brought his sons near, and Jacob kissed them and embraced them. Jacob told Joseph that he had not thought to see his face, and now God had let him see his children, as well. Joseph took them from between his knees, bowed deeply, and brought them to Jacob, with Ephraim in his right hand toward Jacob's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Jacob's right hand. But Jacob laid his right hand on Ephraim, the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh, the firstborn, and prayed that God bless the lads, let Jacob's name be named in them, and let them grow into a multitude. The second reading (עליה, aliyah) ends here.

10. וַעֲיָנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּבָדוֹ מִזֶּקֶן לֹא יוֹכֵל לִרְאוֹת וַיִּגַּשׂ אֹתָם אֵלָיו וַיִּשָּׁק לָהֶם וַיִּזְבְּקֵם לָהֶם:

10. Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them.

11. וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-יוֹסֵף רְאֵה פָנֶיךָ לֹא פָלַלְתִּי וְהִנֵּה הִרְאָה אֹתִי אֱלֹהִים גַּם אֶת-יַרְיָעָךְ:

11. And Israel said unto Joseph: 'I had not thought to see your face; and, lo, God hath let me see your seed also.'

12. וַיֹּצֵא יוֹסֵף אֹתָם מִעַם בְּרָכּוֹ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ וַיִּצְטְווּ לְאֲבִיו אַרְצָה:

12. And Joseph brought them out from between his knees; and he fell down on his face to the earth.

13. וַיִּקְוֹז יוֹסֵף אֶת-שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת-אֶפְרַיִם בְּיָמִינוֹ מִשְׁמָאל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-מְנַשֶּׁה בְּשִׁמְאֹלוֹ בְּיָמִין יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּנֶשׂ אֵלָיו:

13. And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him.

14. וַיִּשְׁלֹחַ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-יָמִינוֹ וַיָּשֶׁת עַל-רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם וְהוּא הַצָּעִיר וְאֶת-שְׁמָאלוֹ עַל-רֹאשׁ מְנַשֶּׁה שֵׁכֶל אֶת-יָדָיו כִּי מְנַשֶּׁה הַבְּכוֹר:

14. And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the first-born.

15. וַיְבָרֶךְ אֶת-יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר הִתְהַלַּכְוּ אֲבֹתַי לִפְנֵי אֲבֹתָהֶם וַיְצַוֶּךָ הָאֱלֹהִים הָרַעָה אֹתִי מֵעוֹדִי עַד-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:

15. And he blessed Joseph, and said: 'The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God who hath been my shepherd all my life long unto this day,

16. הַמִּלְאָךְ הַגָּאֹל אֹתִי מִכָּל-רָע וַיְבָרֶךְ אֶת-הַנְּעָרִים וַיִּקְרָא בָּהֶם שְׁמִי וְשֵׁם אֲבֹתִי אֲבֹתָהֶם וַיְצַוֶּךָ וַיְדַע לִרְבּוֹת בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ:

16. the angel who hath redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named in them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.'

—◆— Aliya: Third-Tiferet-Jacob —◆—

In the third reading (עליה, aliyah), it displeased Joseph that Jacob laid his right hand on Ephraim, and he lifted Jacob's right hand to move it to Manasseh the firstborn, but Jacob refused, saying that Manasseh would also become a great people, but his younger brother would be greater. Jacob blessed them, saying Israel would bless by invoking God to make one like Ephraim and as Manasseh. Jacob told Joseph that he was dying, but God would be with him and bring him back to the land of his fathers, and Jacob had given him a portion (shechem) above his brothers, which he took from the Amorites with his sword and bow. The third reading (עליה, aliyah) and the first open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) end here.

17. וַיֵּרָא יוֹסֵף כִּי-יֹשֶׁת אָבִיו יָד-יְמִינוֹ עַל-רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם וַיֵּרָע בְּעֵינָיו וַיִּתְּנָהּ יָד-אָבִיו לְהַסִּיר אֹתָהּ מֵעַל רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם עַל-רֹאשׁ מְנַשֶּׁה:

17. And when Joseph saw that his father was laying his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

18. וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל-אָבִיו לֹא-כֵן אָבִי כִי-זֶה הַבְּכוֹר שְׁמִי יְמִינָךְ עַל-רֹאשׁוֹ:

18. And Joseph said unto his father: 'Not so, my father, for this is the first-born; put your right hand upon his head.'

19. וַיִּמָּאֵן אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר יָדַעְתִּי בְנִי יָדַעְתִּי גַם-הוּא יִהְיֶה-לָּעַם וְגַם-הוּא יִגְדֹּל וְאוֹלָם
אֲזוּיוֹ הַקָּטָן יִגְדֹּל מִמֶּנּוּ וְרָעוֹ יִהְיֶה מִלֵּא-הַגּוֹיִם:

19. And his father refused, and said: 'I know it, my son, I know it; he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; howbeit his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.'

20. וַיְבָרֶכֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר בָּךְ יְבָרֵךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר יִשְׁמַר אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם
וּכְמְנַשֶּׁה וַיִּשֶׂם אֶת-אֶפְרַיִם לִפְנֵי מְנַשֶּׁה:

20. And he blessed them that day, saying: 'By thee shall Israel bless, saying: God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh.' And he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

21. וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-יוֹסֵף הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי מוֹת וְהָיָה אֱלֹהִים עִמָּכֶם וְהֵשִׁיב אֶתְכֶם אֶל-
אֶרֶץ אֲבֹתֵיכֶם:

21. And Israel said unto Joseph: 'Behold, I die; but God will be with you, and bring you back unto the land of your fathers.'

22. וְאֲנִי נָתַתִּי לְךָ שְׂכֶם אֶחָד עַל-אֲזוּיָהּ אֲשֶׁר לְקַוְוֹתִי מִיַּד הָאֲמֹרִי בְּזֹרְבִי וּבִקְשֹׁתִי:
(פ)

22. Moreover I have given to thee one portion above your brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.'

—◆— Aliya: Fourth-Netzach-Moses —◆—

In the fourth reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob gathered his sons and asked them to listen to what would befall them in time. Jacob called Reuben his firstborn, his might, and the first-fruits of his strength; unstable as water, he would not have the best because he defiled his father's bed. The second open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

In the continuation of the reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob called Simeon and Levi brothers in violence, prayed that his soul not come into their council — for in their anger they slew men and beasts — and cursed their descendants to be scattered throughout Israel. The third open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

In the continuation of the reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob called Judah a lion's whelp and told him that he would dominate his enemies, his brothers would bow before him, and his descendants would rule as long as men came to Shiloh. Binding his foal to the vine, he would wash his garments in wine, and his teeth would be white with milk. The fourth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

In the continuation of the reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob foretold that Zebulun's descendants would dwell at the shore near Sidon, and would work the ships. The fifth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

As the reading (עליה, aliyah) continues, Jacob called Issachar a large-boned donkey couching between the sheep-folds, he bowed his shoulder to work, and his descendants

would dwell in a pleasant land. The sixth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

In the continuation of the reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob called Dan a serpent in the road that bites the horse's heels, and he would judge his people. Jacob interjected that he longed for God's salvation. The fourth reading (עליה, aliyah) and the seventh open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) end here.

Chapter: 49

1. וַיִּקְרָא יַעֲקֹב אֶל-בָּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הֶאֱסָפּוּ וְאֶנִּידָה לָכֶם אֶת אֲשֶׁר-יִקְרָא אֲתֶכֶם בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים:
1. And Jacob called unto his sons, and said: 'Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the end of days.
2. הַקְבֹּצוּ וְשִׁמְעוּ בְנֵי יַעֲקֹב וְשִׁמְעוּ אֶל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲבִיכֶם:
2. Assemble yourselves, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.
3. רְאוּבֵן בְּכֹרִי אֲתָהּ כֹּחִי וְרֵאשִׁית אוֹנִי יִתֵּר שְׂאֵת וְיִתֵּר עֹז:
3. Reuben, thou art my first-born, my might, and the first-fruits of my strength; the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power.
4. פִּזּוֹן כַּבִּימִם אֶל-תּוֹתֵר כִּי עָלִיתָ מִשְׁכְּבִי אֲבִיךָ אֲזָז וּזְכַלְתָּ יְצוּעֵי עֲלָה: (פ)
4. Unstable as water, have not thou the excellency; because thou wentest up to your father's bed; then defiledst thou it--he went up to my couch.
5. שִׁמְעוֹן וְלֵוִי אֲזֻזִּים כָּלִי זֶמֶס מִכַּרְתֵּיהֶם:
5. Simeon and Levi are brethren; weapons of violence their kinship.
6. בְּסֹדֶם אֶל-תֵּבָא נִפְשֵׁי בְּקֹהֲלָם אֶל-תַּזּוּד כְּבֹדִי כִּי בְּאַפָם הִרְגוּ אִישׁ וּבְרִצָּנָם עָקְרוּ-שׂוֹר:
6. Let my soul not come into their council; unto their assembly let my glory not be united; for in their anger they slew men, and in their self-will they houghed oxen.
7. אֲרִיר אָפָם כִּי עָז וְעִבְרָתָם כִּי קִשְׁתָּהּ אֲזֻלָּקָם בִּיעֲקָב וְאַפִּצָּם בִּישְׂרָאֵל: (פ)
7. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce, and their wrath, for it was cruel; I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel
8. יְהוּדָה אֲתָהּ יוֹדִיף אֲזֻזִּי יָדְךָ בְּעֶרְףְּ אֲבִיךָ יִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לָךְ בְּנֵי אֲבִיךָ:
8. Judah, thee shall your brethren praise; your hand shall be on the neck of thine enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before thee.
9. גֹּיִר אֲרִיָּה יְהוּדָה מִטְּרַף בְּנֵי עָלִיתָ כְּרֹעַ רֶבֶץ בְּאֲרִיָּה וּכְלָבִיא בְּנֵי יִקְיָמוּ:
9. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, thou art gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as a lioness; who shall rouse him up?
10. לֹא-יָסוּר שִׁבְטֵ מִיְהוּדָה וּמִזֻּזְקָהּ מִבֵּין רַגְלָיו עַד כִּי-יָבֹא (שִׁילָה) שִׁילֹו וְלוֹ יִקְהַת עַבְדִּים:

10. The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, as long as men come to Shiloh; and unto him shall the obedience of the peoples be.

11. אֶסְרֵי לִגְפוֹן (עִירָה) עֵירוֹ וְלִשְׂרָקָה בְּנֵי אֶתָנּוּ כִּבְּס בַּיִין לְבָשׁוּ וּבָדָם-עֲנָבִים (סוּתָה) סוּתוֹ:

11. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washeth his garments in wine, and his vesture in the blood of grapes;

12. וּזְכַלְלִי עֵינָיִם בַּיִין וְלִבִּי-שָׁנִים בְּזֶכֶד: (פ)

12. His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

13. וְבוֹלֵן לְזֶזֶף יָמִים יִשְׁכֵּן וְהוּא לְזֶזֶף אֲנִית וְיִרְכָּתוֹ עַל-צִידָן: (פ)

13. Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea, and he shall be a shore for ships, and his flank shall be upon Zidon.

14. יִשְׁעָר זֶזֶר גָּרָם רֶבֶץ בֵּין הַמִּשְׁפָּתִים:

14. Issachar is a large-boned ass, couching down between the sheep-folds.

15. וַיֵּרָא מְנוּחָה כִּי טוֹב וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ כִּי נְעֻמָּה וַיֵּט שִׁכְמוֹ לְסֹבֵל וַיְהִי לְכַס-עֲבָד: (ס)

15. For he saw a resting-place that it was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant under task-work

16. הֵן יִדִּין עָמּוֹ כְּאֶזְרָא שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

16. Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.

17. וְהִי-דָן נָזוּשׁ עָלֵי-דָרֶךְ שְׁפִיפֹן עָלֵי-אֲרוֹז הַנִּשְׁף עֲקָבִי-סוֹס וַיִּפֹּל רֶכְבּוֹ אַזְוֹר:

17. Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a horned snake in the path, that biteth the horse's heels, so that his rider falleth backward.

18. לִישׁוּעָתָה קָוִיתִי יְהוָה: (ס)

18. I wait for Thy salvation, O YHVH.

Aliya: Fifth-Hod-Aaron

In the fifth reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob foretold that raiders would raid Gad, but he would raid on their heels. The eighth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

In the continuation of the reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob foretold that Asher's bread would be the richest, and he would yield royal dainties. The ninth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

As the reading (עליה, aliyah) continues, Jacob called Naphtali a hind let loose, and he would give good words. The tenth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) ends here.

In the continuation of the reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob called Joseph a fruitful vine by a fountain whose branches ran over the wall, archers shot at him, but his bow remained firm; Jacob blessed him with blessings of heaven above and the deep below, blessings of the breasts and womb, and mighty blessings on the head of the prince among his

brethren. The fifth reading (עליה, aliyah) and the eleventh open portion (פתוחה, petuchah) end here.

19. גַּד יִצְרֹדֵד וְהָיָה יָגֵד עָקֵב: (ס)
 19. Gad, a troop shall troop upon him; but he shall troop upon their heel.
20. מֵאִשֶּׁר שְׂבִינָה לֶחֶמּוֹ וְהָיָה יֵתֵן בְּמַעְדֵּי-מַלְכָּה: (ס)
 20. As for Asher, his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.
21. נַפְתָּלִי אִילָה שְׁלֹזָה הִנָּתַן אֲבִירִי-שֹׁפָר: (ס)
 21. Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.
22. בֶּן פֶּרֶת יוֹסֵף בֶּן פֶּרֶת עָלִי-עֵץ בְּזֹת צַעֲדָה עָלִי-שׁוּר:
 22. Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine by a fountain; its branches run over the wall.
23. וַיִּמְרָרוּהוּ וַרְבוּ וַיִּשְׁטְמֻהוּ בְּעַלֵּי זֹצִים:
 23. The archers have dealt bitterly with him, and shot at him, and hated him;
24. וַתֵּשֶׁב בְּאֵיתָן קִשְׁתּוֹ וַיִּכּוּ וַיִּרְעִי יָדָיו מִיָּדֵי אֲבִיר יַעֲקֹב מִשֵּׁם רַעָה אֲבֶן יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 24. But his bow abode firm, and the arms of his hands were made supple, by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, from thence, from the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel,
25. מֵאֵל אָבִיָּה וַיַּעֲזֹרֶהָ וְאֵת שְׂדֵי וַיְבָרְכֶהָ בְּרִכַּת שְׁנִימִים מִעַל בְּרִכַּת תְּהוֹם רַבָּעַת תְּזֹת בְּרִכַּת שָׂדִים וְרֹזֶם:
 25. Even by the God of your father, who shall help thee, and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee, with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that coucheth beneath, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb.
26. בְּרִכַּת אָבִיָּה גָּבְרוּ עַל-בְּרִכַּת הוֹרֵי עֵד-תַּאֲוֹת גְּבַעַת עוֹלָם תְּהִיִּין לְרֹאשׁ יוֹסֵף וּלְקֶדֶד נָזִיר אֲזִוּיוֹ: (פ)
 26. The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of the prince among his brethren.

 **Aliya: Sixth-Yessod-Joseph** 

In the long sixth reading (עליה, aliyah), Jacob called Benjamin a ravenous wolf that devours its prey. The editor summarises: "these are the twelve tribes". And Jacob charged his sons to bury him with his fathers in the cave of Machpelah that Abraham bought and where they buried Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and where he buried Leah. And then Jacob gathered his feet into his bed and died. Joseph kissed his father's face and wept. Joseph commanded the physicians to embalm Jacob, and they did so over the next 40 days, and the Egyptians wept for Jacob 70 days. Thereafter, Joseph asked Pharaoh's courtiers to tell Pharaoh that Jacob had made Joseph swear to bury him in the land of Canaan and ask that he might go up, bury his father, and return. Pharaoh consented, and Joseph went up with all Pharaoh's court, Egypt's elders, chariots, horsemen, and all Joseph's

relatives, leaving only the little ones and the flocks and herds behind in the land of Goshen. At the threshing-floor of Atad, beyond the Jordan River, they mourned for his father seven days, and the Canaanites remarked at how grievous the mourning was for the Egyptians, and thus the place was named Abel-mizraim. Jacob's sons carried out his command and buried him in the cave of Machpelah, and the funeral party returned to Egypt. With Jacob's death, Joseph's brothers grew concerned that Joseph would repay them for the evil that they had done, and they sent Joseph a message that Jacob had commanded him to forgive them. When the brothers spoke to Joseph, he wept, and his brothers fell down before him and declared that they were his bondmen. Joseph told them not to fear, for he was not God, and even though they had intended him evil, God meant it for good, to save many people. The sixth reading (עליה, aliyah) ends here

27. בְּנִימִין זֶאֱבִי יִטְרֹף בִּבְקֶרֶךְ יֹאכֵל עֵד וְלַעֲרֹב יִזְחַק שְׁלָל:

27. Benjamin is a wolf that ravenneth; in the morning he devoureth the prey, and at even he divideth the spoil.'

28. כָּל-אֵלֶּה שְׁבָטַי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר וְזֹאת אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר לָהֶם אֲבִיהֶם וַיְבָרֶךְ אוֹתָם אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר כְּבִרְכָּתוֹ בֵּרַךְ אֹתָם:

28. All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is it that their father spoke unto them and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

29. וַיִּצְו אוֹתָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אֲנִי גֹאֲסָף אֶל-עַמִּי קִבְּרוּ אוֹתִי אֶל-הַמְעָרָה אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה עֵפְרוֹן הַחִיטִּי:

29. And be charged them, and said unto them: 'I am to be gathered unto my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

30. בַּמְעָרָה אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׂדֶה הַמִּכְפֶּלֶה אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי-מַמְרֵא בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֲשֶׁר קָנָה אַבְרָהָם אֶת-הַשָּׂדֶה מֵאֵת עֵפְרוֹן הַחִיטִּי לְאֻזּוֹת-קֶבֶר:

30. in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a burying-place.

31. שָׁנָּה קִבְּרוּ אֶת-אַבְרָהָם וְאֵת שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ שָׁמָּה קִבְּרוּ אֶת-יִצְחָק וְאֵת רִבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ וְשָׁמָּה קִבְּרָתִי אֶת-לֵאָה:

31. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.

32. מִקְנֵה הַשָּׂדֶה וְהַמְעָרָה אֲשֶׁר-בּוֹ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי-חֵת:

32. The field and the cave that is therein, which was purchased from the children of Heth.'

33. וַיָּכֹל יַעֲקֹב לָצֹנֹת אֶת-בָּנָיו וַיֹּאסֶף רַגְלָיו אֶל-הַמִּטָּה וַיָּנֹעַ וַיֹּאסֶף אֶל-עַמּוּיוֹ:

33. And when Jacob made an end of charging his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and expired, and was gathered unto his people.

1. ויפל יוסף על-פני אביו ויבך עליו וישק-לו:
1. And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.
2. ויצו יוסף את-עבדיו את-הרפאים לזנוט את-אביו ויזנוטו הרפאים את-ישראל:
2. And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. And the physicians embalmed Israel.
3. וימלאו-לו ארבעים יום כי כן ימלאו ימי הזנוטים ויבכו אותו מערים שבועים יום:
3. And forty days were fulfilled for him; for so are fulfilled the days of embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him threescore and ten days.
4. ויעברו ימי בכיתו וידבר יוסף אל-בית פרעה לאמר אם-נא מצאתי חן בעיניכם דברו-נא באזני פרעה לאמר:
4. And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke unto the house of Pharaoh, saying: 'If now I have found favour in your eyes, I pray you, in the ears of Pharaoh, saying:
5. אבי השביעני לאמר הנה אנכי מת בקברי אשר כריתי לי בארץ כנען שמה תקברני ועתה אעלה-נא ואקברה את-אבי ואשובה:
5. My father made me swear, saying: Lo, I die; in my grave which I have digged for me in the land of Canaan, there shalt thou bury me. Now therefore let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father, and I will come back.'
6. ויאמר פרעה עלה וקבר את-אביך כאשר השביעה:
6. And Pharaoh said: 'Go up, and bury your father, according as he made thee swear.'
7. ויעל יוסף לקבר את-אביו ויעלו אתו כל-עבדיו פרעה וקני ביתו וכל וקני ארץ-מצרים:
7. And Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,
8. וכל בית יוסף ואוזיו ובית אביו רך טפם וזאנם ובקרים עזבו בארץ גשן:
8. and all the house of Joseph, and his brethren, and his father's house; only their little ones, and their flocks, and their herds, they left in the land of Goshen.
9. ויעל עמו גם-רכב גם-פרשים ויהי המונה כבד מאד:
9. And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen; and it was a very great company.
10. ויבאו עד-גזן האטד אשר בעבר הירדן ויספדו-שם מספד גדול וכבד מאד ויעש לאביו אבל שבועת ימים:
10. And they came to the threshing-floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and there they wailed with a very great and sore wailing; and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

11. וַיֵּרָא יוֹשֵׁב הָאָרֶץ הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֶת-הָאֵבֶל בְּגֹרֶן הָאֲטָד וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִבְל-כְּבֹד זֶה לַמִּצְרַיִם עַל-כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ אִבְל מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר בְּעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן:

11. And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning in the floor of Atad, they said: 'This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians.' Wherefore the name of it was called Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

12. וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בָנָיו לֹו כִּן כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּם:

12. And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them.

13. וַיֵּשְׂאוּ אֹתוֹ בָנָיו אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ בְּמַעְרַת שְׂדֵה הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֲשֶׁר קָנָה אַבְרָהָם אֶת-הַשְּׂדֵה לְאֻזּוֹת-קְחָר מֵאֵת עֶפְרָן הַחִיטִּי בְּפָנֵי מַמְרֵי:

13. For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field, for a possession of a burying-place, of Ephron the Hittite, in front of Mamre.

14. וַיָּשֻׁב יוֹסֵף מִצְרַיִמָּה הוּא וְאֻזְוֵיו וְכָל-הָעֲלִיָּם אֹתוֹ לִקְבֹּר אֶת-אָבִיו אֻזְרִי קָבְרוּ אֶת-אָבִיו:

14. And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.

15. וַיֵּרְאוּ אֻזְוֵי-יוֹסֵף כִּי-מֵת אָבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹו יִשְׁטַמְנוּ יוֹסֵף וְהֵשֵׁב יִשְׁיֵב לָנוּ אֶת כָּל-הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר זָמְנָנוּ אֹתוֹ:

15. And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said: 'It may be that Joseph will hate us, and will fully requite us all the evil which we did unto him.'

16. וַיִּצְווּ אֵל-יוֹסֵף לֵאמֹר אֲבִיךָ צִוָּה לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ לֵאמֹר:

16. And they sent a message unto Joseph, saying: 'Thy father did command before he died, saying:

17. כֹּה-תֹאמְרוּ לְיוֹסֵף אֲנָא שָׂא זֶה פָּשַׁע אֻזְוִיָּה וּזְטָאתָם כִּי-רָעָה גְּמִלוֹךְ וְעָתָה שָׂא זֶה לִפְשַׁע עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהֵי אֲבִיךָ גִּיבֹךְ יוֹסֵף בְּדַבָּרָם אֵלָיו:

17. So shall ye say unto Joseph: Forgive, I pray thee now, the transgression of your brethren, and their sin, for that they did unto thee evil. And now, we pray thee, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.' And Joseph wept when they spoke unto him.

18. וַיֵּלְכוּ גַם-אֻזְוֵיו וַיִּפְּלוּ לִפְנֵי וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנְנוּ לְךָ לַעֲבָדִים:

18. And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said: 'Behold, we are your bondmen.'

19. וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף אַל-תִּירְאוּ כִּי הִתְנוֹת אֱלֹהִים אֲנִי:

19. And Joseph said unto them: 'Fear not; for am I in the place of God?

20. וְאַתֶּם זֻשְׁבַּתֶּם עָלַי רָעָה אֱלֹהִים זֻשְׁבָּה לְטֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֶׂה בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְהַחְיֶה עַם-רַב:

20. And as for you, ye meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

 **Aliya: Seventh-Malchut-King David** 

In the seventh reading (עליה, aliyah), Joseph spoke kindly to them, comforted them, and committed to sustain them and their little ones. Joseph lived 110 years, saw Ephraim's children of the third generation, and grandchildren of Manasseh were born on Joseph's knees. Joseph told his brothers that he was dying, but God would surely remember them and bring them out of Egypt to the land that God had sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Joseph made the children of Israel swear to carry his bones to that land. So Joseph died, and they embalmed him, and put him in a coffin in Egypt. The seventh reading (עליה, aliyah), the twelfth open portion (פתוחה, petuchah), the parashah, and the Book of Genesis all end here

21. וְעֵתָּה אֶל-תִּירְאוּ אֶנְכִּי אֲכַלְכֶּל אֶתְכֶם וְאֶת-טַפְכֶּם וַיְנַחֵם אוֹתָם וַיְדַבֵּר עִלָּ-לָבָם:

21. Now therefore fear ye not; I will sustain you, and your little ones.' And he comforted them, and spoke kindly unto them.

22. וַיֵּשֶׁב יוֹסֵף בְּמִצְרַיִם הוּא וּבֵית אָבִיו וַיֹּזֶן יוֹסֵף מֵאָה וָעֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים:

22. And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house; and Joseph lived a hundred and ten years.

Aliya: Maftir

23. וַיֵּרָא יוֹסֵף לְאֶפְרַיִם בְּנֵי שְׁלֹשִׁים וָשָׁנָה בְּנֵי מַכִּיר בֶּן-מְנַשֶּׁה יָלְדוּ עַל-בְּרֵכֵי יוֹסֵף:

23. And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation; the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were born upon Joseph's knees.

24. וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל-אֲזֻזֵּי אֶנְכִּי מֵת וְאֱלֹהִים פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד אֶתְכֶם וְהֵעֲלָה אֶתְכֶם מִן-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאֲבֹתְהֶם לֵאמֹר וְלִיעֲקֹב:

24. And Joseph said unto his brethren: 'I die; but God will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land unto the land which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.'

25. וַיִּשְׁבַּע יוֹסֵף אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר פָּקֹד יִפְקֹד אֱלֹהִים אֶתְכֶם וְהֵעֲלָתֶם אֶת-עַצְמוֹתַי בְּנֹה:

25. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying: 'God will surely remember you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.'

26. וַיָּמָת יוֹסֵף בֶּן-מֵאָה וָעֶשֶׂר שָׁנִים וַיִּזְנְטוּ אוֹתוֹ וַיִּשֶׂם בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

26. So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old. And they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

(זִזְקָה)

- End of Parasha , End of Genesis -