



SHABBAT ZEST

Parshat Vayeitzei 10th Kislev 5777

Torah Reading / Haftara:

Artscroll – p.144/1139

Living Torah – p.130/1074

SHABBAT TIMES:

Candle Lighting:
3:32pm

Kabbalat Shabbat
Davening: 6:30pm

Shabbat Morning
Davening: 9:15am

Mincha: After Kiddush

Shabbat Ends 4:49pm

NEXT SHABBAT
VAYISHLACH

CANDLE LIGHTING
@ 3:32 PM

This week the
Haftorah will be
read by

...

IsrAction Day
FOR ISRAEL & YOUR COMMUNITY

Your chance to support Israel, beat BDS and help those less fortunate in your local community
Sunday 18th December 2016

Go to your local Supermarket.
Buy any packaged Israeli foods (except fresh or frozen)
Bring them to your local Collection Centre.*
We will donate them to Jewish and non-Jewish
Food Banks and Homeless Shelters.



*More details, including the location of your local Collection Centre can be found at:
www.facebook.com/IsrActionDay, or email: israction@gmail.com

YOUR LOCAL DROP OFF POINT: RedbridgeJCC

Sinclair House * 10am - 1pm

Phone: 07768 797 606 / 07799 815 503 Email: Sinclair_Israel@redbridgejcc.org - staff@jcare.org

Parsha In a Nutshell

Genesis 28:10-32:3

Jacob leaves his hometown of Beersheba and journeys to Charan. On the way, he encounters “the place” and sleeps there, dreaming of a ladder connecting heaven and earth, with angels climbing and descending on it; G-d appears and promises that the land upon which he lies will be given to his descendants. In the morning, Jacob raises the stone on which he laid his head as an altar and monument, pledging that it will be made the house of G-d.

In Haran, Jacob stays with and works for his uncle Laban, tending Laban’s sheep. Laban agrees to give him his younger daughter, Rachel—whom Jacob loves—in marriage, in return for seven years’ labor. But on the wedding night, Laban gives him his elder daughter, Leah, instead—a deception Jacob discovers only in the morning. Jacob marries Rachel, too, a week later, after agreeing to work another seven years for Laban.

Leah gives birth to six sons—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun—and a daughter, Dinah, while Rachel remains barren. Rachel gives Jacob her handmaid, Bilhah, as a wife to bear children in her stead, and two more sons, Dan and Naphtali, are born. Leah does the same with her handmaid, Zilpah, who gives birth to Gad and Asher. Finally, Rachel’s prayers are answered and she gives birth to Joseph.

Jacob has now been in Charan for fourteen years, and wishes to return home. But Laban persuades him to remain, now offering him sheep in return for his labor. Jacob prospers, despite Laban’s repeated attempts to swindle him. After six years, Jacob leaves Charan in stealth, fearing that Laban would prevent him from leaving with the family and property for which he labored. Laban pursues Jacob, but is warned by G-d in a dream not to harm him. Laban and Jacob make a pact on Mount Gal-Ed, attested to by a pile of stones, and Jacob proceeds to the Holy Land, where he is met by angels.

Haftorah

Hosea 11:7-14:10

This week's Haftorah mentions Jacob's flight from home to the "field of Aram," an episode that is recounted in this week's Torah reading.

The Haftorah begins with the prophet Hosea's rebuke of the Jewish people for forsaking G-d. Nevertheless, Hosea assures the people that G-d will not abandon them: "How can I give you, Ephraim, and deliver you [to the hands of the nations]? . . . I will not act with My fierce anger; I will not return to destroy Ephraim."

The prophet discusses the misdeeds of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and the future degeneration of the Kingdom of Judea. He contrasts their behavior to that of their forefather Jacob who was faithful to G-d and prevailed against enemies, both human and angelic.

The Haftorah also makes mention of the ingathering of the exiles which will occur during the Final Redemption: "They shall hasten like a bird from Egypt and like a dove from the land of Assyria; and I will place them in their houses, says the L-rd."

Mazel Tov to
Shirley and
Lewis Lane on
the birth of a
Grandson

UPCOMING EVENTS

18th December – Chanukah Extravaganza – Loughton Synagogue.

18th December – Bring Israeli Food to Sinclair House to support Israel, beat BDS and help the less fortunate in your local area. 10am – 1pm.

December – Chanukah Lightings – all 6.30pm
Doughnuts, hot drinks music and entertainment:

24th: Chigwell Green

25th: Buckhurst Hill, Queens Rd

26th: Loughton

28th: Fullwell Cross Roundabout

29th: Bell Hotel, Epping

31st: Gants Hill Roundabout

29th January 2017 - The return of Shir. The fabulous klezmer band are coming back for an encore. Reserve Tickets with the Office now.

Recurring Events

Cheder OPEN

Mummy and Me Running

Yahrzeits for the coming week 10th – 16th Kislev:

11. Beverly Reuben – Father

12. Gerald Borman – Father

12. Audrey Gee – Sister

13. Clive Williams – Mother

14. Shirley Green – Husband

A Little Deeper –

Employer-Employee Relationships

Recently a friend of mine told me the challenges of running his business, an import export business which buys and sells clearance parcels. He told me that together with his business partner they had decided to install some software on the warehouse guys computer to restrict their internet access to the courier sites they needed whilst restricting all other sites! This came after many incidences of watching their employees spending so called lunch time watching videos and generally wasting important time on the internet when there was work to be done! Unfortunately with mobile phones and cheap calls one doesn't even need the internet to spend time for which one is being paid on other non work related activities.

This behaviour is of course no consistent with Jewish law ("halacha"). The obligations of an employee to his employer are taken so seriously in halacha that modifications were even made in the prayers: Recognizing that employers would be short-changed if workers spent too much time praying, the Sages composed an abridged form of "Grace After Meals" for workers.

This topic of workers' obligations is alluded to in this week's Torah portion, Vayetzei. Jacob flees from his brother Esav, and goes to Padan Aram, where he marries his cousins, Rachel and Leah. Jacob works for their father Lavan, a deceitful person who constantly changes the terms of their work agreement.

After 20 years of service to Lavan (and encouraged by G-d in a dream), Jacob decides to return to Canaan. But before leaving, he consults with his wives, and describes how "with all my might I worked for your father." Maimonides cites these words of Jacob as a source for the requirement that workers work a full day - and "labour with all your might."

At the same time, the need for responsible management and the protection of workers' rights is also derived from this week's Torah portion. When Jacob does finally decide to return home, he does so stealthily, fearful of what Lavan may do to him. Lavan gives chase and ultimately overtakes Jacob and his family. In the midst of the ensuing confrontation, Jacob refers to his 20 years as watchman over Lavan's flocks, and bitterly comments, "By the day I was consumed by scorching heat, and at night by the frost, when sleep was snatched from my eyes."

Jacob's comments are seen as a criticism of Lavan - a reflection on the fact that he had been treated unjustly. Jacob's words ultimately find their way into Jewish law which prohibit an employer from harming his labourers' health, and puts strict guidelines on the degree to which workers can be asked to stay up at night to work.

There are actually hundreds of laws in rabbinic literature dealing with labour-management relations. For example, failure to pay a worker his wages on time is an explicit transgression of Torah law. Through it all, the paramount theme is to ensure that neither party is taken advantage of, and that respect is maintained for each person as having been created in the image of G-d.

Wishing you all a Good Shabbos