
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

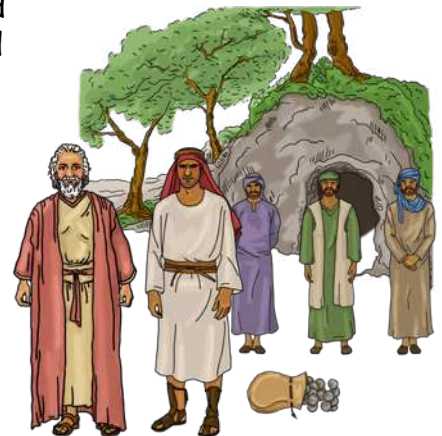
Monday:	Gen. 47:28 - 48:22	The blessing of Ephrayim and Menasheh
Tuesday:	Gen. 49:1-28	The blessing of the 12 sons of Yisra'el
Wednesday:	Gen. 49:29 - 50:3	Ya'aqob's last instructions for his death and burial
Thursday:	Gen. 50:4-14	Ya'aqob's children bury their father in Kena'an
Friday:	Gen. 50:15-26	Yoseph's brothers fear retaliation; Yoseph's death

As we conclude the book of Bereishit, we will include passages from previous parshas in order to connect the burials of the patriarchs and matriarchs, and to witness some agreements made between 2 parties. Now, let's read Gen. 23; 25:7-10; 35:16-20, 27-29; 47:28-31; 49:29-33 & Ch. 50.

PARSHA POINTS

Parsha Chayei Sarah

- Sarah died at 127 years old in Qiryath Arba, which is in Hebron in the land of Kena'an - 23:1-2
- After Abraham mourned for her, he sought to purchase a burial place for her from the sons of Heth - 23:3
- They approved Abraham's request and told him that he could pick from the choicest of burial sites - 23:6
- Abraham asked that they approach Ephron the Hittite, son of Tsohar on his behalf to ask for the cave (**me'arah**) of Makpelah, which was at the edge of his field (**sadeh**). He said he would pay Ephron the complete amount of silver that it was worth - 23:8-9
- Ephron, who was dwelling among the sons of Heth, offered Abraham both the field and the cave as a gift, so he would have a place to bury his dead - 23:11
- Abraham insisted that he pay the full amount for it, and Ephron finally agreed, telling him that it was worth 400 **sheqels** (coin) of silver - 23:13-15
- Abraham weighed out the correct amount of silver and received the field of Ephron, along with the cave, its contents, and all the trees (**ets**) which were in the field. All these were deeded to him - 23:17
- After this, Abraham buried Sarah in the cave - 23:19



- Abraham died at the age of 175 and was gathered to his people - 25:7-8
- His sons Yitshaq and Yishma'el buried him in the cave of Makpelah, where Sarah his wife was also buried - 25:9-10

Parsha Vayishlach

- Ya'aqob's wife Rahel had great difficulty in bearing her 2nd child, and before she died she gave birth to a son, whom she named Ben-Oni (meaning, 'son of my sorrow'). But Ya'aqob changed his name to Binyamin (meaning, 'son of my right hand') - 35:16-18
- Ya'aqob set a standing column on her burial place at Beyth Lehem (meaning, 'house of bread'); the monument is there to this day - 35:19
- Ya'aqob then visited his father Yitshaq at Hebron, the place where Abraham had also lived. Yitshaq died at 180 years old, and Esaw and Ya'aqob buried him - 35:27-29

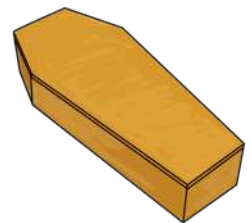


Parsha Vayechi

- 17 (**shva esre**) years after Ya'aqob's entire clan had relocated to Goshen in the land of Mitsrayim, Ya'aqob lay on his deathbed - 47:28
- Before he died, he drew his children near and told them what he wanted them to do with his body (47:29-31; 49:29-30):
 - Do not bury me in Mistrayim
 - Bury me in my father's burial place, in the cave of Makpelah in Kena'an
- Makpelah was where they had already buried Abraham and Sarah, Yitshaq and Ribqah, and also Le'ah - 49:31
- At the age of 147 years old, Ya'aqob breathed his last and was gathered to his people - 47:28; 49:33
- Yoseph mourned for his father, then commanded the physicians to embalm Ya'aqob - 50:1-2
- It took 40 (**arba'im**) days to embalm Ya'aqob, and the Mitsrites wept for him for 70 (**shiv'im**) days - 50:3-4
- After this, Yoseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh and asked permission to go to bury his father in Kena'an, according to his last wishes. He assured Pharaoh that he would return - 50:4-5
- Because Ya'aqob had made Yoseph promise to do this, Pharaoh granted his request and allowed Yoseph to go and bury his father in Kena'an - 50:6
- Yoseph left with (50:7-9):
 - all the servants of Pharaoh
 - the elders of his house
 - all the elders of the land of Mitsrayim
 - all the house of Yoseph
 - his brothers
 - his father's house
 - chariots and horsemen



- Only the little ones, their flocks and their herds remained behind in Goshen - 50:8
- When the large entourage arrived at the threshing floor of Atad, which is west of the Yarden (Jordan), they stopped and lamented, observing 7 (**sheva**) days of mourning - 50:10
- For this reason, the inhabitants of the land named the place Abel Mitsrayim (meaning, 'the mourning or meadow of Egypt'), for the huge procession with their loud mourning showed that they held Ya'aqob in the highest regard - 50:11
- Ya'aqob's sons did as he commanded and carried him all the way back to the land of Kena'an to bury him in the cave of the field of Makpelah, which Abraham had purchased from Ephron the Hittite. And so Ya'aqob was laid to rest beside Abraham and Sarah, Yitshaq, Ribqah and Le'ah - 50:12-13
- After they buried their father, Yoseph returned to Mitsrayim with his brothers and all who had accompanied them - 50:14
- After their return, Yoseph's brothers were concerned that he would repay them evil for what they had done to him - 50:15
- They sent word to Yoseph, stating that their father's wish was for him to forgive his brothers for all their transgressions against him - 50:16-17
- Yoseph wept when he heard their words, and his brothers fell down before him and offered to be his servants - 50:17-18
- Yoseph graciously stated that he was not in the place of Elohim to punish them - 50:19
- He told his brothers that what they had intended as evil against him had been used by Yahweh to save many people - 50:20
- Yoseph also spoke kindly to them, saying not to fear, for he was going to take care of them and also their children - 50:21
- Yoseph lived to 110 years old, and saw Ephrayim's children to the 3rd generation - 50:22-23
- He also raised up his son Menashsheh's grandchildren, who had been born to Menashsheh's son Makir - 50:23
- Yoseph reminded his brothers that although he was going to die in Mitsrayim, one day Elohim would visit them and bring His people to the land of Kena'an, according to the covenant He had sworn to Abraham, Yitshaq, and Ya'aqob - 50:24
- Yoseph made his brothers swear that when it was time for Elohim to bring them back to the land of Kena'an, they would take his bones with them - 50:25
- Then Yoseph died at 110 years of age, and was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Mitsrayim - 50:26



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- All 3 of the great patriarchs of the Bible are buried in Hebron. Research where that location is on a modern map and find out which nation it belongs to. Note that King David chose Hebron as his 1st capital city.
- Research the sons of Heth; they are mentioned several times in the book of Genesis.
- In those days, burial sites were very important acquisitions. The fact that Abraham, who was a foreigner and sojourner in Kena'an, was allowed to purchase land speaks volumes of his status in the community. Do you think that Abraham's refusal to accept the cave as a free gift was smart game play? Consider that the sons of Heth witnessed him paying Ephron its full price, so that any future descendants would find it nearly impossible to dispute its ownership.
- Ya'aqob and Yoseph are the only Yisra'elite ancestors who are mentioned as having been embalmed. As this was not the Yisra'elite custom, discuss why their surviving relatives felt the need to have this performed. Remember that the remains of both Ya'aqob and his son Yoseph were to be taken on a long, hot journey back to Kena'an. Research the embalming process and the superstitious beliefs behind its purpose.
- Discuss the fact that Yoseph asked for his physicians to embalm his father instead of the customary priests, so that they could testify that he did not follow the religious practices of Mitsrayim. (50:2)
- Note that an entourage of Mitsrites accompanied Yoseph and his family to Kena'an for the burial of his father Ya'aqob, indicating the honor that Pharaoh bestowed upon Yoseph as his right-hand man. Do you think that these important men also served to assure Pharaoh that Yoseph would return safely, as he had promised Pharaoh at the time of his request? (50:5-9)
- In this parsha, we realize that at the time of their father's death, Yoseph's brothers still had doubts regarding Yoseph's heart toward them. They make sure to remind Yoseph of their father's wish for them all to continue to be treated kindly. Do you think that their father actually said this or was it more that they were worried that Yoseph would feel free to retaliate now that their father was dead?

