

# Parashat Vayeshev

## פרשת וישב

Shabbat Kislev 20, 5771, November 27, 2010  
MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of God  
<http://www.matsati.com> | [matsati@matsati.com](mailto:matsati@matsati.com)

5

### The gifts God gives us

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 37:1-40:23

הפטרה: Amos 2:6-3:8

הברית: Matthew 1:1-6, 16-25

החדשה

10

In Parashat Vayeshev, *Bereshit / Genesis 37:1-37:36*, we read *37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. 37:4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. (NASB)* Even today, most parents love to bestow lavish gifts on their children.

15

### בראשית 37:3-11

3 וְיִשְׂרָאֵל אָהַב אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכָּל־בָּנָיו כִּי־בְחֻזְקָנִים הוּא  
4 לוֹ וַעֲשָׂה לוֹ כְּתֹנֶת פְּסִים: וַיֵּרְאוּ אָחָיו כִּי־רָאתוּ אֹהֵב  
אֲבֵיהֶם מִכָּל־אָחָיו וַיִּשְׁנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַבְּרוֹ לְשָׁלֵם:  
5 וַיִּחַלֵּם יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם וַיַּגִּד לְאָחָיו וַיֹּסְפוּ עוֹד שְׁנֵא אֹתוֹ:  
6 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁמַעְתֶּנָּא הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתִּי:  
7 וְהִנֵּה אֲנִי וְנִסְיַעְכֶּה וְהִנֵּה תִסְפְּיֵנָה אֲלֵמְתֵיכֶם וְתִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ  
8 לְאֵלֵמְתִי: וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אָחָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ אִם־  
9 מִשׁוֹל תִּמְשַׁל בָּנוּ וַיֹּסְפוּ עוֹד שְׁנֵא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלַמְתּוֹ  
10 וְעַל־דִּבְרָיו: וַיִּחַלֵּם עוֹד חֲלוֹם אַחֵר וַיֹּסְפֵר אֹתוֹ  
11 לְאָחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חֲלַמְתִּי חֲלוֹם עוֹד וְהִנֵּה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ  
12 וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְאַחֵר עֶשֶׂר כּוֹכָבִים מִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לִי: וַיֹּסְפֵר  
13 אֶל־אָבִיו וְאֶל־אָחָיו וַיַּגִּידֵם לְבֹא אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה  
14 הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתָּ הֲבֹא נְבוֹא אֲנִי וְאִמִּי וְאָחֶיךָ  
15 לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לְךָ אֶרְצָה: וַיִּקְנְאוּ־בּוֹ אָחָיו וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר  
16 אֶת־הַדְּבָר: וַיִּלְכּוּ אָחָיו לְרַעוּת אֶת־צֹאן אֲבֵיהֶם

#### Bereshit / Genesis 37:3-11

37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. 37:4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. 37:5 Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 37:6 He said to them, 'Please listen to this dream which I have had; 37:7 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.' 37:8 Then his brothers said to him, 'Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?' So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 37:9 Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, 'Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.' 37:10 He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, 'What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?' 37:11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind. (NASB)

20 Yisrael (Yaakov) loved Yoseph (Joseph) “... *because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic*” and as a result, his brothers were jealous of the love their father had for him. Reading through the text, Yoseph brought a bad report to his father about his brothers. Do you think that Yoseph gave a bad report because he was truly concerned for his brothers or was Yoseph trying to get his father’s approval? On the other hand, were Yoseph’s brothers concerned about acquiring material things? The spiritual discernment of his brothers is revealed when Yoseph tells them of his dreams; they become angry because he dreams of becoming a king. As a result, Yoseph’s brothers plot to kill him.

30 Today we live in a consumer driven culture, retailers are ready to offer almost anything for a price. As a result, it can be difficult to distinguish between buying and getting things verses receiving gifts from God. Acquiring material things can be a very large distraction, especially while trying to hear from the Lord, taking Yoseph’s brothers as an example. In our passages for this week, God was revealing to Yoseph that He was going to extend a great blessing upon him but not without much difficulty. In the culture we live in today, it is important to remember that it is better to strive in acquiring God’s gifts than it is to acquire the things of this world. If we seek God first, He will pour out gifts upon us, but not the kind of gifts that are based upon this material world. After introducing himself, the apostle Paul wrote in the book of Ephesians, the way in which God lavishes gifts upon His children.

***Ephesians 1:3-14***

45 *1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 1:8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 1:10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 1:12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (NASB)*

65 The passage begins with Paul praising God and noting that He “*has blessed us with every spiritual blessing*” (1:3). Paul then says (i) we are chosen to be

blameless in His sight, (ii) we are adopted as His children, (iii) His glorious grace is bestowed upon us, (iv) we have redemption and forgiveness through His blood, (v) in wisdom and understanding He made known the mystery of His will, (vi) we are sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit, and (vii) we are guaranteed an eternal inheritance. Note also the frequency of the times the words “in Christ” or “in Him” occur. The frequency of occurrence is approximately once per verse. Thus, it is clear that what we receive from our Father in Heaven is contingent upon our remaining in Him, in Christ, in Yeshua.

How do we find our identity today? Yoseph’s brothers identity rested upon their being approved by Yisrael their father and on material wealth. Do you look for approval from others, or strive to acquire material wealth? When we read the scriptures and believe, we discover that our identity is found in Yeshua the Messiah. The Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) confirms that we indeed belong to God and will receive our inheritance as His children (*Ephesians 1:14*). It doesn’t matter who your parents are, what age you are, where you came from, how much education you have, or how much money you make; when you believe the message about Yeshua, God has called you to be His child and lavishes these gifts upon you. If you struggle with comparing yourself to the material stuff and the things of other people around you think about the story of Yoseph and his brothers. Desiring the things of this world can lead to great evils and even to the sin of murder evidenced by Yoseph’s brothers. Yoseph’s brothers committed the sin of murder in their hearts and it is possible for us to do this today by harboring envy or pride in our hearts. Seeking the Lord as Yoseph did may have its struggles but the gifts God has given will go with you into the world to come. So, rejoice in your identity in Yeshua as a Child of God and delight in the lavish gifts He has given you and in the riches of his mercy and grace that He has bestowed upon us all (*Ephesians 1:7-8*).

Heavenly Father,

I know that You cause all things to work together for good to those who love You and to those You have called according to Your purposes (*Romans 8:28*) but sometimes I do not understand why things happen the way they do. In Yoseph’s life, you worked everything together for good and for your purpose. In my life sometimes it seems that no good thing can come out of my troubles. Help me to know your will for me and help me to be comforted in my troubles by Your Spirit. Thank You Lord for Your precious word and thank You Lord for such a wonderful salvation You have provided in Your Son Yeshua the Messiah. In Yeshua’s name I pray.

Amen

Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

\*\*\*\*\*

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד  
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever