

פרשת וישב / Parashat Miketz

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32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d
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Faith and Courage in the midst of Trials

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 41:1-44:17
הפטרה: 1 Kings 3:15-4:1
הברית: Romans 10:1-13
החדשה

10 Last week's parsha (Vayeshev) related how Yoseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers for 20 pieces of silver. The Lord was with Yoseph and after being falsely accused and thrown in prison, the Lord raised him up to be a very powerful ruler over all of Egypt.

פְּרַאשִׁית 43:23-33

23 וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁלוֹם לָכֶם אֶל־תִּירְאוּ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְאֵלֵהֶם אֲבִיכֶם
נָתַן לָכֶם מִשְׁמֹן בְּאֵמֶת־חֵתִיכֶם כַּסְפְּכֶם כָּאֲלוֹ וַיּוֹצֵא
24 אֱלֹהִים אֶת־שְׁמֵעוֹן: וַיָּבֹא הָאִישׁ אֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים בֵּיתָה
יוֹסֵף וַיִּתְּן־מִים וַיִּרְחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיהֶם וַיִּתֵּן מִסְפּוּא לְחַמְרֵיהֶם:
25 וַיִּכְנֶנּוּ אֶת־הַמְּנַחֶה עַד־בּוֹא יוֹסֵף בַּצְּהָרִים כִּי שָׁמְעוּ
כִּי־שָׁם יֹאכְלוּ לֶחֶם: וַיָּבֹא יוֹסֵף הַבַּיִתָּה וַיָּבִיאוּ לוֹ אֶת־
27 הַמְּנַחֶה אֲשֶׁר־בִּידָם הַבַּיִתָּה וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ־לוֹ אַרְצָה: וַיִּשְׁאַל
לָהֶם לְשָׁלוֹם וַיֹּאמֶר הַשְׁלוֹם אֲבִיכֶם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר
28 אָמַרְתֶּם הֲעוֹדֵנו חַי: וַיֹּאמְרוּ שְׁלוֹם לְעַבְדְּךָ לְאֲבִינוּ
29 עוֹדֵנו חַי וַיִּקְרָא וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ: וַיִּשָּׂא עֵינָיו וַיִּרְא אֶת־בְּנֵימִן
אָחִיו בְּךָ־אִמּוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר הֲזֶה אַחֵיכֶם הַקָּטָן אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם
30 אֵלַי וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִחַדְּךָ בְּנִי: וַיִּמְהַר יוֹסֵף כִּי־נִכְמְרוּ
רַחֲמָיו אֶל־אָחִיו וַיִּבְקֶשׁ לְבָכוֹת וַיָּבֹא הַחֲדָרָה וַיִּבְךְ
31 שָׁמָּה: וַיִּרְחַץ פָּנָיו וַיּוֹצֵא וַיִּתְאַפֵּק וַיֹּאמֶר שִׁימוּ לָחֶם:
32 וַיִּשְׁימוּ לוֹ לֶבֶדוֹ וְלָהֶם לֶבֶדָם וְלַמִּצְרַיִם הָאֹכְלִים אֶתֹּ
לֶבֶדָם כִּי לֹא יִבְלֹן הַמִּצְרַיִם לֶאֱכֹל אֶת־הָעֵבְרִים לָחֶם
33 כִּי־תוֹעֵבָה הוּא לַמִּצְרַיִם: וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ לִפְנֵי הַבַּכָּר פַּבְּכֶרְתּוֹ
וְהַצֶּעִיר כַּצֶּעִרְתּוֹ וַיִּתְמְהוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ:

Bereshit / Genesis 43:23-33
43:23 He said, 'Be at ease, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money.' Then he brought Simeon out to them. 43:24 Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder. 43:25 So they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there. 43:26 When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which was in their hand and bowed to the ground before him. 43:27 Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, 'Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?' 43:28 They said, 'Your servant our father is well; he is still alive.' They bowed down in homage. 43:29 As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, 'Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?' And he said, 'May God be gracious to you, my son.' 43:30 Joseph hurried out for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he sought a place to weep; and he entered his chamber and wept there. 43:31 Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, 'Serve the meal.' 43:32 So they served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is loathsome to the Egyptians. 43:33 Now 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 astonishment. (NASB)

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Pharaoh conferred upon Yoseph the royal signet ring, adorned him in fine garments, and placed him on the viceroy's chariot and gave him an Egyptian name (Tsofnat Paneach) meaning "Decipherer of Secrets" and the daughter of an Egyptian priest named Asenath as his wife. When the famine struck the land, Yaakov sent all of his sons (except Benjamin) down to Egypt to buy grain. Yoseph recognized his brothers and accused them of being spies. The brothers denied the charge but remembered their treatment of Yoseph and attributed their current troubles to their abuse of him. This is where we find the beginning of the reading for the triennial cycle (*Bereshit / Genesis 43:16-44:17*) for this week.

Before the brothers departed back to the land of Canaan, Yoseph secretly instructed his servants to place their money inside of their sacks of grain. When the brothers discovered the money, they returned. A second time Yoseph sent them home and secretly placed their money into their sacks but this time he placed his silver divination goblet inside of the sack of Benjamin (remember when they returned they brought Benjamin back with them). In the end, Judah offered himself and his brothers to be slaves in place of Benjamin, but Yoseph refused and insisted that Benjamin would be made a slave for the crime and the rest would go free.

One question that always comes to mind while reading these verses is when Yoseph had come into his powerful position, why did he not try to contact his family, or his dad Yaakov? How could Yaakov have allowed his father to mourn him for so long? It was certainly within Yoseph's ability to send a messenger to his father with the news that he was alive and well. Moshe ben Nahman Gerondi, known as Ramban (רמב"ן), suggests that Yoseph knew his dreams were prophetic and that the first dream of his eleven brothers bowing down to him needed to be fulfilled prior to the second dream which included his father bowing down to him also. He had to wait until all eleven brothers including Benjamin had come in order for the fulfillment of his dream is completed prior to asking his brothers to bring Yaakov to Egypt too. Other commentators have suggested that Yoseph needed to see if his brothers had repented of their sin against him and have changed their ways. Yoseph arranged that Benjamin be accused of theft to observe how his brothers would respond out of envy or whether they would fight for his release.

Bereshit / Genesis 44:13-16

44:13 Then they tore their clothes, and when each man loaded his donkey, they returned to the city. 44:14 When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there, and they fell to the ground before him. 44:15 Joseph said to them, 'What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?' 44:16 So Judah said, 'What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.' (NASB)

Bereshit / Genesis 44:16 undoubtedly relate to the selling of Yoseph. Judah understands that there is a connection between Yoseph being brought down to Egypt and Benyamin being brought down to Egypt too.

65 How do the events of Yoseph and his brothers lives apply to us today? When Yoseph came into power, he didn't choose to punish his brothers for what they had done by taking revenge. Yoseph took courage and faith applying them in his life to remain faithful to the Lord despite that it appeared that G-d had left or forgotten him. Evidence for his use of faith and courage is found in his behavior, Yoseph did right even when he was wronged or in danger. He learned to wait patiently on the Lord and to look to the Lord for everything. We need to have the courage as Yoseph did, to look to the Lord no matter the circumstance. A good part of faith is having the courage to believe regardless of what we see or what is happening to us in our lives. The easiest thing to do is to become angry and attempt to punish others for their crimes, physically or even emotionally. It is more difficult to allow the Lord to work in their lives, especially those of us who have close family who are living in sin. Yoseph realized the work that G-d has done in him and the opportunity G-d has given him to spare his family from the famine. He understands that he has received a blessing out of the situation that his brothers have put him into and that he is grateful to G-d instead of resentful of his brothers. Can you find the things you have been blessed in as a result of the situations you have been fallen into?

75 Most of the time it is difficult to do the right thing; it takes courage and faith to stand strong as the world beats you down. Just as in Yoseph's life, G-d is there to hold us up when we trust and rely upon him for support. If hard times, bitterness, resentment of others, or anger are some of the things that you struggle with, reread the story of Yoseph and learn from his courage. Remember also that the scriptures declare through Yeshua the Messiah we gain faith and hope in G-d. We also have a new relationship with G-d in the sense that He is not just an impartial judge but a Father we can call upon. We have a new home; no longer enslaved to sin, and especially the slavery of a hateful and revengeful heart which in the end is nothing but emptiness. We live a life of reverent fear (*1 Peter 1:17*) strangers of this world because we are citizens of heaven because of our faith in Yeshua (*Philippians. 3:20*). If you take courage and remain in faith through your trials, as Yoseph did, the Lord most assuredly has a blessing waiting for you at the end of your trials too.

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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