

# פרשת ויחי / Parashat Vayechi

Shabbat Tevet 16, 5769, January 2, 2009  
32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d  
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5

## Life's Perspective

### השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Genesis 47:28-50:26  
הפטרה: 1 Kings 2:1-12  
הברית: 1 Peter 1:1-9  
החדשה

10 This week's parsha recites the telling of the story of Yaakov and Yoseph's deaths. The scene, Yoseph's brothers come before him after the passing of their father Yaakov. They fear that without Yaakov's authority Yoseph will punish them for their sin (the act of selling him into slavery). The story tells us that  
15 Yoseph had a different perspective on life that we need to live with a perception of G-d, a perspective that keeps us humble and that keeps our perspective in our relationship with others humble as well. Yoseph was conscious of the presence of the Lord in his life and thus was able to describe to them what G-d had done. The purpose and meaning of Yoseph's troubles was for good and not for evil.

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## בְּרֵאשִׁית 50:18-21

18 אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתָי וַיִּבְכּוּ יוֹסֵף בְּדַבְרֵם אֵלָיו: וַיִּלְכוּ נִסְדָּאָחוּי  
19 וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֲנֵנוּ לָךְ לְעֲבָדִים: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים  
20 יוֹסֵף אֶל־תִּירְאוּ כִּי הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי: וְאַתֶּם חֲשַׁבְתֶּם  
עָלַי רָעָה אֱלֹהִים חֲשַׁבָה לְטוֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֶׂה בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה  
21 לְהַחֲיִיתַי עִם־דָּבָר: וְעַתָּה אֶל־תִּירְאוּ אֲנִי אֶכְלָל אֶתְכֶם  
22 וְאֶת־טַפְכֶּם וַיְנַחֵם אוֹתָם וַיְדַבֵּר עֲלֵיהֶם: וַיֵּשֶׁב יוֹסֵף

25 Verse 50:19, "But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?'" may suggest that Yoseph did not feel it was his right to judge his brothers for the evil deeds they had done. Yoseph evaluated the experiences and reality that became his life's story and had concluded that these things did not damage him but molded and formed him into the man that he was in that day. *Bereshit / Genesis 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."*  
30 Yoseph put his life into the larger context; if you have gone through similar troubles, are you able to place your life into the greater context like Yoseph did? If we can learn to place the things that happen to us into the larger context of our lives, we can learn to appreciate them, though not forgetting what has taken place,

### Bereshit / Genesis 50:18-23

50:18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, 'Behold, we are your servants.' 50:19 But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? 50:20 'As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. 50:21 'So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.' So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (NASB)

35 we can see the meaning and purpose of our lives to serve the Lord. In light of this  
week's study, consider the words of Kefa (Peter).

***1 Kefa / 1 Peter 1:1-9***

40 *1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens,  
scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,  
who are chosen 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by  
the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled  
with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. 1:3  
45 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to  
His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through  
the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1:4 to obtain an  
inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away,  
reserved in heaven for you, 1:5 who are protected by the power of God  
through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1:6 In  
50 this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary,  
you have been distressed by various trials, 1:7 so that the proof of your  
faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though  
tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the  
revelation of Jesus Christ; 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you  
55 love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you  
greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 1:9 obtaining as  
the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. (NASB)*

60 Peter speaks of hope, grace, peace, and mercy but in *1:6* he mentions the various  
trials we are faced in life. Persevering in faith through our trials appears to be that  
which proves and refines our faith (*1:7*). The trials are paralleled with that of a  
refiner's fire, where the metal worker (black smith) heats up iron and beats it into  
the desired shape. Through the trials we face in *1 Kefa / 1 Peter 1:8-9* we are told  
65 that though we don't see Yeshua, we love Him and believe in Him and that the  
outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

***1 Kefa / 1 Peter 4:12-13***

70 *4:12 Dear friends, don't regard as strange the fiery ordeal occurring  
among you to test you, as if something extraordinary were happening to  
you. 4:13 Rather, to the extent that you share the fellowship of the  
Messiah's sufferings, rejoice; so that you will rejoice even more when his  
Sh'khinah is revealed. (CJB)*

75 Peter understood something here about walking in the strength of our  
faith. Living a life that is pleasing to the Lord will most assuredly bring trials and  
sufferings. Though we may not be in control of the circumstances of life that  
bring suffering, we do control our reaction to the trials. Here Peter is saying our  
source and strength is in the Messiah Yeshua, and that the suffering in our own  
80 lives should properly influence us. Just like the suffering in Yoseph's life  
properly influenced him. This week's study, we need to reexamine our purpose  
and life in the midst of what has happened (trials) that may have caused us to be

angry at the Lord. The condition of our heart will lead us in the direction we walk in serving the Lord and in living out our faith. Take for example the motivation behind Torah observance; are you motivated by desiring to Honor G-d in the authority of His Word in your life or is your motivation more about publicizing your holiness? Scripture does not indicate that Yoseph publicized his holiness and obedience to the Lord; his walk before HaShem demonstrated his faith and we do not read that he in any way tried to raise himself up before his brothers though it may have seemed that way when he told his brothers about his dreams years prior. In closing, I would like to look at *John 13:34-35* and *15:6-7*.

***John 13:34-35***

*13:34 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 13:35 'By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.'* (NASB)

***John 15:6-17***

*15:6 'If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. 15:7 'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 15:8 'My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 15:9 'Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 15:10 'If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 15:11 'These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. 15:12 'This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. 15:13 'Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 15:14 'You are My friends if you do what I command you. 15:15 'No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. 15:16 'You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. 15:17 'This I command you, that you love one another. (NASB)*

In *John 15:6-17*, Yeshua said “*if you abide in Me and My words abide in you ... If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love ... This is my commandment that you love one another, just as I loved you ... You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit ... This I command you, that you love one another.*” It appears as if Yeshua is laying down a parallel between abiding in Him, keeping His commands, and loving one another. Yeshua is saying that we need to live together, in love, even though we may have differences in the way we live our lives for the Lord. The fact is we will always have our differences, the question is can we live in love in the midst of our differences? Yeshua indicated that this isn't something that is up for

130 debate, we must love one another, and it is a “command” for those who place  
their faith in Yeshua. Yoseph loved his brothers and provided for them in love.  
*Bereshit / Genesis 50:21 ‘So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you  
and your little ones.’ So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (NASB)*  
Shouldn’t we be able to do the same today?

135 Heavenly Father,

140 Help me to love my brothers and sisters in a way that brings honor and  
glory to the words of Yeshua. You have given me these stories of the great men  
in the Scriptures to help me to have a correct perspective on my own life and  
relationship with others. I want to do great things for your glory, and I want to  
begin by being your disciple through the way I show love to others. Help to  
increase the love that I have in my heart for others. Thank you for the gift of your  
Holy Word and the freedom to study and live out my faith so that I may know  
You better. In all things I give you the glory, the honor, and the praise.

145 In Yeshua’s name I pray. Amen.

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170 **Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

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הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,

“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever

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