

# פרשת ויצא / Parashat Vayetzei

Shabbat Kislev 9, 5769, December 6, 2008  
32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d  
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## Is G-d an active part of your life?

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

תורה: Genesis 28:10-32:3  
הפטרה: Hosea 12:13-14:10  
הברית: John 1:19-51  
החדשה

10 In this week's parsha, Parashat Vayetzei ("and he went out") we find Yaakov (Jacob) sees a dream prior to G-d calling him to return to Eretz Yisrael in *Bereshit / Genesis 31:10-13*. Recall the vision that Yaakov saw before leaving Eretz Yisrael of angels going up and down a ladder in *Bereshit / Genesis 28:12*. Can you identify any parallels or contrasts between these two visions? What kind of significance can you find?

15 Recall from *Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-22*, Yaakov (Jacob) Laid down in Bethel and saw in a dream a ladder that reached to heaven, and angels ascending and descending upon the ladder. HaShem makes a promise to Yaakov and he appears to exhibit doubt about the divine promise. Yaakov makes a neder (vow) saying "if" (and when) G-d fulfills His promise to return me to the Promised Land. Comparing HaShem's "hitgalut" (revelation) to Yaakov in *31:10-13* and *28:10-22* the Lord points out the male goats and also introduces himself differently in *31:10-13*. The important portion of scriptures is shown below:

### בראשית 31:10-14

10 וַיִּתֵּן לִי: וַיְהִי בַעַת יְחִם הַצֹּאֵן יֵאָשָׁא עֵינַי וְאָרָא בַחֲלוֹם  
וְהִנֵּה הָעֲתִידִים הָעֲלִים עַל-הַצֹּאֵן עֲקָדִים נִקְדָּים  
11 וְבָרְדִים: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי מִלֶּאֱלֹהִים בַּחֲלוֹם יַעֲקֹב  
12 וַאֲמַר הִנְנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׂאֵנָא עֵינֶיךָ וּרְאֵה כָּל-הָעֲתִידִים  
הָעֲלִים עַל-הַצֹּאֵן עֲקָדִים נִקְדָּים וְבָרְדִים כִּי רָאִיתִי אֶת  
13 כָּל-אֲשֶׁר לָבָן עָשָׂה לָּךְ: אֲנֹכִי הָאֵל בֵּית-אֵל אֲשֶׁר  
מְשַׁחֵת שֵׁם מִצְבֵּה אֲשֶׁר נִגְדַתְתָּ לִּי שֵׁם נִגְדַר עִתָּה קוֹם  
14 צֵא מִן-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת וְשׁוּב אֶל-אָרֶץ מוֹלְדֹתְךָ: וְתֵעַן  
רַחֵל וְלֵאָה וְהִאֲמַרְנָה לּוֹ הַעוֹד לָנוּ חֶלֶק וְנַחֲלָה  
15 בְּבֵית אָבִינוּ: הֲלוֹא נִכְרִיתָ נְחֻשְׁבָנוּ לּוֹ כִּי מִכְרַנּוּ

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### Bereshit / Genesis 31:10-14

31:10 'And it came about at the time when the flock were mating that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats which were mating were striped, speckled, and mottled. 31:11 'Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.' 31:12 'He said, 'Lift up now your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. 31:13 'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.' 31:14 Rachel and Leah said to him, 'Do we still have any portion or inheritance in our father's house?' (NASB)

בראשית 28:10-14

10 בְּרִאֲבָרָהֶם אָחוֹת נְכוּיֹת עַל־נַשְׂיוֹ לֹ לְאִשָּׁה: וַיֵּצֵא  
 11 יַעֲקֹב מִבְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חֲרָנָה: וַיִּפְּנֶעַ בַּמָּקוֹם וַיֵּלֶן שָׁם  
 כִּי־בָא הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּקַּח מֵאֲבָנֵי הַמָּקוֹם וַיִּשֶׂם מִרְאֲשֵׁתוֹ  
 12 וַיִּשְׁכַּב בַּמָּקוֹם הַהוּא: וַיִּחַלֵּם וְהִנֵּה סֹלֶם מִצֵּב אֶרְצָה  
 וְרֹאשׁוֹ מַגִּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְהִנֵּה מַלְאֲכֵי אֱלֹהִים עֹלִים  
 13 וְיֹרְדִים בּוֹ: וְהִנֵּה יְהוָה נֹצֵב עָלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי  
 אֲבֹרָהֶם אָבִיךָ וְאֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה שֹׁכֵב  
 14 עָלֶיהָ לָךְ אֶתְנַנֶּה וְלִוְרַעְיָךְ: וְהָיָה וְרַעְיָךְ כַּעֲפֹר הָאָרֶץ  
 וַפָּרְצֵת יָמָה וְקִדְמָה וְצַפְנָה וְנִגְבָּה וּנְבָרְכֻוּ בְּךָ כָּל־  
 15 מְשֻׁפָּחַת הָאָרֶץ וּבִוְרַעְיָךְ: וְהִנֵּה אֲנֹכִי עֹמֵד וְשֹׁמְרֵתֶיךָ  
 בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־תֵּלֶךְ וְהִשְׁבַּתֶיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת כִּי לֹא  
 אֶעֱזָבְךָ עַד אֲשֶׁר אִם־עָשִׂיתִי אֶת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי לָךְ:  
 16 וַיִּיקָץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲכֵן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה  
 17 וְאֲנֹכִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי: וַיִּירָא וַיֹּאמֶר מִה־נִּוְרָא הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה  
 18 אֵין זֶה כִּי אִם־בֵּית אֱלֹהִים וְזֶה שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם: וַיִּשְׁכֶם  
 יַעֲקֹב בַּבֶּקֶר וַיִּקַּח אֶת־הָאֲבָן אֲשֶׁר־שָׂם מִרְאֲשֵׁתוֹ וַיִּשֶׂם

Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-19

28:10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 28:11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 28:12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 28:13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 28:14 'Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 28:15 'Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' 28:16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.' 28:17 He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' 28:18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on its top. (NASB)

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Biblical hermeneutics is defined as the development and study of theories of the interpretation and understanding of the biblical texts. When I look at the Hebrew text I do not follow any particular method or theory of the interpretation of the texts. I don't have a specific system or method that I use outside of making a comparison of the text and outlining points, similarities, differences, parallels, etc. In this week's portion, we reach another major turning point of Yaakov's life as G-d calls him to return to the Eretz Yisrael (Promised Land). I thought it would be interesting to make a comparison between the promises G-d gave to Yaakov prior to leaving the land to that of his returning to the land. Perhaps there is a connection that is highly relevant to our lives today which is not immediately evident until the scriptures are carefully considered. The following summary lists a few important points I feel are important for this week's discussion.

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## Comparison Summary

### *Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-22*

1. Ladder from heaven, angels ascending and descending upon the ladder from heaven. A gateway to heaven.
2. G-d's introduction to Yaakov, "I am the G-d of your fathers ..."

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### *Bereshit / Genesis 31:10-13*

1. The angel of the Lord points out the male goats mating and specifically the stripped and spotted coats.
2. G-d's introduction to Yaakov, "I am the G-d from Bethel ..."

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In *Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-22*, G-d gave Yaakov a vision of the angels of G-d ascending and descending upon a ladder. The implication of the vision is G-d will provide a way for us to have a vertical relationship with Him where (i) He will be revealing himself to us and the world and (ii) we will have a connection to Him through a very real relationship. In Bethel (the house of G-d) G-d is going to make a place where He can be recognized and the authority of His Word can spread out. The centrality of this is in the life of every believer.

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As G-d revealed Himself to Yaakov, He told Yaakov that He was the G-d of his fathers, Avraham and Yitzchak (Isaac). "I am the G-d of your fathers ..." G-d revealed himself in a familiar manner since Yitzchak (Isaac) certainly has shared with his son his various encounters with the Most High G-d. The nature and the purpose of this encounter with G-d is realized in this week's parsha *Bereshit / Genesis 31:10-13*, primarily in Yaakov's relationship with G-d.

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In *Bereshit / Genesis 31:10-13*, G-d introduces himself as "the G-d from Bethel" making a connection to the revelation that was given to Yaakov at that time (*Bereshit / Genesis 28:10-22*). In the call to return to the Promised Land G-d also directs Yaakov's attention to the male goats which are mating and points out their stripped and spotted coats. While Yaakov worked for Laban, Laban changed his wages ten times (review *Bereshit / Genesis 30:37-42*). Yaakov told Laban that if the G-d of his father's had not been with him, he would have sent him away empty. G-d's working in Yaakov's life is demonstrated when Yaakov took stripped rods and depending upon which type of coated animal were his wages he would place the rods before the animals while they mated and the goat babies would be stripped. The use of the rods is obviously not scientifically possible which means one thing that G-d worked a miracle to prosper Yaakov. God revealed to Yaakov that he was with him pointing out the striped and ringed coats in the vision of *Bereshit / Genesis 31:10-13*.

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Yaakov learned after these twenty years that the promised blessings of G-d could not be brought about by his own cunning. It was by G-d's mercy Yaakov was blessed even in the midst of his affliction. G-d also used this time of affliction to humble him. We should learn by Yaakov's example, let me explain.

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**Question:** Why would G-d point out the stripped and spotted coats?

Laban said that thou art my brother, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me what shall be your wages? Apparently this sounds nice but actually Laban was telling Yaakov that he should not eat his food for free, that he should work a little and that he would give a little money. Laban was only putting it a nice way. In the past Yaakov had been a son at home. Now he had to be a hired worker. This was G-d's discipline through environment. In Yaakov's life G-d's disciplining brought about his maturity and faith. Are you able to recognize G-d's disciplining role in your life today?

The way in which Yaakov brought the spotted sheep into his flock is also very instructive. Yaakov placed rods before the eyes so the sheep would be mottled and spotted character so by this means they were to come to birth and are given life. Yaakov stepped out in faith by the use of the rods and in the same way we need to step out in faith ourselves and begin by studying the Bible for guidance. Regular Bible study saturates us with knowledge of HaShem's word which helps to condition our minds keeping us on the right path. Studying HaShem's word is important because He does not guide us contrary to what His written word says. We can learn from the mistakes in the lives of people which are recorded in the Bible such as Yaakov.

In conclusion, Hashem does not guide us contrary to what His written Word says but without digging sometimes scripture may appear to be vague. For example, in *John 1:29-51*, Yeshua (Jesus) links his discussion with Nathanael with the patriarch Yaakov and the dream he had. Yeshua told Nathanael and the other disciples they will see heaven opened up and angels ascending and descending on the son of man. Now, if we read through the entire bible, we find no mention of angels ascending and descending on Yeshua so what exactly is Yeshua trying to say in *John 1:51*? The dream of the ladder with angels ascending and descending is a picture of G-d establishing a line of communication between heaven and earth. In this context we know Yeshua opened up a relationship with HaShem to all mankind to all of those who would believe upon him and his shed blood. Yeshua enables a very real, living relationship with G-d and provides us access in prayer to the Most High G-d of Yisrael.

שַׁעַר הַשָּׁמַיִם (the gate to heaven) Bethel, when Yaakov woke from his dream of the ladder to heaven, in *Bereshit / Genesis 28*, he was amazed and called the place Bethel (the house of G-d) and Sha'ar hashamayim (Gate of Heaven). Yeshua referenced this ladder when he met Nathanael. In this passage Yeshua makes explicit reference to Yaakov's dream in Bethel. Yeshua tells Nathanael that He is the ladder to G-d, the true sha'ar hashamayim (Gate of Heaven), the way into Heaven.

***John 14:6***

*14:6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (NASB)*

If you would like to have a very real, living relationship with G-d and be assured of this you can by placing your faith in G-d's Messiah Yeshua. Say the following prayer with me.

140 Heavenly Father,

145 I praise and glorify your Holy Name and thank you Lord for the ability and  
freedom to study your Holy Word. Through studying your Word I come to  
realize Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah and the only way to Heaven. Thank you for  
the amazing love that you have for me by providing for me a way to receive  
150 forgiveness of my sins in the blood of your Messiah Yeshua. Please Lord have  
mercy upon my soul. I believe that Yeshua is your Messiah, savior, king, and I  
want him to become Lord of my life. Please Lord forgive me of my sins because  
of the atonement you have made in Yeshua's blood. Yeshua I ask that you would  
come into my heart to be Lord of my life. Help me Lord to now be a light unto  
the world and thank you for making me a part of your eternal family.

I pray all this in Yeshua's name. Amen!

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**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