



Vayeishev– He Continued Living Gen. 37:1-40:23

Haftarah – Amos 2:6-3:8

B'rit Hadashah- Matthew 1:1-6,16-25

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God is in Control even amid adversity He is watching over us!

Parshah Overview:

Vayeishev in a Nutshell

Genesis 37:1–40:23

Jacob settles in Hebron with his twelve sons. His favorite is seventeen-year-old **Joseph**, whose brothers are jealous of the preferential treatment he receives from his father, such as a precious **many-colored coat** that Jacob makes for Joseph. Joseph relates to his brothers two of his **dreams** which foretell that he is destined to rule over them, increasing their envy and hatred towards him.

Simeon and **Levi** plot to kill him, but **Reuben** suggests that they throw him into a pit instead, intending to come back later and save him. While Joseph is in the pit, **Judah** has him sold to a band of passing **Ishmaelites**. The brothers dip Joseph's special coat in the blood of a goat and show it to their father, leading him to believe that his most beloved son was devoured by a wild beast.

Judah marries and has three children. The eldest, **Er**, dies young and childless, and his wife, **Tamar**, is given in levirate marriage to the second son, **Onan**. Onan sins by spilling his seed, and he too meets an early death. Judah is reluctant to have his third son marry her. Determined to have a child from Judah's family, Tamar disguises herself as a prostitute and seduces Judah himself. Judah hears that his daughter-in-law has become pregnant and orders her executed for harlotry, but when Tamar produces some personal effects he left with her as a pledge for payment, he publicly admits that he is the father. Tamar gives birth to twin sons, **Peretz** (an ancestor of King David) and **Zerach**.

Joseph is taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, the minister in charge of **Pharaoh's** slaughterhouses. G-d blesses everything he does, and soon he is made overseer of all his master's property. **Potiphar's wife** desires the handsome and charismatic lad; when Joseph rejects her advances, she tells her husband that the Hebrew slave tried to force himself on her, and has him thrown into **prison**. Joseph gains the trust and admiration of his jailers, who appoint him to a position of authority in the prison administration.

In prison, Joseph meets Pharaoh's **chief butler** and **chief baker**, both incarcerated for offending their royal master. Both have disturbing **dreams**, which Joseph interprets; in three days, he tells

them, the butler will be released and the baker hanged. Joseph asks the butler to intercede on his behalf with Pharaoh. Joseph's predictions are fulfilled, but the butler **forgets** all about Joseph and does nothing for him.¹

- Gen 37:1** Now Jacob dwelled in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan.
- Gen 37:2 These are the genealogies of Jacob. When Joseph was 17 years old (he was a youth), he was shepherding the flocks with his brothers—with the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father.
- Gen 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons because he was the son of his old age. So he had made him a long-sleeved tunic.
- Gen 37:4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak to him in shalom.
- Gen 37:5 Then Joseph dreamed a dream and told his brothers—and they hated him even more.
- Gen 37:6 He said to them, "Please listen to this dream I dreamed.
- Gen 37:7 There we were binding sheaves in the middle of the field. All of a sudden, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf."
- Gen 37:8 Will you truly be a king over us?" his brothers said to him. "Will you really rule over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and because of his words.
- Gen 37:9 But then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, "I have just dreamed another dream. Suddenly, there was the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowing down to me!"
- Gen 37:10 He told it to his father as well as his brothers. Then his father rebuked him and said to him, "What's this dream you dreamed? Will we really come—your mother and I with your brothers—to bow down to the ground to you?"
- Gen 37:11 So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the speech in mind.
- Gen 37:12 Then his brothers went to graze their father's flocks at Shechem.
- Gen 37:13 Israel said to Joseph, "Aren't your brothers grazing the flocks in Shechem? Come, let me send you to them." "Here I am," he said to him.
- Gen 37:14 Then he said to him, "Go now, and check on the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flocks and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron and he went to Shechem.
- Gen 37:15 A man found him there, wandering in the field, and the man asked him, "What are you looking for?"
- Gen 37:16 "I'm looking for my brothers," he said. "Please tell me where they're grazing."
- Gen 37:17 The man said, "They moved on from here. For I heard them saying, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.
- Gen 37:18 Now they saw him from a distance. Before he was close to them they plotted together against him in order to kill him.
- Gen 37:19 They said to one another, "Here comes the master of dreams!
- Gen 37:20 Come on now! Let's kill him and throw him into one of those pits, so we can say that an evil animal devoured him. Then let's see what becomes of his dreams."

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Gen 37:21 But Reuben heard and rescued him out of their hands, saying, “We must not beat him to death.”

Gen 37:22 In order to rescue him from their hand and to return him to his father, Reuben said to them, “Don’t shed blood! Throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him!”

Gen 37:23 So as soon as Joseph came up to his brothers they stripped Joseph of his tunic (the long sleeved tunic that he had on).

Gen 37:24 Then they took him and threw him into the pit. (Now the pit was empty, with no water in it.)

Gen 37:25 Then they sat down to eat bread. When they looked up, behold, there was a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balsam, and myrrh—going to bring them down to Egypt.

Gen 37:26 Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is there if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come on!

Gen 37:27 Let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites. Let’s not lay our hand on him—since he’s our brother, our own flesh.” His brothers listened to him.

Gen 37:28 When some men, Midianite merchants, passed by, they dragged Joseph up and out of the pit and they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt.

Gen 37:29 When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes.

Gen 37:30 Then he returned to his brothers and said, “The boy is gone! And I—where should I go?”

Gen 37:31 So they took Joseph’s tunic, slaughtered a billy goat, and they dipped the tunic into the blood.

Gen 37:32 Then they sent the long-sleeved tunic, and it was brought to their father, and they said, “We found this. Do you recognize whether or not it is your son’s tunic?”

Gen 37:33 He did recognize it and said, “My son’s tunic! An evil animal has devoured him! Joseph must be torn to pieces!”

Gen 37:34 Jacob tore his clothing and put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.

Gen 37:35 All his sons got up along with all his daughters to console him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, “For I will go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” So his father kept weeping for him.

Gen 37:36 Meanwhile the Midianites sold him into Egypt, to Potiphar an official of Pharaoh, the commander of the bodyguards.

Gen 39:1 Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt. Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, commander of the bodyguards, bought him from the hand of the Ishmaelites, who had brought him down there.

Gen 39:2 But Adonai was with Joseph. So he became a successful man in the house of his master, the Egyptian.

Gen 39:3 His master saw that Adonai was with him and that Adonai made everything he set his hand to successful.

Gen 39:4 Joseph found favor in his eyes, so he served him as a personal servant and he made him an overseer over his household; everything that was his he entrusted into his hand.

Gen 39:5 From the time that he made him an overseer in his house and over everything that belonged to him, Adonai blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph; Adonai's blessing was on everything that belonged to him, in the house and in the field.

Gen 39:6 So he released everything he owned into Joseph's hand. With him in charge, he did not think about anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and handsome in appearance.

Gen 39:7 Now after these things, the master's wife lifted up her eyes at Joseph and said, "Come, lie down with me!"

Gen 39:8 But he refused. "Look," he said to his master's wife, "my master doesn't think about anything in the house with me in charge, and everything that belongs to him he's entrusted into my hand.

Gen 39:9 No one in this house is greater than I, and he has withheld nothing from me—except you, because you are his wife. So how could I commit this great evil and sin against God?"

Gen 39:10 So whenever she spoke to Joseph, day after day, he did not listen to her invitation to lie down beside her, to be with her.

Gen 39:11 Now on one such day, he came into the house to do his work, and none of the people of the house were there in the house.

Gen 39:12 Then she grabbed him by his garment saying, "Come, lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand, fled and went outside.

Gen 39:13 When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,

Gen 39:14 she screamed to the men of her house and said to them, "Look! Someone brought a Hebrew man to us to fool with us. He approached me to lie with me so I screamed out loud.

Gen 39:15 When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his garment with me, fled and went outside."

Gen 39:16 Then she kept the garment with her until his master came home.

Gen 39:17 She spoke the same words to him saying, "The Hebrew slave that you brought us approached me to fool with me.

Gen 39:18 When I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment with me and fled outside."

Gen 39:19 Now when his master heard the words his wife spoke to him saying, "Such are the things your slave did to me," his anger burned.

Gen 39:20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. So there he was, in the prison.

Gen 39:21 But Adonai was with Joseph and extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the eyes of the commander of the prison.

Gen 39:22 The commander of the prison entrusted into Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison, so that everything that was done there, he was responsible for it.

Gen 39:23 The commander of the prison did not concern himself with anything at all under his care, because Adonai was with him, and Adonai made whatever he did successful.

The Story of Joseph, probably one of the greatest Bible Adventures in the Scriptures. Joseph is an example of humility and faith, even in the face of adversity. His life is a picture of hope instead of despair and a faith in God that helped him to overcome every obstacle that would cause a lesser man to fall away from His creator.

As a young man, Joseph was very spiritual, possibly the most spiritual of all his brothers. He was given 2 dreams, a prophetic picture of his future, however, being only 17 he did not have the wisdom to hide these things in his heart. But then, since God knows the end from the beginning, was this His plan all along to send Joseph to Egypt? I believe it was, because in hindsight we can see the hand of God in every situation that Joseph faced.

Joseph was placed in a total pagan environment, and his faith was tested to the max, however even amid a land filled with perversion and idolatry, Joseph held fast to his faith, his morals and his destiny.

In this Torah portion, Joseph faces false accusations and is put into prison from false accusations of Potiphar's wife.

Joseph maintains his dignity and faith and is appointed as prison administrator.

What can we learn from this? That even when we are betrayed and falsely accused, if we remain faithful to God even in the worst of circumstances, He will perfect that which concerns us and turn the tables on our enemies.

How many times have believers faced adverse situations and have become bitter, or even turned away from God? How have we reacted to negative situations in our lives? Joseph is a picture of what a Disciple/Talmidim of Yeshua should look like and how we should act like during times of testing and trials.

It is during times of testing and trials, that our faith is strengthened, and it is during these times we need to trust that His Word is true and that we will fulfill the plans and purposes he has for us to carry out in this life.

Are we double minded and unstable or are we strong in faith?²

James 1:1 Jacob, a slave of God and of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah, To the twelve tribes in the Diaspora: Shalom!

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all without hesitation and without reproach; and it will be given to him.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, without any doubting—for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

James 1:7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord—

James 1:8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Do we believe that all things will work together for our good?

Rom 8:28 Now we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

² All Scriptures from the Tree of Life Version

Joseph had to learn the discipline of faith and trust in God. Do we become bitter or better in our walk with YHVH when we face adverse situations?

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also get rid of every weight and entangling sin. Let us run with endurance the race set before us, Heb 12:2 focusing on Yeshua, the initiator and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame; and He has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12:3 Consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and lose heart.

Heb 12:4 In struggling against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of bloodshed.

Heb 12:5 Have you forgotten the warning addressed to you as sons? “My son, do not take lightly the discipline of Adonai or lose heart when you are corrected by Him,

Heb 12:6 because Adonai disciplines the one He loves and punishes every son He accepts.”

Heb 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure. God is treating you as sons—for what son does a father not discipline?

Heb 12:8 But if you are without discipline—something all have come to share—then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Heb 12:9 Besides, we are used to having human fathers as instructors—and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

Heb 12:10 Indeed, for a short time they disciplined us as seemed best to them; but He does so for our benefit, so that we may share in His holiness.

Heb 12:11 Now all discipline seems painful at the moment—not joyful. But later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Heb 12:12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble!

Heb 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame will not be pulled out of joint but rather be healed.

Heb 12:14 Pursue shalom with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Heb 12:15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God; and see to it that no bitter root springs up and causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Are we strong in faith during times of testing? These great men and woman of God that are mentioned in Hebrews Hall of Faith stood strong. It is a worthy Bible study to read about these men and woman of God who did not waiver, but trusted in God even amid the fiery trials and even death they stood strong in faith and trust.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of realities not seen.

Heb 11:2 For by it the elders received commendation.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen did not come from anything visible.

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain. Through faith he was commended as righteous when God approved of his gifts. And through faith he still speaks, although he is dead.

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken so as not to see death, and he was not found because God took him. For before he was taken, he was commended as pleasing to God.

Heb 11:6 Now without faith it is impossible to please God. For the one who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about events not yet seen, in holy fear prepared an ark for the safety of his household. Through faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place he was to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going.

Heb 11:9 By faith he migrated to the land of promise as if it were foreign, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob—fellow heirs of the same promise.

Heb 11:10 For he was waiting for the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Heb 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive when she was barren and past the age, since she considered the One who had made the promise to be faithful.

Heb 11:12 So from one—and him as good as dead—were fathered offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, and as uncountable as the sand on the seashore.

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith without receiving the things promised—but they saw them and welcomed them from afar, and they confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on the earth.

Heb 11:14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

Heb 11:15 If indeed they had been thinking about where they had come from, they would have had opportunity to return.

Heb 11:16 But as it is, they yearn for a better land—that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. Yes, he who had received the promises was offering up his one and only son—

Heb 11:18 the one about whom it was said, “Through Isaac offspring shall be named for you.”

Heb 11:19 He reasoned that God was able to raise him up even from the dead—and in a sense, he did receive him back from there.

Heb 11:20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even concerning things to come.

Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and he bowed in worship while leaning on the top of his staff.

Heb 11:22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, made mention of the exodus of Bnei-Yisrael and gave instructions about his bones.

Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was an extraordinary child and they were not afraid of the king’s decree.

Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.

Heb 11:25 Instead he chose to suffer mistreatment along with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

Heb 11:26 He considered the disgrace of Messiah as greater riches than the treasures of Egypt—because he was looking ahead to the reward.

Heb 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger—for he persevered as if seeing the One who is invisible.

Heb 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the smearing of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch them.

Heb 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as if on dry ground. When the Egyptians tried it, they were swallowed up.

Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were circled for seven days.

Heb 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she welcomed the spies with shalom.

Heb 11:32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets.

Heb 11:33 By faith they conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,

Heb 11:34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, and made foreign armies flee.

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised back to life; and others were tortured, after not accepting release, so they might obtain a better resurrection.

Heb 11:36 Others experienced the trial of mocking and scourging—yes, and even chains and prison.

Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were murdered with the sword. They went around in sheepskins and goatskins; they were destitute, afflicted, mistreated.

Heb 11:38 The world was not worthy of them! They wandered around in deserts and mountains, caves and holes in the ground.

Heb 11:39 And all these, though commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised—

Heb 11:40 because God had provided something better for us, so that only with us would they reach perfection.

May we continue to grow in our faith and our faithfulness to Messiah Yeshua so that we could be counted worthy to stand before Him and hear these words.

Mat 25:31 “Now when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Mat 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Mat 25:33 And He will put the sheep on His right, but the goats on His left.

Mat 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Mat 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in;

Mat 25:36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

Mat 25:37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You? Or thirsty and give You something to drink?’

Mat 25:38 And when did we see You a stranger and invite You in? Or naked and clothe You?’

Mat 25:39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

Mat 25:40 “And answering, the King will say to them, ‘Amen, I tell you, whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

Mat 25:41 Then He will also say to those on the left, 'Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.

Mat 25:42 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink;

Mat 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Mat 25:44 "Then they too will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not care for You?'

Mat 25:45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Amen, I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.'

Mat 25:46 These shall go off to everlasting punishment, but the righteous into everlasting life."

Words of Wisdom Corrie Ten Boom, who experienced horrors of the Holocaust, but kept her faith in God, even while being held in a Nazi prison death camp;

"You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have."

"Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart."

"Happiness isn't something that depends on our surroundings...it's something we make inside ourselves."

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

"In darkness God's truth shines most clear."

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest."

"It is not my ability, but my response to God's ability that counts."

"There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still."

"If God sends us on stony paths, he provides strong shoes."

"Worry is like a rocking chair: it keeps you moving but doesn't get you anywhere."

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible."

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

Amen!