

Stollen Moments – Vayeshev – December 21, 2024

PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- Jacob prepares to meet Esau. He wrestles with a "man," who changes Jacob's name to Israel. (32:4-33)
- Jacob and Esau meet and part peacefully, each going his separate way. (33:1-17)
- Dinah is raped by Shechem, the son of Hamor the Hivite, who was chief of the country. Jacob's sons Simeon and Levi take revenge by murdering all the males of Shechem, and Jacob's other sons join them in plundering the city. (34:1-31)
- Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin and is buried in Ephrah, which is present-day Bethlehem. (35:16-21)
- Isaac dies and is buried in Hebron. Jacob's and Esau's progeny are listed. (35:22-36:43)

Genesis 33

וַיֵּשֶׂא יַעֲקֹב עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה עֹשֶׂוּ בָּא וְעַמּוֹ אַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת אִישׁ וַיַּחַץ אֶת-הַיְלָדִים עַל-לְאָה וְעַל-רָחֵל וְעַל שְׁתֵּי הַשְּׁפָחוֹת: וַיֵּשֶׂם אֶת-הַשְּׁפָחוֹת וְאֶת-יְלִדֵיהֶן רְאִשִּׁינָה וְאֶת-לְאָה וַיְלִדֶיהָ אַחֲרָנִים וְאֶת-רָחֵל וְאֶת-יוֹסֵף אַחֲרָנִים: וְהוּא עֹבֵר לִפְנֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַרְצָה שְׁבַע פְּעָמִים עַד-גִּשְׁתּוֹ עַד-אַחֲיוֹ: וַיֵּרֶץ עֹשֶׂוּ לִקְרֹאתוֹ וַיִּסְבְּלוּהוּ וַיִּפֹּל עַל-צוּנָרוֹ וַיִּשְׁקָהוּ וַיִּבְכּוּ: וַיֵּשֶׂא אֶת-עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא אֶת-הַנְּשִׁים וְאֶת-הַיְלָדִים וַיֹּאמֶר מִי-אַלֶּה לָךְ וַיֹּאמֶר הַיְלָדִים אֲשֶׁר-חָנַן אֱלֹהִים אֶת-עַבְדְּךָ: וַתִּגְשֶׁן הַשְּׁפָחוֹת הַנָּה וַיְלִדֵיהֶן וַתִּשְׁתַּחוּיָן: וַתִּגְשֶׁן גַּם-לְאָה וַיְלִדֶיהָ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּיָן וְאַחַר גִּישָׁן יוֹסֵף וְרָחֵל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּיָן: וַיֹּאמֶר מִי לָךְ כָּל-הַמַּחְנָה הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר פָּגַשְׁתִּי וַיֹּאמֶר לְמַצְאֵתִי בְּעֵינַי אֲדֹנָי: וַיֹּאמֶר עֹשֶׂוּ יֵשׁ-לִי רֵב אֲחִי יְהִי לָךְ אֲשֶׁר-לָךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֶל-נָא אִם-נָא מִצְאָתִי חוֹן בְּעֵינֶיךָ וְלִקְחַתָּ מִנִּחְתִּי מִיָּדַי כִּי עַל-כֵּן רָאִיתִי פְּנֶיךָ כִּרְאֵת פְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים וַתִּרְצָנִי: קַח-נָא אֶת-בְּרִכְתִּי אֲשֶׁר הִבָּאת לָךְ כִּי-חַנְּנִי אֱלֹהִים וְכִי יֵשׁ-לִי-כָּל וַיִּפְצַר-בּוֹ וַיִּקַּח: וַיֹּאמֶר גִּסְעָה וְנִלְכָה וְנִלְכָה לְנַגְדְּךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדֹנָי יְדַע כִּי-הַיְלָדִים רַבִּים וְהִצָּאוּ וְהִבְקָרוּ עָלוֹת עָלַי וּדְפְקוּם יוֹם אֶחָד וַמָּתוּ כָּל-הִצָּאוֹן: יַעֲבֹר-נָא אֲדֹנָי לִפְנֵי עַבְדְּךָ וְאֲנִי אֶתְנַהֲלָה לְאִטִּי לְרֶגֶל הַמְּלָאכָה אֲשֶׁר-לִפְנֵי וְלְרֶגֶל הַיְלָדִים עַד אֲשֶׁר-אָבֵא אֶל-אֲדֹנָי שְׁעִירָה: וַיֹּאמֶר עֹשֶׂוּ אֲצִיגֶה-נָא עִמָּךְ מִן-הָעַם אֲשֶׁר אִתִּי וַיֹּאמֶר לָמָּה זֶה אֲמַצְאֵתִי בְּעֵינַי אֲדֹנָי: וַיֵּשֶׁב בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא עֹשֶׂוּ לְדַרְכּוֹ שְׁעִירָה: וַיַּעֲקֹב נָסַע סֹכְתָה וַיִּבֶן לּוֹ בַּיִת וַלְמַקְנֵהוּ עָשָׂה סֹכֶת עַל-כֵּן קָרָא שְׁם-הַמָּקוֹם סֹכּוֹת: {ס}

1 Looking up, Jacob saw Esau coming, with a retinue of four hundred. He divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maids, 2 putting the maids and their children first, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 He himself went on ahead and bowed low to the ground seven times until he was near his brother. 4 Esau ran to greet him. He embraced him and, falling on his neck, he kissed him; and they wept. 5 Looking about, he saw the women and the children. "Who," he asked, "are these with you?" He answered, "The children with whom God has favored your servant." 6 Then the maids, with their children, came forward and bowed low; 7 next Leah, with her children, came forward and bowed low; and last, Joseph and Rachel came forward and bowed low. 8 And he asked, "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?" He answered, "To gain my lord's favor." 9 Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; let what you have remain yours." 10 But Jacob said, "No, I pray you; if you would do me this favor, accept from me this gift; for to see your face is like seeing the face of God, and you have received me favorably. 11 Please accept my present which has been brought to you, for God has favored me and I have plenty." And when he urged him, he accepted. 12 And [Esau] said, "Let us start on our journey, and I will proceed at your pace." 13 But he said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing, are a care to me; if they are driven hard a single day, all the flocks will die. 14 Let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I travel slowly, at the pace of the cattle before me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir." 15 Then Esau said, "Let me assign to you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "Oh no, my lord is too kind to me!" 16 So Esau started back that day on his way to Seir. 17 But Jacob journeyed on to Succoth, and built a house for himself and made stalls for his cattle; that is why the place was called Succoth.

Commentaries

Bereshit Rabbah 78:10

(10) And Esau ran to meet him... and kissed him- the word "kissed" is dotted. Said R' Shimon Ben Eleazar: (...) Teaches that on that moment he was moved and kissed him with all his heart. Rabbi Yannai said to him: If so, why is ['kissed'] dotted? On the contrary, it teaches that [Esau] came not to kiss [Jacob] but to bite him, but our ancestor Jacob's neck became like marble and that wicked man's teeth were blunted. Hence, 'and they wept' teaches that [Jacob] wept because of his neck and [Esau] wept because of his teeth.

Kli Yakar on Genesis 33:9:1

(1) And Esau said I have much. Meaning much, but not everything, and Jacob said G-d blessed me and I have everything, because the wicked even if they have all the silver and gold in the World, they still feel missing, and they have much, but not all they need, therefore said Esau I have much, but not everything, because still there is something missing. If he has a hundred in his hand, he desires two hundred. The righteous, on the other hand, even if they have little on their hands, they are satisfied and happy with their share, and it looks to them as if they have everything.