

KS2 Children's Service Guide

Parasha: Vayishlach

Shabbat Info

Hebrew date: 19th Kislev, 5784

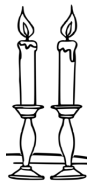
Gregorian date: 1st – 2nd December, 2023

London Shabbat times: 15:40 – 16:48

Special events: n/a

Upcoming events in the week: Chanukah on Thursday night

Enquiries: info@tribeuk.com



Parasha Thinking



- 1) How do you think Ya'akov felt, knowing that Esav was on his way with 400 generals?
- 2) What was the point of Ya'akov splitting his family into two camps?
- 3) How does the word, animal, link to the Parasha?

Key Parasha Information

Summary

Ya'akov (Jacob) returned to Cena'an (now known as Israel), the place where he grew up, after 20 years in Charan and sent messengers to Esav, to see how Esav felt about him these days and in hope of making peace. The messengers reported that his brother, Esav, is on the way with 400 generals. Ya'akov prepared for war in three ways; he prayed to Hashem for the safety of his family, sent Esav a generous gift of sheep and goats – perhaps this will appease him and he split his family into two groups and hid them both. These were his strategies.

That night, Ya'akov and his family crossed the Yabok River and when they all settled he noticed that they'd left behind some jars, in their previous location. He crossed the river alone and returned to collect the jars. When he was there, he met the angel that protects Esav and wrestled with him, until sunrise. Ya'akov's hip was dislocated and the angel wanted to return to Hashem. Ya'akov asked the angel for a blessing and the angel blessed him with the name Yisrael, meaning, "he who prevails over the divine."

Ya'akov and Esav met each other and embrace. Esav said he'd walk back with Ya'akov's family, to see their dad but Ya'akov didn't want him to be a bad influence on his children so he convinced Esav to go ahead. Ya'akov bought a lot of land near Shechem.

Ya'akov continued his journey and tragically, his wife, Rachel died while giving birth to her second son, Binyamin (Benjamin). She isn't buried in the cave of Machpela, along with the other Avot and Imahot (forefathers and foremothers), she was buried in a roadside grave near Beit Lechem (Bethlehem). Soon after, Reuben lost his birthright. Ya'akov arrived in Chevron (Hebron), to visit his father, Yitzchak (Isaac), and he died a while later, at 180 years old. His Mum, Rivka (Rebecca) passed away before he arrived.

Meanwhile, Esav had many wives, children and grandchildren and settled in Se'ir.

Discovery

Did you know that some commentators praise Ya'akov for going back to collect the jars and say he was righteous in doing so but some say for someone so righteous, a few jars should not have concerned him.

Did you know that each general that Esav brought was in charge of 400 soldiers, so there 160,400 men were charging towards Ya'akov and his family.

Did you know that the way Ya'akov convinced Esav to go ahead was he said that he has little children with little legs, so they walk much more slowly and he doesn't want to slow Esav down. This was the truth but his main aim was to protect his family from learning from Esav's ways.

