

Stollen Moments – Vayeshev – December 21, 2024

PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- Jacob is shown to favor his son Joseph, whom the other brothers resent. Joseph has dreams of grandeur. (Genesis 37:1-11)
- After Joseph's brothers had gone to tend the flocks in Shechem, Jacob sends Joseph to report on them. The brothers decide against murdering Joseph but instead sell him into slavery. After he is shown Joseph's coat of many colors, which had been dipped in the blood of a kid, Jacob is led to believe that Joseph has been killed by a beast. (Genesis 37:12-35)
- Tamar successively marries two of Judah's sons, each of whom dies. Judah does not permit her levirate marriage to his youngest son. She deceives Judah into impregnating her. (Genesis 38:1-30)
- God is with Joseph in Egypt until the wife of his master, Potiphar, accuses him of rape, whereupon Joseph is imprisoned. (Genesis 39:1-40:23)

Genesis 37

וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מִגְוָרֵי אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: אֵלֶּה | תְּלֻדֹת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בֶּן־שִׁבְעֵ־עָשָׂר שָׁנָה הָיָה רֹעֵה אֶת־אֶחָיו בְּצֹאֵן וְהוּא נָעַר אֶת־בְּנֵי בְלֵהָה וְאֶת־בְּנֵי זִלְפָּה וְנָשֵׂי אָבִיו וַיִּבְא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דְּבַרְתֶּם רָעָה אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם: וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל אֶהָב אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכָּל־בָּנָיו כִּי־בֶן־זִקְנִים הוּא לוֹ וַעֲשָׂה לוֹ כְּתֹנֶת פָּסִים: וַיֵּרָאוּ אֶחָיו כִּי־אִתּוֹ אֶהָב אֲבִיהֶם מִכָּל־אֶחָיו וַיִּשְׁנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַבְּרוֹ לְשָׁלֵם: וַיַּחֲלֵם יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם וַיַּגִּד לְאֶחָיו וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שָׁנֵא אֹתוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁמַעוּ־נָא הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתִּי: וְהִנֵּה אֲנִי חֲנוּן מְאֹלָמִים אֲלֵמִים בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׂדֶה וְהִנֵּה קָמָה אֲלַמְתִּי וְגַם־נִצָּבָה וְהִנֵּה תִסְבִּינָה אֲלַמְתִּיכֶם וְתִשְׁתַּחֲוֶינּוּ לְאֲלַמְתִּי: וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֶחָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ אִם־מִשׁוֹל תִּמְשָׁל בָּנוּ וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שָׁנֵא אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלַמְתּוֹ וְעַל־דְּבָרָיו: וַיַּחֲלֵם עוֹד חֲלוֹם אַחֵר וַיִּסְפָּר אֹתוֹ לְאֶחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חֲלַמְתִּי חֲלוֹם עוֹד וְהִנֵּה הַשָּׁמַשׁ וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְאַחַד עֶשְׂרֵת כּוֹכָבִים מְשַׁתַּחֲוִים לִי: וַיִּסְפָּר אֶל־אָבִיו וְאֶל־אֶחָיו וַיִּגְעַר־בוּ אָבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתָּ הֲבֹא נָבוֹא אֲנִי וְאַמְךָ וְאֶחָיֶךָ לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לָךְ אֶרְצָה: וַיִּקְנְאוּ־בוּ אֶחָיו וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת־הַדְּבָר: וַיִּלְכוּ אֶחָיו לְרַעוּת אֶת־צֹאֵן אֲבִיהֶם בְּשָׂקִים: וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא אֶחָיֶךָ רָעִים בְּשָׂקִים לָכֵה וְאֲשַׁלַּחְךָ אֲלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַנְּנִי:

1 Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan. 2 This, then, is the line of Jacob: At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended the flocks with his brothers, as a helper to the sons of his father’s wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought bad reports of them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons—he was his “child of old age”; and he had made him an ornamented tunic. 4 And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him so that they could not speak a friendly word to him. 5 Once Joseph had a dream which he told to his brothers; and they hated him even more. 6 He said to them,

“Hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 There we were binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf stood up and remained upright; then your sheaves gathered around and bowed low to my sheaf.” 8 His brothers answered, “Do you mean to reign over us? Do you mean to rule over us?” And they hated him even more for his talk about his dreams. 9 He dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: And this time, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” 10 And when he told it to his father and brothers, his father berated him. “What,” he said to him, “is this dream you have dreamed? Are we to come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow low to you to the ground?” 11 So his brothers were wrought up at him, and his father kept the matter in mind. 12 One time, when his brothers had gone to pasture their father’s flock at Shechem, 13 Israel said to Joseph, “Your brothers are pasturing at Shechem. Come, I will send you to them.” He answered, “I am ready.”

Commentaries

Rashi on 37:5

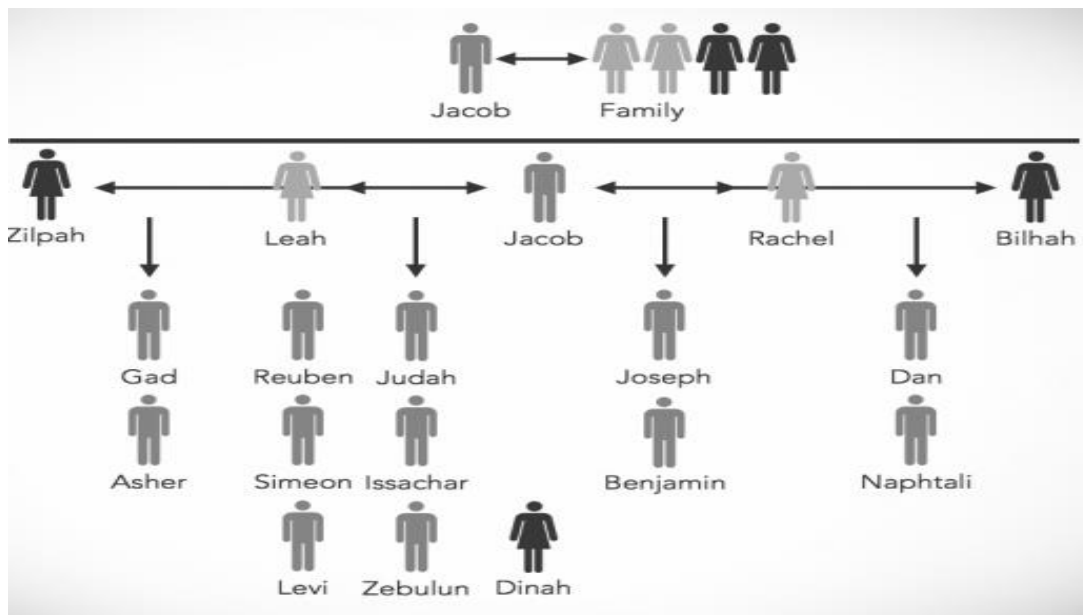
ולא יכלו דברו לשלום AND THEY COULD NOT SPEAK PEACEABLY TO HIM — from what is stated to their discredit we may infer something to their credit: they did not speak one thing with their mouth having another thing quite different in their hearts (Genesis Rabbah 84:9).

Sforno on 37:5

ויגד לאחיו, this too was an ill advised move. Had he been more mature he would have kept the contents of such a dream to himself.

Rashi on 37:8

ועל דבריו AND FOR HIS WORDS — for the evil report about them which he used to bring to their father.



STOLEN MOMENTS WILL NOT MEET NEXT WEEK. HAPPY NEW YEAR!