



Midrash - Parashat Vayeitze

- I. Jacob's Dream
 - A. "Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran." (Gen. 28:10)
 1. Making sense out of the chronology of Jacob (B.R. 68:5)
 2. Why does the Torah repeat itself, letting us know that Jacob departed from Beersheva? (B.R. 68:6)
 3. אֶל חָרָן vs. חֲרָנָה
 - B. "And he lighted upon the place" (Gen. 28:11)
 1. Makom (מְקוֹם) = Place
 2. Vayifga (וַיִּפְגַּע) = (lit. "encounter/meet/strike") Prayer (from the root פָּגַע) — often used for "intercession" (Ge 23:8; Isa 47:3) or "to plead with" (Ru 1:16; Job 21:15; Jer 7:16; 27:18)
 - a) Patriarchs instituted the times of daily prayers.
 - b) The services correspond to the daily offerings. (B.R. 68:9)
 - C. "he took [one] of the stones of the place..." (Gen. 28:11)
 1. How many stones did he take?
 2. For what purpose? (B.R. 68:11)
 - D. "and lay down in that place to sleep." (Gen. 28:11)
 1. Jacob did not "lay down to sleep" for fourteen years. (B.R. 68:11)
 - E. "And he dreamed..." (Gen. 28:12)
 1. What did his dream represent?
 2. Angels were "ascending and descending." (B.R. 68:12)
 - F. "And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth..." (Gen. 28:14)

1. Why dust? (B.R. 69:5)
- G. "And Jacob awaked out of his sleep..." (Gen. 28:16)
 1. מְשַׁנְתּוֹ ("from his sleep" vs. "from his studies") (B.R. 69:7)
- H. Jacob's Ladder
 1. Where did it begin and to where did it extend? (B.R. 69:7)
- II. Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel
 - A. "And he looked, and behold a well in the field..." (Gen. 29:2)
 1. What is the symbolism of this passage? (B.R. 70:8)
 2. Imbibing the Holy Spirit
 - B. "Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth..." (Gen. 29:10)
 1. Jacob rolled the stone away single-handedly (B.R. 70:12)
 2. This is interpreted midrashically as a portent of a future event in which the "great stone, symbolic of our sins, which prevents the exile from coming to an end, until Yaakov himself will come and remove it, like one removing a cork from a bottle."
 - C. "Leah's eyes were weak..." (Gen. 29:17)
 1. Due to weeping (B.R. 70:16)
 - D. "And Laban gathered together all the men of the place..." (Gen. 29:22)
 1. The deceitfulness of Laban (B.R. 70:19)
 - E. "...and served with him yet seven other years." (Gen. 29:20)
 1. The Jewish people serve happily before and after the birth of the Redeemer (B.R. 70:20)