



Midrash - Parashat Vayeshev

- I. Jacob settled/dwelt in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. (Gen 37:1)
 - A. Why did he settle here?
 1. He wished to finally have some stability in his life (84:3)
 2. To follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather to make disciples in this region. (84:4)
 3. To defy his enemies (84:5 + Rashi)
- II. Joseph's early years
 - A. *Eleh toldot* ("These are the generations of")
 1. Joseph was like Jacob in numerous ways (*ma'asei avot siman l'banim*—"the deeds of the fathers are portents for the children") (84:6)
 - B. Joseph as a נַעַר (na'ar) young man (Gen 37:2)
 1. "He was a boy/lad with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah" (see chart)
 - a) Dan
 - b) Naphtali
 - c) Gad
 - d) Asher
 2. Even though he was 17, he still acted like a boy (84:7)
 - C. Dreams and envy from his brothers
 1. "they took him and threw him into a pit" (Gen 37:24)
 - a) Who was this? Simeon—see Gen. 42:24
 - b) "The pit was empty; there was no water in it."
 - (1) Why the repetition?—Snakes & scorpions

2. “And they sat down to eat bread” (Gen. 37:25)
 - a) The sin of the tribal ancestors is remembered to the benefit of the world. (84:17)
 - b) Because of this, Joseph would one day provide bread for all the world.
3. Reuben returned [וַיָּשֹׁב רְאוּבֵן] (Gen. 37:29)
 - a) Where had Reuben been? Fasting & repenting (84:19)

III. Joseph in Egypt

- A. “And the LORD was with Joseph” (Gen. 39:2)
 1. Hashem “left the twelve cows to chase after the one” in order to protect Joseph from the snares of Egypt (86:4)
 2. Hashem performed miracles on Joseph’s behalf (86:5)