

## PARSHAH POINTERS

GENESIS 44:18-47:27

Judah approaches Joseph to plead for the release of Benjamin, offering himself as a slave to the Egyptian ruler in Benjamin's stead.

Upon witnessing his brothers' loyalty to one another, Joseph reveals his identity to them. "I am Joseph," he declares. "Is my father still alive?"

The brothers are overcome by shame and remorse, but Joseph comforts them. "It was not you who sent me here," he says to them, "but G-d. It has all been ordained from Above to save us, and the entire region, from famine." The brothers rush back to Canaan with the news. Jacob comes to Egypt with his sons and their families - seventy souls in all, and is reunited with his beloved son after 22 years. On his way to Egypt he receives the divine promise: "Fear not to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation. I will go down with you into Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again."

Joseph gathers the wealth of Egypt by selling food and seed during the famine. Pharaoh gives Jacob's family the fertile county of Goshen to settle, and the children of Israel prosper in their Egyptian exile.

## HAFTORAH HIGHLIGHTS

EZEKIEL 37:15 - 28

This week's haftorah mentions the fusion of the kingdoms of Judah and Joseph during the Messianic Era, echoing the beginning of this week's Torah reading: "And Judah approached him [Joseph]." The prophet Ezekiel shares a prophecy he received, in which G-d instructs him to take two sticks and to write on one, "For Judah and for the children of Israel his companions" and on the other, "For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions." After doing so he was told to put the two near each other, and G-d fused them into one stick.

G-d explains to Ezekiel that these sticks are symbolic of the House of Israel, that was divided into two (often warring) kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom that was established by Jeroboam, a member of the Tribe of Ephraim, and the Southern Kingdom, that remained under the reign of the Davidic (Judean) Dynasty. The fusing of the two sticks represented the merging of the kingdoms that will transpire during the Messianic Era - with the Messiah, a descendant of David, at the helm of this unified empire.

"So says the L-rd G-d: 'Behold I will take the children of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side, and I will bring them to their land. And I will make them into one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be to them all as a king...' The haftorah ends with G-d's assurance that "they shall dwell on the land that I have given to My servant, to Jacob, wherein your forefathers lived; and they shall dwell upon it, they and their children and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever."

## PARSHAH VAYIGASH

3 January 2025 | Tevet 3 5785

## TORAH READINGS

Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

## HAFTORAH

Ezekiel 37:15 - 28

## HAFTORAH READ BY

Colin Bloch

## PAGES | STONE CHUMASH

Sedra	P 250
Haftorah	P 1144

## SHABBAT | CANDLE

## LIGHTING | SERVICE TIMES

Friday Night Candle Lighting (Earliest)	6:31 pm
Mincha	6:15 pm
Children's Service	6:30 pm

Shabbat morning	8:45 am
Children's Service	10:15 am
Shabbat Mincha	7:30 pm
Seudah Shlishit	
Shabbat ends	8:40 pm

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

### MORNING | SHACHARIT

Sunday	8:00 am
Monday & Thursday	7:15 am

### EVENING | MINCHA | MAARIV

Sunday - Thursday	6:15 pm
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## FAST OF TEVET

January 10 2025

The Fast starts at 4:17 am and ends at 8:22 pm.

## LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is available for collection from the Shul office Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

## MY ENCOUNTER IN THE SUBWAY *Leslie Williams, Aish.com*

The crowded New York subway car jerked to a stop between stations, and the lights flickered ominously before going dark. A collective groan rose from the passengers, followed by the familiar announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, we are temporarily delayed due to train traffic ahead of us. We should be moving shortly."

As a regular on the morning commute, I was used to delays, but this one felt different. The air conditioning had stopped and the summer heat was already beginning to build. I watched as people's reactions evolved from mild annoyance to genuine concern. A woman fanned herself with a magazine, while a man in a business suit repeatedly checked his watch, muttering about being late for a meeting.

That's when I noticed her – an elderly woman sitting quietly, her eyes closed, lips moving slightly in what appeared to be prayer. While others grew increasingly agitated, she maintained an air of tranquility that seemed almost otherworldly in our underground predicament.

The scene reminded me of a Jewish teaching: "Who is rich? One who is happy with their portion" ([Ethics of the Fathers, 4:1](#)). Here was someone embodying this ancient wisdom in a most modern scenario. While the rest of us were consumed by what we couldn't control, she had found her center.

Growing up in a non-religious Jewish home, I had always approached such teachings with skepticism. They seemed like nice platitudes but how practical were they in real life? Yet here, trapped in a subway car, I was witnessing the profound difference between accepting what is and fighting against it.

I thought about the countless times I had allowed circumstances beyond my control to steal my peace – traffic jams, flight delays, long lines at the grocery store. Each time, I had chosen to resist reality rather than accept it. Judaism teaches that everything we encounter contains a lesson for serving God. Even a subway delay, it seemed, could be a classroom for spiritual growth.

As if reading my thoughts, the elderly woman opened her eyes and smiled at me. "You look troubled," she said in heavily accented English. I admitted I was worried about being late for an important client meeting.

"You know," she said, "my grandmother in Poland used to say that every delay is a gift from God. Maybe He's protecting you from something, or maybe He's creating an opportunity you don't yet see." She patted the empty seat beside her, inviting me to sit.

"But what about responsibility?" I asked. "We can't just dismiss our obligations with 'everything is from God.'"

She nodded approvingly at the question. "The Talmud teaches that while we must do our *hishtadlut* (the Hebrew term for reasonable effort), ultimately, what's meant to happen will happen. The trick is knowing the difference between what we can control and what we can't."

Her words echoed another Jewish teaching I had recently encountered: "Accept with love everything that happens." This doesn't mean being passive or fatalistic, but rather understanding that our response to circumstances is often more important than the circumstances themselves.

As we continued talking, I learned that she was a Holocaust survivor who had rebuilt her life in America. "After losing everything," she said, "I learned that the only thing we truly own is our reaction to what life brings us."

The subway car suddenly hummed back to life and the lights flickered on. As we began moving again, a remarkable thing happened. The woman's wisdom had spread beyond our conversation – the entire car seemed calmer. A young man offered his seat to someone who looked tired. Another shared his water with a grateful stranger. The atmosphere had shifted from frustration to connection.

This, I realized, was the deeper message of "Who is rich?" The teaching isn't just about personal contentment – it's about recognizing that true wealth lies in our ability to find meaning and create positive connections in any situation.

When I finally arrived at my office, my client had called to reschedule – they too had been delayed by subway issues. What I had perceived as a problem had actually prevented me from sitting alone in an office waiting. Moreover, I had gained something far more valuable than a punctual arrival: a lesson in living Jewish wisdom. That subway encounter changed how I approach life's inevitable delays and disruptions. Now, when faced with circumstances beyond my control, I try to pause and ask myself: "What's the lesson here? How can I use this moment to grow?"

The ancient Jewish sages weren't just sharing philosophical ideas – they were providing practical tools for navigating life's challenges. Their wisdom, passed down through generations, remains surprisingly relevant in our modern world of subway delays and business meetings. Jewish wisdom isn't just found in synagogues or study halls – it's available in every moment, every challenge, every delay. The key is being open to receiving it, even in the most unexpected places.



## MAZAL TOV I BAT MITZVAH

Mazal Tov to GABRIELLA FRASER who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat. Mazal Tov to her parents JOY FRASER and DAVID FRASER.

A warm welcome to family and friends sharing in the Simcha.

## MAZAL TOV

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS Jason Holzberg, Rhita Russon, Stewart Cohen

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES Allan & Shirley Saus, Jonathan & Sheli Schlosberg

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4 JANUARY Juliet Blacher, Ryan Broomberg, Ariella Cohn, Jake Greenberg, Jason Holzberg, Eve Joubert, Michelle Kawalsky, Terry Locketz, Rhita Russon

5 JANUARY Stewart Cohen, Rachel Nivison, Debra Stein, Woolf Stein, Leonard Trope

6 JANUARY Michelle Joffe, Bernice Miller, Jeremy Simon

7 JANUARY Sam Gootkin, Terri Sherman

8 JANUARY Penelope Darrigade, Esta Feldman, Julia Kaimowitz, Lin Sack

9 JANUARY Emmah Rothgiesser

10 JANUARY Abigail Blumenthal, Jade Blumenthal, Renee Jaffe

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

4 JANUARY Jared & Syndi Kahn, Mayran & Janna Spiro

5 JANUARY Paul & Zoe Edelstein, Mark & Devorah Gruss, Jos & Gwen Kahn, Allan & Shirley Saus, Michael & Hazel Siesel

6 JANUARY Stanley & Lillian Beinart

7 JANUARY Leon & Glenda Boyd, Michael & Tessa Scher

8 JANUARY Alan & Desiree Dorman, Ryan & Chelsey Mendelsohn, Nicholas & Daniella Meyersfeld, Colin & Barbara Schulman, Gerald & Ada Sher

9 JANUARY Douglas & Rhona Benson, Jared & Tamar Cheerin, Nathan & Hillary Finkelstein, Julius & Elizabeth Maisel

10 JANUARY Steven & Debbie Bagg, Jedd & Raphaela Kossew, Adam & Caryn Querido, Jonathan & Sheli Schlosberg

## KEEP SMILING *Rabbi Eli Scheller, Aish.com*

Pharaoh asked Yaakov, who appeared to be extremely old, "How old are you?"

Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz expounds on this verse, explaining that Yaakov was punished with a shorter lifespan *because* he looked older than his years. God was telling him, "There was no reason for you to age from the ordeals of Yoseph, Dina and Eisav. You should have had faith and been in a state of happiness!"

David, a jolly young fellow, got into a yellow cab in downtown Manhattan and began conversing with the driver. After being on the road the whole day, the driver was not in the best of moods and had no interest in talking to David. However, due to David's cheerful personality, he transformed the driver's mood within minutes into a pleasant one. Finishing work, the cab driver came home and to his wife's surprise this was the first time *ever* that she had seen him come home in a good mood. The two of them spent an enjoyable evening together. The next morning his wife went to work and was still in high spirits from the night before.

She didn't fight with her co-workers and nothing seemed to bother her. Tony, her boss, who usually came home after work with a migraine from listening to his employees quarrel, came home that night calm, with a pleasant attitude. He decided to reunite with his son, Jim, whom he hadn't spoken to for months, due to his hectic schedule.

He was walking with Jim and noticed that he was being quiet, with tears streaming down his face. Alarmed, Tony asked, "What's wrong? Are you okay?"

His son slowly took a crumpled paper out of his pocket and handed it to his father. His father opened the note and it read as follows:

*To whom this may concern: I committed suicide because no one in the world cares about me. Jim*

Tony looked at him with tears in his eyes and put his arm around him. Choking on his tears Jim explained, "For the past few months I was lonely and depressed. I felt no one cared about me and I planned to commit suicide. Three minutes before the jump I got your phone call that you would love to spend time with me...!"

Joy is contagious. Just walking around with a positive attitude you can affect many lives. A smile enriches those who see it and those who give it; it takes just a moment, but it lasts forever. It is a form of sunshine which nurtures, sustains, and heals, and can be produced on demand. It is needed by all: rich, poor, for the home, business, and in the street. A smile costs a little and creates a lot. Scientists say that it takes 13 muscles to smile and 112 muscles to frown. Why work so hard?

## CONSECRATION

The Consecration of the stone in loving memory of the late SIMON KESSLER, takes place at 10:30 am on Wednesday January 8 2025, at Pinelands No. 2.

MAY HASHEM COMFORT THE MOURNERS AMONGST ALL MOURERS OF ZION AND JERUSALEM

## YAHREZITS

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY	4 TEVET	WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY	8 TEVET
Michael Bagraim	Late Father	Malcolm Finkenstein	Late Grandmother
Balu Nivison	Late Grandfather	Yvonne Hurwitz	Late Father
Alan Ipp	Late Uncle	Rodney Stein	Late Father
Ronald Lazarus	Late Father	Adelle Beilinson	Late Mother
Issa Werb	Late Husband	Brent Beilinson	Late Grandmother
David Werb	Late Father	Barry Beilinson	Late Grandmother
SUNDAY 5 JANUARY	5 TEVET	THURSDAY 9 JANUARY	9 TEVET
Zelma Singer	Late Mother	Selma Chiat	Late Father-In-Law
Neville Wolpert	Late Grandmother	Harriet Hoffman	Late Mother
MONDAY 6 JANUARY	6 TEVET	Paula Glass	Late Mother
Brian Sher	Late Mother	Hazel Siesel	Late Mother
TUESDAY 7 JANUARY	7 TEVET	Solly Berger	Late Sister
Carmen Kay	Late Sister	Mervyn Shabason	Late Brother
Marilyn Bradley	Late Mother	FRIDAY 10 JANUARY	10 TEVET
		Neville Wolpert	Late Cousin

WE WISH LONG LIFE TO ALL OUR CONGREGANTS COMMEMORATING YAHREZIT THIS WEEK

## FAST OF ASARAH B'TEVET - 10TH TEVET

The Fast starts at 4:17am and ends at 8:22pm.

The 10th of Tevet (known as Asarah B'Tevet) is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance. We refrain from food and drink from daybreak to nightfall, and add Selichot (penitential prayers) and other special supplements to our prayers.

In the year 3336 from Creation (425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonian emperor Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem. Thirty months later, on 9 Tammuz 3338, the city walls were breached, and on 9 Av of that year the Holy Temple was destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled to Babylonia for 70 years,

Mincha on January 10 will be at 5:45 pm and Kabbalat Shabbat the usual time of 6:30 pm.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### SHABBAT BROCHA

Sponsored by the FRASER family in celebration of GABRIELLA'S Bat Mitzvah.

### SHABBAT CHOCOLATES

Sponsored by CARMEN KAY, in honour of the Yahrzeit and in loving memory of her sister GAIL NICKEL.

## LIVE & LAUGH

Moshe, the owner of a small Kosher deli, was being questioned by an IRS agent about his tax return. Why don't you people leave me alone? Moshe said. I work like a dog, everyone in my family helps out, the place is only closed three days a year.

It's not your income that bothers us, the agent said. It's these travel deductions.

You listed ten trips to Israel for you and your wife.

Oh, that? the owner said smiling. Well...we also deliver.

## GARDENS SHUL CONTACT DETAILS

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