



Parshas VaYeishev Overview

Years 2207 – 2227

- Overall theme of Parsha: Yaakov “living” in the land of Canaan
- No rest for the Righteous in this world
- Yaakov’s fourth personal exile – sale of Yosef – corresponding to Roman exile – threat of Disunity / No peace / Loshon Hora
- Philosophical differences between Yosef & brothers regarding their posture vis-à-vis the Non-Jews in the land of Canaan
- Development of the characteristic of “Malchus” – leadership – who will reign on **thrown** of leadership?
- Reuven fails as a leader for the second time
- Yehuda’s children fail as potential leaders
- Yosef and Yehuda’s initial failures of leadership and subsequent corrections
- Origins of Davidic Dynasty through Yehuda’s actions

1. Yosef & the Brothers – No Shalom Bayis

- Initial sibling rivalry
- Coat of many colors – “Kesones Passim”
- Dreams of Yosef
- Yosef sent to visit brothers
- Sale of Yosef
 1. Reuven’s plan
 2. Yehuda’s plan
- Yosef travels to Egypt
- Yaakov informed of Yosef’s death – inconsolable

2. Yehuda & Tamar

- Yehuda leaves brothers
- Yehuda marries and has three sons
- Eir marries Tamar and premature death
- Onan performs levirate marriage with Tamar and premature death
- Yehuda consorts with Tamar unknowingly
- Tamar’s trial and stunning revelation
- Birth of Peretz and Zerach

3. Yosef in Egypt

- Yosef is a successful servant for Potiphar
- Wife of Potiphar’s seduction attempts of Yosef
- Yosef refuses to be seduced
- Yosef thrown in jail – stays there for 10 years
- Yosef’s success in jail
- Dreams of Minister of butlers and bakers
- Minister of Butlers forgets Yosef