

# Parsha VaYigash - Overview

## **Year 2238**

- Overall theme of Parsha: The children of Israel "confront" Egyptian society
- "I am Yosef is my father still alive?"
- "Woe to us the Day of Judgment and woe to us the day of reproof!"
- Life is defined spiritually not merely physically
- The beginning of the Egyptian exile
- Yaakov and Yosef take precautions necessary to avoid assimilation
- Yosef has total Egyptian and world control as host country for Jewish people

#### 1. Yosef Reveals Himself to His Brothers:

- The Argument between Yehuda and Yosef
- Yosef's revelation and reconciliation with his brothers
- Divine message of future destruction of Temples
- Yosef instructs his brothers to bring Yaakov and the family to live in Egypt

#### 2. Yaakov and His Family Descend to Egypt:

- Serach reveals to Yaakov that Yosef is alive
- Proof that Yosef was spiritually alive the Divine Spirit returns to him after 22 years
- Hashem encourages Yaakov so he stops off in Be'er Sheva
- The listing of the 70 souls of the family of Yaakov
- Yehuda establishes a Yeshiva in Goshen in advance to the family's arrival
- Emotional encounter of Yaakov and Yosef Yaakov says the Shema prayer

## 3. Yosef Introduces His Brothers to Pharaoh:

• Brothers are permitted to live as shepherds in the land of Goshen

### 4. Yosef Introduces Yaakov to Pharaoh:

- Yaakov is questioned about his age
- Yaakov blesses Pharaoh and the famine ends prematurely after only 2 years
- Yaakov's family settles in Goshen

#### 5. Yosef's Treatment of the Egyptians During the Years of Famine:

- Entire wealth of the world is accumulated in Pharaoh's treasuries
- Egyptians sell their horses, sheep, and donkeys for food in Year 1
- Egyptians sell their fields and themselves as slaves for food in Year 2
- Egyptians must give the kingdom 1/5 of their crops except for the Priests
- Yosef resettles all the Egyptians in places other than their native towns.