

Tell a story
Parsha Vayeitzei
by Julie Zhuk on 2024-12-07

Isaac has just passed away. Jacob leaves his home in Beersheva and runs away to Charan. He leaves his mother Rebecca alone. It seems like a cruel world that they lived in for what he did. There was a reasoning behind why Isaac had gone blind, but they didn't explain it in the last Parsha. They explain it in this week's Parsha. His son, Esau had really poor choices for his wives. Esau didn't have the best character traits to begin with in the first place. Being a Jew and marrying the women that he did were awful choices he made.

The Parsha doesn't say too much about what these women did, besides they practiced idolatry. That was all the Parsha needed to highlight for even Isaac to turn away. It disgusted him so much that it burned his eyesight. The Parsha tells us that Isaac didn't want to be a witness to such a practice of idolatry. Isaac felt that his eyes would stop working automatically if he saw any kind of idolatry. Seeing any kind of idolatry would interfere with his sacred nature that was proof positive Isaac was entirely free of negative qualities. Isaac wanted to be connected to infinite holiness.

This Parsha is about Jacob seeing a ladder that had angels going up and down on it. G-d had a point to this dream with the angels and the ladder, that was causing grief to Jacob. It was accompanying a message for Jacob in his future about his destiny that would include the Jewish Nation. Jacob was going to be the one to lead the Jewish Nation. This was all happening as he was running away from his twin brother Esau. Jacob had a plan to stay with his uncle Laban until his brother's wrath would calm down. During his journey from Beersheva to Charan Jacob was having this experience. It happened on the Temple Mount. We are getting our information from the Talmud, that Jacob traveled all the way to Charan. It wasn't until he had gotten there, that he realized he didn't stop to pray at a place called Mount Moriah.

This was going to be the future site of the Holy Temple. Both his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham made a point of praying at this place and Jacob as well to do the same. Jacob had gone back to retrace his steps, when all of a sudden by some kind of a miracle he managed to find himself standing on the sacred grounds of the Temple Mount. It was G-d who caused the sun to set early and prompted Jacob to spend the night there. Jacob had this extraordinary dream. At the time Jacob had been in Beersheva. All of these things came with a Divine promise, when Jacob was dreaming of a ladder it was stretched from the ground to heaven. Angels were going up and down and G-d appeared giving Jacob three assurances. G-d said to Jacob that the land of Canaan would go to him and his descendants. Furthermore, Jacob's descendants would be widespread and numerous.

G-d promised they would be a blessing for all of the nations to the world. The third promise G-d gave to Jacob was, that He would accompany him and protect him throughout the treacherous journey that lay ahead. This ladder that is mentioned is only mentioned in the Torah once in this Parsha.

The Parsha says that ladders are mentioned a lot throughout the Mishna and Talmud, but this kind of climbing device was only mentioned once out of the twenty-four books of the Torah. The Parsha says it serves to highlight the unique message of the dream that Jacob has and its importance it.

Jacob stays with Laban and agrees to work with him, he tends to the sheep. In return, Laban decides he will give his younger daughter to Jacob. The younger daughter is Rachel. Jacob has fallen in love with Rachel and after working for Laban for seven years he marries her. On their wedding night, Laban tricks Jacob and gives him the other daughter, Leah. Jacob doesn't realize until the next morning that he was deceived by Laban. About two weeks later, Jacob ends up marrying Rachel. He agrees to work for his father-in-law for another seven years. Leah gives birth to six sons, they were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zevulun.

Then Leah and Jacob had a daughter and named her Dinah. All of this time, Jacob and Rachel don't have any children for Rachel was barren. Rachel had a handmaid she was, Bilhah and she had two sons. Their names were Dan and Naphtali. Leah also had a handmaid and her name was Zilpah, who had two boys named Gad and Asher. After all of this, Rachel's prayers of having children were finally answered. She was able to have children, she had a baby boy named Joseph. Jacob was living in Charan with his father-in-law Laban, Rachel, and Leah for fourteen years. Laban kept trying to get him to stay longer, but Jacob had seen everything he needed to see. He was over Charan and wanted to move on.

Laban kept offering Jacob more sheep for all of his work, but Jacob didn't want any more sheep. Laban wanted to go back home to his real home where he was living before, Beersheva. Jacob does manage to prosper, despite Laban's attempts to swindle him. Being there so long, finally, Jacob leaves. Jacob was afraid that Laban would prevent him from leaving with his family and property for everything that he had worked. Laban did pursue Jacob, but Laban was warned by G-d to not go after him. To not harm Jacob in any way. This is when Laban and Jacob make a pact with each other on Mount Gal-Ed. This was a place that was attested by a pile of stones and Jacob went on to go to the Holy Land. It is there at the Holy Land that he is met by a group of angels.