

**Tell a story**  
**Parsha Vayeitzei**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2025-01-11**

This is the last Parsha in the First Book of Five Books of Moses.

The name of the Parsha, Vayechi translates to “And he lived.” It is talking about Jacob living a very long time. In this week’s Parsha, Jacob lives the last 17 years of his life with his 12 sons and Joseph. During this time, he asks Joseph to have him buried elsewhere outside of Egypt. He asks for him to be buried in Israel. Jacob blesses Joseph’s two sons, Menashe and Ephraim, and with this, they are elevated to the status of his own sons as progenitors of tribes within the nation of Israel.

Jacob gives each son to their tribe starting with Juda. Juda would produce leaders, legislators, and kings. The priests would come from Jacob’s son, Levi. Jacob’s son, Issachar would find the scholars. Jacob’s son Zebulun would find people who were known as seafarers. The son who was Simeon would find schoolteachers. Jacob’s son Gad would find soldiers to fight the wars. The son, Dan would find those to be judges. The last son who was mentioned in the Parsha to have a specific job was Asher and he was given the job of finding an olive grower. This Parsha mentions a mistake that one of the sons made in an earlier Parsha, Reuben. He is “reprimanded in this Parsha for confusing his father’s marital bed.” The brothers Simeon and Levi were reprimanded in this week’s Parsha for what they did to Shechem in the Parsha earlier in the massacre of Shechem. On top of that they were in a huge amount of trouble for the plot against Joseph when they put him in the pit a few Parsha’s ago before he made it to Egypt.

The biblical character Naphtali was granted the swiftness of a deer. Benjamin got the ferociousness of a wolf. Joseph was blessed with beauty and fertility. When it was time for Jacob to die, he was buried in the cave of Machpelah. His parents and grandparents were buried earlier in the other Parsha’s. It’s in this Parsha that Joseph forgives his brothers. Before he dies, he assures his brothers that G-d will bring back the entire Jewish people back to the Jewish homeland. Joseph dies at the age of 110. Joseph had to wait until many years after he died until the exodus of the Jews to have his remains taken out of Egypt. The book of Genesis has come to an end. It concludes saying, the birth of Israel is one nation and it will start up again.