

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

47:28	Egypt and Rome
47:31	Necessity for the Oath
48:1	The Division of <i>Eretz Yisrael</i>
48:7	Rachel's Tomb
48:15	(first part) Yosef's other children
49:10	(first part) Kings of Israel
49:17	Shimshon
49:31	Burial in the <i>Ma'aras HaMachpela</i>
49:33	The Death of Yaakov

Sforno

47:31	Yosef's Oath
48:18	The Laying of Hands
49:7	The Humility of Dispersion
49:11	Signs of <i>Mashiach</i>

Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

- 47:28 - A '*parsha stumah*' is a parsha written in the Torah Scroll which is not preceded by a blank space. '*Vayechi*' is the only '*parsha stuma*' in the Torah. All other weekly portions are preceded by a blank space or they begin on a new line.
- 47:29 - a) Egypt's ground was to be plagued with lice; b) At the time of the resurrection, those buried outside of Israel will suffer; c) so the Egyptians wouldn't make him into an idol.
- 48:7 - Yaakov thought Yosef harbored resentment since Yaakov had not buried Yosef's mother, Rachel, in the *Ma'aras HaMachpela*.
- 48:8 - The *Shechina* departed from him.
- 48:19 - a) Yehoshua; b) Gideon.
- 48:20 "*Yesimcha Elokim k'Ephraim v'ch'Menashe*" — May Hashem help you to be like Ephraim and like Menashe.
- 48:22 - Shechem.
- 48:22 - They gathered against Yaakov to attack him. Yaakov defended himself with sword and bow.
- 49:3 - Priesthood and Kingship.
- 49:10 - *Mashiach*.
- 49:13 - They provided for the needs of the tribe of Yissachar so that Yissachar could learn Torah.
- 49:14 - Just as a donkey bears a heavy burden, so the tribe of Yissachar bears the yoke of Torah.
- 49:17 - A type of snake.
- 49:20 - Asher.
- 49:27 - Binyamin.
- 49:27 - Mordechai and Esther.
- 50:3 - Because he had brought blessing to Egypt and the famine ended.
- 50:5 - From Eisav.
- 50:6 - Yosef swore not to reveal Pharaoh's ignorance of the Hebrew language.
- 50:13 - Menashe and Ephraim.

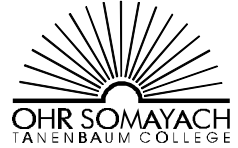
BONUS

A:

Yaakov did not promise that Yehuda would reign continuously, or that no other tribe would produce leaders; rather he promised that kingship would eventually return to Yehuda.

(Gur Aryeh)

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Vayechi

For the week ending 18 Teves 5757
27 & 28 December 1996

Parsha Questions

1. What is a 'parsha stumah'?
2. Give three reasons why Yaakov didn't want to be buried in Egypt.
3. "When I was coming from Padan, Rachel died on me... I buried her there on the way to Ephrat...." Why did Yaakov say all this to Yosef?
4. Initially, why was Yaakov unable to bless Ephraim and Menashe?
5. Name one great descendant of: a) Ephraim; b) Menashe.
6. According to the Parsha, how will the Jewish People bless their sons?
7. What burial ground did Yaakov give to Yosef?
8. How did the neighboring Canaanites react when Shimon and Levi killed the people of Shechem, and how did Yaakov react to their reaction?
9. What privileges did Reuven forfeit as a result of his rash actions?
10. Who is "Shilo?"
11. How did the tribe of Zevulun use the profits of its commerce?
12. Why is Yissachar compared to a 'strong-boned donkey'?
13. What is a 'shefifon'?
14. Which tribe had numerous olive trees in its territory?
15. Which tribe is compared to a wolf?
16. Which descendants of Binyamin "will divide the spoils in the evening (49:27)"?
17. Why did the Egyptians mourn the death of Yaakov?
18. From whom did Yaakov buy his burial place?
19. What oath did Yosef make to Pharaoh?
20. Which of Yaakov's grandsons carried his coffin?

BONUS

Q:

"The scepter will not be removed from Yehuda" (49:10). For most of our history we have been without a king. And during the second Temple period the Hasmonean kings were from the tribe of Levi and not Yehuda. How can Yaakov's statement be explain?

I Did Not Know That!

"Joseph's brothers saw that their father had died and they said, 'Perhaps Yosef will hate us and repay us for all the evil we did to him.'" (50:15)

When the brothers went to Canaan to bury Yaakov, and they passed the pit into which they had thrown Yosef, Yosef stopped and stared into it. The brothers thought he was awakening hidden hatred against them. In reality, Yosef was reciting a blessing, "Blessed is He who performed a miracle for me in this place."

Da'as Zekenim MiBaalei Hatosafos

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