



Vayigash

Beresheet (Genesis) 44:18 – 47:27

As *Parshat Vayigash* begins, Judah, who played such a prominent role in Joseph's descent into slavery, now pleads with Joseph to allow him to become a slave in place of Benjamin. His plea (Genesis 44:18-34) is the longest monologue in the Torah. But Joseph, unable to conceal his identity any longer, and seeing the change in the brothers' behavior, reveals himself to them.

Soon, Pharaoh learns that Joseph's brothers are in Egypt. He directs Joseph to invite Jacob and his entire household to live in Egypt. Joseph extends the invitation, sending along gifts and provisions for his father's journey, but warning his brothers not to quarrel on the return to Canaan. Jacob is told that Joseph is alive and waits to see him in Egypt. G-d calls to Jacob one night during the journey and tells Jacob that he will prosper in Egypt and that Joseph will be present at Jacob's deathbed.

Jacob and Joseph have a tearful reunion. Pharaoh invites Joseph's brothers to work as shepherds in Egypt in the region of Goshen. The famine continues in Egypt and Joseph sells grain to the people. Eventually, the people sell all they own to Pharaoh in order to purchase grain. By the end of the famine, Pharaoh owns all of the land in Egypt, except the land owned by priests. At the end of the famine, Joseph gives seed to the people and directs them to repay Pharaoh with one-fifth of their harvest.



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