

TORAH TIME

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PARASHA

Toldot

TORAH TIME

This portion is Toldot or "generations." Isaac, or "Yitzchak" in Hebrew, marries Rebekah. After twenty childless years their prayers are answered and Rebecca becomes pregnant. She experiences a difficult pregnancy as the "children struggle inside her." YHWH tells her that "there are two nations in your womb," and that the younger will win over the elder.

Esau is born first. Jacob, or "Ya'acov" in Hebrew, is born holding Esau's heel. Esau grows up to be "a cunning hunter, a man of the field"; Jacob is "a wholesome man," a dweller in tents. Isaac favors Esau; Rebecca loves Jacob. Returning exhausted and hungry from the hunt one day, Esau sells his birthright (his rights as the firstborn) to Jacob for a pot of lentil soup.

In Gerar, in the land of the Philistines, Isaac presents Rebecca as his sister, out of fear that he will be killed by someone who likes her beauty. He farms the land, reopens the wells dug by his father Abraham, and digs a series of his own wells: over the first two there is strife with the Philistines, but the waters of the third well are enjoyed in peace.

Esau marries two Hittite women. Isaac grows old and blind, and expresses his desire to bless Esau before he dies. While Esau goes off to hunt for his father's favorite food, Rebecca dresses Jacob in Esau's clothes, covers his arms and neck with goatskins to feel like his hairier brother, prepares a similar dish, and sends Jacob to his father. Jacob receives his father's blessings for "the dew of the heaven and the fat of the land" and mastery over his brother. When Esau returns and the trick is revealed, all Isaac can do for his weeping son is to predict that he will live by his sword, and that when Jacob falters, the younger brother will forfeit his supremacy over the elder.

Jacob leaves home for Charan to flee Esau's wrath and to find a wife in the family of his mother's brother, Laban. Esau marries a third wife --Machlat, the daughter of Ishmael.

(This is an easy explanation of the Torah portion taken from the book “The Open Bible” available at www.emetministries.com)

MEMORY VERSE

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask YHWH,” James / Ya’acov 1:5.

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Genesis 25:24-34, “The time came for Rebekah to have her babies. There were twin boys in her body. The first one to come out was red. His whole body was covered with hair. So they named him Esau. Then his brother came out. His hand was holding onto Esau’s heel. So he was named Jacob. Isaac was 60 years old when Rebekah had them. The boys grew up. Esau became a skillful hunter. He was a man who liked the open country. But Jacob was a quiet man. He stayed at home among the tents. Isaac liked the meat of wild animals. So Esau was his favorite son. But Rebekah’s favorite was Jacob. One day Jacob was cooking some stew. Esau came in from the open country. He was very hungry. He said to Jacob, “Quick! Let me have some of that red stew! I’m very hungry!” That’s why he was also named Edom. Jacob replied, “First sell me the rights that belong to you as the oldest son in the family. “Look, I’m dying of hunger,” Esau said. “What good are those rights to me?” But Jacob said, “First promise me with an oath that you are selling me your rights.” So Esau promised to do it. He sold Jacob all of the rights that belonged to him as the oldest son. Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. Esau ate and drank. Then he got up and left. So Esau didn’t care anything at all about the rights that belonged to him as the oldest son.”

In this story we see that Esau made some poor decisions. He traded his special right as the firstborn son for a bowl of soup. Now, the idea of being the firstborn might not mean much to you but it is an important Biblical concept. The “bachelor” or “firstborn son” was in place to inherit the father’s blessings and all of the father’s belongings. The bachelor of each family would be the leader of the house. Jacob wanted these blessings and he appreciated the rights that came with being the bachelor. The problem was that he wasn’t born first. Esau was the older brother. Jacob was second born in the family. So, Jacob made a trade so he could be blessed like the firstborn. Esau made the foolish choice to give away his eternal blessings for a little snack! Would you trade something of great value for just a bowl of soup?

Our reading also shows us how different Esau and Jacob were. Jacob, or “Ya’acov” in Hebrew, was a quiet man who stayed near his home and “dwelled in tents.” Family life was important to him. Esau was a “hunter” who was focused on temporary things, like a growling stomach. Today, it is easy for us not to appreciate our blessing as part of Israel. Sometimes it’s a real struggle to treasure YHWH. You may be tempted, like Esau, to eat things you shouldn’t. You may also be pushed by friends to compromise about your faith.

WALK THE TALK

Families can be so much fun. They can also be very challenging. Sometimes family members argue and are rude to each other. Have you ever been angry at your parents or siblings? Anger is a very dangerous emotion. It is dangerous because anger causes bad behaviour. Anger often brings pain. We must be careful not to be angry with people. In this week's Torah portion we see how Esau was very mad at Jacob. Their problem caused the brothers to separate and not be together. Sometimes families separate because they cannot get along. This can be very hard and very sad.

This week try to get along with your family better. Be nice to your parents. Be extra nice to your brother or sister. Don't repeat the mistakes of Esau and Jacob.



TORAH TALK

What does the name of this portion mean?

What is the main subject of this portion?

What commandments are in this portion?

How did YHWH show His love to man in this portion?

Why is this portion special?

How can you live this portion?

Did you read about the Messiah in this portion? Where?

What did you learn from the Torah?

HEBREW LESSON



MEET THE VAV:

VAYIKRA=LEVITICUS

Vashti=Vashti

VERED=ROSE

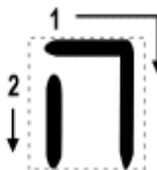
VAV=NAIL

WRITE THE LETTER



Note that there is a slight left-to-right decline in the horizontal stroke.

REVIEW THE LETTERS



Note that there is a gap between the top of the horizontal line and the second vertical stroke.



The numbered arrows show the order and direction for drawing the lines (the gray rectangle shows the letter proportions in a graph paper cell).



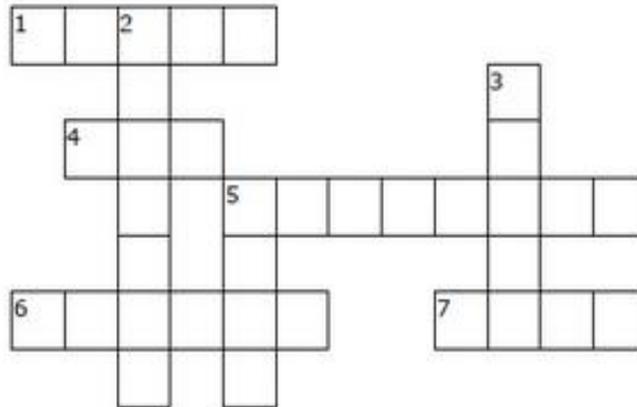
“If any of you _____ wisdom, he should
_____ YHWH,”

James / Ya’acov 1:5.

Esau Sells His Birthright

Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright. Genesis 25:34

Puzzle is based on Genesis 25:19-34



ACROSS

1. The twin brother of Esau
4. A male child
5. Suffering from a lack of food
6. A person who likes to search for and kill wild animals
7. The oldest son of Isaac who loved to hunt

DOWN

2. Preparing food by heating it
3. Two children born to the same mother on the same occasion
5. A dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly in liquid

COOKING	HUNTER	TWINS	STARVING
STEW	BOY	JACOB	ESAU

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask YHWH,”
James / Ya’acov 1:5.