

מִקֵּץ

Miketz

Genesis 41:1–44:17

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14–4:7

At the end *miketz* מִקֵּץ of two years, Pharaoh had a dream: he was standing beside the Nile River... Genesis 41:1

Miketz, or “the end time”, tells us of *Yossef*’s deliverance and of his spectacular rise to power thanks to his interpretation of Pharaoh’s dream. It also speaks of the preparation for the starving time and the confrontation with his brothers.

This *Parasha* is read each year for the Feast of *Chanukah*, the Feast of the Light. And the same way *Chanukah* speaks of the Light which bursts out of the darkness, this *Parasha* tells of the light of the revelation ready to shine in the heart of the Jewish nation.

At the end of the two more years in prison, *Yossef* is reinstated before of the whole world (here Egypt) and more importantly, in his brother’s eyes.

While *Yossef* meditates G-d’s timing in prison, Pharaoh dreams a dream that makes him restless. The Midrash reports it was on the day of *Rosh Hashanah*, the day when the divine judgments are enacted for the year to come. Pharaoh was sick and the chief cupbearer was not willing to loose his position in case Pharaoh would die. So he decides to share about *Yossef*’s knowledge in dreams. He calls him “the young Hebrew slave”. In Egypt, a slave did not have the right to rule.

All of a sudden, *Yossef* is pulled out prison and dragged before Pharaoh. The Shofar of deliverance is blowing; the fruit is ripe.

When time is ready, we can see that G-d hastens the deliverance, like the exodus which happened in the middle of the night. The day of the L-rd will come like a thief, the Bible tells us in 2 Peter 3:10.

Yossef now stands in front of the most powerful man on earth and the preceding two years have helped him to discern G-d's will and timing.

His first cry was:

Yossef answered Pharaoh, "It isn't in me. God will give Pharaoh an answer that will set his mind at peace." Genesis 41:16

Yossef himself is waiting for the interpretation and the fulfilling of the dreams he had when he was still a child...

When Pharaoh accounts his dreams, he changes some details which will reveal the double prophetic meaning of his dreams concerning both Egypt and neighboring lands and the Jewish nation:

Dream at first: Genesis 41:2-3

...and there came up out of the river seven cows, sleek (*yefot mar'ei*) and fat (*briyot basar*); and they began feeding in swamp grass. After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, miserable-looking (*raot mar'ei*), and lean (*vedakot basar*); and they stood by the other cows at the edge of the river.

As Pharaoh tells it: Genesis 41:18-19

And there came up out of the river seven cows, fat (*briyot basar*), and sleek *yefot toar*, וַיִּפְתְּתוּ אֶרְבֵּי; and they began feeding in the swamp grass. After them, there came up out of the river seven more cows, poor (*dalot*), miserable-looking (*veraot toar*), and lean-*verakot basar* וַרְקוֹת בְּשָׂר - I've never seen such bad-looking cows in all the land of Egypt!

Let's review these Hebrew words: As Pharaoh is trying to check if *Yossef* really knows the interpretation of his dreams, he uses two different words to describe the cows, *yefot toar* and *rakot*. These two words are the terms used to describe the Matriarchs *Rachel* and *Lea* in

Genesis 29:17, and although the second one, *rakot basar*, is not spelled the same, it does sound the same. And *Yaakov* worked twice seven years.

Leah's eyes were weak, *rakot רַכּוֹת*; but Rachel was good-looking *yefot toar יְפֹת-תֹּאֵר*, with beautiful features.

Yossef is then filled with the *Ruach Hakodesh* and understands the time has come for the gathering of the divided House of *Yisra-El* around him. His wisdom brings him the favor of Pharaoh and he becomes his advisor:

Pharaoh said to his officials, "Can we find anyone else like him? The Spirit of God lives in him!" *Ruach Elohim, רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים*? Genesis 41:38

A new name is given to him, *Tzafnat-Pa'neach*, both of which means "who reveals secrets" and "savior". This new name tells us about the divine plan fulfilled by *Yeshua* and we will have the full revelation at the end, *Miketz*:

His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on his head were many royal crowns. And he had a name written which no one knew but himself.

Revelation 19:12

Meanwhile starvation starts in Canaan and *Yaakov* sends his sons to buy wheat in Egypt. But he would not send *Bin-Yamin* yet.

The people of Israel need bread and we know that the bread symbolizes the Word of G-d. This speaks of this lack of spiritual bread which will occur:

... For the people of Israel are going to be in seclusion for a long time without a king, prince, sacrifice, standing-stone, ritual vest or household gods. Hosea 3:4

This verse is likened to the end times and hunger for this spiritual manna is what led *Yossef's* brothers to Egypt. The Scripture calls them "the sons of Israel" and then "*Yossef's* brothers". The sons of Israel are looking for bread and they will find the Bread that comes from Heaven, as *Yossef's* brothers:

Yeshua said to them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you it wasn't Moshe who gave you the bread from heaven. But my Father is giving you the genuine

bread from heaven; for God's bread is the One who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread from now on." *Yeshua* answered, "I am the bread which is life! Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever trusts in me will never be thirsty. John 6:32-35

They are also called *Yossef's* brothers and not *Yaakov's* sons because repentance is on the way and we know it will be full when they will receive the One they pierced as mentioned in Zachariah 12:10.

Then time has come for the confrontation and they ask for bread, bowing before their brother. Israel needs the spiritual bread that cannot be provided if not through the brother who was delivered. But first they will have to spend three days in prison for the repentance to bare fruit. Three days which speaks of *Yeshua's* death and His resurrection, three days for the grain of wheat to die and produce a harvest, three days which will allow the transformation of *Yaakov* to *Yisra-El*, at the end...

Miketz, מִקֵּץ

They said to each other, "We are in fact guilty concerning our brother. He was in distress and pleaded with us; we saw it and wouldn't listen. That's why this distress has come upon us now." Genesis 42:21

The transformation is in process and as they return home, they discover that the money was put back into their bags! Fear grabs them: the revelation of grace is not yet perceived, and the way is still long to understand the grace that G-d will one day provide, under the One Who represents Grace and is able to set them free from this prison:

The Spirit of Adonai Elohim is upon me, because Adonai has anointed me to announce good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim freedom to the captives, to let out into light those bound in the dark; to proclaim the year of the favor of Adonai. Isaiah 61:1

G-d gave us His Word to study. He gave His *mitzvot* (commandments) and He has asked that we "work out our salvation or deliverance" according to Philippians 2:12. But to Him belong times, revelations and interpretations of the prophecies: none of which our efforts can add to.

Yaakov has not yet understood that G-d's hand is at work and he refuses to let go of *Bin-Yamin*, *Rachel's* last son. He received the vision to found the Jewish nation with the twelve tribes and the Temple must be built on *Bin-Yamin's* territory. The Temple is the heart of Israel, his reason to be, it is about the presence of G-d, His Glory! Impossible to let go!

But *Yehuda* insists: "this man told us twice": (Genesis 43:3 and 43:5)

Yehuda said to him, "The man expressly warned us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.

The *Mashiach* will not come unless the House of *Yaakov* is gathered with the return of the twelve tribes in the Land of Israel and unless the body of the Messiah is complete, Israel and the Gentiles:

For, brothers, I want you to understand this truth which God formerly concealed but has now revealed, so that you won't imagine you know more than you actually do. It is that stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Israel, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness... Romans 11:25

Twice:

The Jewish Tradition says that there would be two Messiah, the *Mashiach Ben Yossef* who will gather the Twelve Tribes in Israel, and who will give His life for His people and to prepare the way for the *Mashiach Ben David* to Whom belongs the kingship and Who will establish the messianic era on earth.

Yeshua came the first time as the suffering *Mashiach* from Isaiah 53 and He wanted to gather His people:

Yerushalayim! Yerushalayim! You kill the prophets! You stone those who are sent to you! How often I wanted to gather your children, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you refused! Matthew 23:37

And He shall not come back until His people welcome Him:
For I tell you, from now on, you will not see me again until you say,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of Adonai. Matthew 23:39

Baruch Haba beshem Adonai

בְּרוּךְ הַבָּא בְּשֵׁם-יְהוָה

Then *Yaakov* understands, the Scripture does not call him *Yaakov* anymore but YISRA-EL, the name of his calling, his vocation:

יִשְׂרָאֵל

Light bursts forth. The tribe of *Bin-Yamin* never left the tribe of *Yehuda*, even in exile and this wonderful Temple where the *Shechina*, the presence of G-d dwells would last forever through the perfect sacrifice of the *Mashiah* allowing all who will, to share His glory!

For we are the temple of the living God – as God said, “I will house myself in them, and I will walk among you. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” 2 Corinthians 6:16

The *Parasha* ends with *Yossef's* brothers now ready to give their lives for their younger brother, as a sign of true repentance. The time for revelation of who *Yossef* is, is soon ready and we can foresee the deliverance and the rehabilitation of *Yossef* in front of the world and in front of his brothers. Moreover, it is totally linked with the reconciliation of the One they sold.

Because those whom he knew in advance, he also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers... Romans 8:29

The *Haftarah* teaches us that this revelation and conformity will happen at the end time with the power of His Spirit

Then he answered me, “This is the word of Adonai to *Z'rubavel*:
'Not by force, and not by power, but by my Spirit,' says Adonai-*Tzva'ot*
Zechariah 4:6

לֹא בְתִיל, וְלֹא בְכֹחַ--כִּי אֱמ-בְרוּחִי

Chanukah's Feast is the celebration of the presence of His Spirit back in the Temple of *Yisra-El* and His coming in our hearts!



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