

# TORAH TIME

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## PARASHA

Vayechi

- Genesis 47:28-50:26
- 1 Kings 2:1-12
- 1 Peter 1:1-9

## TORAH TIME

Ya'acov (Jacob) lives the final 17 years of his life in Egypt. Before he dies, he asks Joseph to take an oath that he will bury him in the Holy Land. He blesses Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. With his special blessing he puts them on the same level as his own sons, the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jacob also wants to tell his children of things to come in the future. He speaks a special blessing over each tribe. Jacob knew that the tongue of the wise brings healing. With his words Ya'acov gives a role to each tribe. Judah will produce leaders, legislators and kings. Priests will come from Lewi. Scholars from Issachar. Seafarers or boaters from Zevulun. Schoolteachers will be born from Simeon. The tribe of Gad will produce soldiers. Judges from Dan. Olive growers from Asher, and so on. Re'uven is scolded for "confusing his father's marriage."

Ya'acov fusses at Shimon and Levi for the massacre of Shechem and the plot against Joseph. Naphtali is granted the swiftness of a deer, Benyamin the ferociousness of a wolf, and Joseph is blessed with beauty and power.

Finally, Jacob dies.

A large funeral is held for him. Jacob's descendants, Pharaoh's ministers, the leading citizens of Egypt and even the Egyptian cavalry goes to take Jacob's body to the Holy Land. Ya'acov is buried in the Machpeilah Cave in Hebron.

The Torah then tells about the death of Yosef in Egypt. Yosef lived to be the age of 110. He, too, instructs that his bones be taken out of Egypt and buried in the Holy Land. But this

would come to pass only with the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt many years later. Before his passing, Joseph tells the Children of Israel that "YHWH will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Ya'acov."

(This is an easy explanation of the Torah portion taken from the book "The Open Bible" available at [www.emetministries.com](http://www.emetministries.com))

## MEMORY VERSE

"The tongue of the wise brings healing," Proverbs 12:18

## LEARNING ACTIVITY

Do you like special code words or secret messages? Well, YHWH has some codes for us that have been hidden in the words of the Bible. Many of these can be found in the Hebrew language.

The Hebrew language connects us to the people who wrote the Bible. Hebrew is the language that YHWH spoke when He created the world. It is what Adam, Abraham, Noach and the Messiah spoke too.

Each Hebrew letter is named for the sound that it produces. For example, the "bet" letter has a "B" sound. The "lamed" letter has the "L" sound. Each Hebrew letter is also a special message from YHWH. The letters have meaning. They are like code words from YHWH to you today. Like any hidden code, we must look for the secret message. One message is found in this week's Torah portion. In Genesis 49 verse 18 the Messiah's name is spoken in Hebrew by Jacob. This verse reveals that many people in the Older Testament believed in the coming Messiah. Many even knew His name!

Genesis 49:18 in English reads, "I have waited for Your salvation, O YHWH." In Hebrew the verse is "Le Y'shua tehka keyoo eet'ee YHWH." Try reading that Hebrew outloud... "Le Y'shua tehka keyoo eet'ee YHWH." Does it sound funny? Do you recognize a name in the Hebrew?

The secret hidden word in this verse is the name of Y'shua our Messiah. In this verse, the word for "salvation" is the exact name of the Savior! Jacob says Y'shua's name! This passage could also say, "to Y'SHUA I am looking, O YHWH." Here Jacob is actually calling out the name of Y'shua. This isn't the only time the Savior's name is made known in the Tanakh (Older Testament.)

In Psalm 9:14, King David of Israel said "I will rejoice in thy salvation/Y'shua." The Prophet Isaiah agreed in 12:2&3, "Behold, Elohim is my Y'SHUA/salvation; I will trust, and be not afraid: for YHWH is my strength and my song; he also is become my Y'shua/salvation. Therefore with joy shall you draw water out of the wells of Y'shua/salvation." Later in Isaiah 62:11 we read, "Behold, YHWH hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation/Y'shua cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him." Y'shua is found throughout the pages of the Torah, Prophets, and Writings if we will just look. It is so important that you study the Hebrew letters and language. You will indeed find more codes as you begin to read the letters and learn the words of Hebrew.

## WALK THE TALK

In this portion we read of how Jacob blesses his children and his grandchildren. One day Ya'acov places his hands on the sons of Yosef named Ephraim and Manasseh. Then later he blesses each of his twelve sons. Speaking blessings is an important part of our faith. We often say "baruch atah YHWH" when we pray. This means "blessed are you YHWH." You can and should bless YHWH all throughout your day. Our blessings are to be about YHWH and towards YHWH. The Bible teaches that when the universe was crated it was blessed by YHWH and declared good. We don't need to bless our food to make it good. Instead, we are to bless YHWH for the food! Our memory verse states, "The tongue of the wise brings healing," Proverbs 12:18. When you bless YHWH you take your attention and focus off yourself and place it on YHWH.

The Hebrew word for blessing is "baruch" or "b'racha." These words mean to "bend the knee." Subjects bend their knees in honor and respect to a king. When we speak blessings we are actually bending the knee of our heart to YHWH. Jacob blessed his family by laying hands on them and praying for them. He also thanked YHWH for His family. You can speak blessings too! In the page provided make a list of blessings that you can thank YHWH for. Try saying "baruch atah YHWH for \_\_\_\_\_." Speaking blessings brings healing!

Try speaking blessings to YHWH this week. Bless him in the good times and in the bad times. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of YHWH," 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

# Some of My Blessings

Baruch atah YHWH...

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## TORAH TALK

What does the name of this portion mean?

Why is this portion special?

What is the main subject of this portion?

How can you live this portion?

What commandments are in this portion?

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

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

What did you learn from the Torah?

## HEBREW LESSON



MEET THE LAMED:

Lev = heart

Lechem = bread

# WRITE THE LETTER



Note that the first stroke extends above the line and inclines from left to right.

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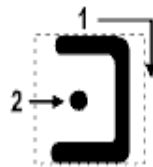
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# REVIEW THE LETTERS



A single stroke, like a backwards "c" is used to form this letter.

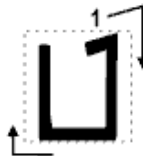
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Note that the initial horizontal stroke slightly ascends from the left to right before descending.

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# Activity Ideas

Find the traditional icons for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Draw them on a poster board. Use this poster for reference as you study through the Torah portions.

This week's portion discusses the death of both Ya'acov and Yosef. After their deaths their families honored them by burying them in the Holy Land. This is fulfillment of one of the 10 Commandments which says to "honor your father and mother." Talk to your parents about how you can honor them. Ask them if they have ever honored someone who has passed on.



Use the internet to look up blessings in Hebrew. Watch videos and listen to how blessings are spoken in the holy tongue.

Make a copy of the twelve tribes flags (emblems) and color and paste on paper, cut out a coat of arms shape out of cardboard, cover with aluminum foil if you want or just design the own coat of arms representing a tribe on the cardboard.

In chapter 50 we discuss Jacob being embalmed or mummified which was a common practice to the Egyptians. They used herbs, spices, natron, and other things to preserve the body. Take apples and cut them up into pieces. Fill three plastic cups with salt, epon salt, and baking soda individually. Mix the three ingredients and put them in three cups as well. Put the apples in the mixtures and cover them completely. Then put some apples in one cup without any salt. Leave the cups for a week and then check on them to see if the apples have decomposed.

Include this week's memory verse in a card that you send to a loved one. "The tongue of the wise brings healing," Proverbs 12:18. Your words matter!

When Ya'acov prayed over Ephraim and Maneshe he blessed them with protection. To remember this, trace your hand on a piece of dark or black construction paper. Draw stars around your hand. Or use star stickers. Put the words of Jacob's blessing from Genesis 47 on your craft and hang it in your room.

# Can you identify these Hebrew letters?

Write the name and the sound of each letter.

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ב

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ח

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# THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

(Draw a symbol or picture for each tribe in the space near their name.)

<b>Lewi</b>	<b>Judah</b>	<b>Re'uen</b>
<b>Naphtali</b>	<b>Simeon</b>	<b>Asher</b>
<b>Yosef</b>	<b>Benyamin</b>	<b>Zevulun</b>
<b>Shimon</b>	<b>Dan</b>	<b>Gad</b>



**THE MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS WEEK IS:**

“The \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ brings  
\_\_\_\_\_,” Proverbs \_\_\_\_\_.

