



the source from which we learn that Jacob established *Ma'ariv*, the evening prayer service (*Talmud Brachot 26b*).

Q: According to the holy sages of the *Talmud Yerushalmi* and *Yonatan ben Uziel*, many miracles occurred when Jacob left Be'er Sheva. What were these miracles?

A: Five miracles occurred: The hours of the day became shorter and the sun set earlier because G-d wanted to speak with Jacob. Second, the four stones that Jacob took to use as a pillow miraculously became one stone. Third, Jacob was able to lift a stone by himself that had proven too heavy for all the shepherds together. Four, after Jacob removed the heavy stone from the well, the water flowed abundantly and freely for the entire time that he was in Charan (twenty years). Five, after Jacob left Be'er Sheva, G-d shortened the distance and Jacob suddenly found himself in Charan.

Q: What was Jacob's vow to G-d (*Genesis 28:20*)?

A: Jacob vowed that if G-d would protect him from danger, hunger and cold and return him safely to his father's house, he would reciprocate by building a temple. Jacob also promised to carefully write down his earnings and to faithfully give a tenth of this wealth to charity. From this vow, Jacob established the precedent of sharing one's good fortune by giving a percentage of one's annual earnings to the needy.

Q: What is the connection between *Parsha Vayitzei* and its corresponding reading from the prophets?

A: In *Vayitzei*, Jacob meets, works for, and lives in the home of Laban. Jacob then marries Laban's two daughters, Leah and Rachel. Laban had a scheming, cheating personality, especially when dealing with Jacob. Laban constantly cheated Jacob, first by tricking him into marrying Leah and then with regards to his wages.

Honesty is the basis of many Jewish laws, both in the home and in business. We are told that "Truth is the tree of life whose fruits you shall eat all your days."

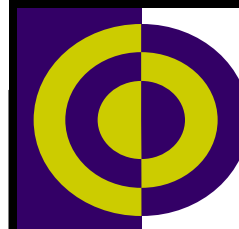
The prophet Isaiah explores the contrast in characters between honest and corrupt (Laban). In the reading, people sold their bodies and forgot their inheritance, the ancestor Jacob passed down



explores the contrast in characters between honest and corrupt (Jacob) and the corrupting, Isaiah laments that people sell their souls for material gain and morality and values our ancestors to us.

SHAVUAH TOV!

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!



Schedule of Synagogue Services and Special Activities for

Parshat Vayetze 2009-5770



Rabbi Yaakov Y. Gertzulin, M.S.
Director of Religious Affairs

**RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF****November 22-28 5-11 Kislev 5770**

Sunday Thru Thursday synagogue services are held at 4:30 p.m. in the Kosher dining room (M2).

Rabbi's Torah study group is held every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the Kosher dining Room (M2)

Yiddish conversation and music group is held on Wednesdays from 10:30 - 11:30 (Check Daily Calendar for Location).

Kabbalat Shabbat services are held Friday evening at 4:00 pm in the Gall Sanctuary and at 4:30 pm in the Kosher dining room followed by Kiddush.

Shabbat morning services are held on Saturday at 9:30am in the Plaza synagogue. Followed by Kiddush

Shabbat afternoon services are held on Saturday at 4:30 pm in the Kosher dining room.

“The dream is but a window on Man's thoughts and troubles”

Alcalay

**Torah Portion of the Week****Vayetzei (28:10 - 32:3; Haftorah: Hosea 12-13:1-14:10)****November 28, 2009 11 Kislev 5770**

Synopsis:

Jacob had a dream vision; Jacob established evening prayer; Jacob and Rachel met; Laban and Jacob created a marriage contract; Laban fooled Jacob by switching his daughters; Rachel and Leah had jealousy between them; Jacob planned to leave Laban; Jacob left Laban; Laban ran to catch Jacob; Jacob and Laban fought; Jacob and Laban reached an agreement; G-d's angels escorted Jacob to the Holy Land.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TORAH PORTION**

Q: The Bible states, "Jacob departed from Be'er Sheva and traveled to Charan" (Genesis 28:10). Why does the Bible make a special point telling us this?

A: Jacob spent fourteen years in Be'er Sheva studying the Torah (Bible) with the holy sages Shem and Aver. According to tradition, the oral Torah was given to Adam, and then orally passed on to the leaders of the later generations (Introduction to the book *Raziel HaMalach*). This was to prepare Jacob for his personal struggles. Shem and Aver taught him how to remain a pious person even when living among dishonest and sinful people. Tradition tells that Shem was from the generation of the Flood, while Aver had lived with the people who built the Tower of Babel.

Jacob was a righteous person. The Bible points out that when a righteous person is residing in a city, the city takes on the splendor, brilliance, and charm of that righteous person (*Talmud Ta'anis*). When Jacob departed Be'er Sheva, all the splendor, brilliance, and charm the city had acquired left with Jacob. This is why the Bible words his departure and travel in the manner it does (*Rashi*).

Q: What did Jacob do in Charan that he had not done in 14 years?

A: Jacob laid down and slept a full night (*Bereishit Rabba 28:11*).

Q: The Bible states, "he encountered the place" (*Genesis 28:11*). What do our sages teach us from this verse?

A: "The place" referred to in the verse in Mount Moriah, the holy site where Isaac lay ready to be sacrificed to G-d. It is also the place where the Temple would be built (*Talmud Pesachim 88a*). This is

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