

# Parashat Vayehi

Genesis 47:28–50:26

JANUARY 10, 2020



## SUMMARY

This is the VERY LAST *parasha* in the book of *Bereishit*. We learn that *Yisra'el* (also known as *Ya'akov*) has lived for 17 years in Egypt. He is now very old. His son *Yosef* brings his own two sons--*Efraim* and *Menashe*--to see their grandfather. *Yisra'el* blesses these two grandsons and then blesses each of his own twelve sons. *Yisra'el* makes his sons promise that when he dies they will bury him in the land of *Canaan*--in the Cave of *Machpelah*.

After *Ya'akov's* death the brothers returned to *Yosef* and told him that their father, *Ya'akov*, had begged for *Yosef* to forgive them. They offer themselves to *Yosef* to be his slaves. *Yosef* responds that they will not be his slaves because--even though they planned evil things against him--G'd made it over to be good.

Right before his own death at 110 years old, *Yosef* also asked that his own bones be buried in the Promised Land. Although he was first buried in Egypt, when the Israelites went out from slavery they took *Yosef's* bones with them so that he could finally be buried in the Promised Land.

### From Our Commentators:

#### Rashbam

אלהים חשבה לטובה - הקב"ה גרם לכם ואתם לא  
פשעתם כי לטובתכם נתכוין הקב"ה

**G'd made it over for good**, G'd caused you (to act in the way you did) and you are not to be punished because G'd intended it (all to happen) for your own good.



Plaque outside of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL referencing Genesis 50:20 to memorialize the girls killed in the bombing there.

### FOR DISCUSSION:

- 1) Why might it be important to *Yaakov* and *Yosef* to be buried in the Promised Land?
- 2) After *Ya'akov* dies and his sons bury him the brothers get nervous that *Yosef* will want revenge on them for throwing him into a pit and selling him into slavery when he was young. *Yosef* is now one of the most powerful people in Egypt. Why do you think they might be nervous now?
- 3) *Yosef's* brothers tell *Yosef*, “YOUR father” said that you should forgive us. The brothers say *Yosef*, “YOUR father,” but they all share the same father. Why do you think the brothers said “YOUR father” instead of “OUR father said that you should forgive us?”