Parsha Q&A



Parshas Vayishlach

For the week ending 19 Kislev 5757 29 & 30 November 1996

Parsha Questions

- 1. What sort of messengers did Yaakov send to Eisav?
- 2. Why was Yaakov both 'afraid' and 'distressed'?
- 3. In what three ways did Yaakov prepare for his encounter with Eisav?
- 4. Where did Dinah hide and why?
- 5. After helping his family across the river, Yaakov remained alone on the other side. Why?
- 6. What was the angel forced to do before Yaakov agreed to release him?
- 7. What was it that healed Yaakov's leg?
- 8. Why did Eisav embrace Yaakov?
- 9. Why did Yoseph stand between Eisav and Rachel?
- 10. What happened to the 400 men who accompanied Eisav?
- 11. On what day of the week did Yaakov encamp near Shechem?

- 12. What did Shimon and Levi do wrong when they killed the people of Shechem?
- 13. What does the name *Binyamin* mean? Why did Yaakov call him that?
- 14. Who was born along with Binyamin?
- 15. In verse 35:22 the Torah states "The sons of Yaakov were twelve." Why?
- 16. How old was Yaakov when Yoseph was sold?
- 17. Eisav changed the name of his wife, Ahalivamah, to Yehudis. Why?
- 18. Which three categories of people have their sins pardoned?
- 19. Why did Eisav leave the land of Canaan?
- 20. By what other name was Magdiel known?



"And Yaakov said to Shimon and Levi "You have besmirched me, giving me a bad reputation amongst those who dwell in the land...." (34:31)

Yaakov never had any intention of letting his daughter marry a Canaanite. He knew all along that the agreement with Shechem was no more than a ruse. So why was Yaakov suddenly angry at Shimon and Levi?

I Did Not Know That!

"And Hashem said to him: "...No longer will you be called Yaakov, rather *Yisrael* will be your name...." (35:10)

The word *Yisrael* combines the first letter from the names of all the Patriarchs and Matriarchs:

Y ud	'itzchak & Yaakov	•
(i)		
S in	Sarah	ש
R eish	Rivka & Rachel	٦
A leph	Avraham	Я
(e)		
L amed	Leah	ל

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Recommended Reading List

	Ramban		Sforno
32:4	Yaakov's Error	32:19	Strategy of the Gifts
32:9	Sign for the Future	32:25	The Wrestling Match
32:26	The Gid Hanashe	32:26	Yaakov's Injury
33:14	The Journey to Seir	32:33	The Gid Hanashe
34:12	Dinah	33:4	Surviving Eisav
35:8	Rivka's Death	34:27	The Guilt of Shechem
35:16	Rachel's Tomb	35:10	The Meaning of Yaakov's Name
	Sefer HaChinuch	35:23	The Power of Repentance

3 The Gid Hanashe

Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

- 1. 32:4 Angels.
- 2. 32:8 He was afraid he would be killed. He was distressed that he would have to kill.
- 3. 32:9 He sent gifts, he prayed, and he prepared for war
- 4. 32:23 Yaakov hid her in a chest so Eisav wouldn't see her and want to marry her.
- 5. 32:25 He went back to get some small containers he had forgotten.
- 6. 32:27 Admit that the blessings given by Yitzchak rightfully belong to Yaakov.
- 7. 32:32 The shining of the sun.
- 8. 33:4 His pity was aroused when he saw Yaakov bowing to him so many times.
- 9. 34:7 To stop Eisav from gazing at her.
- 10. 34:16 They slipped away one by one.

- 11. 34:18 Friday afternoon.
- 12. 34:25 They acted without consulting their father.
- 13. 35:18 *Ben-Yemin* means 'Son of the South.' He was the only son born in the Land of Israel, which is south of Aram Naharaim.
- 14. 35:17 His two twin sisters.
- 15. 35:22 To stress, that all of them including Reuven —were righteous.
- 16. 35:29 One hundred and eight.
- 17. 35:2 To fool Yitzchak into thinking that she had abandoned idolatry.
- 18. 36:3 One who converts, one who is elevated to a position of leadership, and one who marries.
- 19. 36:7 He was ashamed for having sold his birthright.
- 20. 36:43 Romi (Rome).



Yaakov knew that the brothers wanted to rescue Dinah while the people of Shechem were weak from the circumcision. But he didn't know that they were going to kill all of the people.

Ramban

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