

#7 Vayetzei (וַיִּצֵא) – Hebrew for "AND HE WENT OUT"

Torah: Genesis 28:10-32:3 Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:14 **TOPICS IN THE PARSHA** THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT Jacob leaves his hometown of Beersheba and journeys to Charan. On the way, he encounters "the place" and sleeps there, dreaming of a ladder connecting heaven and earth, with messengers climbing and descending on it; **TOPICS IN THE PARSHA** THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT Elohim appears and promises that the land upon which he lies will be given to his descendants. In the morning, Jacob raises the stone on which he laid his head as an altar and monument, pledging that it will be made the house of Elohim.

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

In Haran, Jacob stays with and works for his uncle Laban, tending Laban's sheep. Laban agrees to give him his younger daughter, Rachel-whom Jacob loves—in marriage, in return for seven years' labor. But on the wedding night, Laban gives him his elder daughter, Leah, instead-a deception Jacob discovers only in the morning. Jacob marries Rachel, too, a week later, after agreeing to work another seven years for Laban.

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT Leah gives birth to six sons-Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun -and a daughter, Dinah, while Rachel remains barren. Rachel gives Jacob her handmaid, Bilhah, as a wife to bear children in her stead, and two more sons, Dan and Naphtali, are born, Leah does the same with her handmaid, Zilpah, who gives birth to Gad and Asher. Finally, Rachel's prayers are answered and she gives birth to Joseph.

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

Jacob has now been in Charan for fourteen years, and wishes to return home. But Laban persuades him to remain, now offering him sheep in return for his labor. Jacob prospers, despite Laban's repeated attempts to swindle him. After six years, Jacob leaves Charan in stealth, fearing that Laban would prevent him from leaving with the family and property for which he labored. Laban pursues Jacob, but is warned by Elohim in a dream not to harm him. Laban and Jacob make a pact on Mount Gal-Ed, attested to by a pile of stones, and Jacob proceeds to the Holy Land, where he is met by angels.

Gen 28:10 And Ya'aqob went out from Be'ěrsheba and went toward Haran.

Gen 28:11 And he came upon a place and stopped over for the night, for the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Gen 28:12 And he dreamed and saw a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to the heavens, and saw messengers of Elohim going up and coming down on it.

Gen 28:13 And see, יהוה stood above it and said, "I am יהוה Elohim of Abraham your father and the Elohim of Yitshaq. The land on which you are lying, I give it to you and your seed. Gen 28:14 "And your seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and you shall break forth to the west and to the east, to the north and the south. And all the clans of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your seed.

Gen 28:15 "And see, I am with you and shall guard you wherever you go, and shall bring you back to this land. For I am not going to leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Gen 28:16 And Ya'aqob awoke from his sleep and said, "Truly, יהוה is in this place, and I did not know it."

Gen 28:17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of Elohim, and this is the gate of the

heavens!"

Gen 28:18 And Ya'aqob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a standing column, and poured oil on top of it.

Gen 28:19 And he called the name of that place Běyth Ěl, however, the name of that city had been Luz previously.