

וַיֵּצֵא

Vayetzei

“And He Went Out”

Bereishit | Genesis 28:10-32:3

Reading Genesis 31:43-32:3

Blessing the Reading of the Torah

ברוך אתה אדני

אלהינו מלך העולם

אשר בחר בנו מכל העמים

ונתן לנו את תורתו

ברוך אתה אדני נותן התורה

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheynu,

melekh ha-olam,

Asher bechar banu mik-kol ha-am-mim

venatan la-nu et Torato.

Baruch ata Adonai, no-tein Ha-Torah

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe

Who chose us from all the people and gave us His Torah

Blessed are you, Lord, giver of the Torah

Blessing over the reader of Torah

May He who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bless *Daniel Garren* because he has come up for the honor of God, for the honor of the Torah and for the honor of the Shabbat. In this merit may the Holy One, Blessed be He, protect and deliver *Daniel* from all trouble and distress, from all affliction and illness, and may He send blessing and success to all his endeavors, together with all Israel and all his brethren;
and the congregation says,
In Yeshua's Name
Amen.

Genesis 31

43 Laban answered Jacob, “The women are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. All you see is mine. Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne?”

44 Come now, let’s make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as a witness between us.”

Genesis 31

45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

46 He said to his relatives, “Gather some stones.”
So they took stones and piled them in a heap,
and they ate there by the heap.

47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, and Jacob
called it Galeed. [*“witness heap”*]

Genesis 31

48 Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” That is why it was called Galeed .

49 It was also called Mizpah, [*“watchtower”*] because he said, “May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.

Genesis 31

50 If you mistreat my daughters or if you take any wives besides my daughters, even though no one is with us, remember that God is a witness between you and me.”

51 Laban also said to Jacob, “Here is this heap, and here is this pillar I have set up between you and me.

Genesis 31

52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me.

53 May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us.” So Jacob took an oath in the name of the Fear of his father Isaac.

Genesis 31

54 He offered a sacrifice there in the hill country and invited his relatives to a meal. After they had eaten, they spent the night there.

55 Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then he left and returned home.

Genesis 32

1 Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. 2 When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is the camp of God!” So he named that place Mahanaim. [*“two camps”*]

3 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.



First Century Ministries

An illustration depicting a scene from the Torah. On the left, a man with a long black beard and a blue turban stands in a yellow robe. He is looking towards a large, multi-tiered stone altar on the right. The altar is made of yellow blocks with pinkish-red arched openings. A fire is burning on the right side of the altar, with smoke rising. The background is a warm, orange and yellow sky with stylized clouds. The overall style is that of a children's book illustration.

Torah Portion Vayetze

“Then He went out”

Topic

- Jacob's Stairway
- Babel vs. Bethel



The Tower of Babel – Genesis 11

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

The Tower of Babel – Genesis 11

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

The Tower of Babel – Genesis 11

The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

The Tower of Babel – Genesis 11

⁹ That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

What's Wrong With the City & Tower?

#1

- Genesis 1 – what were humans supposed to do?
 - What did they not do here?
- Gen 1:28 - God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...

What's Wrong With the City & Tower?

#2

- “let us build... a tower with its top in the heavens”
- Arrogance - hubris

What's Wrong With the City & Tower?

#3

- “let us build... a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves”
- A name for _____?



Babylon

america

The City and its Tower

- Why a tower?
- Where do gods sometimes come live according to ancient people?



Mountains

- Meeting spot of heaven and earth
- Where “gods” visit
- High-places



Mt. Zaphon



Mt. Olympus

Babylon

- City: Babil - “gate of the god(s)”
- King – credit for building projects



Ziggurat in Babel

- Tower: Man-made _____?



Ziggurat in Babylon

- Tower: Man-made mountain
- Mountain – meeting spot
- entice a god to dwell
- “You come to us!”



Deuteronomy 12:5

You are to seek the place
the LORD your God will choose from
among all your tribes to put his
Name there for his dwelling.

1 Kings 8:27 – Solomon Gets It!

Will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

Ziggurat in Babel

- Tower: Man-made mountain
- Mountain – meeting spot
- entice a god to dwell
- Etemenanki = “Foundation of heaven and earth”
- Who could ascend it?



Jacob's Dream



Gen 28:10-11

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.



Gen 28:12-13

He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to the heavens, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

There above it stood YHWH, and he said: “I am YHWH, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.



Gen 28:14-15

14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”



Gen 28:16-17

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely YHWH is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

17 He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of the heavens.”



Can God only be in one place
at one time?

Does God need a house?

Did God declare this site to be
his house and the gate to the
heavens?

Comparing Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#1 – Meeting Place

Ziggurat

Stairway

Comparing Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#2 – Where Does It Reach?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Comparing Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#3 – Intercessors

Ziggurat

Stairway

Comparing Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#4 – Gate of...?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Comparing Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#5 – “made great”

Ziggurat

Stairway

Contrasting Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#1 – How was it made?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Contrasting Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#2 – Mobility?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Contrasting Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#3 – divine descension?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Contrasting Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#4 – Scattering?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Contrasting Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#5 – Whose name is “great”?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Contrasting Bethel's Stairway to Babel's Ziggurat

#6 – Where do diety & humans meet?

Ziggurat

Stairway

Any other similarities or
differences?

Why are there connections to the Tower of Babel in this story?

What Does Babel Represent?

- Man's attempts to:
 - commune & control
 - glorify

How Does This Story Flip the Narrative?

- God comes to his chosen, not enticed
- On his own terms
- Promise to Abraham will be kept
- When successful = sharing God's name
- Through the family of Abraham, blessing

Yeshua refers to Jacob's Stairway

John 1:51

“Very truly I tell you, you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

- *Is he the stairway?*
- *Is he the intercessor?*
- *Is he the place heaven and earth meet*
- *Is he where divinity dwells?*

An intercessor

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one mediator
[intercessor] between God and
mankind, the man Messiah Yeshua

A Stairway Between God and Man

John 14:6

“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me.”

This affirmation is a summary of the ministry of the Son of Man for the achievement of the divine purpose...in the signs he performs, the revelation of his word, the life that he lives, the death and resurrection that he accomplishes...the goal is attained when the Son of Man welcomes the redeemed to the Father's house... the Son of Man is the meeting point of heaven's fullness and earth's need.

George R. Beasley-Murray, John, vol. 36, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1999), 28.

Where Heaven and Earth Meet

Colossians 2:9

For in Messiah all the fullness of the
Deity lives in bodily form

Where Divinity Dwells

Where on earth did God choose to descend and dwell with his people?



“The Word
became flesh
and Tented
among us”

- John 1:14

The Grand Building Project- Ephesians 2

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Messiah Yeshua himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in Yeshua you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.



All The Earth

- Abraham's Blessing – Whole Earth
- How are we all blessed?
 - *Messiah!*
 - *The spirit of God's dwelling*

Go out and bless!
Share the good news!

Parashah Vayishlach Aliyah or Reading

וַיִּשְׁלַח – And he sent

Genesis 32:4 – 36:43

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • 1 st Day | Genesis 32:4 – 13 | <u>Haftarah</u> |
| • 2 nd Day | Genesis 32:14 – 30 | Obadiah 1:1 – 21 |
| • 3 rd Day | Genesis 32:31 – 33:5 | |
| • 4 th Day | Genesis 33:6 – 20 | |
| • 5 th Day | Genesis 34:1 – 35:11 | <u>Gospels</u> |
| • 6 th Day | Genesis 35:12 – 36:19 | Matthew 2:13 – 23 |
| • 7 th Day | Genesis 36:20 – 43 | |



First Century Ministries

Blessings and Shalom