

THE BEREKHU

*LEADER / OLAH*

BAREKHU ET ADONAI HA'ME'VO-RAKH

BLESS THE LORD, WHO IS TO BE BLESSED

*CONGREGATION / OLIM*

BARUCH ADONAI HA'ME'VO-RAKH LA OLAM VA'ED

BLESSED IS ADONAI, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER AND EVER

וַיִּגַּשׁ

Vayigash

*“And He Drew Near”*

Bereishit | Genesis 44:18 – 47:27

Reading: Genesis 47:11 - 27

# 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 47: 11 - 13

11 Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them property in the land of Egypt, in the best part of the land, in the land of Rameses, just as Pharaoh commanded.

12 And Joseph supported his father and his brothers and his father's entire household with food for the mouths of the little ones.

13 Now there was no food in all the land because the famine was very severe. Both the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

## Genesis 47:14 - 16

14 Joseph collected all the money that could be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain that they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

15 Then the money of the land of Egypt and of the land of Canaan ran out and all of Egypt came to Joseph saying, "Give us food. Why should we die in front of you because the money is gone?"

16 Joseph said, "Give your livestock and I'll give it to you for your livestock, if the money is gone."

## Genesis 47:17 - 19

17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph and Joseph gave them food in exchange for horses, for flocks of sheep, for herds of cattle and for donkeys. He provided them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.

18 When that year came to an end, they came to him in the second year and said to him, “We won’t hide from my lord that the money has run out and the livestock and the domestic animals are my lord’s. There is nothing left in my lord’s sight except our bodies and our land.

19 Why should we die before your eyes—both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food—we and our land will become Pharaoh’s slaves. Provide seed so that we may live and not die, and the land won’t be deserted.”

## Genesis 47:20 - 22

20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh because the Egyptians, each one, sold his field, for the famine overcame them. Thus the land became Pharaoh's.

21 He made the people slaves from one end of Egypt's border to the other.

22 Only he did not buy the land belonging to the priests, because the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they ate their allotment that Pharaoh gave them. Therefore they did not sell their land.



## Genesis 47:23 - 25

23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you, so that you can sow the land.

24 During the harvest you must give a fifth part to Pharaoh and four-fifths will be for you, for seed for the field and for your food, and for those in your houses, and for food for your little ones."

25 "You've saved our lives," they said. "We find favor in the eyes of my lord, and we'll be Pharaoh's slaves."

## Genesis 47:26 - 27

26 So Joseph set it as a statute until this very day concerning the land of Egypt: a fifth-part goes to Pharaoh. Only the priests' land did not become Pharaoh's.

27 Meanwhile, Israel settled in the land of Egypt in the land of Goshen, acquired property in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.



First Century Ministries

# Vayigash

*“and he came near”*

# Readings

- Torah: Genesis 44:18 – 47:27
- Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28
- Gospels: Luke 24:30-48

# Today's Focus: Gospels & Haftarah

## Luke 24:36-39

36 While the disciples were still talking about this ,  
Yeshua himself stood among them and said to them,  
“Peace be with you.”

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a  
ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and  
why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands  
and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost  
does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

# Ancient Belief

- Dead = ?



# Ancient Belief

- Dead = Stay dead!
- Until when?
- Ghost sightings meant what?
  - A vision, apparition, sorcery
  - e.g. *Witch of Endor*

## Disciples' Response

- “they were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost”
- BUT!
- How many times did Yeshua predict his death **AND** resurrection?

## Luke 18:31-34

Yeshua took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. 32 He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; 33 they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”

**34 The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.**

*Incarnation – Death – Resurrection - Ascension*

Why did Yeshua rise from the  
dead?

## Several Reasons (*a small list*)

- 1) Victory over sin and death
- 2) To ascend and be our high priest
- 3) Firstfruits of the resurrection
- 4) Vindication!

# Vindication

- Why did his disciples doubt?
- Did they not trust his words?
- Don't followers of all leaders trust their leader's words?

## Post Exilic Hopes

- 539 BC – Persian Cyrus the Great
  - *Allows Jews to return to the land*
  - *Worship their God*
  - *Who rules?*





## Post Exilic Hopes

- 331BC – Alexander the Great
  - *Allows worship of God*
  - *Dispersion of Jews*
  - *Who rules the land?*





# Post Exilic Hopes

- Greek Empire(s)
  - *Ptolemy* – general
    - *King of the south (Egypt)*
  - *Selucus* – general
    - *King of the north (Syria)*



## Post Exilic Hopes

- 323-198 BC – Ptolemies
- *Jewish relative peace and freedom*
- *But who rules the land?*



*Ptolemy I - "Soter"*

## Post Exilic Hopes

- 198-167 BC – Selucid
- *Jewish limited freedom and self-government*
- *But who rules the land?*



*Antiochus III*

## Post Exilic Hopes

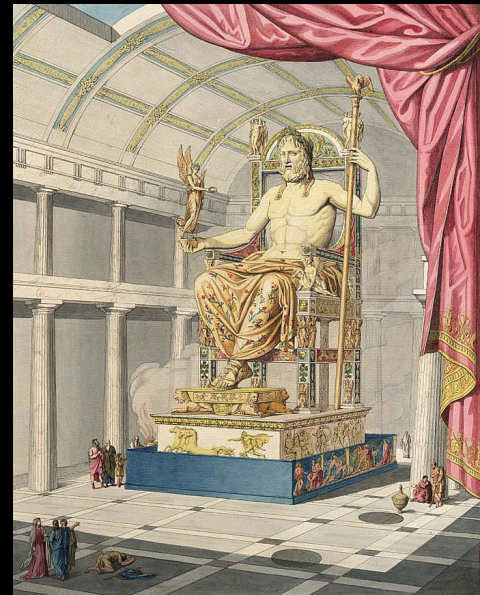
- 175 BC – Antiochus Epiphanes
- *Severe taxation*
- *Huge push for Hellenization*
- *Epiphanes (“God made manifest”)*
- *Invaded temple, took sacred objects and money*
- *Killed 40,000 Jews in one day*



*Antiochus IV  
“Epiphanes”*

## Post Exilic Hopes

- Renamed the temple for Zeus Olympius
- *Sacrificed pigs on altar of incense*
- *Set up a statue of Zeus*
- *No circumcision*
- *No sabbath observance*
- *Banned and burned Torah scrolls*



*Video from: the Maccabeats*



# Maccabean Revolt

- Sick of violation of God's Torah
- Sick of oppression
- Outnumbered 6-1
- Prayers of Judah Maccabeus



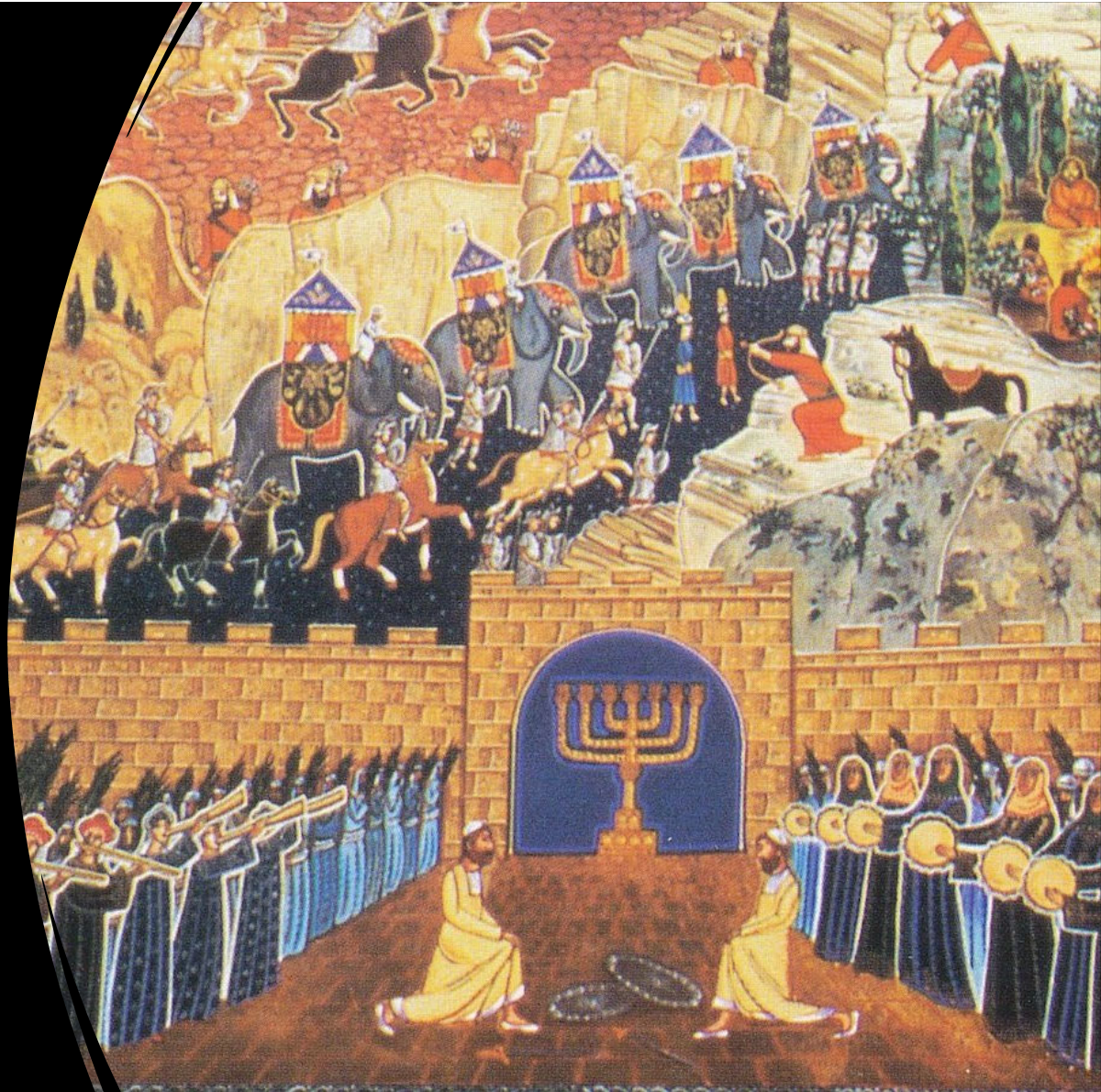
## 2 Maccabees 15:21-24

Adonai, when Hezekiah was king of Judah, you sent your angel, who killed 185,000 of King Sennacherib's men. Now once again, Lord of heaven, send your good angel to make our enemies shake and tremble with fear. With your great power, destroy these people who have slandered you and have come out to attack your chosen people".



# Hasmoneans

- 142 BC – Selucids fully removed!
- Golden age of independence
- Who rules?
- Hasmoneans – priestly family
- Priest-king dynasty



What's the problem with the  
Hasmonean Dynasty?

# Messianic Hope in the Hasmonean Period

See, Lord, and raise up for them their king, the son of David, to rule over Israel, your servant, in the time which you chose, o God. Undergird him with the strength to destroy the unrighteous rulers, to cleanse Jerusalem from the nations who trample her to destruction; to drive out in wisdom and in righteousness the sinners from the inheritance; to crash the arrogance of sinners like a potter's jar; to smash all their substance with an iron rod; to destroy the lawless nations with the word of his mouth;

- Psalms of Solomon 17:21-24 (*written between 130-63 BC*)

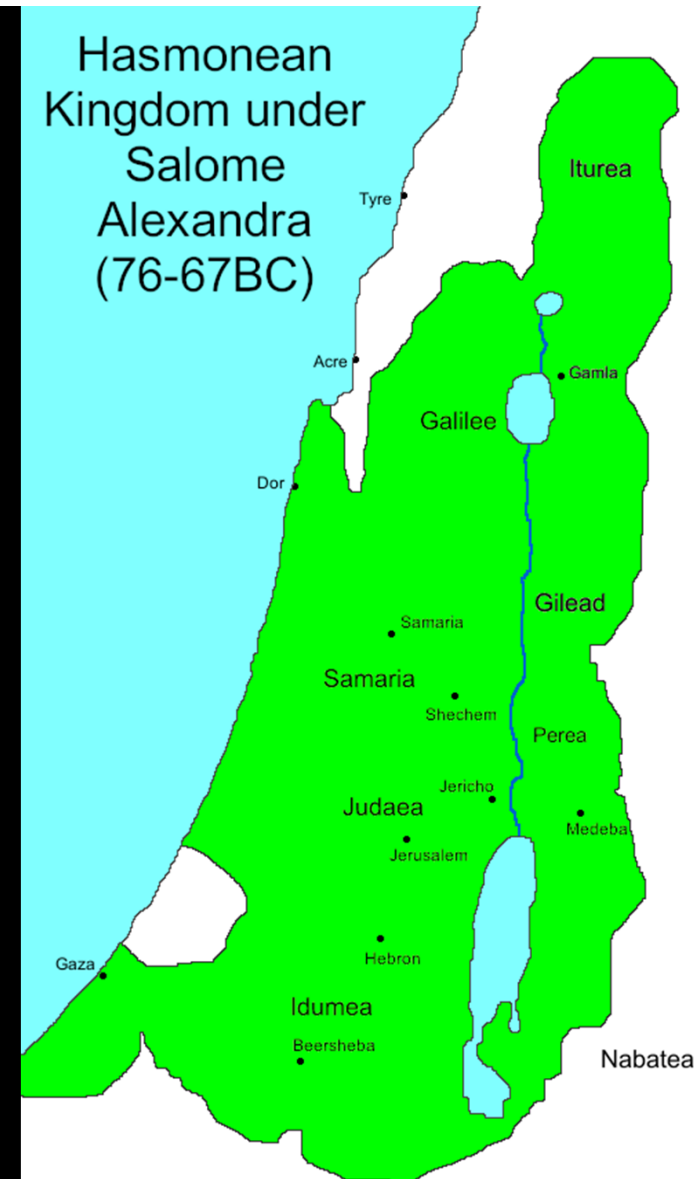
# Hasmonean Rule

- John Hyrcanus (134-104 BC)
  - Forced conversions
  - Territorial expansion → Idumea → Herod the Great
  - Began to promote some Hellenization
- Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BC)
  - mocked Pharisaic practice while acting as priest
  - killed 6000 people for insulting him
  - Crucified 800 Pharisees for protesting policy



# Hasmonean Rule

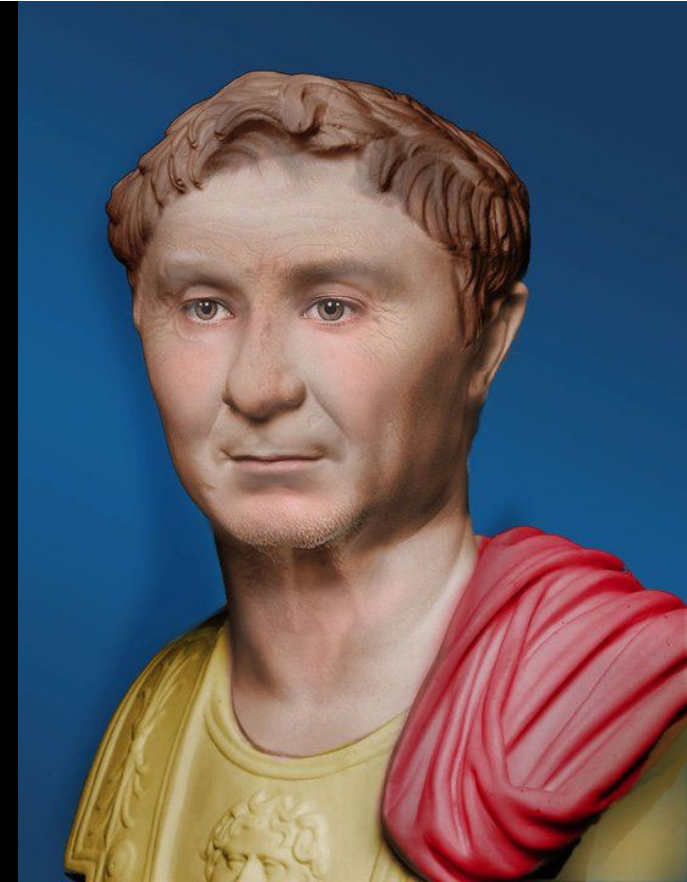
- Salome Alexandra (76 -67 BC)
  - Wife of Alexander Jannaeus
  - Well-loved
  - Promoted some Torah keeping
  - Pharisaic tolerance
  - Sanhedrin reorganized





# End of Hasmonean Rule

- 67-63 BC
  - Power struggle between Salome Alexandra's sons
  - Both begged for Rome to intervene
- Result?
  - Invaded Jerusalem
  - Entered Holy of Holies
  - No more Jewish independence
  - Split religious and political authority
    - high priests
    - client-king governors



*Pompey The "Great"*

## By Yeshua's Time

- 100 years of Oppression
- What do you think this meant for Jews with Messianic hopes?

# Messianic Claimants – “Leaders” of the Jews

- Simon of Peraea (4 BC)
  - Put a crown on his head
  - Rebelled against Herod & Romans
  - Killed
- Athronges (4 BC – 6 AD)
  - Put a crown on his head
  - Rebelled against Herod Archelaus & Romans
  - Likely killed by the Romans



# Messianic Claimants – “Leaders” of the Jews

## Theudas (? AD)

- “prophet”
- Convinced people to follow him
- Killed by Romans (Josephus and Acts 5)

## Judah of Galilee (6 AD)

- Founder of the Zealots sect of Judaism
- Opposed Roman census tax
- God is to be the only ruler and lord of Israel
- Killed by Romans (Acts 5)

## Acts 5 – Gamaliel addresses Sanhedrin

“Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. 36 Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. 37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. 38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

# Why did the Sanhedrin want to kill the Apostles

27 The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! 30 The God of our ancestors raised Yeshua from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.

# Why did the Sanhedrin want to kill the Apostles

31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.

# Significance of Yeshua's Resurrection

- Messianic claimants
  - All die
  - What do you do?

# Significance of Yeshua's Resurrection

- Vindication:
  - Yeshua
    - Died, came back
    - He is who he claimed to be
- What did he prove?
  - *his words were true: what he claimed would happen did happen*

## Disciples Are Vindicated

- Get to make their bold claims
- Do they follow just another messianic claimant?
- Do they just follow a dead man?
- Witnesses to a living man & risen Lord
- Founded on huge support – **they saw the risen Yeshua**

## Acts 2:22-25 – Peter’s Witness at Pentecost

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Yeshua of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:



## Acts 2:25-28 – Peter’s Witness at Pentecost

“I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;  
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
my flesh also will dwell in hope.  
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One see corruption.  
28 You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

## Acts 2:29-31 – Peter’s Witness at Pentecost

“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. 32 This Yeshua God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

## Acts 2:34-36 – Peter’s Witness at Pentecost

34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,  
“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

35 until I make your enemies your footstool.”

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that this  
Yeshua whom you crucified, God has made him both Lord and  
Messiah.

## Acts 2:37-39 – Peter’s Witness at Pentecost

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Messiah Yeshua for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

# Our Vindication – Our Confession

- Do we believe in a dead Messiah?
- We believe in the risen Lord!
- Romans 10:9-10

if you confess with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

# Oneg Discussion

# Parashah Vayechi Reading

וַיְחִי and he lived

GENESIS 47:28-50:26

- |                       |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> Day | Genesis 47:29 – 48:9  | <u>Haftarah</u>  |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day | Genesis 48:10 – 16    | 1 Kings 2:1 - 12 |
| • 3 <sup>rd</sup> Day | Genesis 48:17 - 22    |                  |
| • 4 <sup>th</sup> Day | Genesis 49:1 - 18     |                  |
| • 5 <sup>th</sup> Day | Genesis 49:19 – 26    | <u>Gospels</u>   |
| • 6 <sup>th</sup> Day | Genesis 49:27 – 50:20 | John 13:1 - 9    |
| • 7 <sup>th</sup> Day | Genesis 50:21 - 26    |                  |



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**Blessings and Shalom**