חוּמָּשׁ עִם רַשִּׁ"י · ויחי · שֵׁנִי

Complete Word-for-Word Interlinear · Navy & Gold Edition

VAYECHI · 2ND ALIYAH

📖 CHAPTER PREVIEW

In this aliyah, the emotional meeting between Yaakov Avinu and his grandsons, Menashe and Efraim, reaches its peak. Yaakov, whose eyesight was failing from old age, expresses his deep gratitude to Hashem for enabling him to see not only Yosef alive, but also his children. Yosef presents his sons to be blessed, carefully positioning the older brother Menashe opposite Yaakov's right hand and Efraim opposite his left. However, Yaakov intentionally crosses his hands, placing his primary blessing on Efraim, the younger brother.

All introductions, summaries, and contextual notes are the editor's commentary and are not part of the original text.

פָּסוּק א

Pasuk 1

וְעֵינֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּבְדוּ מִזֹּקֶן לֹא יוּכַל לִרְאוֹת וַיַּגֶּשׁ אֹתָם אֵלָיו

and the eyes of Yisrael were heavy from age he could not · to see and he brought them to him

וַיִּשַּׁק לָהֶם וַיְחַבֵּק לָהֶם:

and he kissed them and he embraced them

פָּסוּק ב

Pasuk 2

וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל יוֹסֵף רְאֹה פָנֶיךָ לֹא פִלָּלְתִּי וְהִנֵּה הֶרְאָה אֹתִי אֱלֹהִים

And he said Yisrael to Yosef seeing your face not I expected and behold has shown me God

גַּם אֶת זַרְעֶךָ:

— also your offspring

רַשִּׁ"י

לא פללתי. לֹא מִלָּאַנִי לִבִּי לַחֲשֹׁב מַחֲשָׁבָה שֶׁאֶרְאֶה פָּנֶיךָ עוֹד. פללתי

I did not contemplate not filled me my heart to think a thought that I would see your face again פללתי

לְשׁוֹן מַחֲשָׁבָה, כְּמוֹ הָבִיאִי עֵצָה עֲשׂוּ פְלִילָה ישעיהו ט"ז ג' :

is an expression of thought like bring counsel execute judgment Yeshayahu 16 3

פָּסוּק ג

Pasuk 3

וַיֹּוצֵא יוֹסֵף אֹתָם מֵעִם בִּרְכָּיו וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְאַפָּיו אָרְצָה:

And brought-out Yosef them from beside his knees and bowed to his face to the ground

רַשִׁ"י

וַיּוֹצֵא יוֹסֵף אֹתָם. לְאַחַר שֶׁנִּשָּׁקָם הוֹצִיאָם יוֹסֵף מֵעִם בִּרְכֵּיו, כְּדֵי לְיַשְּׁבָם
and brought out Yosef them. after that he kissed them brought them out Yosef from near his knees in order to seat them

זֶה לַיָּמִין וְזֶה לַשְּׂמֹאל לְסְמֹךְ יָדָיו עֲלֵיהֶם וּלְבָרְכָם:
this one to the right and this one to the left to place his hands upon them and to bless them

רַשִׁ"י

וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְאַפָּיו. כְּשֶׁחָזַר לַאֲחוֹרָיו מִלִּפְנֵי אָבִיו:
And he prostrated before his face when he stepped backwards from before his father

פָּסוּק ד

Pasuk 4

וַיִּקַּח יוֹסֵף אֶת שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת אֶפְרַיִם בִּימִינוֹ מִשְּׂמֹאל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת מְנַשֶּׁה
And took Yosef — the two of them — Efraim with his right from the left of Yisrael and — Menasheh

בְּשִׂמְאלוֹ מִימִין יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּגֶּשׁ אֵלָיו:
with his left from the right of Yisrael and brought near to him

רַשִׁ"י

את אפרים בימינו משמאל ישראל. הַבָּא לִקְרַאת חֲבֵרוֹ, יְמִינוֹ כְּנֶגֶד שְׂמֹאל
— Eraim on his right from the left of Yisrael one who comes towards his fellow his right hand is opposite the left of

חֲבֵרוֹ, וְכֵיוָן שֶׁהוּא הַבְּכוֹר, מְיֻעָּן לִבְרָכָה:
his fellow and since he was the firstborn he was designated for blessing

פָּסוּק ה

Pasuk 5

וַיִּשְׁלַח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת יְמִינוֹ וַיָּשֶׁת עַל רֹאשׁ אֶפְרַיִם וְהוּא
And stretched out Yisrael — his right hand and placed it upon the head of Ephraim though he was

הַצָּעִיר וְאֶת שְׂמֹאלוֹ עַל רֹאשׁ מְנַשֶּׁה שִׂכֵּל אֶת יָדָיו כִּי מְנַשֶּׁה
the younger and — upon his left hand the head of Manasseh he guided wisely — his hands for Manasseh

הַבְּכוֹר:
was the firstborn

רַשִׁ"י

שכל את ידיו. כְּתַרְגּוּמוֹ, אַחְכִּימִינוּן – בְּהַשְׂכֵּל וְחָכְמָה הִשְׂכִּיל אֶת יָדָיו לְכָךְ
guided his hands — as its Targum he made them wise with intelligence and wisdom he acted wisely his hands for this

וּמְדַעַת, כִּי יוֹדֵעַ הָיָה כִּי מְנַשֶּׁה הַבְּכוֹר וְאַע"פ כֵּן לֹא שָׁת יְמִינוֹ עָלָיו:
and with knowledge for knowing he was that Menasheh was the firstborn and even so did not place his right hand upon him

פָּסוּק ו

Pasuk 6

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֶת יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמַר הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר הִתְהַלְּכוּ אֲבֹתַי לְפָנָיו אַבְרָהָם
And he blessed — Yosef and he said The God before whom my fathers walked before Him Avraham

וְיִצְחָק הָאֱלֹהִים הָרֹעֶה אֹתִי מֵעוֹדִי עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה׃

this the day until from my existence me who shepherds the God and Yitzchak

פָּסוּק ז

Pasuk 7

הַמַּלְאָךְ הַגֹּאֵל אֹתִי מִכָּל רָע יְבָרֵךְ אֶת הַנְּעָרִים וְיִקָּרֵא בָהֶם שְׁמִי

my name in them and let be called the lads — may he bless evil from all me who redeems the angel

וְשֵׁם אֲבֹתַי אַבְרָהָם וְיִצְחָק וְיִדְגּוּ לָרֹב בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ׃

the earth in the midst of abundantly and may they multiply and Yitzchak Avraham my fathers and the name of

רַשִׁ"י

המלאך הגאל אתי. מַלְאָךְ הָרָגִיל לְהִשְׁתַּלֵּחַ אֵלַי בְּצָרָתִי; כָּעִנְיָן שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר

that it is said as the matter in my distress; to me to be sent who is accustomed an angel me who redeems The angel

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי מַלְאַךְ הָאֱלֹהִים בַּחֲלוֹם יַעֲקֹב וְגוֹ' אָנֹכִי הָאֵל בֵּית אֵל בראשית ל"א

31 Bereishis El Beis the God of I am and so on Yaakov in the dream God the angel of to me And he said

:

רַשִׁ"י

יברך את הנערים. מְנַשֶּׁה וְאֶפְרַיִם׃

and Ephraim Menashe the lads — shall bless

רַשִׁ"י

וידגו. כַּדָּגִים הַלָּלוּ שֶׁפְּרִים וְרַבִּים וְאֵין עַיִן הָרָע שׁוֹלֶטֶת בָּהֶם׃

over them has power evil eye and no and multiply that are fruitful these like the fish and let them increase

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Yaakov Avinu embraces and kisses Yosef's sons, marveling at Hashem's chasdim in allowing him to see his grandchildren after so many years of sorrow. When Yosef brings the boys forward to receive their brachos, Yaakov deliberate switches his hands, placing his right hand on Efraim and his left on Menashe. Yaakov then bestows the blessing upon them, invoking the zechus of Avraham and Yitzchak and praying that Hashem's protecting malach shield the boys and allow them to multiply abundantly in the midst of the land.

לְמַעֲשֶׂה WHAT TO TAKE HOME

Look at the chiddush Yaakov Avinu expresses here. For twenty-two long, painful years, Yaakov thought he would never see Yosef again. In his mind, all was lost. But now, standing at the end of his life, he looks at Yosef and says, "I never expected to see your face, and behold, Hashem has shown me even your children!" Yaakov realized that even in the absolute darkest moments when he saw no light at all, Hashem was working out the ישועה behind the scenes, preparing a bracha far greater than anything he could have imagined.

This is a fundamental yesod for our own avodah. So many times we go through a nisayon or a difficult period in life where things look completely blocked. We look at our situation and we think, lichoira, there is no way out of this. But a Yid lives with emunah that Hashem is the Ro'eh osi, the Shepherd who guides every single step of our lives. Even when we cannot see the plan, Hashem is already preparing the salvation and the light that will follow.

Take this sevara with you today when you hit a difficult moment or feel stressed about how things will work out. Stop for ten seconds, take a deep breath, and remember Yaakov Avinu's words. Remind yourself that Hashem is guiding your path right now, and trust that He can bring a chusid'she yeshuah from a place you never expected.