חוּמָּשׁ עִם רַשִּׁ"י · וישב · שֵׁנִי

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

VAYESHEV · 2ND ALIYAH

📖 CHAPTER PREVIEW

In this aliyah, Yaakov Avinu sends Yosef to check on the welfare of his brothers, who were pasturing the flocks in Shechem. Yosef shows tremendous kibbud av and alacrity to fulfill his father's wishes, setting out on his journey even though he knew his brothers harbored ill will toward him. On his way, he meets a stranger—identified by the meforshim as the malach Gavriel—who guides him toward Dothan, where the brothers had moved their herds.

When the brothers spot Yosef approaching from afar, their hatred flares up and they conspire to kill him, mockingly referring to him as the dreamer. They plan to throw his body into a pit and claim that a wild animal devoured him. However, Reuven intervenes to save Yosef from their hands, advising them not to shed blood directly, but rather to throw him alive into a pit in the wilderness, intending to return later secretly and restore Yosef to his father.

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

פָּסוּק א

Pasuk 1

וַיֵּלְכוּ אֶחָיו לִרְעוֹת אֶת צֹאן אֲבִיהֶם בִּשְׁכֶם׃

And went | his brothers | to pasture | — | the flock of | their father | in Shechem

רַשִּׁ"י

לרעות את צאן. נָקוּד עַל אֶת, שֶׁלֹּא הָלְכוּ אֶלָּא לִרְעוֹת אֶת עַצְמָן׃

To pasture | — | the flock | Dotted | on | the word 'es' | that not | they went | except | to pasture | — | themselves

פָּסוּק ב

Pasuk 2

וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא אַחֶיךָ רֹעִים בִּשְׁכֶם לְכָה וְאֶשְׁלָחֲךָ

And said | Yisrael | to | Yosef | are not | your brothers | pasturing | in Shechem | come | and I will send you

אֲלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הִנֵּנִי׃

to them | and he said | to him | here I am

רַשִּׁ"י

הנני. לְשׁוֹן עֲנָוָה וּזְרִיזוּת, נִזְדָּרֵז לְמִצְוַת אָבִיו, וְאַף עַל פִּי שֶׁהָיָה

Here am I | an expression of | humility | and readiness | he was zealous | for the command of | his father | and even | · | though | that he was

יוֹדֵעַ בְּאֶחָיו שֶׁשּׂוֹנְאִין אוֹתוֹ׃

aware | of his brothers | that they hated | him

Pasuk 3

וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֶךְ נָא רְאֵה אֶת שְׁלוֹם אַחֶיךָ וְאֶת שְׁלוֹם הַצֹּאן
the flock the welfare of and — your brothers the welfare of — see please Go to him And he said

וַהֲשִׁבֵנִי דָּבָר וַיִּשְׁלָחֵהוּ מֵעֵמֶק חֶבְרוֹן וַיָּבֹא שְׁכֶמָה:
to Shechem and he came Chevron from the valley of So he sent him word and bring me back

רַשִׁ"י

מעמק חברון. וַהֲלֹא חֶבְרוֹן בָּהָר, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר וַיַּעֲלוּ בַנֶּגֶב וַיָּבֹא עַד
unto and he came in the Negev and they went up as it is said on the mountain Chevron but is not Chevron From the vale of

חֶבְרוֹן במדבר י"ג , אֶלָּא מֵעֵצָה עֲמֻקָּה שֶׁל אוֹתוֹ צַדִּיק הַקָּבוּר בְּחֶבְרוֹן, לְקַיֵּם
to fulfill in Chevron who is buried righteous man that of profound from the counsel rather 13 Bamidbar Chevron

מַה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר לְאַבְרָהָם בֵּין הַבְּתָרִים כִּי גֵר יִהְיֶה זַרְעֲךָ בראשית ט"ו:י"ג :
15 Bereshis your seed shall be a stranger that the parts between to Avraham which was said that

רַשִׁ"י

ויבא שכמה. מָקוֹם מוּכָן לְפֻרְעָנוּת, שָׁם קִלְקְלוּ הַשְּׁבָטִים, שָׁם עִנּוּ אֶת דִּינָהּ,
Dinah — they afflicted there the Shevatim sinned there for misfortune prepared a place to Shechem and he came

שָׁם נֶחְלְקָה מַלְכוּת בֵּית דָּוִד, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר וַיֵּלֶךְ רְחַבְעָם שְׁכֶמָה מלכים א י"ב :
12 1 Melachim to Shechem Rechavam and went as it is stated Dovid the House of the kingdom of was divided there

פָּסוּק ד

Pasuk 4

וַיִּמְצָאֵהוּ אִישׁ וְהִנֵּה תֹעֶה בַּשָּׂדֶה וַיִּשְׁאָלֵהוּ הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר מַה תְּבַקֵּשׁ:
do you seek what saying the man and asked him in the field he was wandering and behold a man and found him

רַשִׁ"י

וימצאהו איש. זֶה גַּבְרִיאֵל, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר וְהָאִישׁ גַּבְרִיאֵל דניאל ט כא :
21 9 Daniel Gavriel and the man as it is said Gavriel this was a man And found him

פָּסוּק ה

Pasuk 5

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת אַחַי אָנֹכִי מְבַקֵּשׁ הַגִּידָה נָּא לִי אֵיפֹה הֵם רֹעִים:
are pasturing they where to me please tell am seeking I my brothers — And he said

פָּסוּק ו

Pasuk 6

וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ נָסְעוּ מִזֶּה כִּי שָׁמַעְתִּי אֹמְרִים נֵלְכָה דֹתָיְנָה וַיֵּלֶךְ
And went to Dosan Let us go them saying I heard for from here they have journeyed the man And said

יוֹסֵף אַחַר אֶחָיו וַיִּמְצָאֵם בְּדֹתָן:
in Dosan and he found them his brothers after Yosef

רַשִׁ"י

נסעו מזה. הִסִּיעוּ עַצְמָן מִן הָאַחְוָה:
the brotherhood from themselves they removed from this They journeyed

רַשִׁ"י

נלכה דתינה. לְבַקֵּשׁ לְךָ נִכְלֵי דָתוֹת שֶׁיְּמִיתוּךָ בָהֶם. וּלְפִי פְּשׁוּטוֹ
its simple meaning and according to through them that they may kill you laws schemes of for you to seek to Dothan let us go

שֵׁם מָקוֹם הוּא, וְאֵין מִקְרָא יוֹצֵא מִידֵי פְּשׁוּטוֹ:
its simple meaning from departs a verse and not it is a place the name of

פָּסוּק ז

Pasuk 7

וַיִּרְאוּ אֹתוֹ מֵרָחֹק וּבְטֶרֶם יִקְרַב אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּתְנַכְּלוּ אֹתוֹ לַהֲמִיתוֹ:
to kill him against him and they conspired to them he came close and before from afar him And they saw

רַשִׁ"י

ויתנכלו. נִתְמַלְּאוּ נְכָלִים וְעַרְמוּמִית:
and craftiness with plots they became filled And they conspired

רַשִׁ"י

אתו. כְּמוֹ אִתּוֹ, עִמּוֹ, כְּלוֹמַר, אֵלָיו:
towards him that is to say with him with him is like with him

פָּסוּק ח

Pasuk 8

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל אָחִיו הִנֵּה בַּעַל הַחֲלֹמוֹת הַלָּזֶה בָּא:
comes this one the dreams the master of behold his brother to a man And they said

פָּסוּק ט

Pasuk 9

וְעַתָּה לְכוּ וְנַהַרְגֵהוּ וְנַשְׁלִכֵהוּ בְּאַחַד הַבֹּרוֹת וְאָמַרְנוּ חַיָּה רָעָה
wild a beast and we will say the pits into one of and let us cast him and let us kill him come And now

אֲכָלָתְהוּ וְנִרְאֶה מַה יִּהְיוּ חֲלֹמֹתָיו:
his dreams will become of what and we shall see devoured him

רַשִׁ"י

ונראה מה יהיו חלמתיו. אָמַר רַבִּי יִצְחָק מִקְרָא זֶה אוֹמֵר דָּרְשֵׁנִי, רוּחַ
the Spirit of expound me says this verse Yitzchak Rabbi said his dreams will become of what and we shall see

הַקֹּדֶשׁ אוֹמֶרֶת כֵּן, הֵם אוֹמְרִים נַהַרְגֵהוּ וְהַכָּתוּב מְסַיֵּם וְנִרְאֶה מַה יִּהְיוּ
will become of what and we shall see concludes and the Scripture let us kill him say they thus says Holiness

חֲלֹמֹתָיו – נִרְאֶה דְּבַר מִי יָקוּם אִם שֶׁלָּכֶם אוֹ שֶׁלִּי. וְאִ"א שֶׁיֹּאמְרוּ
that they should say and it is impossible Mine or yours whether will endure whom the word of we shall see his dreams

הֵם וְנִרְאֶה מַה יִּהְיוּ חֲלֹמֹתָיו, שֶׁמְּכִיוָן שֶׁיַּהַרְגוּהוּ בָּטְלוּ חֲלוֹמוֹתָיו:
they and we shall see what will become of his dreams for since that they kill him are nullified his dreams

פָּסוּק י

Pasuk 10

וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֵן וַיַּצִּלֵהוּ מִיָּדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא נַכֶּנּוּ נָפֶשׁ׃

and heard Reuven and he rescued him from their hand and he said let us not strike him mortally

רַשִׁ״י

לֹא נכנו נפש. מַכַּת נֶפֶשׁ, זוֹ הִיא מִיתָה׃

Let us not smite him a life a smiting of life this is killing

פָּסוּק יא

Pasuk 11

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם רְאוּבֵן אַל תִּשְׁפְּכוּ דָם הַשְׁלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל הַבּוֹר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר

And he said to them Reuven do not spill blood cast him into the pit this which

בַּמִּדְבָּר וְיָד אַל תִּשְׁלְחוּ בוֹ לְמַעַן הַצִּיל אֹתוֹ מִיָּדָם לַהֲשִׁיבוֹ

is in the wilderness and a hand do not lay upon him in order to rescue him from their hand to return him

אֶל אָבִיו׃

to his father

רַשִׁ״י

למען הציל אתו. רוּחַ הַקֹּדֶשׁ מְעִידָה עַל רְאוּבֵן שֶׁלֹּא אָמַר זֹאת אֶלָּא לְהַצִּיל

In order to rescue him The spirit of the Holiness testifies about Reuven that not he said this except to rescue

אוֹתוֹ שֶׁיָּבֹא הוּא וְיַעֲלֻנוּ מִשָּׁם, אָמַר אֲנִי בְכוֹר וְגָדוֹל שֶׁבְּכֻלָּן, לֹא יִתָּלֶה

him that would come he and pull him up from there he said I am firstborn and greatest of all of them not will be hung

הַסֵּרָחוֹן אֶלָּא בִי׃

the blame except on me

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The aliyah begins with Yaakov commissioning Yosef to travel to Shechem to see how his brothers and the flocks are faring and bring back word. Yosef readily agrees and travels to Shechem, where an unnamed man finds him wandering and directs him to Dothan after hearing the brothers plan to move there. Upon seeing Yosef from a distance, the brothers plot his murder, planning to cast him into a pit and claim a wild beast devoured him to see what becomes of his dreams. Reuven steps in to rescue Yosef, persuading them not to strike him down directly but to cast him into an empty pit in the wilderness, holding the secret intention of coming back later to save him and return him safely to Yaakov.

לְמַעֲשֶׂה WHAT TO TAKE HOME

Look at the word Yosef HaTzaddik uses when Yaakov Avinu asks him to go check on his brothers. He knows his brothers hate him. He knows going to Shechem is dangerous. Yet, when his father calls, Yosef simply responds with one word: "Hineni", I am here, ready to do what is asked of me.

Then look at what happens next. Yosef gets to Shechem and cannot find them. Lichoira, he did his part! He fulfilled his father's command, checked the place, and didn't see them. He could have easily turned around and gone home. But Yosef is wandering in the field asking, "Et achai anochi mevakesh", I am searching for my brothers. He wasn't just checking off a box to say he did a mitzvah; he was fully invested in bringing peace and fulfilling his father's will, no matter the effort.

This is a tremendous yesod for our own avodas Hashem. How often do we approach a mitzvah or a chesed with a mindset of just getting it over with? We do the bare minimum so we can say we did it. But the Torah is showing us what real ratzon looks like. When Hashem puts an opportunity for a mitzvah in front of you, or when a family member needs help, the true derech is to say "Hineni" with a full heart, and to keep looking for ways to finish it properly, even when obstacles pop up.

Today, when a mitzvah or an opportunity to help another Yid comes your way, do not just do the bare minimum to get it off your plate. Step up with a full "Hineni" attitude and put your heart into seeing it through completely.