חוּמָּשׁ עִם רַשִּׁ"י · ויצא · שְׁבִיעִי

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VAYETZEI · 7TH ALIYAH

📖 CHAPTER PREVIEW

In this final aliyah of Parshas Vayetzei, Lavan makes his parting speech to Yaakov Avinu after overtaking him in the mountain region of Gilad. Admitting that he cannot harm Yaakov's family, Lavan proposes making a bris, a formal covenant between them, to ensure that neither party will act deceitfully toward the other or cross their boundary with hostile intent. Yaakov sets up a monument of stones, and together with his brethren, they build a heap of stones to serve as a lasting witness to their agreement.

After Lavan gives his own name to the monument in Aramaic and Yaakov names it Galed in Lashon Hakodesh, Lavan charges Yaakov to treat his daughters well and not to marry other wives. They seal the pact with a feast and an oath, and Lavan bids farewell to his daughters and grandchildren early the next morning before returning home. As Yaakov continues on his way back to Eretz Yisrael, he is met by malachei Elokim, prompting him to recognize the divine camp surrounding him and name the place Mahanaim.

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

פָּסוּק א

Pasuk 1

וַיַּ֣עַן לָבָ֔ן וַיֹּ֖אמֶר אֶל־יַעֲקֹ֑ב הַבָּנ֤וֹת בְּנֹתַי֙ וְהַבָּנִ֣ים בָּנַ֔י

and answered Lavan and said to Yaakov the daughters are my daughters and the children are my children

וְהַצֹּ֣אן צֹאנִ֔י וְכֹ֖ל אֲשֶׁ֣ר אַתָּ֣ה רֹאֶ֑ה לִ֤י הוּא֙ וְלִבְנֹתַ֔י מָ֥ה אֶֽעֱשֶׂ֖ה לָאֵ֥לֶּה

and the flock is my flock and all that you see mine it is and for my daughters what can I do to these

הַיּ֔וֹם א֥וֹ לִבְנֵיהֶ֖ן אֲשֶׁ֥ר יָלָֽדוּ׃

today or for their children whom they bore

רַשִּׁ"י

מה אעשה לאלה. אֵיךְ תַּעֲלֶה עַל לִבִּי לְהָרַע לָהֶן׃

what shall I do to these how could it arise upon my heart to do harm to them

פָּסוּק ב

Pasuk 2

וְעַתָּ֗ה לְכָ֤ה נִכְרְתָה֙ בְּרִ֣ית אֲנִ֔י וָאָ֖תָּה וְהָיָ֣ה לְעֵ֑ד בֵּינִ֖י וּבֵינֶֽךָ׃

and now come let us make a covenant I and you and it shall be for a witness between me and between you

רַשִּׁ"י

והיה לעד. הַקָּבָ"ה׃

and let be for a witness the Holy One Blessed be He

פָּסוּק ג

Pasuk 3

וַיִּקַּח יַעֲקֹב אֶבֶן וַיְרִימֶהָ מַצֵּבָה׃

And took Yaakov a stone and raised it as a pillar

פָּסוּק ד

Pasuk 4

וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב לְאֶחָיו לִקְטוּ אֲבָנִים וַיִּקְחוּ אֲבָנִים וַיַּעֲשׂוּ גָל וַיֹּאכְלוּ

And he said Yaakov to his kinsmen gather stones and they took stones and they made a mound and they ate

שָׁם עַל הַגָּל׃

there by the mound

רַשִׁ"י

לאחיו. הֵם בָּנָיו שֶׁהָיוּ לוֹ אַחִים, נִגָּשִׁים אֵלָיו לְצָרָה וּלְמִלְחָמָה בראשית רבה׃

Unto his brethren they are his sons who were to him brothers, standing by him in trouble and in battle Bereshit Rabbah :

פָּסוּק ה

Pasuk 5

וַיִּקְרָא לוֹ לָבָן יְגַר שָׂהֲדוּתָא וְיַעֲקֹב קָרָא לוֹ גַּלְעֵד׃

And he called it Lavan Yegar Sahadutha and Yaakov called it Galed

רַשִׁ"י

יגר שהדותא. תַּרְגּוּמוֹ שֶׁל גַּלְעֵד׃

a heap of testimony its Aramaic translation of Gal-ed

רַשִׁ"י

גלעד. גַּל עֵד׃

Gal-ed heap of testimony

פָּסוּק ו

Pasuk 6

וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן הַגַּל הַזֶּה עֵד בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ הַיּוֹם עַל כֵּן קָרָא

And said Lavan the mound this is a witness between me and between you today therefore he called ·

שְׁמוֹ גַּלְעֵד׃

its name Galed

פָּסוּק ז

Pasuk 7

וְהַמִּצְפָּה אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יִצֶף יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ כִּי נִסָּתֵר אִישׁ

and the Mizpah which he said may watch Hashem between me and between you when we are hidden a man

מֵרֵעֵהוּ׃

from his fellow

רַשִׁ״י

והמצפה אשר אמר וגו'. וְהַמִּצְפָּה אֲשֶׁר בְּהַר הַגִּלְעָד, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב וַיַּעֲבֹר אֶת
— and he passed that is written like Gilead in Mount which is and Mizpah etc. he said which and Mizpah

מִצְפֵּה גִלְעָד שופטים י"א , וְלָמָּה נִקְרֵאת שְׁמָהּ מִצְפָּה? לְפִי שֶׁאָמַר אֶחָד מֵהֶם
of them one that said because Mizpah its name was called and why 11 Shoftim Gilead Mizpah of

לַחֲבֵרוֹ, יִצֶּף ה' בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ אִם תַּעֲבֹר אֶת הַבְּרִית׃
to his fellow may watch Hashem between me and between you if you shall transgress — the covenant

רַשִׁ״י

כי נסתר. וְלֹא נִרְאֶה אִישׁ אֶת רֵעֵהוּ׃
when we are hidden and not we see a man — his fellow

פָּסוּק ח

Pasuk 8

אִם תְּעַנֶּה אֶת בְּנֹתַי וְאִם תִּקַּח נָשִׁים עַל בְּנֹתָי אֵין אִישׁ עִמָּנוּ
If you ill-treat — my daughters and if you take wives besides my daughters there is no man with us

רְאֵה אֱלֹהִים עֵד בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ׃
see God is witness between me and between you

רַשִׁ״י

בנתי, בנתי. שְׁתֵּי פְעָמִים, אַף בִּלְהָה וְזִלְפָּה בְּנוֹתָיו הָיוּ מִפִּילֶגֶשׁ׃
my daughters my daughters two times also Bilhah and Zilpah his daughters were from a concubine

רַשִׁ״י

אם תענה את בנתי. לִמְנֹעַ מֵהֶן עוֹנַת תַּשְׁמִישׁ יומא ע"ז :
If you shall afflict — my daughters to withhold from them the conjugal-rights of cohabitation Yoma 77b

פָּסוּק ט

Pasuk 9

וַיֹּאמֶר לָבָן לְיַעֲקֹב הִנֵּה הַגַּל הַזֶּה וְהִנֵּה הַמַּצֵּבָה אֲשֶׁר יָרִיתִי בֵּינִי
And he said Lavan to Yaakov here is this the mound and here is the pillar that I set up between me

וּבֵינֶךָ׃

and between you

רַשִׁ״י

יריתי. כְּמוֹ יֵרֶה בַּיָּם, כְּזֶה שֶׁהוּא יוֹרֶה הַחֵץ׃
Ihave set up like He cast into the sea like this who shoots the arrow

פָּסוּק י

Pasuk 10

עֵד הַגַּל הַזֶּה וְעֵדָה הַמַּצֵּבָה אִם אָנִי לֹא אֶעֱבֹר אֵלֶיךָ אֶת הַגַּל
the mound — to you pass shall not I that the pillar and witness this the mound is witness

הַזֶּה וְאִם אַתָּה לֹא תַעֲבֹר אֵלַי אֶת הַגַּל הַזֶּה וְאֶת הַמַּצֵּבָה הַזֹּאת לָרָעָה׃
for harm this the pillar and — this the mound — to me pass shall not you and that this

רַשִׁ״י

אם אני. חֵרֵי אִם מְשַׁמֵּשׁ בִּלְשׁוֹן אֲשֶׁר, כְּמוֹ עַד אִם דִּבַּרְתִּי דְּבָרַי׃
my words I have spoken that until like that in the sense of serves if behold I If

רַשִׁ״י

לרעה. לְרָעָה אִי אַתָּה עוֹבֵר, אֲבָל אַתָּה עוֹבֵר לִפְרַקְמַטְיָה׃
for trade may pass you but may pass you not For evil For evil

פָּסוּק יא

Pasuk 11

אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וֵאלֹהֵי נָחוֹר יִשְׁפְּטוּ בֵּינֵינוּ אֱלֹהֵי אֲבִיהֶם וַיִּשָּׁבַע יַעֲקֹב
Yaakov and swore their father the god of between us shall judge Nachor and the god of Avraham The God of

בְּפַחַד אָבִיו יִצְחָק׃
Yitzchak his father by the Fear of

רַשִׁ״י

אלהי אברהם. קֹדֶשׁ בראשית רבה׃
Rabbah Bereshis is holy Avraham God of

רַשִׁ״י

ואלהי נחור. חֹל׃
is non-holy Nachor and the god of

רַשִׁ״י

אלהי אביהם. חֹל׃
is non-holy their father The god of

פָּסוּק יב

Pasuk 12

וַיִּזְבַּח יַעֲקֹב זֶבַח בָּהָר וַיִּקְרָא לְאֶחָיו לֶאֱכָל לֶחֶם וַיֹּאכְלוּ
and they ate bread to eat to his kinsmen and he called on the mountain a sacrifice Yaakov and slaughtered

לֶחֶם וַיָּלִינוּ בָּהָר׃
on the mountain and they lodged bread

רַשִׁ״י

ויזבח יעקב זבח. שָׁחַט בְּהֵמוֹת לְמִשְׁתֶּה׃
for a feast animals he slaughtered a slaughtered-offering Yaakov And slaughtered

רַשִׁ"י

לאחיו. לְאוֹהֲבָיו שֶׁעִם לָבָן:

Lavan who were with to his friends To his brethren

רַשִׁ"י

לאכל לחם. כָּל דְּבַר מַאֲכָל קָרוּי לֶחֶם, כְּמוֹ עֲבַד לְחֵם רַב דניאל ה' , נַשְׁחִיתָה עֵץ

a tree let us destroy 5 Daniel great a feast made like bread is called food item of any bread to eat

בְּלַחְמוֹ ירמיהו י"א :

11 Yirmeyahu with its food

פָּסוּק יג

Pasuk 13

וַיַּשְׁכֵּם לָבָן בַּבֹּקֶר וַיְנַשֵּׁק לְבָנָיו וְלִבְנוֹתָיו וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם וַיֵּלֶךְ

and went them and blessed and his daughters his sons and kissed in the morning Lavan And arose early

וַיָּשָׁב לָבָן לִמְקֹמוֹ:

to his place Lavan and returned

פָּסוּק יד

Pasuk 14

וְיַעֲקֹב הָלַךְ לְדַרְכּוֹ וַיִּפְגְּעוּ בּוֹ מַלְאֲכֵי אֱלֹהִים:

God angels of him and encountered on his way went And Yaakov

רַשִׁ"י

ויפגעו בו מלאכי אלהים. מַלְאָכִים שֶׁל אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאוּ לְקִרְאתוֹ לְלַוּוֹתוֹ

to escort him towards him came Yisrael the Land of of angels God angels of him And met

לָאָרֶץ:

into the Land

פָּסוּק טו

Pasuk 15

וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב כַּאֲשֶׁר רָאָם מַחֲנֵה אֱלֹהִים זֶה וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא

that the place the name of and he called this is God camp of he saw them when Yaakov And said

מַחֲנָיִם:

Mahanaim

רַשִׁ"י

מחנים. שְׁתֵּי מַחֲנוֹת, שֶׁל חוּצָה לָאָרֶץ שֶׁבָּאוּ עִמּוֹ עַד כָּאן וְשֶׁל אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

Yisrael the Land of and of here until with him that came the Land outside of camps two Machanaim

שֶׁבָּאוּ לִקְרָאתוֹ ע' תנחומא פ' וישלח :

Vayishlach parsha Tanchuma see to meet him that came

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This aliyah concludes Yaakov Avinu's stay in Aram by detailing the covenant established between him and Lavan at Galed.

After setting up a stone pillar and a mound of gathered stones to serve as a boundary and a witness against future aggression,

Lavan charges Yaakov with proper treatment of his daughters and swears by his deities, while Yaakov swears by the Fear of his father Yitzchak. Following a communal feast and Lavan's departure the next morning, Yaakov resumes his journey home and experiences a holy vision of Hashem's angels, designating the site Mahanaim.

לְמַעֲשֶׂה WHAT TO TAKE HOME

Look at what happens here in the psukim. Yaakov Avinu finally separates from Lavan, setting up a gal and a matzeva as a clear border line between them. Lavan goes back to his place, and right away, the pasuk tells us: "V'Yaakov halach l'darcho vayifge'u vo malachei Elokim." The moment Yaakov steps away from the influence and atmosphere of Lavan and gets onto his own true path, the angels of Eretz Yisrael come out to escort him.

The chiddush here is so profound for our daily avodah. As long as a Yid is entangled with the wrong surroundings, held back by unhealthy influences or the spirit of the "Lavan" around him, he cannot experience the full Hashgacha and kedusha meant for him. But the moment you make a firm boundary, turning your back on what pulls you down and stepping onto your own derech in Torah and mitzvos, Hashem immediately sends you spiritual protection and chizuk.

Today, identify one negative influence or distraction that is pulling you away from your true derech, and make a firm boundary to distance yourself from it so you can walk on your path with Hashem's protection.