

TARGUM ONQELOS

Vayechi Ya'aqub – Sipra d'Berita (Genesis) 47:28-50:26 – פְּרִשְׁתַּי וַיְחִי

¶ And Jakob lived in the land of Mizraim seventeen years. And the days of the years of the life of Jakob were one hundred and forty-seven years. And the days of Israel drew near to die. And he called to his son, to Joseph, and said to him, If now I have found favor in your eyes, put, I beg you, your hand under my thigh, and deal with me in goodness and truth; nor bury me, I beg you, in Mizraim; but I will sleep with my fathers; and you shall carry me from Mizraim, and bury me in their sepulcher.

¶ And he said, I will do according to your word. And he said, Swear to me; and he swore to him. And Israel worshiped upon the pillow¹ of the bed.

¶ And it was after these words that it was said to Joseph, Behold, your father is ill. And he took his two sons with him, Menashe and Ephraim. And it was shown to Jakob, and told (him,) Behold, your son Joseph comes to you. And Israel was strengthened,² and he sat upon the bed. And Jakob said to Joseph, El Shaddai (אֱלֹהֵי עֲדָי) revealed Himself to me in Luz, in the land of Kenaan, and blessed me; and He said to me, Behold, I will multiply you, and make you great, and (I) will set you for an assembly of tribes, and will give this land to your sons after you for an everlasting inheritance. And now your two sons which were born to you in the land of Mizraim, before my coming to you into Mizraim, are mine; Ephraim and Menashe shall be as Reuben and Shimeon before me. And the children whom you may father after them, who shall be yours, after the name of their brothers they shall be called in their inheritance.³

¶ And I, in my coming from Padan, Rahel died by me in the land of Kenaan, in the way, while as yet there was a space of ground to come to Ephrath. And I buried her there, by the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Israel saw the sons of Joseph, and said, Who are these? And Joseph said to his father, They are my sons whom MarYah has given me here.

¶ And he said, Bring them now near to me, that I may bless them. But the eyes of Israel were heavy from age, and he could not discern. And he brought them near to him, and he kissed them, and embraced them. And Israel said to Joseph, I had not hoped⁴ to see your face, and, behold, the MarYah has shown to me your sons also. And Joseph led them from before him, and worshiped with his face on the earth. And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim in his right hand, on the left of Israel, and Menashe in his left hand, on the right of Israel, and brought them to him.

¶ And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger; and his left hand on the head of Menashe, maneuvering his hands, for Menashe was the first-born.

¶ And he blessed Joseph, and said, MarYah, before whom my fathers Abraham and Izhak did serve; MarYah, who fed me from my birth⁵ to this day; the Angel who redeemed me from all evil, bless the youths; and let my name be called upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Izhak; and as the fish of the sea may they multiply⁶ among the children of men upon the earth!

¶ And Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim; and it was evil in his eyes. And he uplifted his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head, that it might rest on the head of Menashe.

¶ And Joseph said to his father, Not so, my father; for this is the first-born: lay your right hand on his head. But his father refused, and said, I know, my son, I know. He also shall be for a people, and he also shall be great; yet his younger brother will be greater than he, and his sons shall have dominion among the nations.

¶ And he blessed them in that day, saying, By you shall Israel bless, saying, MarYah set you as Ephraim and as Menashe. And he set Ephraim before Menashe.

¶ And Israel said to Joseph, Behold, I die; but the Memra (מִמְרָא, Word) of MarYah will be your Helper, and restore you to the land of your fathers. And I will give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the band of the Amoraah by my prayer and by my deprecation.

¶ And Jakob called his sons, and said, Assemble, and I will show you what will befall you in the end of the days; assemble, and listen, O sons of Jakob, and receive instruction from Israel your father.

¶ Reuben, you are my first-born, my strength, and the beginning of my power.⁷ Yours should it have been taking to take the three portions,-the birthright, the priesthood, and the kingdom: but because you have proceeded perversely,⁸ behold, as water outpoured you will not prosper, neither will you receive the excellent portion; because you went up to your father's place of sleep: then, my son, you became profane, when you went up to my bed.

¶ Shimeon and Levi are brothers; mighty men in the land of their sojourning, they did mightily.⁹ My soul was not in their secret; into their company to come I would not have descended from my honor. For in their anger they murdered many (*Eth. "slew a slaughter"*), and in their willfulness they razed the wall of their enemy. Accursed¹⁰ was their anger, for it was strong, and their wrath, for it was relentless. I will divide them in Jakob, and I will scatter them in Israel.

¶ Jehuda, you are praise and not shame; your brothers shall praise you;¹¹ your hand shall prevail against your adversaries, your enemies shall be dispersed; they will be turned back before you, and the sons of your father will come before you with salutations. The dominion shall be (yours) in the beginning, and in the end the kingdom shall be increased from the house of Jehuda, because from the judgment of death, my son, have you withdrawn.¹²

¶ He shall repose, and abide in strength as a lion, and as a lioness, there shall be no king that may cut him off. He who exercises dominion shall not pass away from the house of Jehuda, nor the scepter (סֵפֶרֶא) from his children's children for ever, until the Mshikha (מִשְׁחָא) come, whose is the kingdom, and to whom the peoples shall obey.

¶ Israel shall pass round about in his cities; the people shall build his temple, they will be righteous round about him, and be observant of the Law (אֲרִיטָא - Aurayta, Torah) through his doctrine. Of good purple will be his raiment, and his vesture of crimson wool with bright colors.¹³

¶ His mountains shall be red with his vineyards, and his hills be dropping with wine; his valleys shall be white with corn, and with flocks of sheep.

¶ Zebulon will dwell near the haven of the sea; he will subdue provinces with ships, and will eat the good of the sea, and his boundary shall come unto Sidon.

¶ Issakar,¹⁴ rich in substance, will have his heritage between the boundaries; and he, seeing his portion that it is good, and the land that it is fruit-bearing,¹⁵ will subdue the provinces of the people, and disperse their inhabitants, and they who remain of them will become servants to him and bringers of tribute.

¶ From the house of Dan will be chosen and will arise a man in whose days his people shall be delivered, and in whose years the tribes of Israel have rest together. A chosen man will arise from the house of Dan, the terror of whom shall fall upon the peoples; (a man) who will smite the Philistines' with strength, as the serpent, the deadly serpent,¹⁶ lurking¹⁷ by the way, he will slay the mighty of the Philistine army, the horsemen with the foot; he will weaken (loosen) the horses and chariots, and throw their riders back. For your salvation have I waited, O MarYah!

¶ From the house of Gad will (heavily) armed military (*Eth. "armed hosts"*) go over the Jardena before their brothers to the battle ; and with much substance will they return to their land.

¶ The land of Asher will be good; and he shall be nourished with the dainties of kings.

¶ In a good land will the lot of Naphtali be cast, and his inheritance be fruitful; over them will they give praise and benediction.¹⁸

¶ Joseph is my son who shall increase, my son who shall be blessed, as a vine planted by a fountain of waters. Two tribes will come forth from his sons, and they shall receive a portion

and inheritance. The mighty men, the men of division, were bitter against him; they afflicted him and sorely grieved him and his prophecy shall be fulfilled in them, because he was faithful to the law in secret, and set his confidence firmly. Therefore was gold laid upon his arm, and the kingdom was strengthened and confirmed. This was to him from the mighty Alaha of Jakob, who by His Memra (מימרא, Word) pastures the fathers and the children of the seed of Israel.

¶ The Memra (מימרא, Word) of the Alaha of your father shall be your Helper, and the All-Sufficient shall bless you, with the blessings of the dew that descends from the heavens above, with the blessings that spring from the depths of the earth beneath, with the blessings of your father and of your mother.

¶ The blessing of your father shall be added upon the blessing with which my fathers blessed me; which the princes who are of the world have desired: all of them shall be upon the head of Joseph, and upon the man who was separated from his brothers.

¶ Benjamin: in his land will dwell the Shkhinta (*Shakhina; Aram. שְׁכִינְתָא*), and in his possession will the sanctuary be constructed. In the morning and evening¹⁹ will the priests offer the oblation, and toward the evening (before the going down of the sun) divide the remaining portions of the residue of the sacred things.

¶ All these the tribes of Israel are twelve; and this it is which their father spoke to them, and he blessed them; according to the blessing of each man, he blessed them.

¶ And he commanded them, and said to them, I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cavern which is in the field of

Ephron the Hitaah; in the cavern which is in the double field over against Mamre, in the land of Kenaan, which field Abraham bought of Ephron the Hitaah as an inheritance sepulcher. They buried Abraham and Sarah his wife there; they buried Izhak and Revekah his wife there; and there (is where) I buried Leah. The field, and the cavern that is in it, purchased of the sons of Hitaah.

¶ And Jakob ceased to instruct his sons, and drew his feet together in the bed, and died, and was gathered to his people.

¶ And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him. And Joseph commanded his servants, the physicians, to embalm his father; and the physicians embalmed Israel. And forty days were completed to him; for so are completed the days of the embalmed; and the Mizraee mourned for him seventy days.

¶ And the days of his mourning passed: and Joseph spoke with the house of Pharaoh, saying, If now I have found favor in your eyes, speak, I pray, before Pharaoh, saying My father made me swear [*Eth. "adjured me"*], saying, Behold, I die; in my sepulcher which I have prepared for me in the land of Kenaan, there shall you bury me. And now let me go up, I pray, and I will bury my father and return.

¶ And Pharaoh said, Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear.

¶ And Joseph went up to bury his father; and all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Mizraim, went up with him; and all the house of Joseph, and his brothers, and the house of his father: only the children, and the flocks, and the cattle, they left in the land of Goshen.

¶ And with him went up, also, chariots and horsemen;²⁰ and there was a very great host.

¶ And they came to the threshing-floor²¹ of Atad, which is beyond Jardena, and lamented there with lamentations great and very strong.

¶ And he made a mourning for his father seven days. And the inhabitants of the land of Kenaan saw the mourning at the threshing-floor of Atad, and said, This is a mighty mourning of the Mizraee; therefore its name is called Abel Mizraim; which is beyond Jardena.

¶ And his sons did as he had commanded them. And his sons carried him into the land of Kenaan, and buried him in the cavern of the Double Field, which Abraham bought for an inheritance sepulcher of Ephron the Hitaah, before Mamre.

¶ And Joseph returned to Mizraim, he and his brethren, and all who went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.

¶ And the brothers of Joseph saw that their father was dead; and they said, Perhaps Joseph will retain enmity against us, and repay us all the evil which we did (to) him.

¶ And they visited Joseph, saying, Your father commanded before his death, saying, Thus shall you speak to Joseph, I pray you to forgive the guilt of your brothers and their sin which they did evil against you. And now forgive, I beg you, the guilt of the servants of the Alaha of your father.

¶ And Joseph wept when they spoke with him. And his brothers came and fell before him, and said, Behold, we are your servants.

¶ And Joseph said to them, Do not fear, for I fear MarYah. When you thought evil against me,

before MarYah it was intended for good, to be done, as at this day, for the preservation of much people. And now do not fear; I will sustain you and your children. And he consoled them, and spoke consolation to their heart.

¶ And Joseph dwelt in Mizraim, he and his father's house. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.

¶ And Joseph saw of Ephraim three sons; also the sons of Makir, the son of Menashe, were born, whom Joseph brought up.

Notes

- [1] Al rish harsa, 'upon the head of the bed.'
[2] Sam. Vers. "strengthened himself."
[3] Sam. Vers. "in their divisions."
[4] Sam. Vers. "prayed."
[5] Sam. Vers. "from the house of my nativity."
[6] Sam. Vers. "be spread abroad."
[7] Sam. Vers. "the beginning of my time."
[8] Or, "proceeded deceitfully." Azalta lakabel appeka.
[9] Sam. Vers. "they accomplished the fraud of their covenant."
[10] Sam. Vers. "proud."
[11] Sam. Vers. "love thee."

¶ And Joseph said to his brothers, I die; but MarYah remembering will remember you, and bring you up from, this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Izhak, and to Jakob. And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear (an oath), saying, MarYah remembering will remember you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.

¶ And Joseph died, the son of one hundred and ten years, and they embalmed him, and laid him in an ark in Mizraim.

END OF ONQELOS ON BERESHITH.

- [12] Or, "gone up."
[13] Or, "wool dyed bright with colours."
[14] Sam. Vers. 'Issakar, an ass sojourning, lying down between two burdens."
[15] Sam. Vers. "fat."
[16] Churman: "species serpentis as cujus morsum nulla est medicina." --Castel. Root, charem, "to devote to destruction."
[17] Sam. Vers. "erecting itself."
[18] Sam. Vers. "Naphatali is a hind sent forth, giving words of freedom."
[19] Pania. Conf. the Ethiopic in Castel, under panu, col. 3021.
[20] Sam. Vers. "footmen."
[21] "The house of barns"

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