

Miketz
“At the End”

Torah Reading: Genesis 41:1 - 44:17

Haftarah Reading: I Kings 3:15-4:1

Vayigash
“And came near”

Torah Reading: Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

Haftarah Reading: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Vayechi
“And he lived”

Torah Reading: Genesis 47:28 - 50:26

Haftarah Reading: I Kings 2:1-12

Study Notes

These three weeks were missed because of Christmas break 2007. Because we need to cover these in one week the notes for each will be condensed.

The Steps of Reconciliation (45:1-15)

1. Honesty
 - 1.1. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. He does not minimize nor exaggerate their wrong.
2. Encouragement
 - 2.1. This is a very important step in the reconciliation process. Bitterness, remorse and other strong emotions can cloud a true view of the future. We must not minimize situations but we do need to assure others that there is hope for things to be made right.
3. Focus on God's Purposes (45:5)
 - 3.1. Joseph recognized that God was in control of all events. Moreover, God was not reacting to a miserable situation, He was in control. We must continually grow a deep-seated confidence in our knowledge of God and His plan.

Preserving a Remnant

1. Joseph received the permission of Pharaoh to bring his family to Egypt. (45:16-19)

2. On the way Jacob received a great promise from God (46:1-4). Each time God spoke to Jacob it was at a critical juncture in his life and each time it involved something critically important about the covenant promises.
3. God provided a home for all of the people in Jacob's family. (46:6-7)
4. God provided them with the best place possible for them to live. (47:1-7)

Advice on Facing Death

1. Be Prepared (47:29).
2. Proper Relationship with God
 - 2.1. In 49:29 Jacob says "I shall be gathered to my people." The term for "gathered" is in the passive voice recognizing that someone besides himself was in control of his life.
 - 2.2. Jacob goes on to tell about his personal relationship with God. (48:3). The name El Shaddai emphasizes both the nurturing care of God and the power of God to provide that care. Jacob knew God in this way.
3. Legal Arrangements (47:29-31)
 - 3.1. Jacob made Joseph go through the standard ritual for making a formal oath. (24:2,9). This does not imply a lack of trust but actually helps Joseph when he approaches Pharaoh about leaving Egypt to bury his father (50:6).
4. Tie Up Personal Relationships
 - 4.1. Jacob took the opportunity to finalize all of his relationships. (49:1). This is not only important for the dying but also for the survivors.
5. The Last Will and Testament
 - 5.1. In chapters 48 and 49 Jacob prophecies what are blessings as well. They constitute his last will and testament. This helps remove any contention about possessions.
6. The Adoption
 - 6.1. Jacob goes on to adopt Joseph's two sons. This is his way of giving Joseph a double portion as if he were the firstborn.

The Lion (49:8-12)

1. Joseph was given a double portion of land but it was Judah who would rule.
2. The scepter shall not depart from Judah. (49:10)
3. Jewish interpretation about the specific meaning of the word Shiloh varies but is almost universally united in the fact that this refers to Messiah. They also linked it with Isaiah 11:10.

Advice To The Ones Left Behind

1. Reconcile fully with the dying person. (50:15)
2. Respect the wishes of the deceased.

3. Fully mourn and grieve. (50:11)
4. Cry, cry, cry. Forget you are a westerner. (50:1)
5. Take time. You wouldn't walk on a broken bone so do not walk on a broken spirit.
(50:3)