



Vayigash

(and came)

B'reshit [Genesis] 44:18-47:27

הברית החדשה

HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

We have chosen this portion because it reminds us about Yoseph revealing himself to his brothers when he was the ruler of Egypt.

Into Egypt

Ma'aseh [Acts] 7:8-15

8 "And He gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Avraham begat Yitzchak, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Yitzchak begat Ya'aqov, and Ya'aqov the twelve patriarchs.

9 And the patriarchs, moved with jealousy against Yoseph, sold him into Egypt: and Elohim was with him,

10 and delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

11 Now there came a famine over all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

12 But when Ya'aqov heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent forth our fathers the first time.

13 And at the second time Yoseph was made known to his brethren; and Yoseph's race became manifest unto Pharaoh.

14 And Yoseph sent, and called to him Ya'aqov his father, and all his kindred, seventy-five people.

15 And Ya'aqov went down into Egypt; and he died, himself and our fathers."

The thing that stands out about this portion of Scripture is its difference from the text found in the Tanak regarding how many people came out of the Land and went down into Egypt. We want to discuss this today so that we can have an understanding of why this has occurred, and so this will not be a stumbling block to His people.

Shemot [Exodus] 1:1-5

1 Now these are the names of the sons of Yisrael, who came into Egypt (every man and his household came with Ya'aqov):

2 Reuven, Shimon, Levi, and Yehudah,

3 Yissachar, Zevulun, and Benyamin,

4 Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

5 And all the souls that came out of the loins of Ya'aqov were seventy people: and Yoseph was in Egypt already.

This passage tells us that it was those who came forth from the loins of Ya'aqov that were seventy in number, including Yoseph and his sons who were already in Egypt at that time. In this passage they are only listed by tribe and not by individual. Please consider the following passage which names these seventy people individually.

B'reshit [Genesis] 46:8-27

8 And these are the names of the children of Israel, who came into Egypt, Ya'aqov and his sons: Reuven, Ya'aqov's first-born.

9 And the sons of Reuven: Hanoch, and Pallu, and Hezron, and Carmi.

10 And the sons of Simeon: Yemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman.

11 And the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

12 And the sons of Yehudah: Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Perez, and Zerah; but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

13 And the sons of Yissachar: Tola, and Puvah, and Iob, and Shimron.

14 And the sons of Zevulun: Sered, and Elon, and Yahleel.

15 These are the sons of Leah, whom she bare unto Ya'aqov in Paddan-aram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three.

16 And the sons of Gad: Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli.

17 And the sons of Asher: Imnah, and Ishvah, and Ishvi, and Beryah, and Serah their sister; and the sons of Beryah: Heber, and Malchiel.

18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bare unto Ya'aqov, even sixteen souls.

19 The sons of Rachel Ya'aqov's wife: Yoseph and Benjamin.

20 And unto Yoseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-phera priest of On, bare unto him.

21 And the sons of Benjamin: Bela, and Becher, and Ashbel, Gera, and Naaman, Ehi, and Rosh, Muppim, and Huppim, and Ard.

22 These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Ya'aqov: all the souls were fourteen.

23 And the sons of Dan: Hushim.

24 And the sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shillem.

25 These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and these she bare unto Ya'aqov: all the souls were seven.

26 All the souls that came with Ya'aqov into Egypt, that came out of his loins, besides Ya'aqov's sons' wives, all the people were seventy;

27 and the sons of Yoseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Ya'aqov, that came into Egypt, were seventy people.

Let us chart these names so that we can understand them a little easier. Below is a family tree.

When we examine the chart below we find that there are 76 names present. However, three of the people named in the text could not have gone down to Egypt because they had already died while they were still in the land of Canaan (those listed in red). Those were Rachel, who died in childbirth when giving birth to Benjamin, and the two older sons of Yehudah, Er and Onan, who displeased YHWH and so He took their lives. This leaves us with 73 names. Now please take note of this verse from the passage above. The names in blue were those already in Egypt. However, Yoseph and his sons are to be counted among the seventy because these three individuals did come from the loins of Ya'aqov.

B'reshit 46:26

26 All the souls that came with Ya'aqov into Egypt, that came out of his loins, besides Ya'aqov's sons' wives, all the people were seventy;

What this tells us is that his wives who are mentioned in the text were not counted in the seventy because they did not come from Ya'aqov's loins. Neither were the wives of his sons counted for the same reason; thus they are not named in the text, and so they should not be included in the number seventy. So not counting Ya'aqov's still living wives (if any), brings us to the number seventy. And so we can see how this number was now arrived at in the text in B'reshit.

Now please note this passage from our Brit portion.

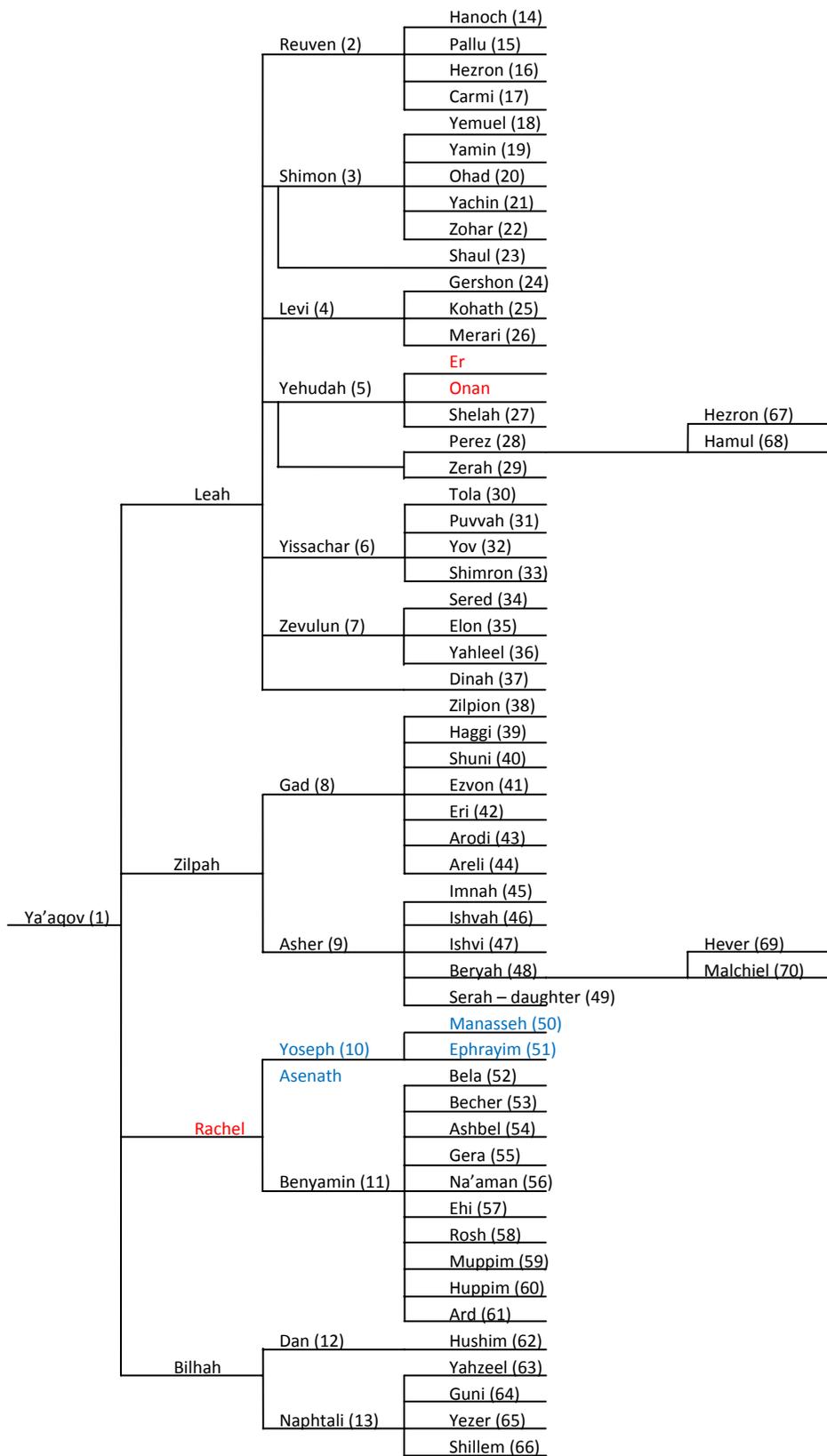
Ma'aseh [Acts] 7:14

And Yoseph sent, and called to him Ya'aqov his father, and all his kindred, seventy-five people.

Now compare that verse to this verse.

B'reshit 46:26

26 All the souls that came with Ya'aqov into Egypt, that came out of his loins, besides Ya'aqov's sons' wives, all the people were seventy;



Please note that the texts are counting different things. In the text in B'reshit (and Shemot) it is counting those that came forth from Ya'aqov, as well as Ya'aqov himself. It is not counting any of Ya'aqov's wives, nor any of the wives of his sons. In contrast to this, the passage in Ma'aseh is counting those people that actually left Canaan and went with Ya'aqov into Egypt. Now we know that Rachel was already dead and from the passage in B'reshit 49:31 it would seem highly likely that Leah was also dead by the time that Yoseph called his father and all his relatives down into Egypt.

We cannot know exactly what the number seventy-five includes, but this we can know for certain: that these two numbers do not contradict each other because they are counting different things. And certainly the number seventy-five in the book of Ma'aseh [Acts] includes some of their wives. We just don't know which ones still had wives living and which ones did not. Regardless, we just need to see that these numbers do not contradict each other. Comparing these two numbers is like comparing 70 apples with 75 oranges. While the numbers are close in amount, they really have nothing to do with each other.

One final thought about our Brit portion. This passage tells us that Elohim delivered Yoseph out of all his afflictions. The truth of the matter is this that YHWH will likewise deliver us out of all our afflictions if we but keep our eyes upon Him rather than upon our circumstances. Circumstances are constantly changing.

YHWH took Yoseph from the depths of a dungeon to the heights of being king. YHWH may not take us from where we are to that extreme a height; but nevertheless He can and will save us out of all our afflictions just as effectively. All we need to do is understand that He is Sovereign and in control and is even now working in our lives to further His Kingdom in our lives and in the lives of those around us. May we live our lives in such a way that He is glorified and honored by all we say and do!

ABBA YHWH, give us Your wisdom so that we can see that what is happening in our lives right now is from You, and You are working to bring salvation to all of Your people; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach, Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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