

Parsha Q&A



Parshas Toldos

For the week ending 2 Kislev 5756
24 & 25 November 1995

Parsha Questions

1. Who did Yitzchak resemble?
2. How old was Yitzchak at the time of the *akeda* (binding)?
3. Why does the Torah stress that Rivka was the daughter of Besuel and the sister of Lavan?
4. Whom did Rivka consult concerning her difficult pregnancy?
5. What are the two differences between Tamar's pregnancy and Rivka's pregnancy?
6. Yaakov was born grasping Esav's heel. What does this symbolize?
7. Who gave Yaakov his name?
8. How did Esav deceive his father?
9. In which tents did Yaakov dwell?
10. Why did Hashem cause Avraham to die prematurely?
11. Why are lentils considered a food for mourners?
12. What was the birth right that Yaakov bought from Esav?
13. Why was Yitzchak not permitted to go to Egypt to escape the famine?
14. Why did the Philistines plug up the wells?
15. To which animal is Esav compared?
16. What caused Yitzchak to lose his sight?
17. What did Yaakov do with the second goat that Rivka prepared for him?
18. From whom did Esav receive his special garments?
19. Why did Esav leave his special garments with Rivka rather than keep them at home with his wives?
20. What made Yitzchak suspect that it wasn't Esav who was bringing him food?
21. What smell did Yitzchak smell on the garments of Yaakov?
22. When will Esav be released from his subjugation to Yaakov?
23. What inspired Esav to marry the daughter of Yishmael?
24. Why does the Torah state that Esav married the sister of Nevayos?
25. How long did Yaakov learn in the Yeshiva of Ever before going to Lavan's house?

Bonus

Q:

What is the significance of the three wells dug by Yitzchak (26:19-22)?

I Did Not Know That!

"Hakol (the voice) is the voice of Yaakov, the hands are the hand of Esav" (27:22).

The word '*hakol*' may also be read '*hakal*' meaning light or weak. This hints that when the voice of Yaakov (his Torah learning and his prayer) is weak, then the hand of Esav will gain control.

Vilna Gaon

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Production Design: Lev Seltzer

Recommended Reading List

Ramban

25:23	Two Nations
26:1	Yitzchak in Exile
26:5	The Avos and Mitzvah Observance
26:20	The Wells and the Future
27:4	Rivka's Secret
27:33	Why Yitzchak Trembled

Sforno

25:24	Esav's Name
25:26	Yaakov's Name
27:1	Yitzchak's Blindness
27:29	Yaakov's Portion

Answers to this Week's Questions

All references are to the verses and Rashi's commentary, unless otherwise stated

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 25:19 - Avraham. 2. 25:20 - 37 years old. 3. 25:20 - To proclaim her praise, that even though her family was evil she was righteous. 4. 25:23 - Shem the son of Noach. 5. 25:24 - Rivka gave birth at full term to two children, one righteous and one wicked. Tamar gave birth after seven months to two righteous children. 6. 25:26 - That Yaakov would eventually rise to rule over Esav. 7. 25:26 - Hashem. 8. 25:27 - Esav deceived Yitzchak by asking questions that suggested that he was very strict in <i>mitzvah</i> observance. 9. 25:27 - In the tents of Shem and Ever. 10. 25:30 - Avraham died five years prematurely, at 175, so that he should not see his grandson become wicked. 11. 25:30 - They are round like a wheel and mourning is like a revolving wheel that eventually touches everyone. 12. 25:31 - The right to bring <i>korbanos</i> (sacrifices). 13. 26:2 - Through the <i>akeda</i> he had attained the status of a <i>korban</i> and was forbidden to leave <i>Eretz Canaan</i>. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. 26:15. They felt that either marauders would attack to capture the wells, or if attacking for other reasons, they would use the wells as a water supply. 15. 26:34 - The pig. Just as the pig appears to be kosher but lacks the internal sign, so too Esau appeared righteous but internally is evil. 16. 27:1 - The smoke from the incense offered by Esav's wives to their idols. 17. 27:9 - He offered it as a <i>Korban Pesach</i>. 18. 27:15 - From Nimrod. 19. 27:15 - He suspected that his wives might steal them. 20. 27:21 - Yaakov mentioned the name of Hashem too readily. 21. 27:27 - The scent of <i>Gan Eden</i>. 22. 27:40 - When the Jewish People transgress the Torah. 23. 28:7 - When he saw that his father despised his current wives, he resolved to take a wife from his father's family. 24. 28:9 - To indicate that Yishmael died before the wedding and that it was Nevayos who gave his sister in marriage to Esav. 25. 28:9 - Fourteen years. |
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Bonus

A:

These wells symbolize the three Temples that would one day stand in Jerusalem. The first two wells were destroyed by the Philistines. Similarly, the first two Temples were destroyed. The third well, Rehovot, endured, as will our third Temple.

Ramban

It changes all the time...



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