

Yosef: the Antithesis

Bereshit, 37, 1 -:

First Encountering with Yosef:

(37, 1) Yaakov dwelled in the land of his father's sojourning, in the land of Canaan.

(2) These are the descendants of Yaakov. Yosef was seventeen years old and he would tend the flocks with his brothers; he was a **NA'AR (נער)** with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. Yosef brought a bad report regarding them to his father.

(3) And Yisrael loved Yosef more than all his sons because he was a son of his old age, and he made him a long sleeved tunic.

(4) His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, and they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

(5-6) Yosef dreamed a dream and he told his brothers, and they hated him even more. He said to them, "Listen, now, to this dream that I dreamed.

The Dreams:

(7) Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field and **my sheaf rose and even stood erect**, and, behold, your sheaves surrounded and **bowed down to my sheaf.**"

(8) His brothers said to him, "Will you indeed reign over us? Will you indeed rule over us?" And **they hated him even more** for his dreams and for his words.

(9) He dreamed yet another dream and recounted it to his brothers, and he said, "Behold, I dreamed another dream, and, behold, the **sun**, the **moon**, and eleven **stars** were **bowing down to me.**"

(10) He recounted it to his father and his brothers. His father berated him and said to him, "What is this dream you dreamed? Will we really come, I and your mother and your brothers, to bow down to you to the ground?"

(11) His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. (...)

Yosef and the Pit:

(13-14) Yisrael said to Yosef, "Are not your brothers tending the flock in Shekhem? Come, let me send you to them." He said to him, "Here I am." He said to him, "Go, please, and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks and bring word back to me." He sent him from the valley of Chevron and he came to Shekhem.

(15-16) A man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field. The man questioned him, saying, "What do you seek?" He said, "I seek my brothers. Please, tell me where they are tending the flock."

(17) The man said, "They have traveled from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dotan.'" Yosef went after his brothers and found them in Dotan.

(18-19) They saw him from afar, and before he approached them, they conspired against him to kill him. They said one to another, "Here comes that master of dreams. And now, come, let us kill him and we will throw him into one of the pits and say, 'a savage beast has devoured him', and let us see what becomes of his dreams."

(20-21) Reuven heard and saved him from their hand. He said, "Let us not take his life". Reuven said to them, "Do not spill blood; cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, but do not lift your hand against him" – so as to save him from their hand and return him to **his** father.

(22) When Yosef came to his brothers, they stripped Yosef of his tunic, the long sleeved tunic that was upon him. They took him and threw him into the pit. And the pit was empty; there was no **water** in it.

(23) **They sat to eat bread** and lifted their eyes and saw, and, behold, a caravan of Yishmaelites was coming from Gilad and their camels were carrying **spices**, balsam, and ladanum, going to bring them down to Egypt. (...)

(31-32) They took Yosef's tunic and slaughtered a he-goat and dipped the tunic in the blood. They sent the long sleeved tunic, and they brought it to their father and said, "We found this. Now, recognize, is it your son's tunic or not?"

(33-34) He recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A savage beast has devoured him! Yosef was surely torn to pieces!" Yaakov rent his garments and put sackcloth on his hips and mourned his son for many days.

Yosef and the Wife of Potiphar:

(35) And the Medanites sold him to Egypt, to Potiphar, Paroh's officer, the chief executioner. (...)

(39,2-3) **Hashem** was with Yosef and he became a successful man; and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that **Hashem** was with him and that **Hashem** made all that he did succeed in his hand.

(4) And from the time he appointed him over his house and over all that he had, **Hashem** blessed the house of the Egyptian on account of Yosef, and the blessing of **Hashem** was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field. (...)

(7-8) After these things, his master's wife cast her eyes on Yosef and said, "Lie with me." He refused, and he said to his wife's master, "Behold, my master gives no thought to anything in the house, and all that he has, he has given into my hands.

(9) **There is no one in this house greater than I**, and he did not keep anything from me, except for you, as you are his wife. How can I do this great evil? **I would be sinning against Hashem!**" (...)

(19-20) When his master heard his wife's words which she spoke to him, saying, "like these things your servant did to me" he grew angry. Yosef's master took him and **placed him in jail**, the place where the king's prisoners were imprisoned, and he was there in the jail.

Yosef in Jail - the Turning Point:

(40, 1) After these things, the butler to the king of Egypt and the baker sinned against their master, the king of Egypt. (...)

(3) He placed them in custody in the house of the chief executioner, in the jail, the place where Yosef was imprisoned.

(5) They dreamed a dream, the two of them, each his own dream, in one night, each a dream with its own interpretation, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt who were imprisoned in jail.

(6-7) Yosef came to them in the morning and saw them, and, behold, they were distressed. He asked the officers of Pharaoh who were with him in custody in the house of his master, saying, "Why are your faces so downcast today?"

(8) They said to him, "We dreamed a dream and there is no one to interpret it." Yosef said to them, "**Does not God have interpretations? Please, recount them to me.**"

Pharaoh's Dream:

(41, 1) At the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed, and, behold, he was standing by the river.

(2-4) And, behold, seven cows, nice-looking and fat of flesh,³ were ascending from the river and they grazed in the rushes. And, behold, seven other cows were ascending from the river after them, ill-looking and lean of flesh, and they stood near the cows on the bank of the river. The ill-looking and leaned-flesh cows ate the seven nice-looking, fat cows; and Paroh awoke.

(5-7) He slept and dreamed a second time, and, behold, seven ears of grain were coming forth from one stalk, fat and good. And, behold, seven ears of grain, lean and scorched by an east wind, were sprouting up after them. The lean ears of grain swallowed the seven fat, full ears of grain; and Paroh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. (...)

(9) The chief cupbearer spoke to Paroh saying, "My sins I mention today. (...)

(12) And there with us was a **Hebrew young man**, a slave of the chief executioner, and we recounted to him and he interpreted our dreams for us; each according to his dream he interpreted. (...)

(14) Paroh **sent** and **called** for Yosef, and they **rushed** him from the pit. He **shaved**, **changed** his clothing, and **came** to Paroh. (6 verbs!)

(15) Paroh said to Yosef, "I dreamed a dream and there is no one to interpret it, and I heard it said about you that you can hear a dream to interpret it."

(16) Yosef replied to Paroh, saying, "**Not I. God will answer to the welfare of Paroh.**" (...)

(25) Yosef said, "Paroh's dream is one. What **God** is to do, He has told Paroh.

(26-27) The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears of grain are seven years; it is one dream. And the seven thin, ill cows that were ascending after them are seven years, and also the seven empty ears of grain scorched by the east wind. They will be seven years of famine.

(28) This is what I have spoken of to Paroh; what **God** is to do He has shown Paroh. (...)

(32) And regarding the dream being repeated to Paroh two times: because the matter is fixed by **God** and **God** is hastening to do it. (...)

(38-39) Paroh said, "Can a man like this be found, who has the spirit of **God** in him?" Paroh said to Yosef, "After **God** has made known to you all this, there is none as insightful and wise as you.

The New Yosef when he Reunites with his Brothers:

Genesis 37	Genesis 42
וַיִּקְחֵהוּ וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ אֹתוֹ הַבְּיָרָה וְהַבְּיָרָה רֵק אֵין בָּהּ מַיִם:	וַיֵּרְדוּ אֶחָיוֹסֵף עִשְׂרֵה לְשָׂבָר בָּר מִמִּצְרָיִם:
They took him and threw him into the pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.	Ten of Yosef's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

(45, 1) Yosef could not control himself before all who were standing before him, and he called, "Remove everyone from before me." So, no one was standing with him when Yosef made himself known to his brothers.

(2) He let forth his voice in weeping, and the Egyptians heard and Paroh's house heard.

(3) Yosef said to his brothers, "I am Yosef. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him because they were terrified of him.

(4) Yosef said to his brothers, "Please, approach me." They approached, and he said, "I am Yosef your brother whom you sold to Egypt.

(5-8) Now, do not be pained, and do not be angry with yourselves that you sold me here, for God sent me before you to be a source of sustenance. God sent me before you to make for you a remnant in the land, and to preserve life for you, that there be many survivors. And now, it was not you who sent me here, but God; He set me as father to Paroh and master of all his house, and ruler throughout all of the land of Egypt. (...)

(15) He kissed all his brothers and cried over them, and afterwards his brothers spoke with him. (...)

(25-26) They went up from Egypt and came to the land of Canaan, to their father, Yaakov. They told him, saying, "Yosef is still alive, and he is ruling over all of the land of Egypt." His heart stopped for he did not believe them.

Genesis 32	Genesis 46
וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו מִלְאָךְ ה' מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:	וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִרְאֵת הַלַּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְנִי:
An angel of Hashem called out to him from the heavens and said, "Avraham! Avraham!" and he said, "Here I am."	God said to Yisrael in visions of the night, and said, "Yaakov, Yaakov"; and he said, "Here I am."

Epilogue:

(48,1) After these things, he said¹ to Yosef, "Behold, your father is sick." He took his two sons with him, Menashe and Ephraim.

(2) Yaakov said to Yosef, "El Shaddai appeared to me in Luz, in the land of Canaan, and blessed me.

(3) He said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make you into an assembly of peoples and give this land to your offspring after you as an everlasting possession. (...)

(8-9) Yisrael saw Yosef's sons and said, "Who are these?" Yosef said to his father, "They are my sons whom God has given me here." He said, "Please, bring them to me and I will bless them." (...)

(13) Yosef took both of them, Ephraim in his right, to the left of Yisrael, and Menashe in his left, to the right of Yisrael, and brought them near to him.

(14) Yisrael sent forth his right and set it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left on Menashe's head; he crossed his hands even though Menashe was the first born. (...)

(17) Yosef saw that his father had set his right hand on Ephraim's head, and it was grievous in his eyes, so he grasped his father's hand to remove it from upon Ephraim's head to Menashe's head.

(18) Yosef to his father, "Not so, my father, for this is the first born. Put your right on his head."

חזק חזק ונתחזק!
chazak chazak v'nitchazek!