## Reuven, Yehuda and Yosef: What It Takes to Lead a Family

Why do we study biblical personalities?

# BETWEEN ANGELS AND MERE MORTALS: Nechama Leibowitz's Approach to the Study of Biblical Characters by Howard Deitcher

In considering the struggles and hardships that these biblical persons faced, we ourselves become directly involved in interpreting the issues that they dealt with (Simon, 1979). We cannot be apathetic observers from the sidelines; we must become active readers of the biblical text, engaged in an encounter with those same problems, challenges, and frustrations that they experienced. In the process of studying the biblical personalities, the reader is invited to explore the psychological motives that led them to certain actions. Only by investigating and grasping these motives can one plumb the story's depth of meaning for the contemporary reader (Sternberg, 1987).

**Introduction to Yosef - Primed for Leadership** 

## **Bereishit Chapter 37**

1 And Jacob dwelt in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren, being still a lad even with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought evil report of them unto their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a coat of many colours. 4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

## בראשית פרק לז

כְּנָעַן :
ב אֵלֶה תּלְדוֹת יַצְלְב יוֹסֵף בֶּן־שְׁבַע־עֶשְׂרֵה שַׁנָה הָיָה רֹעָה אֶת־אֶחָיו בַּצֹאן וְהוּא נַעַר אֶת־בְּנִי זְלְפָּה נְשִׁי אָבִיו אַתְבּא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דְּבָּי, זְלְפָּה נְשִׁי אָבִיו וַיָּבֵא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דְּבָּתִם רָעָה אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם:
ג וְיִשְׂרָאֵל אָהַב אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכְּל־בָּנִיו כִּי־בֶּךְ זְקִנִים הוּא לוֹ וְעָשָׂה לוֹ בְּתֹנֶת פַּסִים :
ד וַיִּרְאוּ אֶחָיו כִּי־אֹתוֹ אָהַב אֲבִיהֶם מִכְּלֹּב דִּבְּרוֹ לְשַׁלֹם:
אָחַיו וַיִּשָּׂנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יַכְלוּ דָבְּרוֹ לְשַׁלֹם:

א וישב יעקב בארץ מגורי אביו בארץ

## Introduction to Reuven - Taking a stand

## **Bereishit Chapter 37**

19 And they said one to another: 'Behold, this dreamer cometh. 20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into one of the pits, and we will say: An evil beast hath devoured him; and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' 21 And Reuben heard it, and delivered him out of their hand; and said: 'Let us not take his life.' 22And Reuben said unto them: 'Shed no blood; cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but lay no hand upon him'--that he might deliver him out of their hand, to restore him to his father. 23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph of his coat, the coat of many colours that was on him; 24 and they took him, and cast him into the pit--and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

## בראשית פרק לז

יט וַיּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אָחִיו הִנֵּה בַּעַל הַחֲלֹמוֹת הַלָּזֶה בָּא:כ וְעַתָּה לְכוּ וְנַהַּרְגֵהוּ וְנַשְׁלְכֵהוּ בְּאַחַד הַבּּרוֹת וְאָמַרְנוּ חַיָּה רָעָה אָכָלְתָהוּ וְנִרְאֶה מַה־יִּהְיוּ חֲלֹמֹתָיו: כֹא וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֵן וַיַּצְלֵהוּ מִיָּדֶם וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא נַכְּנוּ נָפָשׁ :כב וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם רְאוּבֵן אַל־ תִשְׁפְּכוּדְם הַשְּלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל־הַבּּוֹר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר וְיָד אַל־תִּשְׁלְחוּדבוֹ לְמַעַן הַצִּיל אֹתוֹ מִיּדָם לַהֲשִׁיבוֹ אֶל־אָבִיו: כג וַיְהִי הַבְּאִיר: כֹג וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף אֶת־כַּתְנְתוֹ אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת הַפַּשִּיטוּ אֶת עָלָיו: :כד וַיִּקְּחָהוּ וַיַּשְׁלְכוּ אֹתוֹ הַבּּרָה וְהַבּּוֹ רְרָק אֵין בּוֹ מַיִם:

## Introduction to Yehuda - A brother with influence

#### בראשית פרק לז **Bereishit Chapter 37** 25 And they sat down to eat bread; and they lifted up כה וַיַּשָׁבוּ לַאֲכַל־לַחֶם וַיִּשָּׁאוּ עִינֵיהָם their eyes and looked, and, behold, a caravan of וַיָּרָאוּ וָהָנָה אַרְחַת יִשְׁמְעָאלִים בַּאַה Ishmaelites came from Gilead, with their camels bearing מגַלעַד וּגַמַלֵּיהֵם נשָאִים נָכאת וּצְרִי spicery and balm and ladanum, going to carry it down to וַלט הוֹלְכִים לְהוֹרִיד מִצְרַיִמָה: Egypt. 26And Judah said unto his brethren: 'What profit is כו ויאמר יהודה אל־אחיו מה־בַּצַע it if we slav our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come. : כִּי נַהַרג אַת־אחִינוּ וַכְסִינוּ אַת־דַמוֹ and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand כז לכו ונמכּרנוּ לַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים וְיָדֵנוּ be upon him; for he is our brother, our flesh.' And his אַל־תַּהִי־בוֹ כִּי־אַחִינוֹ בְשַׂרֵנוּ הוֹא brethren hearkened unto him. 28 And there passed by וַיִשְׁמְעוּ אָחַיו: כח וַיַּעָבְרוּ אֲנַשִים: וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אָחַיוּ Midianites, merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites מְדִיַנִים סחֶרִים וַיִּמְשָׁכוּ וַיַּעֵלוּ אֵת־ for twenty shekels of silver. And they brought Joseph into יוֹסֵף מִן־הַבּוֹר וַיִּמִכְּרוּ אֱת־יוֹסֵף Egypt. לַיִּשְׁמְצֵאלִים בְּצֶשְׂרִים כָּסֶף וַיָּבִיאוּ :אַת־יוֹסֵף מְצְרַיִמַה

#### Reuven - A Troubled Oldest

Genesis Chapter 35	בראשית פרשת וישלח פרק לה
22 And it came to pass, while Israel dwelt in that	כב וַיְהִי בִּשְׁכֹּן יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאָרֶץ הַהִוא וַיֵּלֶדְ רְאוּבֵן
land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his	וַיִּשְׁכַּב אֶת־בִּלְהָה פִּילֶגֶשׁ אָבִיו וַיִּשְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל
father's concubine; and Israel heard of it.	פ וַיִּהְיוּ בְנֵי־יַעֲקֹב שְׁנֵים עָשָׂר:

And he lay – Since he mixed up his bed, the verse	-וישכב
move his bed? When Rachel died, Yaakov moved his bed which was always in her tent and not in others, and moved it into Bilhah's tent. Reuven took offense for his mother and said "If my mother's	מתוך שבלבל משכבו מעלה עליו הכתוב כא שכבה .ולמה בלבל וחלל יצועיו ,שכשמתה רחל נטל יעקב מטתו שהיתה נתונה תדיר באהל רחל ולא בשאראהלים ונתנה באהל בלהה ,בא ראובן ותבע עלבון אמו ,אמר אם אחות אמי היתה צרה לאמי ,שפחת אחות אמי תהא צרה לאמי ,לכן בלבל:

Chapter 37	פרק לז
29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold,	כט וַיָּשָׁב רְאוּבֵן אֱל־הַבּוֹר וְהַנֵּה אֱין־יוֹסֵף
Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his	בַּבּוֹר וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־בְּגָדִיו:ל וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־אֶחָיו
clothes. 30 And he returned unto his brethren and	ַניּאמַר הַיֶּלֶד אֵינֶנּוּ וַאֲנִי אָנָה אֲנִי־בָא: וַיּאמַר הַיֶּלֶד אֵינֶנּוּ וַאֲנִי אָנָה אֲנִי־בָא:
said 'The child is not and for me whither shall I go?'	

Rashi	רש"י

And Reuven returned – He was not there for the selling, because it was his day to go serve his father. Alternatively, he was wearing sackcloth and fasting to atone for moving his father's bed.

כט וישב ראובן-ובמכירתו לא היה שם ,שהגיע יומו לילך ולשמש את אביו .דבר אחר עסוק היה בשקו ובתעניתו על שבלבל יצועי אביו

#### **Genesis 42:21-22**

21 And they said one to another: 'We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.' 22 And Reuben answered them, saying: 'Spoke I not unto you, saying: Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore also, behold, his blood is required.'

כא וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל אָחִיוּ אֲבָּל אֲשֵׁמִים אֲנַחְנוּ עֵל אָחִינוּ אֲשֶׁר רָאִינוּ צָרַת נַפְשׁוֹ בְּהִתְחַנְנוֹ אֵלֵינוּ וְלֹא שָׁמָעְנוּ עַל כֵּן בָּאָה אֵלֵינוּ הַצָּרָה הַזֹּאת .כב וַיַּעַן רְאוּבֵן אֹתָם לֵאמֹר הַלוֹא אָמַרְתִּי אֲלֵיכֶם לֵאמֹר אַל הַלוֹא בָּיֶלֶד וְלֹא שְׁמַעְתֶּם וְגַם דָּמוֹ הָנֵה נִדְרָשׁ.

## Chapter 42

36 And Jacob their father said unto them: 'Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away; upon me are all these things come.' 37 And Reuben spoke unto his father, saying: 'Thou shalt slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee; deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him back to thee.' 38 And he said: 'My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he only is left; if harm befall him by the way in which ye go, then will ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

## פרשת מקץ פרק מב

לו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יַעֲלְב אֲבִיהֶם אֹתִי שָׁכַּלְ תֶּם יוֹסֵף אֵינֶנּוּ וְשִׁמְעוֹן אֵינֶנּוּ וְאֶת־בִּנְיָמִן תִּקְחוּ עֻלַי הָיוּ כַלְנָה: לז וַיֹּאמֶר רְאוּבֵן אֶל־אָבִיו לֵאמֹר אֶת־שְׁנֵי בָנַי תָּמִית אִם־לֹא אֲבִיאֶנּוּ אֵלֶיךּ תְּנָה אֹתוֹ עַל־יָדִי וַאֲנִי אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ אֵלֶיךּ: לח וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא־יֵרֵד בְּנִי עִמֶּכֶם כִּי־אָחִיו מֵת וְהוּא לְבַדּוֹ נִשְׁאָר וּקְרָאָהוּ אָסוֹן בַּדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר תֵּלְכוּ־בָה וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־שֵׂיבָתִי בְּיָגוֹן שְׁאוֹלָה

#### Yehuda's Coming of Age

## **Genesis Chapter 38**

- 1 And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah...
- 11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter-in-law: 'Remain a widow in thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown up'; for he said: 'Lest he also die, like his brethren.' And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house...
- 24 And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying: 'Tamar thy daughter-in-law hath played the harlot; and moreover, behold, she is with child by harlotry.' And Judah said: 'Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.' 25 When she was brought forth, she sent to her

#### בראשית פרק לח

א וַיְהִי בָּעֵת הַהִּוֹא, וַיֵּיֶד יְהוּדָה מֵאֵת אֶחָיו; וַיֵּט עַד-אִישׁ עֲדֻלָּמִי, וּשְׁמוֹ חִירָה יא וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְתָמֶר כַּלָּתוֹ שְׁבִי

יא וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְתָמֶר כַּלָּתוֹ שְׁבִי אַלְמָנָה בִית-אָבִידְּ, עַד-יִנְדָּל שֵׁלָה בְנִי--כִּי אָמֵר, פֶּן-יָמוּת גַּם-הוּא כְּאֶחָיו; וַתֵּלֶךְ תָּמָר, וַתִּשֶׁב בֵּית אַבִיהַ.

כד וַיְהִי כְּמִשְׁלשׁ חֶדָשִׁים, וַיְּגֵּד לִיהוּדָה לֵאמר זָנְתָה תָּמֶר כַּלְּעֶדְ, וְגַם הָנֵּה הָרָה, לִזְנוּנִים; וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה, הוֹצִיאוּהָ וְתִשָּׂרֵף .כה הִוּא מוּצֵאת, וְהִיּא שֵׁלְחַה אֵל-חַמִיהַ father-in-law, saying: 'By the man, whose these are, am I with child'; and she said: 'Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and the cords, and the staff.' 26 And Judah acknowledged them, and said: 'She is more righteous than I; forasmuch as I gave her not to Shelah my son.' And he knew her again no more.

לֵאמֹר, לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-אֵלֶה לּוֹ, אָנֹכִי הָרָה; וַתּאמֶר, הַכֶּר-נָא--לְמִי הַחֹתֶמֶת וְהַפְּתִילִים וְהַמֵּשֶׁה, הָאֵלֶה .כו וַיַּכֵּר יְהוּדָה, וַיֹּאמֶר צְדְקָה מִמֶּנִי, כִּי-עַל-כֵּן לֹא-נְתַתִּיהָ, לְשֵׁלָה בְנִי; וְלֹא-יָסַף עוֹד, לְדַעְתָּהִּ

## **Genesis Chapter 43**

1 And the famine was sore in the land. 2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, that their father said unto them: 'Go again, buy us a little food.' 3 And Judah spoke unto him, saying: 'The man did earnestly forewarn us, saying: Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. 4 If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food; 5 but if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down, for the man said unto us: Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.'... 8 And Judah said unto Israel his father: 'Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones. 9 I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him; if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever. 10 For except we had lingered, surely we had now returned a second time.'

### בראשית פרק מג

א וְהָרְעָב, כָּבֶד בָּאָרֶץ .ב וַיְהִי, כַּאֲשֶׁר כָּלוּ לֶאֱכֹל אֶת-הַשֶּׁבֶר, אֲשֶׁר הֵבִיאוּ, מִמִּצְרָיִם; וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם אֲבִיהֶם, שֲבוּ שִׁבְרוּ-לָנוּ מְעַט-אֹכֶל .ג וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה, לֵאמֹר: הָעֵד הַעִד בָּנוּ הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר לֹא-תִרְאוּ פָנֵי, בִּלְתִי אֲחִיכֶם אִתְּכֶם .ד אִם-יֶשְׁךְ מְשַׁלֵּחַ אֶת-אָחִינוּ, אִתְּכָם .ד אִם-יֶשְׁךְ מְשַׁלֵּחַ אֶת-אָחִינוּ, אִתְנִוּ--נֵרְדָה, וְנִשְׁבְּרָה לְךְּ אֹכֶל .ה וְאִם-אֵלִינוּ, לֹא-תִרְאוּ פָנֵי, בִּלְתִּי, אֲחִיכֶם אִתְּכֶם...

ח וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיוּ, שׁלְחָה הַנַּעַר אִתִּי--וְנָקוּמְה וְנֵלֵכָה; וְנְחְיֶה וְלֹא נָמוּת, גַּם-אֲנַחְנוּ גַם-אַתָּה גַּם-טַפֵּנוּ .ט אָנִכִי, אֶעֶרְבֶנוּ--מִיָּדִי, תְּבַקְשָׁנּוּ: אִם-לֹא הֲבִיאֹתִיו אֵלֵיךְ וְהצַגְתִּיו לְפָנֶיךְ, וְחָטָאתִי לְךְּ כָּל-הַיָּמִים .י כִּי, לוּלֵא הִתְמַהְמָהְנוּ--כִּי-עַתָּה שַׁבְנוּ, זֶה פַעֲמָיִם.

## **Bereishit Chapter 44**

14 And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house, and he was yet there; and they fell before him on the ground. 15 And Joseph said unto them: 'What deed is this that ye have done? know ye not that such a man as I will indeed divine?' 16 And Iudah said: 'What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants; behold, we are my lord's bondmen, both we, and he also in whose hand the cup is found.' 17 And he said: 'Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the goblet is found, he shall be my bondman; but as for you, get you up in peace unto your father.' {S} 18 Then Judah came near unto him, and said: 'Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant; for thou art even as Pharaoh. 19 My lord asked his servants, saying: Have ye a father, or a brother? 20 And we said unto my lord: We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him. 21 And thou saidst unto thy servants: Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him. 22 And we said unto my lord: The lad cannot leave his

#### בראשית פרק מד

יד וַיָּבֹא יְהוּדָה וְאֶחָיו בֵּיתָה יוֹסֵף, וְהוּא עוֹדֶנוּ שָׁם; וַיִּפְּלוּ לְפָנָיו, אָרְצָה טו וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם יוֹסֵף, מָה-

ָּאָיְ בָּוּר וּטוּ זַיְאָבֶּוּר יְטָהֶב יּוֹטֶרְ, בָּוּרּי הַמַּעְשֶׂה הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר עֲשִׁיתֶם; הַלוֹא יְדַעְתֶּם, כִּי-נַחֵשׁ יְנַחֵשׁ אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר

בָּמֹנִי . זו וַלּאמֶר יְהוֹדָה, מַה-נֹאמֵר נְאדנִי, מַה-נְּדְבָּר, וּמַה-נִּצְטַדָּק; הָאֱלֹהִים, מָצָא אֶת-עֵון עֲבָדִיף-הַנְּנִּנּ עֲבָדִים לָאדֹנִי, נַּם-אֲנַחָנוּ נָם אֲשֶׁר-נִמְצָא הַנָּבִיעַ בְּיָדוֹ. יִז וַיִּאמֶר--חָלִילָה לִי, מֵעֲשוֹת זֹאת; הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נִמְצָא הַנְּבִיעַ בְּיָדוֹ, הוּא יִהְיָה-לִּי

עָבָד, וְאַתָּם, עָלוּ לְשָׁלוֹם אֶלּ-אֲבִיכֶם. (ס {יֹח וַיְּגְּשׁׁ אָלֶיוֹ יְהוּדָה, וַיִּאמֶר בִּי אֲדֹנִי, יְדַבֶּר-נָא עַבְדְּךָּ דָבָר בְּאָזְנֵי אֲדֹנִי, וְאַל-יִחַר אַפְּךְ בָּעַבְדֵּךְ: כִּי כָמוֹךְ, כְּפַרִעֹה יִט אֲדִנִי שַׁאֵל, אֶת-

בְּבֵּדִי בֵּאמֹר: הֲזֵש-לָכֶם אָב, אוֹ-אָח . כוַנְאמֶר, אֶל-אֲדֹנִי, יֶשׁ-לְנוּ אָב זָקּוּ, וְיֻלֶּד זְקָנִים קָטְן; וְאָחִיו מֵת, וַיְּנְתֵּר הוּא לְבדּוֹ לְאמּוֹ וְאָבִיוֹ אֶחָבוֹ . כֹא וַתּאמֶר, אֶל-עָבְדֶיקּ, הוֹרְדָהוּ, אֵלִי, וְאָשִׁימָה עִינִי, עָלִיו . כב וַנִּאמֶר, אֶל-אַדֹנִי, לא-יוּכָל הַנַּעַר, לְעָזֹב אֶת-אָבִיו: וְעָזָב אֶת-אָבִיו, וְמִת . כֹג וְתַּאמֶר, אֶל-עַבְדֵיקּ, אִם-לֹא יֵרֶד אֲחִיכֶם הַקְּטַן,

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father; for if he should leave his father, his father would die. 23 And thou saidst unto thy servants: Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more. 24 And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. 25 And our father said: Go again, buy us a little food. 26 And we said: We cannot go down; if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down; for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us. 27 And thy servant my father said unto us: Ye know that my wife bore me two sons; 28 and the one went out from me, and I said: Surely he is torn in pieces; and I have not seen him since; 29 and if ye take this one also from me, and harm befall him, ye will bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. 30 Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad is not with us; seeing that his soul is bound up with the lad's soul; 31 it will come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die; and thy servants will bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave. 32 For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying: If I bring him not unto thee, then shall I bear the blame to my father for ever. 33 Now therefore, let thy servant, I pray thee, abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren. 34 For how shall I go up to my father, if the lad be not with me? lest I look upon the evil that shall come on my father.'

אַתְּכֶם--לֹא תֹספוּן, לְרָאוֹת פָנִי .כד וַיְהִי כִּי עַלִינוּ, אֶל-עַבְדְּךְּ אָבִי; וַנַּגָּד-לוֹ--אַת, דְּבְרֵי אֲדֹנִי .כה וַיֹּאמֶר, אָבִינוּ: שַׁבוּ, שִׁבְרוּ-לָנוּ מְעֵט-אֹכֶל .כו וַנִּאמֶר, לֹא נוֹכַל לֶרֶדֶת: אִם-יִשׁ אָחִינוּ הַקָּטוּ אִתְנוּ, וְרֵדְנוּ--כִּי-לֹא נִוּכָל לְרָאוֹת פָּנִי הָאִישׁ, וְאָחִינוּ הַקָּטוּ אֵינְנּוּ

אָתָנוּ .כז וַיֹּאמֶר עַבְדְּךְּ אָבִי, אֵלֵינוּ: אַתֶּם יִדְעָתֶם, כִּי שָׁנַיִם יַלְדָה-לִי

אָשְׁתִּי .כּח וַיֵּצֵא הָאֶחָד, מֵאִתִּי, וָאֹמֵר, אַךְּ טָרֹף טֹרָף; וְלֹא רְאִיתִיו, עֵד-ביר בין ולכחתה וה נות זה מוות מנו

הֵנָּה .כט וּלְקַחְתֶּם גַּם-אֶת-זֶה מֵעִם פָּנֵי, וְקָרָהוּ אָסוֹן--וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת-שֵיבָתִי

בְּרָעָה, שְאלָה ל וְעַתָּה, כְּבֹאי אֶל-עַבְדְּדְּ אָבִי, וְהַנַּער, אֵינָנּוּ אָתָנּוּ; וְנִפְשׁו, קְשׁוּרָה בְּנַפְשׁו לא וְהַיָּה, כִּרְאוֹתוֹ כִּי-אֵין הַנַּער--וְמַת; וְהוֹרִידוּ עָבְדִיךְּ אָת-שֵיבַת עַבְדְּךְּ אָבִינוּ, בְּיָגוֹן--

שׁאֹלָה ֹלֹב כִּי עַבְּדְּךְּ עָרַב אֶת-הַנַּעַר, מֵעִם אָבִי לֵאמֹר: אִם-לֹא אֲבִיאֶנּוּ אֵלֶיךּ, וְחָטָאתִי לְאָבִי כָּל-הַיָּמִים .לג וְעַתָּה, יֵשֶׁב-נָא עַבְדְּךְּ תַּחַת הַנַּעַר--עֶבֶד, לַאדֹנִי; וְהַנַּעַר, יַעַל עִם-אֶחָיו .לד כִּי-אֵיךְ אֶעֱלֶה אֶל-אָבִי, וְהַנַּעַר אֵינֶנּוּ אִתִּי: פָּן אֶרְאֶה בָרָע, אֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא אֶת-אָבִי.

#### In the end...

## Chapter 49

8 Judah, thee shall thy brethren praise; thy hand shall be on the neck of thine enemies; thy father's sons shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, thou art gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as a lioness; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, as long as men come to Shiloh; and unto him shall the obedience of the peoples be.

## בראשית פרק מט

ת יְהוּדָה, אַתָּה יוֹדוּךְּ אַחֶיךְ--יָדְךְּ, בְּעֹרֶף אֹיְבֶיךְּ; יִשְׁתַחֲווּ לְךְּ, בְּנֵי אָבִיךְּ .טּ גּוּר אַרְיֵה יְהוּדָה, מִשֶּׁרֶף בְּנִי עָלִיתָ; כָּרַע רָבַץ כְּאַרְיֵה וּכְלָבִיא, מִי יְקִימֶנוּ .י לֹא-יָסוּר שֵׁבֶט מִיהוּדָה, וּמְחֹקֵק מִבֵּין רַגְּלָיו, עַד כִּי-יָבֹא שִׁילֹה, וְלוֹ יִקְהַת עַמִּים.

## 1 Chronicles Chapter 5

1 And the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel--for he was the first-born; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, yet not so that he was to be reckoned in the genealogy as first-born. 2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came he that is the prince; but the birthright was Joseph's--

#### דברי הימים א פרק ה

א וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן בְּכוֹר-יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי הוּא הַבְּכוֹר--וּבְחַלְלוֹ יְצוּעֵי אָבִיו, נִתְּנָה בְּכֹרָתוֹ לִבְנִי יוֹסֵף בֶּן-יִשְׁרָאֵל; וְלֹא לְהִתְיַחֵשׁ, לַבְּכֹרָה .ב כִּי יְהוּדָה גָּבַר בָּאֶחָיו, וּלְנָגִיד מִמֶּנוּ; וְהַבְּכֹרָה, לִיוֹסֵף.

## Wait, What About Yosef?

## **Genesis Chapter 48**

1 And it came to pass after these things, that one said to Joseph: 'Behold, thy father is sick.' And he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 And one told Jacob, and said: 'Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee.' And Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed. 3 And Jacob said unto Joseph: 'God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, 4 and said unto me: Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a company of peoples; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. 5 And now thy two sons, who were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh, even as Reuben and Simeon, shall be mine.

א וַיְהִי, אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶה, וַיֹּאמֶר לְיוֹסֵף, הִנֵּה אָבִיךְ חֹלֶה; וַיִּקַּח אֶת-שְׁנֵי בָנְיו, עִמּוֹ--אֶת-מְנֵשֶׁה, וְאֶת-אֶפְרָיִם .בּ וַיִּגֵּד לְיִעְלְב--וַיֹּאמֶר, הִנֵּה בִּנְךְּ יוֹסֵף בָּא אֵלֶיךּ; וַיִּתְחַזֵּק, יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיִּשֶׁב, שַׁדֵּי נִרְאָה-אֵלֵי בְּלוֹז בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעֵן; וַיְבָרֶדְּ, אֹתִי .ד וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֵי, הִנְנִי מַפְּרְךְּ וְהִרְבִּיתִךְ, וּנְתַתִּיךּ, לִקְהַל עַמִּים; וְנָתַתִּי אָת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת, לְזַרְעָךְ אַחֲרֶיִף--אֲחָזַת עוֹלֶם .ה וְעַתָּה שְׁנִי-בָנֶיךְ הַנּוֹלְדִים לְךְּ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, עִד-בֹּאִי אֵלֶיךְ מִצְרִיְמָה--לְיהָם: אֶפְרִים, וֹקנַשֶּה--כִּרְאוּבֵן וְשִׁמְעוֹן, יִהְיוּ-לִי .וּ וּמוֹלַדְתְּךְ אֲשֶׁר-

אַמִיהָם יִקּרָאוּ, בְּנַחַלַתִם.

בראשית פרק מח

## For Further Reading:

Howard Deitcher (2000) BETWEEN ANGELS AND MERE MORTALS: Nechama Leibowitz's Approach to the Study of Biblical Characters, Journal of Jewish Education, 66:1-2, 8-22, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0021624000660103

Tamar and Yosef - Rav Yoni Grossman <a href="http://www.vbm-torah.org/parsha.58/09vayesh.htm">http://www.vbm-torah.org/parsha.58/09vayesh.htm</a>

Reuven vs Yehuda - Rabbanit Sharon Rimon http://www.vbm-torah.org/archive/parsha67/10-67miketz.htm

Yehuda's Leadership - Rabbanit Sharon Rimon <a href="http://www.vbm-torah.org/archive/parsha67/11-67vayigash.htm#">http://www.vbm-torah.org/archive/parsha67/11-67vayigash.htm#</a> ftn1

Next time - Heroines of the Exodus

And make sure to check out the blog at www.torahintexas.wordpress.com