

What Happens after the Stealing of the Berachot? jziring@torontotorah.com

1. Follow-up on last time: Did Rivka actually plan the deceit? Probably yes, but maybe not...
2. What did Yaakov accomplish in his time at Lavan's? Note Chiasm:
 - ❖ Yitzchak asks Yaakov for his name, and blesses him.
 - Esav provides negative explanation for “Yaakov” – that he can only be victorious through deception
 - Esav “raises his voice” and cries.
 - Esav threatens to kill Yaakov when his father dies
 - Yaakov runs away from Esav on the command of his mother and father and **ויפגע במקום**
 - Encounters the Beit Elokim
 - Yaakov sets up the rocks, promises 10% to G-d
 - Yaakov is tricked by Lavan when his wives are switched
 - Yaakov's wives switch themselves in the Dudaim story
 - [There is much more in the middle: which relates to Rachel and Leah – the children, the competition, etc.]
 - Lavan tries to trick Yaakov with regards to his salary
 - Yaakov sets up the rocks as part of a treaty with Lavan, accuses him of changing his salary 10x
 - Encounters the Machaneh Elokim
 - Yaakov sends the Malachim and initiates contact with Esav
 - Yaakov worries that Esav will kill parents and children
 - Yaakov wants Esav to “raise his face towards him”
 - Yaakov is victorious by raw physical strength – i.e., everything is out in the open
 - ❖ The Malach renames him, and blesses him.
3. What are the differences between the parallel parts of the chiasm?
4. How has Yaakov changed?
5. Is Yaakov's life story the story of being chosen, or the opposite?
 - a. Think about other characters – Leah and Rachel, Yosef, Reuven, Shimon and Levi, etc.