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וישב Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1-40:23

- וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מִגְוֵרֵי אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:
- אֵלֶּה | תְּלֻדֹת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בֶּן־שִׁבְעָעָשְׂרָה שָׁנָה הָיָה רָעָה אֶת־אֶחָיו
בְּצֹאן וְהָיָה לְעֹר אֶת־בְּנֵי בִלְהָה וְאֶת־בְּנֵי זִלְפָּה נְשֵׁי אָבִיו וַיָּבֵא
יוֹסֵף אֶת־דִּבְתָּם רָעָה אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם:
- וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל אֶהָב אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכָּל־בָּנָיו כִּי־בֶן־זִקְנִים הָיָה לוֹ וַעֲשָׂה לוֹ
כְּתֹנֶת פָּסִים:
- וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶחָיו כִּי־אֲהָב אֶהָב אֲבִיהֶם מִכָּל־אֶחָיו וַיִּשְׁנְאוּ אוֹתוֹ וְלֹא
יָכֹלוּ דַּבְּרוֹ לְשָׁלָם:
- וַיְחַלֵּם יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם וַיַּגֵּד לְאֶחָיו וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שֹׁנְאֵה אוֹתוֹ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁמַעוּ־נָא הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתִּי:
- וְהִנֵּה אֲנִיחֶנּוּ מֵאֲלָמִים אֲלָמִים בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׂדֶה וְהִנֵּה קִמָּה אֲלַמְתִּי
וְגַם־נִצְבָּה וְהִנֵּה תִסְבִּינָה אֲלַמְתִּיכֶם וְתִשְׁתַּחֲוִינִן לִאֲלַמְתִּי:
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֶחָיו הֲמִלֵּךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ אִם־מִשׁוּל תִּמְשָׁל בָּנוּ
וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שֹׁנְאֵה אוֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלַמְתּוֹ וְעַל־דִּבְרָיו:
- וַיְחַלֵּם עוֹד חֲלוֹם אֲחֵר וַיִּסְפֹּר אוֹתוֹ לְאֶחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חֲלַמְתִּי
חֲלוֹם עוֹד וְהִנֵּה הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְאַחַד עָשָׂר כּוֹכָבִים מִשְׁתַּחֲוִיִּים
לִי:
- וַיִּסְפֹּר אֶל־אֲבִיו וְאֶל־אֶחָיו וַיַּגְעֲרֻבוּ אֲבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה הַחֲלוֹם
הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתָּ הֲבֹא נָבוֹא אֲנִי וְאִמִּי וְאֶחָיךָ לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לְךָ
אֶרְצָה:
- וַיִּקְנְאוּ־בּוֹ אֶחָיו וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת־הַדְּבָר:
- וַיֵּלְכוּ אֶחָיו לְרֻעוֹת אֶת־צֹאן אֲבִיהֶם בְּשֹׁכֶם:
- 1 Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan.
- 2 This, then, is the line of Jacob: At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended the flocks with his brothers, as a helper to the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought bad reports of them to their father.
- 3 Now Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons—he was his “child of old age”; (he was his “child of old age” NJPS “he was the child of his old age.” The expression ben zequnim is used here as a category label; it seems to denote a special, favored status. Cf. 44.20.) and he had made him an ornamented tunic. (ornamented tunic Or “a coat of many colors”; meaning of Heb. uncertain.)
- 4 And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him so that they could not speak a friendly word to him.
- 5 Once Joseph had a dream which he told to his brothers; and they hated him even more.
- 6 He said to them, “Hear this dream which I have dreamed:
- 7 There we were binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf stood up and remained upright; then your sheaves gathered around and bowed low to my sheaf.”
- 8 His brothers answered, “Do you mean to reign over us? Do you mean to rule over us?” And they hated him even more for his talk about his dreams.
- 9 He dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: And this time, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”
- 10 And when he told it to his father and brothers, his father berated him. “What,” he said to him, “is this dream you have dreamed? Are we to come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow low to you to the ground?”
- 11 So his brothers were wrought up at him, and his father kept the matter in mind.
- 12 One time, when his brothers had gone to pasture their father's flock at Shechem,

- 13 וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא אֲחִיךָ רְעִים בְּשׁוֹלָם לָכֶּה וְאֶשְׁלַחְךָ
אֲלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הֲנִנִי:
14 וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֵךְ־נָא רְאֵה אֶת־שְׁלוֹם אֲחִיךָ וְאֶת־שְׁלוֹם הַצֹּאן וְהַשְׁבָּנִי
דִּבֶּר וַיִּשְׁלַחְהוּ מֵעֵמֶק חֶבְרוֹן וַיָּבֹא שְׂכֵמָה:
15 וַיִּמְצְאֵהוּ אִישׁ וְהָיָה תֵּעָה בְּשׂוּדָה וַיִּשְׁאַלְהוּ הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר
מִה־תִּבְקֶשׁ:
16 וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת־אֲחֵי אֲנֹכִי מִבְּקֶשׁ הַגִּידֶה־נָּא לִי אֵיפֹה הֵם רְעִים:
17 וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ נִסְעוּ מִזֶּה כִּי שָׁמַעְתִּי אֲמָרִים נִלְכָּה דִּתִּינָה וַיֵּלֶךְ
יוֹסֵף אַחֵר אֲחָיו וַיִּמְצָאֵם בְּדוֹתָן:
18 וַיֵּרְאוּ אֹתוֹ מֵרָחֹק וּבִטְרֶם יִקְרַב אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּתְנַכְּלוּ אֹתוֹ לְהַמִּיתוֹ:
19 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אֲחָיו הִנֵּה בָּעַל הַחֲלָמוֹת הַלֵּזָה בָּא:
20 וְעַתָּה | לָכֵן וְנַהַרְגֵהוּ וְנַשְׁלִכֵהוּ בְּאֶתֶד הַבְּלוֹת וְנֹאמְרֵנוּ תִּיָּה רָעָה
אֲכַלְתָּהוּ וְנִרְאָה מִה־יְהוָה חֲלָמָתוֹ:
21 וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֵן מִיָּדָם וַיִּצְלָהוּ מִיָּדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא נִכְנֹס נַפְשׁוֹ:
22 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם | רְאוּבֵן אֲלִיתְשָׁפְכוּ־דָם הַשְׁלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל־הַבּוֹר הַזֶּה
אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר וַיֵּד אֲלִיתְשָׁלוּחֵי־בֹן לְמַעַן הַצִּיל אֹתוֹ מִיָּדָם לְהַשְׁיבֹ
אֶל־אָבִיו:
23 וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר־בָּא יוֹסֵף אֶל־אֲחָיו וַיִּפְשְׁטוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף אֶת־כִּתְנֵתוֹ
אֶת־כִּתְנֵת הַפָּסִים אֲשֶׁר עָלָיו:
24 וַיִּקְחֵהוּ וַיִּשְׁלָכוּ אֹתוֹ הַבְּרָה וְהַבּוֹר רָק אֵין בּוֹ מַיִם:
25 וַיִּשְׁבּוּ לֶאֱכֹל־לֶחֶם וַיִּשְׁאוּ עֵינֵיהֶם וַיֵּרְאוּ וְהָיָה אֹרֶחַת
יִשְׁמַעְאֵלִים בָּאָה מִגִּלְעָד וּגְמַלֵּיהֶם נִשְׂאִים נִכְאֹת וְצִרֵי וְלֹט הוֹלְכִים
לְהוֹרִיד מִצְרָיִמָּה:
26 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל־אֲחָיו מִה־בְּצָע כִּי נַהַרְגָּ אֶת־אֲחִינוּ וְכִסִּינוּ אֶת־דַּמּוֹ:

Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing at Shechem. Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "I am ready."

And he said to him, "Go and see how your brothers are and how the flocks are faring, and bring me back word." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. When he reached Shechem,

a man came upon him (a man came upon him Or "an agent located him," i.e., this figure could be construed as acting in God's behalf. For this verb's use to describe a mission, see 16.7; 37.17; 38.22. On "man" and "agent," see notes at 18.2, 24.21, and the Dictionary under 'ish; Agent.) wandering in the fields. The man asked him, "What are you looking for?"

He answered, "I am looking for my brothers. Could you tell me where they are pasturing?"

The man said, "They have gone from here, for I heard them say: Let us go to Dothan." So Joseph followed his brothers and found them at Dothan.

They saw him from afar, and before he came close to them they conspired to kill him.

They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer!

Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we can say, 'A savage beast devoured him.' We shall see what comes of his dreams!"

But when Reuben heard it, he tried to save him from them. He said, "Let us not take his life."

And Reuben went on, "Shed no blood! Cast him into that pit out in the wilderness, but do not touch him yourselves"—intending to save him from them and restore him to his father.

When Joseph came up to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the ornamented tunic that he was wearing,

and took him and cast him into the pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to a meal. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels bearing gum, balm, and ladanum to be taken to Egypt.

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood?"

- לָכוּ וְנִמְכְּרֵנוּ לִישְׁמָעֵאלִים וְיִלְנֹה אֶל־תְּהִיבוּ כִּי־אֲחֵינוּ בְּשָׂרֵנוּ
הוא וישמעון אחיו: 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let us not do away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh.” His brothers agreed.
- וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אַנְשֵׁי־מִדְיָנִים סוֹחְרִים וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף
מִן־הַבּוֹר וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף לִישְׁמָעֵאלִים בְּעֶשְׂרִים כֶּסֶף וַיְבִיאוּ
אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִצְרָיִמָּה: 28 When Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up out of the pit. They sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who brought Joseph to Egypt.
- וַיָּשֶׁב רְאוּבֵן אֶל־הַבּוֹר וַהֲנֶה אֶיךָ־יוֹסֵף בְּבוֹר וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־בְּגָדָיו: 29 When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he rent his clothes.
- וַיָּשֶׁב אֶל־אֲחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִלָּד אֵילָנוּ וְאָנִי אָנָּה אֲנִי־בָא: 30 Returning to his brothers, he said, “The boy is gone! Now, what am I to do?”
- וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־כֶּתֶנֶת יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁחָטוּ שְׂעִיר עִזִּים וַיִּטְבְּלוּ אֶת־הַכֶּתֶנֶת
בַּדָּם: 31 Then they took Joseph’s tunic, slaughtered a kid, and dipped the tunic in the blood.
- וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אֶת־כֶּתֶנֶת הַפָּסִים וַיְבִיאוּ אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ זֹאת מִצָּאֵנוּ
הַכְּרִיזָה הַכֶּתֶנֶת בְּנֵךְ הוּא אִם־לֹא: 32 They had the ornamented tunic taken to their father, and they said, “We found this. Please examine it; is it your son’s tunic or not?”
- וַיִּכְיֶרְהָ וַיֹּאמֶר כֶּתֶנֶת בְּנִי חַיָּה רָעָה אֲכָלְתָּהּ טָרֵף טָרֵף יוֹסֵף: 33 He recognized it, and said, “My son’s tunic! A savage beast devoured him! Joseph was torn by a beast!”
- וַיִּקְרַע יַעֲקֹב שַׂמְלָתוֹ וַיִּשֹּׂם שָׂק בְּמַתְּנָיו וַיִּתְאַבֵּל עַל־בְּנוֹ יָמִים
רַבִּים: 34 Jacob rent his clothes, put sackcloth on his loins, and observed mourning for his son many days.
- וַיִּקְמוּ כָל־בָּנָיו וְכָל־בָּנֹתָיו לְנַחֲמוֹ וַיִּמָּאֵן לְהַנְחִיחַם וַיֹּאמֶר
כִּי־אֶרְדָּה אֶל־בְּנֵי אֲבִל שְׂאֵלָה וַיִּבְךְ אֹתוֹ אָבִיו: 35 All his sons and daughters sought to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, saying, “No, I will go down mourning to my son in Sheol.” Thus his father bewailed him.
- וְהַמְדָּלִים מָכְרוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל־מִצְרָיִם לְפוֹטִיפָר סָרִיס פְּרַעֲלָה שֶׁר הַטַּבָּחִים: 36 The Midianites, (Midianites Heb. “Medanites.”) meanwhile, sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, a courtier of Pharaoh and his prefect. (prefect Precise force of Heb. sar haabaim uncertain; cf. Jer. 52.12; 2 Kings 25.8ff. and Jer. 39–40; Gen. 39.20; 40.3. Apparently the office was obscure even to the text’s original audience (cf. 39.1). NJPS “chief steward,” trad. “captain of the guard.”)

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- וַיְהִי בְּעֵת הַהוּא וַיֵּרֶד יְהוּדָה מֵאֵת אֲחָיו וַיֵּט עַד־אִישׁ עַדְלָמִי
וַשְׁמוֹ חִירָה: 1 About that time Judah left his brothers and camped near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.
- וַיֵּרָאֵם יְהוּדָה בַּת־אִישׁ כְּנַעֲנִי וַשְׁמוֹ שׁוּא וַיִּקְחָהּ וַיָּבֵא אֵלֶיהָ: 2 There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he took her [into his household as wife] and cohabited with her.

- 3 She conceived and bore a son, and he named him Er.
וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ עֵר:
- 4 She conceived again and bore a son, and named him Onan.
וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ אוֹנָן:
- 5 Once again she bore a son, and named him Shelah; he was at Chezib when she bore him.
וַתִּסֶּף עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ שִׁלָּה וְהָיָה בְּכֶזֶיב בְּלִדְתָּהּ אֹתוֹ:
- 6 Judah got a wife for Er his first-born; her name was Tamar.
וַיִּקַּח יְהוּדָה אִשָּׁה לְעֵר בְּכוֹרָו וּשְׁמָהּ תָמָר:
- 7 But Er, Judah's first-born, was displeasing to יהוה, and יהוה took his life.
וַיְהִי עֵר בְּכוֹר יְהוּדָה רָע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה וַיְמַתְהוּ יְהוָה:
- 8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Join with your brother's wife and do your duty (duty Cf. Deut. 25.5.) by her as a brother-in-law, and provide offspring for your brother."
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְאוֹנָן בָּא אֶל־אִשְׁתִּי אֲחִיךָ וַיְבִיטְהָ אֹתָהּ וְהָקִים זָרַע לְאֲחִיךָ:
- 9 But Onan, knowing that the offspring would not count as his, let [the semen] go to waste (let [the semen] go to waste Heb. shiet arah; lit. "spoil [it] groundward." NJPS "let it go to waste," with "offspring" as the implausible co-referent of "it." See the Dictionary under "seed.") whenever he joined with his brother's wife, so as not to provide offspring for his brother.
וַיֵּדַע אוֹנָן כִּי לֹא לוֹ יִהְיֶה הַזָּרַע וְהָיָה אִם־בָּא אֶל־אִשְׁתִּי אֲחִיו וּשְׁחָתָה אֶרְצָה לְבִלְתִּי נָתֹן זָרַע לְאֲחִיו:
- 10 What he did was displeasing to יהוה, who took his life also.
וַיֵּרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיָּמָת גַּם־אוֹתוֹ:
- 11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Stay as a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"—for he thought, "He too might die like his brothers." So Tamar went to live in her father's house.
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְתָמָר כְּלָתוֹ שְׁבִי אִלְמָנָה בֵּית־אָבִיךָ עַד־יִגְדַּל שִׁלָּה בְּלִי כִי אָמַר פֶּן־יָמוּת גַּם־הוּא כְּאֲחָיו וַתֵּלֶךְ תָּמָר וַתֵּשֶׁב בֵּית אָבִיהָ:
- 12 A long time afterward, Shua's daughter, the wife of Judah, died. When his period of mourning was over, (his period of mourning was over Lit. "he was comforted.") Judah went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, together with his friend Hirah the Adullamite.
וַיִּרְבּוּ הַיָּמִים וַתָּמָת בַּת־שׁוּעַ אִשְׁת־יְהוּדָה וַיֵּנַחֵם יְהוּדָה וַיֵּלֶךְ עַל־גִּזְיוֹ צֹאנֹו הוּא וְחִירָה רֵעֵהוּ הָעֶדְלָמִי תַמְנָתָהּ:
- 13 And Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is coming up to Timnah for the sheepshearing."
וַיָּגֵד לְתָמָר לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה חֲמִיךָ עֹלָה תַמְנָתָה לְגֹ צֹאנֹו:
- 14 So she took off her widow's garb, covered her face with a veil, and, wrapping herself up, sat down at the entrance to Enaim, (Enaim Cf. Enam, Josh. 15.34. Others "in an open place" or "at the crossroad.") which is on the road to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him as wife.
וַתִּסֹּב בְּגָדֶיהָ אִלְמָנוּתָהּ מֵעַלֶיהָ וַתִּכְסֵּם בַּצִּעִיף וַתְּחַפֶּה וַתֵּשֶׁב בַּפֶּתַח עֵינַיִם אֲשֶׁר עַל־דֶּרֶךְ תַמְנָתָה כִּי רָאָתָה כִּי־גָדַל שִׁלָּה וְהָיָה לֹא־נָתְנָה לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה:
- 15 When Judah saw her, he took her for a harlot; for she had covered her face.
וַיִּרְאֶהָ יְהוּדָה וַיִּחְשְׁבֶהָ לְזוֹנָה כִּי כִסְתָה פָנֶיהָ:

- 16 וַיִּטּ אֵלֶיהָ אֶל־הַדֶּרֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר הִבֵּה־נָא אֲבוֹא אֵלַיךְ כִּי לֹא יָדַע כִּי
כָלְתָּהּ הוּא וַתֹּאמֶר מִה־תִּתְּנִי לִי כִּי תָבוֹא אֵלַי:
17 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנֹכִי אֲשַׁלַּח גְּדִי־עִזִּים מִן־הַצֹּאן וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־תִּתֶּן עֲרֻבּוֹן עַד
שָׁלַחְךָ:
18 וַיֹּאמֶר מִה־הָעֲרֻבּוֹן אֲשֶׁר אֶתְּנֶלְךָ וַתֹּאמֶר חֹתֶמְךָ וּפְתִילְךָ וּמַטְּךָ
אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדְךָ וַיִּתְּנֶלָהּ וַיָּבֵא אֵלֶיהָ וַתְּהַר לּוֹ:
19 וַתֵּקֶם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּסֹּר צַעֲיָפָהּ מֵעַלֶּיהָ וַתִּלְבָּשׁ בְּגָדֵי אִלְמָנוּתָהּ:
20 וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוּדָה אֶת־גְּדִי הָעִזִּים בְּיַד רַעְהוּ הָעֶדְלָמִי לִקְחַת הָעֲרֻבּוֹן
מִיָּד הָאִשָּׁה וְלֹא מָצָאָהּ:
21 וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־אֲנָשֵׁי מִקְמוֹהָ לֵאמֹר אֵיךְ הַקְּדֵשָׁה הוּא בְּעִינֵינוּ עַל־הַדֶּרֶךְ
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא־הָיְתָה בָּזָה קְדֵשָׁה:
22 וַיָּשֻׁב אֶל־יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא מָצָאתִיהָ וְגַם אֲנָשֵׁי הַמָּקוֹם אָמְרוּ
לֹא־הָיְתָה בָּזָה קְדֵשָׁה:
23 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה תִּקְחִלֶּהּ פֶּן נִהְיָה לְבֹזֹז הַנָּה שְׁלַחְתִּי הַגְּדִי הַזֶּה
וְאָתָּה לֹא מָצָאתָהּ:
24 וַיְהִי | כְּמִשְׁלַשׁ חֳדָשִׁים וַיֵּגֵד לִיְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר זָנְתָה תִּמְרָה כָּלְתָךְ
וְגַם הַנָּה הָרָה לְזָנוּנִים וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה הוֹצִיאֻהָ וְתִשְׂרָף:
So he turned aside to her by the road and said, "Here, let me sleep with you"—for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. "What," she asked, "will you pay for sleeping with me?"
He replied, "I will send a kid from my flock." But she said, "You must leave a pledge until you have sent it."
And he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your seal and cord, and the staff which you carry." So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she conceived by him.
Then she went on her way. She took off her veil and again put on her widow's garb.
Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite, to redeem the pledge from the woman; but he could not find her.
He inquired of the council of that locale, (council of that locale Or "locals." Heb. 'anshe meqomah; cf. 26.7; 29.22; 34.20. NJPS "people of that town," trad. "men of...." See further the Dictionary under 'ish.) "Where is the prostitute, (prostitute Meaning of Heb. qedeshah uncertain. Perhaps a type of female functionary at a religious site. Trad. "harlot." NJPS "cult prostitute," but the notion that ancient Near Eastern religions included prostitution as a religious act has since been discredited.) the one at Enaim, by the road?" But they said, "There has been no prostitute here."
So he returned to Judah and said, "I could not find her; moreover, the local council (local council Heb. 'anshe ha-maqom; NJPS "the townspeople." See the first note at v. 21.) said: There has been no prostitute here."
Judah said, "Let her keep them, lest we become a laughingstock. I did send her this kid, but you did not find her."
About three months later, Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the harlot; in fact, she is pregnant from harlotry." "Bring her out," (out I.e., for a hearing in the local court of law. (Judah had no jurisdiction over someone living in another household, but he could sue as an aggrieved party.)) said Judah. "She should be burned!"

- 25 As she was being brought out, she sent this message to her father-in-law, "It's by the man (man Or "party." Lit. "[salient] participant." See further the Dictionary under 'ish.) to whom these belong that I'm pregnant." And she added, "Examine these: whose seal and cord and staff are these?"
- 26 Judah recognized them, and said, "She is more in the right than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he was not intimate with her again.
- 27 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb!
- 28 While she was in labor, one of them put out a hand, and the midwife tied a crimson thread on that hand, to signify: This one came out first.
- 29 But just then it drew back its hand, and out came its brother; and she said, "What a breach (breach Heb. pere, connected with "Perez.") you have made for yourself!" So he was named Perez.
- 30 Afterward his brother came out, on whose hand was the crimson thread; he was named Zerah. (Zerah I.e., "brightness," perhaps alluding to the crimson thread.)
- וְהָיָה כִּי-עָלֶי-כֵן לֹא-נִתְּנָהּ לְשֵׁלָה
וַתֹּאמֶר הַכֶּרֶן לֹא לִמִּי הַחֹתֶמֶת וְהַפִּתִּילִים וְהַמָּטָה הָאֵלֶּה:
וַיִּכְרַח יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר צִדְקָה מִלִּנִּי כִּי-עָלֶי-כֵן לֹא-נִתְּנָהּ לְשֵׁלָה
בְּנִי וְלֹא-יִסָּף עוֹד לְדַעְתָּה:
וַיְהִי בְּעֵת לִדְתָּהּ וְהִנֵּה תְּאוֹמִים בְּבֶטְנָהּ:
וַיְהִי בְּלִדְתָּהּ וַיִּתְּן-יָד וַתִּקַּח הַמִּדְּוָיָה וַתִּקְשֹׁר עַל-יָדוֹ שָׁנִי
לֵאמֹר זֶה יֵצֵא רִאשׁוֹנָה:
וַיְהִי | כַּמְשִׁיב יָדוֹ וְהִנֵּה יֵצֵא אָחִיו וַתֹּאמֶר מַה-פְּרָצְתָּ עָלֶיךָ פֶּרֶץ
וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ פֶּרֶץ:
וַאֲחֵר יֵצֵא אָחִיו אֲשֶׁר עַל-יָדוֹ הַשָּׁנִי וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ זֶרַח:

39

- 1 When Joseph was taken down to Egypt, Potiphar, a courtier of Pharaoh and his prefect (prefect See the second note at 37.36.) —a [type of] Egyptian official (official Cf. 2 Sam. 23.21; 1 Chron. 11.23. NJPS (rendering idiomatically via an adjective) "certain." Traditionally taken as a generic noun of class, but see the Dictionary under 'ish.) —bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.
- 2 וַיְהִי יְהוֹנָה אֶת-יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי אִישׁ מַצְלִיחַ וַיְהִי בְּבֵית אֲדֹנָיו הַמִּצְרִי:
וַיֵּרָא אֲדֹנָיו כִּי יְהוֹנָה אִתּוֹ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוֹנָה מַצְלִיחַ
בְּיָדוֹ:
וַיִּמָּצֵא יוֹסֵף תָּן בְּעֵינָיו וַיִּשְׂרֹת אֹתוֹ וַיִּפְקְדֵהוּ עַל-בֵּיתוֹ
וְכָל-יִשְׁׁלֹ נָתַן בְּיָדוֹ:
- 3 And when his master saw that Joseph was with him and that Joseph lent success to everything he undertook,
- 4 he took a liking to Joseph. He made him his personal attendant and put him in charge of his household, placing in his hands all that he owned.

- וַיְהִי מֵאֵז הַפֶּקֶד אֹתוֹ בְּבֵיתוֹ וְעַל כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלֹו וַיִּבְרַךְ יְהוָה
אֶת־בֵּית הַמִּצְרִי בְּגִלְל יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי בִּרְכַּת יְהוָה בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלֹו
בְּבֵית וּבִשְׂדֵה׃
- וַיַּעֲזֹב כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לּוֹ בְּיַד־יוֹסֵף וְלֹא־יָדַע אֹתוֹ מֵאֻמָּה כִּי אִם־הִלָּחֵם
אֲשֶׁר־הוּא אוֹכֵל וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יָפֵה־תָאֵר וַיִּפֶּה מְרָאֶה׃
- וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּשָּׂא אִשְׁת־אֲדֹנָיו אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ אֶל־יוֹסֵף
וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂכְבָה עִמִּי׃
- וַיִּמָּאֵן | וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־אִשְׁת־אֲדֹנָיו הֵן אֲדֹנִי לֹא־יָדַע אֹתִי מִה־בְּבֵית
וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־יִשְׁלֹו נָתַן בְּיָדִי׃
- אֵינֶנּוּ גָדוֹל בְּבֵית הַזֶּה מִמֶּנִּי וְלֹא־חִשָּׁךְ מִמֶּנִּי מֵאֻמָּה כִּי
אִם־אוֹתָךְ בְּאֲשֶׁר אֶת־אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאֵיךְ אֶעֱשֶׂה הַרְעָה הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת
וְחָטָאתִי לֵאלֹהִים׃
- וַיְהִי כַּדְּבָרָה אֶל־יוֹסֵף יוֹם | יוֹם וְלֹא־שָׁמַע אֶלֶיהָ לִשְׁכַּב אַצְלָהּ
לְהָיִית עִמָּה׃
- וַיְהִי כַּהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַיָּבֹא הַבֵּיתָה לַעֲשׂוֹת מְלָאכְתּוֹ וְאֵין אִישׁ
מֵאֲנָשֵׁי הַבֵּית שָׁם בְּבֵית׃
- וַתִּתְּפָשֶׂהוּ בִּבְגָדוֹ לֵאמֹר שְׂכְבָה עִמִּי וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיֵּנָס
וַיֵּצֵא הַחוּצָה׃
- וַיְהִי כִּרְאוּתָהּ כִּי־עָזַב בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיֵּנָס הַחוּצָה׃
- וַתִּקְרָא לְאֲנָשֶׁי בֵּיתָהּ וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם לֵאמֹר רְאוּ הָבִיא לָנוּ אִישׁ עִבְרִי
לְצַחֵק בָּנוּ בָּא אֵלַי לִשְׁכַּב עִמִּי וְאֶקְרָא בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל׃
- וַיְהִי כַּשִּׁמְעוֹ כִּי־הִרְיִמְתִּי קוֹלִי וְאֶקְרָא וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ אֶצְלִי וַיֵּנָס
וַיֵּצֵא הַחוּצָה׃
- וַתִּנָּח בְּגָדוֹ אֶצְלָהּ עַד־בּוֹא אֲדֹנָיו אֶל־בֵּיתוֹ׃
- וַתִּדְּבַר אֵלָיו כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה לֵאמֹר בָּא־אֵלַי הָעֶבֶד הָעִבְרִי
אֲשֶׁר־הָבִאתָ לָנוּ לְצַחֵק בִּי׃
- וַיְהִי כַּהַרְיִמִּי קוֹלִי וְאֶקְרָא וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ אֶצְלִי וַיֵּנָס הַחוּצָה׃
- 5 And from the time that the Egyptian put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed his house for Joseph's sake, so that the blessing of the Lord was upon everything that he owned, in the house and outside.
- 6 He left all that he had in Joseph's hands and, with him there, he paid attention to nothing save the food that he ate. Now Joseph was well built and handsome.
- 7 After a time, his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, "Lie with me."
- 8 But he refused. He said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master gives no thought to anything in this house, and all that he owns he has placed in my hands.
- 9 He wields no more authority in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except yourself, since you are his wife. How then could I do this most wicked thing, and sin before God?"
- 10 And much as she coaxed Joseph day after day, he did not yield to her request to lie beside her, to be with her.
- 11 One such day, he came into the house to do his work. None of the household being there inside,
- 12 she caught hold of him by his garment and said, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand and got away and fled outside.
- 13 When she saw that he had left it in her hand and had fled outside,
- 14 she called out to her servants and said to them, "Look, he had to bring us a Hebrew to dally with us! This one came to lie with me; but I screamed loud.
- 15 And when he heard me screaming at the top of my voice, he left his garment with me and got away and fled outside."
- 16 She kept his garment beside her, until his master came home.
- 17 Then she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew slave whom you brought into our house came to me to dally with me;
- 18 but when I screamed at the top of my voice, he left his garment with me and fled outside."

- 19 When his master heard the story that his wife told him, namely, “Thus and so your slave did to me,” he was furious.
- 20 So Joseph’s master had him put in prison, where the king’s prisoners were confined. But even while he was there in prison,
- 21 he was with Joseph—extending kindness to him and disposing the chief jailer favorably toward him.
- 22 The chief jailer put in Joseph’s charge all the prisoners who were in that prison, and he was the one to carry out everything that was done there.
- 23 The chief jailer did not supervise anything that was in Joseph’s (Joseph’s Lit. “his.”) charge, because he was with him, and whatever he did made successful.
- וַיְהִי כַשְׁמַע אֲדֹנָיו אֶת־דְּבָרֵי אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר דִּבְרָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר
כִּדְבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה עָשָׂה לִי עַבְדְּךָ וַיַּחַר אָפוֹ:
וַיִּקְחֵהוּ אֲדֹנָיו יוֹסֵף אֹתוֹ וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ אֶל־בֵּית הַסֹּהַר מְלֹום אֲשֶׁר־[אֲסִירֵי]
(אֲסֹרִי) הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲסֹרִים וַיְהִי־שָׁם בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר:
וַיְהִי יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹסֵף נִיט אֵלָיו חֶסֶד וַיִּתֵּן חָלוֹ בְּעֵינָיו שֶׁר
בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר:
וַיִּתֵּן שֶׁר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר בְּיָד־יוֹסֵף אֶת כָּל־הָאֲסִילִם אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר
וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עֹשִׂים שָׁם הוּא הָיָה עֹשֶׂה:
אֵין | שֶׁר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר רָאָה אֶת־כָּל־מְאוּמָה בְּיָדוֹ בְּאֶשֶׁר יְהוָה אָתָּה
וְאֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מַצְלִיחַ:

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- 1 Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt gave offense to their lord the king of Egypt.
- 2 Pharaoh was angry with his two courtiers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,
- 3 and put them in custody, in the house of the prefect, (prefect See note at 37.36.) in the same prison house where Joseph was confined.
- 4 The prefect assigned Joseph to them, and he attended them. When they had been in custody for some time,
- 5 both of them—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—dreamed in the same night, each his own dream and each dream with its own meaning.
- 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were distraught.
- 7 He asked Pharaoh’s courtiers, who were with him in custody in his master’s house, saying, “Why do you appear downcast today?”
- 8 And they said to him, “We had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” So Joseph said to them, “Surely God can interpret! Tell me [your dreams].”
- 9 Then the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph. He said to him, “In my dream, there was a vine in front of me.
- וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה חָטְאוּ מֶלֶךְ־מִצְרַיִם וְהָאֶפֶה
לְאֲדֹנֵיהֶם לְמֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם:
וַיִּקְצֹף פַּרְעֹה עַל שְׁנֵי סֵרִיסָיו עַל שֶׁר הַמִּשְׁקִים וְעַל שֶׁר הָאוֹפִים:
וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָם בְּמִשְׁמַר בֵּית שֶׁר הַטִּבְחִים אֶל־בֵּית הַסֹּהַר מְלֹום אֲשֶׁר
יוֹסֵף אֲסֹר שָׁם:
וַיִּפְקֹד שֶׁר הַטִּבְחִים אֶת־יוֹסֵף אֹתָם וַיִּשְׁרֹת אֹתָם וַיְהִיו מִמִּים
בְּמִשְׁמַר:
וַיַּחְלְמוּ חֲלוֹם שְׁנֵיהֶם אִישׁ חֲלֹמוֹ בַּלַּיְלָה אַחָד אִישׁ כִּפְתָּרוֹן חֲלֹמוֹ
הַמִּשְׁקָה וְהָאֶפֶה אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר אֲסֹרִים בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר:
וַיָּבֹא אֲלֵיהֶם יוֹסֵף בֹּקֶר וַיִּרְא אֹתָם וְהָנֶם זֹעֲפִים:
וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־סֵרִיסֵי פַרְעֹה אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בְּמִשְׁמַר בֵּית אֲדֹנָיו לֵאמֹר מָדּוּעַ
פְּנֵיכֶם רָעִים הַיּוֹם:
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו חֲלוֹם חֲלֵמְנוּ וּפְתָר אֵין אֹתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא
לֵאלֹהִים פְּתָרִים סִפְרוּ־נָא לִי:
וַיִּסְפֹּר שֶׁר־הַמִּשְׁקִים אֶת־חֲלֹמוֹ לְיוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ בַּחֲלוֹמִי וְהִנֵּה־גִפֶּן
לִפְנֵי:

- 10 On the vine were three branches. It had barely budded, when out came its blossoms and its clusters ripened into grapes.
- 11 Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."
- 12 Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: The three branches are three days.
- 13 In three days Pharaoh will pardon you (pardon you Lit. "lift up your head." Cf. below at vv. 19, 20.) and restore you to your post; you will place Pharaoh's cup in his hand, as was your custom formerly when you were his cupbearer.
- 14 But think of me when all is well with you again, and do me the kindness of mentioning me to Pharaoh, so as to free me from this place.
- 15 For in truth, I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews; nor have I done anything here that they should have put me in the dungeon."
- 16 When the chief baker saw how favorably he had interpreted, he said to Joseph, "In my dream, similarly, there were three openwork baskets (openwork baskets Others "baskets with white bread" or "white baskets"; meaning of Heb. ori uncertain.) on my head.
- 17 In the uppermost basket were all kinds of food for Pharaoh that a baker prepares; and the birds were eating it out of the basket above my head."
- 18 Joseph answered, "This is its interpretation: The three baskets are three days.
- 19 In three days Pharaoh will lift off your head (lift off your head Lit. "lift up your head." Cf. at vv. 13, 20.) and impale you upon a pole; and the birds will pick off your flesh."
- 20 On the third day—his birthday—Pharaoh made a banquet for all his officials, and he singled out (singled out Lit. "lifted the head of." Cf. at vv. 13, 19.) his chief cupbearer and his chief baker from among his officials.
- 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his cupbearing, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand;
- 22 but the chief baker he impaled—just as Joseph had interpreted to them.
- 23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not think of Joseph; he forgot him.
- ובגפן שלשה שריגים והוא כפרחת עלתה נצח הבשילו
אשכלתיה ענבים:
- וכוס פרעה בידִי ואקח את־הענבים ואשחט אתם אל־כוס פרעה
ואתן את־הכוס על־כף פרעה:
- ויאמר לו יוסף זה פתגמו שלשת השרגים שלשת ימים הם:
- בעוד | שלשת ימים ישא פרעה את־ראשו והשיבך על־כנך
ונתת כוס־פרעה בידו כמשפט הראשון אשר היית משקהו:
- כי אם־זכרתני אתך כאשר ייטב לך ועשית־נא עמדי חסד
והזכרתני אל־פרעה והוצאתני מן־הבית הזה:
- כי־גנב גנבתי מארץ העברים וגם־פה לא־עשיתי מאומה כי־שמו
אתי בבור:
- וירא שר־האפים כי טוב פתו ויאמר אל־יוסף אף־אני בחלומי
והנה שלשה סלי חרי על־ראשי:
- ובסל העליון מכל מאכל פרעה מעשה אפה והעוף אכל אתם
מן־הסל מעל ראשי:
- וען יוסף ויאמר זה פתגמו שלשת הסלים שלשת ימים הם:
- בעוד | שלשת ימים ישא פרעה את־ראשו מעליך ותלה אותך
על־עץ ואכל העוף את־בשרך מעליך:
- ויהי | ביום השלישי יום הולדת את־פרעה ויעש משתה
לכל־עבדיו וישא את־ראש | שר המשקים ואת־ראש שר האפים בתוך
עבדיו:
- וישב את־שר המשקים על־משקהו ונתן הכוס על־כף פרעה:
- ואת שר האפים תלה כאשר פתו להם יוסף:
- ולא־זכר שר־המשקים את־יוסף וישכחהו: