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וישב Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1-40:23

- וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲקֹב בְּאֶרֶץ מִגְוֵרֵי אָבִיו בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:
- 1 Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan.
- זֶלְפָּה נָשִׂי אָבִיו וַיִּבְּא יוֹסֵף אֶת־דִּבְתָּם רָעָה אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם:
הִיָּה רָעָה אֶת־אֶחָיו בְּצֹאֵן וְהוּא לְעֵר אֶת־בְּנֵי בִלְהָה וְאֶת־בְּנֵי
אֵלֶּה | תִּלְדוּת יַעֲקֹב יוֹסֵף בְּיָשָׁבָע־עֲשָׂרָה שָׁנָה
- 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.
- אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִכָּל־בָּנָיו כִּי־בְרִזְקָנִים הוּא לוֹ וְעָשָׂה לוֹ כְּתֹנֶת פָּסִים:
וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל אֹהֵב
- 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.
- אֹהֵב אֲבִיהֶם מִכָּל־אֶחָיו וַיִּשְׂנְאוּ אֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַּבָּרוֹ לְשָׁלָם:
וַיִּרְאוּ אֶחָיו כִּי־אֹתוֹ
- 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.
- וַיְחַלֵּם יוֹסֵף חֲלוֹם וַיַּגֵּד לְאֶחָיו וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שִׁנְאָה אֹתוֹ:
- 5 Once Joseph had a dream which he told to his brothers; and they hated him even more.
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁמַעוּ־נָא הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חֲלַמְתִּי:
- 6 He said to them, “Hear this dream which I have dreamed:
- וְגַם־נִצָּבָה וְהָיָה תִּסְבְּיָנָה אֶלְמַתִּיכֶם וּתִשְׁתַּחֲוּיִן לְאֶלְמַתִּי:
וְהָיָה אֲנִיחֶנּוּ מֵאֲלֵמִים אֶלְמִים בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׂדֶה וְהָיָה קִמָּה אֶלְמַתִּי
- 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.”
- תִּמְשָׁל בָּנוּ וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שִׁנְאָה אֹתוֹ עַל־חֲלַמְתּוֹ וְעַל־דַּבְּרָיו:
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אֶחָיו הִמְלֵךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ אִם־מִשּׁוֹל
- 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.
- עוֹד וְהָיָה הַשֹּׁמֵשׁ וְהַיֹּלֵךְ וְאֶחָד עֹשֶׂה כּוֹכָבִים מִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לִי:
עוֹד חֲלוֹם אַחֵר וַיִּסְפֹּר אֹתוֹ לְאֶחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חֲלַמְתִּי חֲלוֹם
וַיְחַלֵּם
- 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.”
- חֲלַמְתִּי הִבּוֹא נִבּוֹא אֲנִי וְאִמִּי וְאֶחָיִךְ לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לָךְ אֶרְצָה:
וְאֶל־אֶחָיו וַיַּעֲרִבּוּ אֲבָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר
וַיִּסְפֹּר אֶל־אֲבָיו
- 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?”
- וַיִּקְנְאוּ־בּוֹ אֶחָיו וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת־הַדְּבָר:
- 11 So his brothers were wrought up at him, and his father kept the matter in mind.

- וילכו אחיו לרעות את־צאן אביהם בשכם: 12 One time, when his brothers had gone to pasture their father's flock at Shechem,
- הלא אחיך רעים בשכם לכה ואשלחך אליהם ויאמר לו הנני: ויאמר ישראל אל־יוסף 13 Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing at Shechem. Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "I am ready."
- הצאן והשבני דבר וישלחהו מעמק חברון ויבא שכם: ויאמר לו לך־נא ראה את־שלוש אחיך ואת־שלוש 14 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,
- איש והנה תעה בשדה וישאלהו האיש לאמר מה־תבקש: וימצאהו 15 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?"
- ויאמר את־אחי אנכי מבקש הגידה־נא לי איפה הם רעים: 16 He answered, "I am looking for my brothers. Could you tell me where they are pasturing?"
- אמרים נלכה דתִינה וילך יוסף אחר אחיו וימצאם בדותן: ויאמר האיש נסעו מזה כי שמעתי 17 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.
- ויראו אתו מרחק ובטֶרם יקרב אליהם ויתנכלו אתו להמיתו: 18 They saw him from afar, and before he came close to them they conspired to kill him.
- ויאמרו איש אל־אחיו הנה בעל החלמות הלזה בא: 19 They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer!
- הברות ואמרנו חיה רעה אכלתהו ונראָה מה־יהיו חלמתיו: ועתה | לכו ונהרגהו ונשללהו באחד 20 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!"
- וישמע ראובן ויצלהו מידם ויאמר לא נכנו נפש: 21 But when Reuben heard it, he tried to save him from them. He said, "Let us not take his life."
- ויד אל־תשלו־בו למען הציל אתו מידם להשיבו אל־אביו: אל־תשפכו־דם השליכו אתו אל־הבור הזה אשר במדבר ויאמר אליהם | ראובן 22 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.
- ויפשיטו את־יוסף את־כתנתו את־כתנת הפסים אשר עליו: ויהי כאשר־בא יוסף אל־אחיו 23 When Joseph came up to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the ornamented tunic that he was wearing,
- ויקחהו וישלכו אתו הברה והבור רק אין בו מים: 24 and took him and cast him into the pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.
- ונמליהם נשאים נכאת וצרי ולט הולכים להוריד מצרימה: וישאו עיניהם ויראו והנה ארחת ישמעאלים באה מגלעד וישבו לאכל־לחם 25 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.

- 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, “What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood?”
- 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.
- 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.
- 29 When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he rent his clothes.
- 30 Returning to his brothers, he said, “The boy is gone! Now, what am I to do?”
- 31 Then they took Joseph’s tunic, slaughtered a kid, and dipped the tunic in the blood.
- 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?”
- 33 He recognized it, and said, “My son’s tunic! A savage beast devoured him! Joseph was torn by a beast!”
- 34 Jacob rent his clothes, put sackcloth on his loins, and observed mourning for his son many days.
- 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.
- 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.”
- יהודה אֶל־אָחָיו מֵהִבְצֹעַ כִּי נִהְרָג אֶת־אָחִינוּ וְכִסִּינוּ אֶת־דָּמוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר
- וַיֵּלְנוּ אֶל־תְּהֵי־בּוֹ כִּי־אָחִינוּ בְּשָׂרֵנוּ הוּא וְנִשְׁמְעוּ אִתּוֹ: לָזֶה וְנִמְכְּרֵנוּ לִישְׁמַעֲאֵלִים
- לִישְׁמַעֲאֵלִים בָּעָשָׂרִים כֶּסֶף וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִצְרֵימָה: סֹחָרִים וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִן־הַבּוֹר וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אֲנָשִׁים מִדְּיָנִים
- וַיָּשָׁב רְאוּבֵן אֶל־הַבּוֹר וַהֲנִה אֶי־יוֹסֵף בְּבוֹר וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־בְּגָדָיו:
- וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־אָחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִילָד אֵינָנו וְנֶאֱנִי אָנָּה אֲנִי־בָא:
- אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁחָטוּ שְׂעִיר עִזִּים וַיִּטְבְּלוּ אֶת־הַכְּתֹנֶת בְּדָמָם: וַיִּקְחוּ
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ זֹאת מִצְאָנוּ הִכְרֵנָּה הַכְּתֹנֶת בְּנֶךְ הוּא אִם־לֹא: וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת הַפָּסִים וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל־אֲבִיהֶם
- וַיִּכְיֶרְהָ וַיֹּאמֶר כְּתֹנֶת בְּנִי חִיָּה רָעָה אֲכָלְתָּהּ טָרֵף טָרֵף יוֹסֵף:
- יַעֲקֹב שָׂמַלְתָּיו וַיִּשְׁעֶם שֹׁק בְּמַתְנָיו וַיִּתְאַבֵּל עַל־בְּנוֹ יָמִים רַבִּים: וַיִּקְרַע
- לְהַתְנַחֵם וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי־אֶרֶד אֶל־בְּנֵי אִבְלָה וַיִּבְךְ אֹתוֹ אָבִיו: וַיִּקְמוּ כָל־בָּנָיו וְכָל־בָּנֹתָיו לִנְחֹמוֹ וַיִּמְאֵן
- מָכְרוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל־מִצְרָיִם לְפוֹטִיפָר סָרִיס פְּרָעָה שֶׁר הַטְּבָחִים: וַהֲמַדְלִים

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- 1 About that time Judah left his brothers and camped near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.
- הָיָה וַיֵּרֶד יְהוּדָה מֵאֵת אָחָיו וַיָּט עַד־אִישׁ גְּדֹלָמִי וּשְׁמוֹ חִירָה: וַיְהִי בָעֵת

- 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.
- 4 She conceived again and bore a son, and named him Onan.
- 5 Once again she bore a son, and named him Shelah; he was at Chezib when she bore him.
- 6 Judah got a wife for Er his first-born; her name was Tamar.
- 7 But Er, Judah's first-born, was displeasing to יהוה, and יהוה took his life.
- 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."
- 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.
- 10 What he did was displeasing to יהוה, who took his life also.
- 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.
- 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.
- 13 And Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is coming up to Timnah for the sheepshearing."
- וַיִּרְאֶשֶׁם יְהוּדָה בַּת־אִישׁ כְּנַעֲנִי וּשְׁמוֹ שׁוּא וַיִּקְחָהּ וַיְבָא אֵלֶיהָ:
- וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ עֵר:
- וַתַּהַר עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ אוֹנָן:
- עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ שְׁלָה וְהָיָה בְּכִזִּיב בְּלִדְתָּהּ אֹתוֹ:
- וַיִּקַּח יְהוּדָה אִשָּׁה לְעֵר בְּכוֹרֹו וּשְׁמָהּ תָמָר:
- וַיְהִי עֵר בְּכוֹר יְהוּדָה רָע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה וַיִּמְתֶּהוּ יְהוָה:
- יְהוּדָה לֹאמֹן בָּא אֶל־אִשְׁתּוֹ אַחִיר וַיִּבֶם אֹתָהּ וְהָקָם זָרַע לְאַחִירָהּ:
- אִם־בָּא אֶל־אִשְׁתּוֹ אַחִיו וּשְׂחָתָה אֶרְצָהּ לְבִלְתִּי נָתֹן־זָרַע לְאַחִיו:
- וַיֵּדַע אוֹמֶן כִּי לֹא לוֹ יְהִיָּה הַזָּרַע וְהָיָה
- וַיַּרְע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּמָּת גַּם־אֹתוֹ:
- כִּי אָמַר פְּרִימֹת גַּם־הוּא כְּאַחִיו וַתֵּלֶךְ תָמָר וַתָּשֶׁב בֵּית אָבִיהָ:
- יְהוּדָה לְתָמָר כָּלְתָהּ שְׁבִי אֶלְמָנָה בֵּית־אָבִיךָ עַד־יִגְדֵּל שְׁלָה בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר
- יְהוּדָה וַיֵּלֶעַל עַל־יָנֹזִי צֹאנֹו הוּא וְחִירָה רֻעָהוּ הַעֲדֵלְמִי תִמְנָתָה:
- וַיִּרְבּוּ הַיִּמָּלִים וַתָּמָת בַּת־שׁוּעַ אִשְׁת־יְהוּדָה וַיִּנָּחֻם
- וַיִּנָּד לְתָמָר לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה חֲמִיךָ עֹלָה תִמְנָתָה לְגֹז 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.
- 15 When Judah saw her, he took her for a harlot; for she had covered her face.
- 16 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?"
- 17 He replied, "I will send a kid from my flock." But she said, "You must leave a pledge until you have sent it."
- 18 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.
- 19 Then she went on her way. She took off her veil and again put on her widow's garb.
- 20 Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite, to redeem the pledge from the woman; but he could not find her.
- 21 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."
- 22 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."
- 23 Judah said, "Let her keep them, lest we become a laughingstock. I did send her this kid, but you did not find her."
- תַּמְנָתָהּ כִּי רָאָתָהּ כִּי־גָדַל שֶׁלָּה וְהָיָא לֹא־נִתְּנָהּ לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה:
וְתָכַסּ בְּצַעֲיָהּ וַתְּחַעֲלֶהּ וַתֵּשֶׁב בְּפֶתַח עֵינַיִם אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַדֶּרֶךְ
וַתִּסֹּר בְּגָדֶיהָ אֶלְמְנוּתָהּ מֵעָלֶיהָ
- וַיִּרְאֶהָ יְהוּדָה וַיַּחְשְׁבֶיהָ לְזוֹנָה כִּי כִסְתָהּ פָּנֶיהָ:
- כִּי לֹא יָדָע כִּי כָלְתָהּ הוּא וַתֹּאמֶר מִה־תִּתֶּן־לִי כִּי תָבוֹא אֵלַי:
וַיֵּט אֵלֶיהָ אֶל־הַדֶּרֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר הִבֵּה־נָא אֲבוֹא אֵלֶיךָ
- אָשְׁלַח גְּדִי־עִזִּים מִן־הַצֹּאן וַתֹּאמֶר אִם־תֵּתֶנּוּ עֲרֹבוֹן עַד שְׁלַחְךָ:
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי־כִי
- חֲתָמְךָ וּפְתִילְךָ וּמִטְנֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּיָדְךָ וַיִּתֵּן־לָהּ וַיָּבֵא אֵלֶיהָ וַתְּהַר לוֹ:
וַיֹּאמֶר מִה־הָעֲרֹבוֹן אֲשֶׁר אֶתֶּן־לְךָ וַתֹּאמֶר
- וַתֵּקֶם וַתֵּלֶךְ וַתִּסֹּר צַעֲיָפָהּ מֵעָלֶיהָ וַתִּלְבָּשׁ בְּגָדֶיהָ אֶלְמְנוּתָהּ:
- בֵּיד רַעְהוּ הָעֶדְלָמִי לְקַחַת הָעֲרֹבוֹן מִיַּד הָאִשָּׁה וְלֹא מָצָאָהּ:
וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוּדָה אֶת־גְּדִי הָעִזִּים
- הִקְדֵּשָׁה הוּא בְּעֵינֵי עַל־הַדֶּרֶךְ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא־הִיְתָה בָּזָה קִדְשָׁה:
וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־אֲנָשֵׁי מִקְּמָהּ לֵאמֹר אֵיךְ
- לֹא מָצָאתֶיהָ וְגַם אֲנָשֵׁי הַמִּקְוֹם אָמְרוּ לֹא־הִיְתָה בָּזָה קִדְשָׁה:
וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶל־יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר
- פֶּן נִהְיֶה לְבָזוֹ הִנֵּה שְׁלַחְתִּי הַגְּדִי הַזֶּה וְנָאָתָה לֹא מָצָאתָהּ:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה תִּקַּח־לָהּ

- 24 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.
- כִּלְתָּךְ וְגַם הָנָה הָרָה לְזִנוּנִים וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה הוֹצִיָּאוּהָ וְחַשְׂרָף: וַיְהִי | כְּמִשְׁלֵשׁ חֳדָשִׁים וַיָּגֵד לִיהוּדָה לֵאמֹר זָנְתָה תָמָר
- הָרָה וַתֹּאמֶר הַכֹּרֶנָּה לְמִי הַחֹתֶמֶת וְהַפְתִּילִים וְהַמָּטָה הָאֵלֶּה: וַהֲיֵא שְׁלָחָה אֶל־חַמִּיהָ לֵאמֹר לְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־אֵלֶּה לוֹ אֲנֹכִי הוּא מוֹצֵאת
- מִמֶּנִּי כִי־עֲלִיכֶן לֹא־נָתַתִּיהָ לְשִׁלָּה בְנִי וְלֹא־יָסַף עוֹד לְדַעְתָּה: וַיִּכַּר יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר צָדָקָה
- וַיְהִי בְּעֵת לִדְתָּהּ וְהָנָה תֵּאוֹמִים בְּבֶטְנָה:
- וַתִּקַּח הַמִּילָדָת וַתִּקְשֹׁר עַל־יָדוֹ שָׁנִי לֵאמֹר זֶה יֵצֵא רִאשׁוֹנָה: וַיְהִי בִלְדֹתָהּ וַיִּתְּנֶיהָ
- וְהָנָה יֵצֵא אָחִיו וַתֹּאמֶר מִה־פְּרָצַת עֲלֶיךָ פָּרָץ וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ פֶּרֶץ: וַיְהִי | כְּמִשְׁיֵב יָדוֹ
- וַאֲחֵר יֵצֵא אָחִיו אֲשֶׁר עַל־יָדוֹ הָשָׁנִי 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 וַהֲוָה אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי אִישׁ מַצְלִיחַ וַיְהִי בְּבֵית אֲדֹנָיו הַמִּצְרִי: וַיְהִי
- שֶׁר הַטִּבְחִים אִישׁ מַצְלִי מִיַּד הַיִּשְׁמַעְאֵלִים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדוּהוּ שָׁמָּה: וַיֹּסֶף הוֹרֵד מִצְרַיִמָּה וַיִּקְנֶהוּ פוּטִיפָר סֹרִיס פְּרָעָה

- אֲדֹנָיו כִּי יְהוּה אִתּוֹ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוּה מַצְלִיחַ בְּיָדוֹ:
וַיֵּרָא
- 3 And when his master saw that יהוה was with him and that יהוה lent success to everything he undertook,
- חָן בְּעֵינָיו וַיִּשְׁרֹת אֹתוֹ וַיִּפְקְדֵהוּ עַל-בֵּיתוֹ וְכָל-יִשְׁלֹו נְתַן בְּיָדוֹ:
וַיִּמְצָא יוֹסֵף
- 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.
- בְּגִלְל יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי בִּרְכַּת יְהוּה בְּכָל-אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלֹו בְּבֵית וּבְשָׂדֶה:
אֹתוֹ בְּבֵיתוֹ וְעַל כָּל-אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁלֹו וַיִּבְרַךְ יְהוּה אֶת-בֵּית הַמִּצְרִי
וַיְהִי מֵאֵז הַפִּקִּיד
- 5 And from the time that the Egyptian put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, יהוה blessed his house for Joseph's sake, so that the blessing of יהוה was upon everything that he owned, in the house and outside.
- אִם-הִלָּחַם אֲשֶׁר-הוּא אוֹכֵל וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יִפְהֶתְאָר וַיִּפֶּה מְרָאֵה:
וַיַּעֲזֹב כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לֹ בְּיַד-יוֹסֵף וְלֹא-יָדַע אֹתוֹ מֵאוֹמֶה כִּי
- 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.
- וַתִּשָּׂא אִשְׁת-אֲדֹנָיו אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ אֶל-יוֹסֵף וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂכֵבָה עִמִּי:
וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
- 7 After a time, his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, "Lie with me."
- הֵן אֲדֹנִי לֹא-יָדַע אֹתִי מִהַבְּבֵית וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-יִשְׁלֹו נְתַן בְּיָדִי:
וַיִּמָּאֵן | וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-אִשְׁת אֲדֹנָיו
- 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.
- אֶת-אֲשֶׁתוֹ וְאֵיךְ אֶעֱשֶׂה הָרָעָה הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת וְחִטָּאתִי לֵאלֹהִים:
בְּבֵית הַזֶּה מִמֶּנִּי וְלֹא-חֹשֶׁךְ מִמֶּנִּי מֵאוֹמֶה כִּי אִם-אוֹתָךְ בְּאֲשֶׁר
אֵינָנו גְּדֹל
- 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?"
- אֶל-יוֹסֵף יוֹם | יוֹם וְלֹא-שָׁמַע אֵלֶיהָ לְשֹׁכֵב אֶצְלָהּ לַהֲזִיז עִמָּה:
וַיְהִי כַּדְּבָרָה
- 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.
- הַבֵּיתָה לַעֲשׂוֹת מְלָאכְתּוֹ וְאֵין אִישׁ מֵאֲנָשֵׁי הַבֵּית שֶׁם בְּבֵית:
וַיְהִי כַּהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַיָּבֹא
- 11 One such day, he came into the house to do his work. None of the household being there inside,
- בְּבִגְדוֹ לֵאמֹר שְׂכֵבָה עִמִּי וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיָּנֶס וַיֵּצֵא הַחוּצָה:
וַתִּתְּפֹשֶׁהוּ
- 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.
- וַיְהִי כִּרְאוּתָהּ כִּי-עָזַב בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיָּנֶס הַחוּצָה:
- 13 When she saw that he had left it in her hand and had fled outside,
- אִישׁ עֲבָרִי לְצַחֵק בָּנוּ בָּא אֵלַי לְשֹׁכֵב עִמִּי וְאֶקְרָא בְּקוֹל גְּדֹל:
וַתִּקְרָא לְאֲנָשֵׁי בֵיתָהּ וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם לֹאמַר רְאוּ הֵבִיא לָנוּ
- 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.
- כִּי-הִרִימָתִי קוֹלִי וְאֶקְרָא וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ אֶצְלִי וַיָּנֶס וַיֵּצֵא הַחוּצָה:
וַיְהִי כְשֶׁמָּלְאוּ
- 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."
- וַתִּנָּח בְּגָדוֹ אֶצְלָהּ עַד-בּוֹא אֲדֹנָיו אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ:
- 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 יהוה 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 יהוה was with him, and whatever he did יהוה made successful.
- הָאֵלֶּה לְאִמֹר בְּאֵלֵי הָעֶבֶד הָעִבְרִי אֲשֶׁר־הֵבֵאתָ לָנוּ לְצַחֵק בִּי: וַתְּדַבֵּר אֵלָיו כְּדִבְרֵים
- וַיְהִי כִּהְרִימִי קוֹלִי וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ אֶצְלִי וַיֵּנָס הַחוּצָה:
- וְכִּי הִשְׁמָע אֱדֹנָיו אֶת־דִּבְרֵי אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר:
- אֲשֶׁר־[אֶסְרִי] (אֲסוּרִי) הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲסוּרִים וַיְהִי־שָׁם בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר: וַיִּקַּח אֲדֹנָי יוֹסֵף אֹתוֹ וַיִּתְּנֵהוּ אֶל־בֵּית הַסֹּהַר מְלֹם
- יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיְט אֵלָיו חֶסֶד וַיִּתֵּן חֵנוּ בְּעֵינֵי שָׂר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר:
- אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂים שָׁם הוּא הָיָה עֹשֶׂה: וַיִּתֵּן שָׂר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר בְּיַד־יוֹסֵף אֶת כָּל־הָאֲסוּרִים
- בְּיָדוֹ בְּאֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אָתּוֹ וְאֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מַצְלִיחַ: אֵין | שָׂר בֵּית־הַסֹּהַר רָאָה אֶת־כָּל־מַאֲוֵמָהּ

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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.
- חֲטִאָּו מִשְׁקָה מֶלֶךְ־מִצְרַיִם וְהָאֹפֶה לְאֲדֹנֵיהֶם לְמֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם: וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדִּבְרִים הָאֵלֶּה
- פָּרַעֲהוּ עַל שְׁנֵי סֵרִיסָיו עַל שֶׁר הִמְשִׁקִּים וְעַל שֶׁר הָאוֹפִים: וַיִּקְצֹף
- בֵּית שֶׁר הַטִּבְחִים אֶל־בֵּית הַסֹּהַר מְלֹם אֲשֶׁר יוֹסֵף אֲסוּר שָׁם: וַיִּתֵּן אֹתָם בְּמִשְׁמָר
- שֶׁר הַטִּבְחִים אֶת־יוֹסֵף אֹתָם וַיִּשְׁרֹת אֹתָם וַיְהִיו יָמִים בְּמִשְׁמָר: וַיִּפְקֹד
- וְהָאֹפֶה אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר אֲסוּרִים בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר: שְׁנֵיהֶם אִישׁ חֲלָמוֹ בְּלַיְלָה אֶחָד אִישׁ כְּפִתְרוֹן חֲלָמוֹ הִמְשָׁקָה וַיַּחֲלִמוּ חֲלוֹם
- וַיָּבֹא אֵלֵיהֶם יוֹסֵף בֹּקֶר וַיִּרְא אֹתָם וַהֲנֵם זָעִפִּים:

- 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.
- 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."
- אָשַׁר אֹתוֹ בְּמִשְׁמַר בֵּית אֲדֹנָיו לֵאמֹר מִדּוּעַ פְּנֵיכֶם רָעִים הַיּוֹם:
וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־סֵרִיסֵי פֶרְעָה
- אֹתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף הֲלֹא לְאֱלֹהִים פְּתָרִים סִפְרוּנָא לִי:
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו חֲלוֹם חֲלָמְנוּ וּפְתָר אֵין
- אֶת־חֲלָמֹו לְיוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ בְּחִלּוּמִי וְהִנֵּה־נִגְפֹן לִפְנֵי:
וַיִּסְפֹּר שְׂרֵי־הַמִּשְׁקִים
- שְׂרֵיגָם וְהָוָא כַּפְלִיחַת עֲלֵתָהּ נֹצֵה הַבְּשִׁילֹו אֲשַׁכְלֵתִיהָ עֲנָבִים:
וּבִגְפֹן שְׁלֵשָׁה
- וְאֲשַׁחֲט אֹתָם אֶל־כּוֹס פֶּרְעָה וְאָתֹן אֶת־הַכּוֹס עַל־כַּף פֶּרְעָה:
וְכּוֹס פֶּרְעָה בְּיָדִי וְאָקַח אֶת־הָעֲנָבִים
- וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ יוֹסֵף זֶה פְּתָרָנֹו שְׁלֵשֶׁת הַשָּׁרָגִים שְׁלֵשֶׁת יָמִים הֵם:
וְנָתַתְּ כּוֹס־פֶּרְעָה בְּיָדוֹ כַּמִּשְׁפָּט הָרָאוּן אֲשֶׁר הָיִיתָ מִשְׁקֵהוּ:
בְּעוֹד | שְׁלֵשֶׁת יָמִים יֵשֶׁא פֶּרְעָה אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ וְהִשְׁיבֵהוּ עַל־כַּנּוֹ
- עַמְדִי חֹסֶד וְהִזְכַּרְתָּנִי אֶל־פֶּרְעָה וְהוֹצֵאתָנִי מִן־הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה:
כִּי אִם־זִכַּרְתָּנִי אֶתָּךְ כַּאֲשֶׁר יֵיטֵב לָךְ וְעִשְׂתִּינָא
- מֵאֶרֶץ הָעִבְרִים וְגַם־כֹּה לֹא־עֲשִׂיתִי מֵאוּמָה כִּי־שָׁמָּה אֹתִי בָּבוֹר:
כִּי־נָגַב וְנִבְנְתִי
- אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֲנִי בְּחִלּוּמִי וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֵשָׁה סִלֵּי חֹרֵי עַל־רֹאשִׁי:
וַיִּירָא שְׂרֵי־הָאֲפִים כִּי טוֹב פְּתָר וַיֹּאמֶר
- פֶּרְעָה מַעֲשֵׂה אָפָה וְהָעוֹף אָכַל אֹתָם מִן־הַסֵּל מֵעַל רֹאשִׁי:
וּבַסֵּל הָעֲלִיּוֹן מִכָּל מִאֲכָל
- וַיַּעַן יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר זֶה פְּתָרָנֹו שְׁלֵשֶׁת הַסִּלִּים שְׁלֵשֶׁת יָמִים הֵם:
מֵעֲלֶיךָ וְתָלָה אוֹתָךְ עַל־עֵץ וְאָכַל הָעוֹף אֶת־בִּשְׂרָךְ מֵעֲלֶיךָ:
בְּעוֹד | שְׁלֵשֶׁת יָמִים יֵשֶׁא פֶּרְעָה אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ

- אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ | שֶׁר הַמִּשְׁקִים וְאֶת־רֹאשׁ שֶׁר הָאֲפִים בְּתוֹךְ עֲבָדָיו:
הַשְּׁלִישִׁי יוֹם הַלֵּדָת אֶת־פֶּרְעָה וַיַּעַשׂ מִשְׁתֶּה לְכָל־עֲבָדָיו וַיִּשְׂא
וַיְהִי | בַּיּוֹם
- 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.
- וַיָּשֻׁב אֶת־שֶׁר הַמִּשְׁקִים עַל־מִשְׁקָהוּ וַיִּתֵּן הַכּוֹס עַל־כַּף פֶּרְעָה:
- 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his cupbearing, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand;
- וְאֶת שֶׁר הָאֲפִים תָּלָה כְּאֲשֶׁר פָּתַר לָהֶם יוֹסֵף:
- 22 but the chief baker he impaled—just as Joseph had interpreted to them.
- וְלֹא־זָכַר שֶׁר־הַמִּשְׁקִים אֶת־יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁכַּחְהוּ:
- 23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not think of Joseph; he forgot him.