

## Sixteen Verses from the Book of Genesis for the year 2017

- 1) Gen. 4:9, *Parashat Bresheet*, Cain in response to God says: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”
- 2) Gen. 7:11 *Parashat Noach*, In describing the great flood: “And the flood-gates of the sky broke open.”
- 3) Gen. 12:1, *Parashat Lech-Lecha*, God said to Abram: “Go forth (*lech-lecha*) from your native land and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”
- 4) Gen. 12:2, *Parashat Lech-Lecha*, God said to Abram: “And you shall be a blessing.”
- 5) Gen. 18:23, *Parashat Vayera*, Abraham questions God: “will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty?”
- 6) Gen. 24:58, *Parsahat Chaye Sarah*, Rebekah accepts the proposal to travel to meet and marry Isaac; “Will you go?...” and she (Rebekah) said, “I will.”
- 7) Gen. 25:28, *Parashat Toledot*, Isaac and Rebekah favor one twin over another; “Isaac favored Esau because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah favored Jacob.”
- 8) Gen. 27:24, *Parashat Toledot*, Jacob lies to his father, [Jacob] asked: “are you really my son Esau?”... “I am (said Jacob).”
- 9) Gen. 27:38, *Parashat Toledot*, Esau pleas for a blessing from his father after being told Jacob tricked Isaac and took the blessing reserved for him; “Have you but one blessing, father? Bless me too, father.” And Esau wept aloud.
- 10) Gen. 29:25, *Parashat Vayetze*, Jacob is tricked and marries Leah instead of Rachel; When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban: “what is this you have done to me? I was in your service for Rachel! Why did you deceive me?”
- 11) Gen. 32:29, *Parashat Vayislach*, Jacob in given a new name after wrestling with a mysterious being; “Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with beings divine and human and have prevailed.”
- 12) Gen. 33:3, *Parashat Vayishlach*, Jacob publically apologies to Esau; Jacob went on ahead and bowed low to the ground seven times until he was near his brother.
- 13) Gen. 37:26-27, *Parashat Vayeshev*, Judah takes the lead in suggesting how to deal with his despised brother Joseph; “What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood? Come, lets us sell him [into slavery] to the Ishmaelites, but let us not do away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh.”

- 14) Gen. 39:7, *Parashat Vayeshev*, Joseph's master sexually harasses him; after a time, his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said: "lie with me."
- 15) Gen. 41:34, *Parashat Miketz*, After interpreting Pharaoh's dreams Joseph recommends a plan; "let Pharaoh take steps to appoint overseers over the land and organize the land of Egypt in the seven years of plenty."
- 16) Gen. 45:3, *Parashat Vayigash*, After seeing his brothers have changed, Joseph reveals himself to them; "I am Joseph."

Honorable Mentions:

Gen. 21:18, *Parashat Vayera*, God speaking to Hagar about Abraham and her son Ishmael: "I will make a great nation of him."

Gen. 22:11, *Parashat Vayera*, God's angel calling to Abraham at the culmination of the binding of Isaac story: "Abraham! Abraham!" and Abraham answered "Here I am (*hineni*)."

Gen. 25:9, *Parashat Chaye Sarah*, Abraham's sons join together to bury him; [Abraham's] sons buried him in the cave of *Machpelah*.

Gen. 28:16, *Parashat Vayetze*, After dreaming about God Jacob awakes and says: "Surely God is present in this place, and I did not know it!"

Gen. 29:14, *Parashat Vayetze*, After hearing from Jacob about how he lied and tricked Isaac, Jacob's uncle Laban says to Jacob: "You are truly my bone and flesh."

Gen. 33:10, *Parashat Vayishlah*, Jacob to Esau after they reconcile: "to see your face is like seeing the face of God."

Gen. 48:20, *Parashat Vayechi*, Joseph blesses Ephraim and Manasseh: "by you shall Israel invoke blessings, saying: God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh."

Selections by Rabbi Mo Salth

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*Hazak, Hazak, V'nitchazeik!*

Be strong, Be strong and let us all be strengthened!

**Reflecting upon the end of Genesis and the year 2017 – Which quote from our Torah speaks most to you?**

