

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

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?

