



Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce

ZMANIM FOR PARSHAS VAYEITSEI

Hadlokas Neiros: 4:27
Mincha Erev Shabbos: 4:30
Friday Night Learning: 8:00

Shacharis: 8:45
Kids Program: 9:30
Mincha: 4:15

Shabbos Ends: 5:30
Shabbos Ends R"Y: 5:57
Sunday Shacharis: 8:00

Dealing with Lavan

Parshas Vayeitsei

Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz - Rosh Yeshiva Darchei Torah Toronto

As recorded in our Parsha, Lavan tries to cheat Yaakov at two different times. First, at the time Yaakov is to be married, Lavan switches Leah for Rachel. Second, during the final six years of Yaakov's employment, Lavan changes the contractual terms one-hundred times! It is noteworthy that, in the first instance, Lavan is successful; in the second instance, Yaakov consistently has the upper hand. How do we account for this difference?

The most obvious explanation is that in both cases Hashem insured that what was meant to be did ultimately take place. Despite Yaakov's assumption that Rachel was his one and only soulmate, it is apparent that Hashem's plan was that the House of Yisrael be built on the dual pillars of Leah and Rachel. Consequently, Hashem allowed Lavan's scheme to succeed. On the other hand, Yaakov was meant to leave the house of Lavan with great wealth. Accordingly, Lavan's attempts to prevent this were frustrated.

There may be, however, an additional consideration. It seems that Yaakov employed two different strategies in the two instances.

When Yaakov was apprised of the chance that Lavan could prevent him from marrying Rachel, he took precautions – giving signs to Rachel – thinking that he could beat Lavan at his own game. As the Gemara relates (Megillah 13b):

“And Yaakov told Rachel that he was her father's brother.” (Bereishis 29:12) Now was he her father's brother? Was he

not the son of her father's sister? What it means is this: He said to her, “Will you marry me?” She replied, “Yes, but my father is a trickster, and he will outwit you.” He replied, “I am his brother in trickery.” ...He said to her, “What is his trickery?” She replied, “I have a sister older than I am, and he will not let me marry before her.” So he gave her certain signs. When night came, she said to herself, “Now my sister will be put to shame.” So she handed over the signs to her.

In Yaakov's defense, R. Tzadok HaKohen in Kuntras Divrei Chalomos suggests that Yaakov never suspected that Lavan would put Leah in this most uncomfortable position; in any case, Leah would certainly not acquiesce. Yaakov's fear was that, if Lavan could not find a mate for Leah before the end of the seven years, he would replace Rachel with a maidservant to prevent Rachel from marrying first. Giving the signs to Rachel was an effective strategy to counter this plan; Rachel would have no reason to give the signs over to that maidservant.

But Yaakov underestimated Lavan's depravity – and his power of persuasion in convincing Leah to cooperate – and his precautions were ineffective.

In his later dealings with Lavan, Yaakov countered Lavan's treachery *with uncompromising honesty*. As Rambam (Hilchos Sechirus 13:7) writes:

Just as an employer is warned not to steal the wage of the poor person or to withhold it from him, the employee is warned not to steal from the work due his employer and

neglect his work slightly here and there, spending the entire day in deceit. Instead, he is obligated to be precise with regard to his time. The importance of such preciseness is indicated by our Sages' ruling that workers should not recite the fourth blessing of Birkas HaMazon, so as not to neglect their work.

indicated (Bereishis 30:43): "And the man became very, very wealthy."

Trying to beat Lavan at his own game is a losing strategy. Who could possibly fathom the depths of perfidy to which he could sink? But the merit of honesty provides Divine assistance which, needless to say, can frustrate the designs of Lavan one-hundred fold.

Similarly, a worker is obligated to work with all his strength, for Yaakov the righteous man said (Bereishis 31:7), "You know that I served your father with all my strength." Therefore, he was granted a reward even in this world, as

<p>This Week's FNL is sponsored by: An Anonymous Donor Lerefuah Shelomah Rabbi Aaron Yehudah Leib Ben Gittel Faiga (Shteinman) Miriam Leiba bas Devorah</p>
<p>This week's Kiddush is sponsored by: Michael & Mindy Harris in honor of the Yartzheit of Michael's father Reuvain Avraham ben Aaron Tzvi Benny Feintuch in honor of a Yartzheit Arye and Faige Lebovic & Rafi and Klara Buxbaum in honour of the birth of their great granddaughter</p>
<p>Seudas Shlishis is sponsored by: The Shul The guest speaker for seudas shlishis is Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz</p>
<p>The cholim list is being updated for Chodesh Kislev. If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one of the gabbaim.</p>

Schedule Of Shiurim

Sunday morning	Daas Tevunos	8:40 AM
Sunday evening	Minchas Chinuch	8:45 PM
Monday Evening	Meseches Sanhedrin	7:30 PM
Tuesday Evening	Hilchos Shabbos	8:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	Night Seder	8:30 PM
Thursday Evening	Chumash & Ramban at the Rav's house	8:45 PM
Friday Night	Friday Night Learning	8:00, Shiur at 8:30

Daf Yomi

Rabbi Kaufman (English)	Monday - Friday 7:45 AM Shabbos: 8:15 AM Sunday: 7:15 AM
Rabbi Wajsbrot (Yiddish)	Monday - Thursday 7:00 PM Shabbos: 1 hour before Mincha Sunday: 8:50 AM
Rafi Greenspan Amud Yomi Shiur	Monday - Friday 7:20 AM

Upcoming Weekday Schedule for Parshas Vayishlach

<p>Shacharis Sunday: 8:00 am Monday & Thursday: 7:00 & 7:55 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:00 & 8:00</p>	<p>Mincha 12:35 & 4:30 pm Maariv 4:50 pm</p>
---	--

To sponsor Kiddush/Seudas Shlishis contact Baruch Klein (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)
To sign for the bulletin, submit announcements, add names to the cholim list or yahrzeit calendar go to www.agudahsouth.com/mailling-lists, email mailings@agudahsouth.com or speak to one of the gabbaim.