

Miketz, Torah, December 16, 2023

Genesis 41:53-43:15

(53) The seven years of abundance that the land of Egypt enjoyed came to an end, (54) and the seven years of famine set in, just as Joseph had foretold. There was famine in all lands, but throughout the land of Egypt there was bread. (55) And when all the land of Egypt felt the hunger, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; whatever he tells you, you shall do.” — (56) Accordingly, when the famine became severe in the land of Egypt, Joseph laid open all that was within, and rationed out grain to the Egyptians. The famine, however, spread over the whole world. (57) So all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to procure rations, for the famine had become severe

בראשית מ"א:ג-מ"ג:ט"ו
(נג) וַתִּכְלֶינָה שְׁבַע שָׁנֵי הַשָּׁבַע
אֲשֶׁר הָיָה בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (נד)
וַתִּחְלֶינָה שְׁבַע שָׁנֵי הָרָעָב לָבוֹא
כָּאֲשֶׁר אָמַר יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי רָעָב
בְּכָל־הָאֲרָצוֹת וּבְכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם
הָיָה לָחֶם: (נה) וַתִּרְעַב כָּל־אֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם וַיִּצְעַק הָעָם אֶל־פַּרְעֹה
לֵלֶחֶם וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה לְכָל־מִצְרַיִם
לָכוּ אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֲשֶׁר־יֹאמַר לָכֶם
תַּעֲשׂוּ: (נו) וְהָרָעַב הָיָה עַל כָּל־פְּנֵי
הָאֶרֶץ וַיִּפְתַּח יוֹסֵף אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר
בְּהֵם וַיִּשְׁבֵּר לְמִצְרַיִם וַיַּחֲזֹק הָרָעַב
בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (נז) וְכָל־הָאֶרֶץ בָּאוּ
מִצְרַיִמָּה לְשֹׁבֵר אֶל־יוֹסֵף כִּי־חָזַק
הָרָעַב בְּכָל־הָאֶרֶץ: (א) וַיֵּרָא יַעֲקֹב
כִּי יֵשׁ־שֹׁבֵר בְּמִצְרַיִם וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב
לְבָנָיו לָמָּה תִּתְרָאוּ: (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר

throughout the world. (1) When Jacob saw that there were food rations to be had in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you keep looking at one another? (2) Now I hear,” he went on, “that there are rations to be had in Egypt. Go down and procure rations for us there, that we may live and not die.” (3) So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to get grain rations in Egypt; (4) for Jacob did not send Joseph’s brother Benjamin with his brothers, since he feared that he might meet with disaster. (5) Thus the sons of Israel were among those who came to procure rations, for the famine extended to the land of Canaan. (6) Now Joseph was the vizier of the land; it was he who dispensed rations to all the people of the land. And Joseph’s brothers came and bowed low to him, with their faces to the ground. (7) When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them; but he acted like a

הַגֵּה שְׁמֵעֲתִי כִּי יֵשׁ-שָׁבֵר בְּמִצְרַיִם
רְדוֹ-שְׁלֵמָה וְשָׁבְרוּ-לָנוּ מִשָּׁם וְנִחְיֶה
וְלֹא נָמוּת: (ג) וַיֵּרְדוּ אֶחָיִי-יוֹסֵף
עֲשָׂרָה לְשָׁבֵר בָּר מִמִּצְרַיִם: (ד)
וְאֶת-בְּנֵימִין אֶחָי יוֹסֵף לֹא-שָׁלַח
יַעֲקֹב אֶת-אֶחָיו כִּי אָמַר פֶּן-יִקְרָאנוּ
אִסּוֹן: (ה) וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְשָׁבֵר
בְּתוֹךְ הַבָּאִים כִּי-הָיָה הָרָעֵב בְּאֶרֶץ
כְּנָעַן: (ו) וַיּוֹסֵף הוּא הַשְּׁלֵיט
עַל-הָאָרֶץ הוּא הַמְּשַׁבֵּר לְכָל-עַם
הָאָרֶץ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶחָי יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ-לוֹ
אִפְסִים אֶרְצָה: (ז) וַיֵּרָא יוֹסֵף
אֶת-אֶחָיו וַיִּכְרָם וַיִּתְנַכֵּר אֲלֵיהֶם
וַיְדַבֵּר אֲתָם קָשׁוֹת וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם
מֵאֵין בָּאתֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
לְשָׁבֵר-אֶכֶל: (ח) וַיִּכַּר יוֹסֵף
אֶת-אֶחָיו וְהֵם לֹא הִכְרָהוּ: (ט)
וַיִּזְכֹּר יוֹסֵף אֶת הַחֲלֻמוֹת אֲשֶׁר
חָלַם לָהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם מְרַגְלִים
אַתֶּם לְרֹאוֹת אֶת-עֲרוֹת הָאָרֶץ
בָּאתֶם: (י) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו לֹא אֲדַנִּי

stranger toward them and spoke harshly to them. He asked them, “Where do you come from?” And they said, “From the land of Canaan, to procure food.” (8) For though Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. (9) Recalling the dreams that he had dreamed about them, Joseph said to them, “You are spies, you have come to see the land in its nakedness.” (10) But they said to him, “No, my lord! Truly, your servants have come to procure food. (11) We are all of us sons of the same man; we are being honest; your servants have never been spies!” (12) And he said to them, “No, you have come to see the land in its nakedness!” (13) And they replied, “We your servants were twelve brothers, sons of a certain man in the land of Canaan; the youngest, however, is now with our father, and one is no more.” (14) But Joseph said to them, “It is just

וְעַבְדֶיךָ בָּאוּ לְשֹׁכֵר-אֶכָּל: (יא) כָּלָנוּ
בְּנֵי אִישׁ-אֶחָד נָחֲנוּ כְּנִים אֲנַחְנוּ
לֹא-הָיוּ עַבְדֶיךָ מְרַגְלִים: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר
אֲלֵהֶם לֹא כִי-עֲרוֹת הָאָרֶץ בָּאתֶם
לְרֹאוֹת: (יג) וַיֹּאמְרוּ שָׁנִים עָשָׂר
עַבְדֶיךָ אֶחָד | אֲנַחְנוּ בְּנֵי
אִישׁ-אֶחָד בְּאָרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְהִנֵּה הִקְטַן
אֶת-אֲבֵינוּ הַיּוֹם וְהָאֶחָד אֵינָנוּ: (יד)
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף הוּא אֲשֶׁר
דִּבַּרְתִּי אֲלֵכֶם לֵאמֹר מְרַגְלִים
אַתֶּם: (טו) בְּזֹאת תִּבְחָנוּ חַי פְּרַעֲה
אִם-תִּצְאוּ מִזֶּה כִּי אִם-בָּבוֹא
אֲחֵיכֶם הִקְטַן הִנֵּה: (טז) שְׁלַחוּ
מִכֶּם אֶחָד וַיִּקַּח אֶת-אֲחֵיכֶם וְאֶתֶּם
הֵאָסְרוּ וַיִּבְחָנוּ דְּבַרְיֶכֶם הָאֵמֶת
אֲתֶכֶם וְאִם-לֹא חַי פְּרַעֲה כִּי
מְרַגְלִים אַתֶּם: (יז) וַיֹּאסֹף אֹתָם
אֶל-מִשְׁמֶר שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים: (יח)
וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי
זֹאת עָשׂוּ וַחֲיוּ אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים אֲנִי
יֵרָא: (יט) אִם-כְּנִים אַתֶּם אֲחֵיכֶם

as I have told you: You are spies!
 (15) By this you shall be put to the test: unless your youngest brother comes here, by Pharaoh, you shall not depart from this place! (16) Let one of you go and bring your brother, while the rest of you remain confined, that your words may be put to the test whether there is truth in you. Else, by Pharaoh, you are nothing but spies!” (17) And he confined them in the guardhouse for three days. (18) On the third day Joseph said to them, “Do this and you shall live, for I fear God. (19) If you are being honest, let one of you brothers be held in your place of detention, while the rest of you go and take home rations for your starving households; (20) but you must bring me your youngest brother, that your words may be verified and that you may not die.” And they did accordingly. (21) They said to one another, “Alas, we are being

אָחַד יֵאָסֵר בְּבַיִת מִשְׁמַרְכֶּם וְאַתֶּם
 לָכוּ הָבִיאוּ שָׂבֵר רַעְבּוֹן בְּתִיכֶם:
 (כ) וְאַת־אַחֵיכֶם הַקָּטָן תָּבִיאוּ אֵלַי
 וַיֵּאמְרוּ דְבַרְיֶכֶם וְלֹא תָמוּתוּ
 וַיַּעֲשׂוּ-כֵן: (כא) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ
 אֶל-אָחִיו אָבֵל אֲשֶׁמִּים | אֲנַחְנוּ
 עַל-אָחֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר רָאִינוּ צָרַת נַפְשׁוֹ
 בַּהֲתַחַנְנוּ אֵלֵינוּ וְלֹא שָׁמַעְנוּ עַל-כֵּן
 בָּאָה אֵלֵינוּ הַצָּרָה הַזֹּאת: (כב)
 וַיַּעַן רְאוּבֵן אֹתָם לֵאמֹר הֲלוֹא
 אָמַרְתִּי אֵלֵיכֶם | לֵאמֹר
 אֶל-תַּחֲטְאוּ בִילֵד וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתֶּם
 וְגַם-דָּמּוּ הַנְּהַ נְדַרְשׁ: (כג) וְהֵם לֹא
 יָדְעוּ כִּי שָׁמַע יוֹסֵף כִּי הִמְלִיץ
 בֵּינְתָם: (כד) וַיִּסֹּב מִעֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּבֶךְ
 וַיָּשָׁב אֲלֵהֶם וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם וַיִּקַּח
 מֵאֲתָם אֶת-שְׁמֹעוֹן וַיֵּאָסֵר אֹתוֹ
 לְעֵינֵיהֶם: (כה) וַיֵּצֵאוּ יוֹסֵף וַיְמַלְאוּ
 אֶת-כִּלְיֵהֶם בָּרֶ וְלֹא-שָׁיֵב כֶּסֶף לָהֶם
 אִישׁ אֶל-שִׁקּוֹ וְלָתֵת לָהֶם צֹדָה
 לְדַרְדְּרוֹ וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם כֵּן: (כו) וַיֵּשְׂאוּ

punished on account of our brother, because we looked on at his anguish, yet paid no heed as he pleaded with us. That is why this distress has come upon us.” (22) Then Reuben spoke up and said to them, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do no wrong to the boy’? But you paid no heed. Now comes the reckoning for his blood.” (23) They did not know that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between him and them. (24) He turned away from them and wept. But he came back to them and spoke to them; and he took Simeon from among them and had him bound before their eyes. (25) Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, return each one’s money to his sack, and give them provisions for the journey; and this was done for them. (26) So they loaded their asses with the rations and departed from there. (27) As one of them was opening his sack to give feed to his ass at the

אֶת־שִׁבְרָם עַל־חַמְרֵיהֶם וַיִּלְכוּ
מִשָּׁם: (כז) וַיִּפְתַּח הָאָחֵד אֶת־שִׁקּוֹ
לְתֵת מִסְפּוֹא לַחֲמָרוֹ בַּמָּלּוֹן וַיֵּרֶא
אֶת־כַּסְפוֹ וְהִנֵּה־הוּא בְּפִי
אִמְתְּחָתּוֹ: (כח) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־אָחָיו
הַיּוֹשֵׁב כַּסְפִּי וְגַם הִנֵּה בְּאִמְתְּחָתִי
וַיֵּצֵא לָבָם וַיַּחְרְדּוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אָחָיו
לֵאמֹר מִה־זֹּאת עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים לָנוּ:
(כט) וַיָּבֵאוּ אֶל־יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם
אֶרְצָה כְּנָעַן וַיִּגִּידוּ לוֹ אֵת
כָּל־הַקְּרֹת אֲתֶם לֵאמֹר: (ל) דָּבָר
הָאִישׁ אֲדֹנֵי הָאָרֶץ אֶתְנוּ קְשׁוֹת
וַיִּתֵּן אֶתְנוּ כַּמְּרַגְלִים אֶת־הָאָרֶץ:
(לא) וַנֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו כִּנִּים אֲנַחְנוּ לֹא
הָיִינוּ מְרַגְלִים: (לב) שְׁנַיִם־עָשָׂר
אֲנַחְנוּ אַחִים בְּנֵי אָבִינוּ הָאָחֵד
אֵינָנוּ וְהַקָּטָן הַיּוֹם אֶת־אָבִינוּ
בְּאָרֶץ כְּנָעַן: (לג) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָינוּ
הָאִישׁ אֲדֹנֵי הָאָרֶץ בְּזֹאת אֵדַע כִּי
כִנִּים אַתֶּם אֲחֵיכֶם הָאָחֵד הַנִּיחָו
אֹתִי וְאֶת־רַעְבּוֹן בְּתֵיכֶם קָחָו וְלָכוּ:

night encampment, he saw his money right there at the mouth of his bag. (28) And he said to his brothers, “My money has been returned! It is here in my bag!” Their hearts sank; and, trembling, they turned to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?” (29) When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had befallen them, saying, (30) “The man who is lord of the land spoke harshly to us and accused us of spying on the land. (31) We said to him, ‘We are being honest; we have never been spies! (32) There were twelve of us brothers, sons by the same father; but one is no more, and the youngest is now with our father in the land of Canaan.’ (33) But the man—who is lord of the land—said to us, ‘By this I shall know that you are being honest: leave one of your brothers with me, and take something for your starving

(לד) וְהִבִּיאוּ אֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם הַקָּטָן אֵלַי
וְאִדְעָה כִּי לֹא מְרַגְלִים אַתֶּם כִּי
כִנְיִם אַתֶּם אֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם אַתֶּן לָכֶם
וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ תִּסְחָרוּ: (לה) וַיְהִי הֵם
מְרִיקִים שִׁקְיָהֶם וְהִנֵּה־אִישׁ
צָרוּר־כֶּסֶף בְּשִׁקּוֹ וַיֵּרְאוּ
אֶת־צָרוֹת כֶּסֶפֵיהֶם הִמָּה וְאֲבֵיהֶם
וַיֵּרְאוּ: (לו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יַעֲקֹב
אֲבֵיהֶם אֲתִי שְׂכַלְתֶּם יוֹסֵף אֵינְנו
וְשִׂמְעוֹן אֵינְנו וְאֶת־בְּנֵימִן תִּקְחוּ
עָלַי הֲיִו כְּלָנָה: (לז) וַיֹּאמֶר רְאוּבֵן
אֶל־אָבִיו לֹא־מֵר אֶת־שְׁנֵי בְנֵי תְּמִית
אִם־לֹא אֲבִיָּנו אֵלֶיךָ תָּנָה אֹתוֹ
עַל־יָדַי וְאָנִי אֲשִׁיבֵנו אֵלֶיךָ: (לח)
וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא־יֵרֵד בְּנֵי עִמְכֶם כִּי־אֲחִיו
מֵת וְהוּא לְבָדוֹ נִשְׁאָר וּקְרָאֵהוּ
אֶסּוֹן בְּדָרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר תֵּלְכוּ־בָּהּ
וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־שִׁיבְתִי בִּיגּוֹן
שְׂאוּלָה: (א) וְהָרַעַב כָּבֵד בְּאֶרֶץ:
(ב) וַיְהִי כִּאֲשֶׁר כָּלוּ לֶאֱכֹל
אֶת־הַשֶּׁבֶר אֲשֶׁר הִבִּיאוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם

households and be off. (34) And bring your youngest brother to me, that I may know that you are not spies, that you are being honest. I will then restore your brother to you, and you shall be free to move about in the land.” (35) As they were emptying their sacks, there, in each one’s sack, was his money-bag! When they and their father saw their money-bags, they were dismayed. (36) Their father Jacob said to them, “It is always me that you bereave: Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you would take away Benjamin. These things always happen to me!” (37) Then Reuben said to his father, “You may kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my care, and I will return him to you.” (38) But he said, “My son must not go down with you, for his brother is dead and he alone is left. If he meets with disaster on the journey you are taking, you will

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם אַבְיָהֶם שׁוּבוּ
 וּשְׁבוּ-לָנוּ מֵעַט-אֲכָל: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר
 אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה לֵאמֹר הֲעַד הָעַד בָּנוּ
 הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר לֹא-תִרְאוּ פָנַי בְּלִתי
 אֲחֵיכֶם אִתְּכֶם: (ד) אִם-יִשָּׁךְ
 מִשְׁלַח אֶת-אֲחֵינוּ אִתָּנוּ נֵרְדָה
 וְנִשְׁבְּרָה לָךְ אֲכָל: (ה) וְאִם-אֵינֶךָ
 מִשְׁלַח לֹא נֵרֵד כִּי-הָאִישׁ אָמַר
 אֵלֵינוּ לֹא-תִרְאוּ פָנַי בְּלִתי אֲחֵיכֶם
 אִתְּכֶם: (ו) וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמָה
 הִרְעַתֶּם לִי לְהַגִּיד לְאִישׁ הָעוֹד
 לָכֶם אָח: (ז) וַיֹּאמְרוּ שָׂאוּל
 שְׂאֵל-הָאִישׁ לָנוּ וְלִמּוֹלְדֹתָנוּ לֵאמֹר
 הָעוֹד אֲבִיכֶם חַי הֵיטֵב לָכֶם אָח
 וְנִגְד־לוֹ עַל-פִּי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
 הַיְדוּעַ גִּדַע כִּי יֹאמֶר הוֹרִידוּ
 אֶת-אֲחֵיכֶם: (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה
 אֶל-יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיו שְׁלַח הַנְּעָר
 אִתִּי וְנִקְוָמָה וְנִלְכָה וְנִחְיֶה וְלֹא
 נָמוּת גַּם-אֲנַחְנוּ גַם-אַתָּה גַם-טַפָּנוּ:
 (ט) אָנֹכִי אֶעֱרָבְנוּ מִיָּדֵי תִבְקָשָׁנוּ

send my white head down to Sheol in grief.” (1) But the famine in the land was severe. (2) And when they had eaten up the rations which they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again and procure some food for us.” (3) But Judah said to him, “The man warned us, ‘Do not let me see your faces unless your brother is with you.’ (4) If you will let our brother go with us, we will go down and procure food for you; (5) but if you will not let him go, we will not go down, for that man said to us, ‘Do not let me see your faces unless your brother is with you.’” (6) And Israel said, “Why did you serve me so ill as to tell the man that you had another brother?” (7) They replied, “But the man kept asking about us and our family, saying, ‘Is your father still living? Have you another brother?’ And we answered him accordingly. How were we to know that he would say, ‘Bring your

אם-לא הביאתיו אליך והצגתיו
לפניך וחטאתי לך כל-הימים: (י)
כי לולא התמהמהנו כיעתה
שבנו זה פעמים: (יא) ויאמר
אלהם ישראל אביהם אם-כן |
אפוא זאת עשו קחו מזמרת
הארץ בכליכם והורידו לאיש
מנחה מעט צרי ומעט דבש נכאת
ולט בטנים ושקדים: (יב) וכסף
משנה קחו בידכם ואת-הכסף
המושב בפני אמתחתיכם תשיבו
בידכם אולי משגה הוא: (יג)
ואת-אחיכם קחו וקומו שובו
אל-האיש: (יד) ואל שדי יתן לכם
רחמים לפני האיש ושלח לכם
את-אחיכם אחר ואת-בנימין ואני
כאשר שכלתי שכלתי: (טו) ויקחו
האנשים את-המנחה הזאת
ומשנה-כסף לקחו בידם
ואת-בנימין ויקמו וירדו מצרים
ויעמדו לפני יוסף:

brother here?’” (8) Then Judah said to his father Israel, “Send the boy in my care, and let us be on our way, that we may live and not die—you and we and our children. (9) I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible: if I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, I shall stand guilty before you forever. (10) For we could have been there and back twice if we had not dawdled.” (11) Then their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, do this: take some of the choice products of the land in your baggage, and carry them down as a gift for the man—some balm and some honey, gum, ladanum, pistachio nuts, and almonds. (12) And take with you double the money, carrying back with you the money that was replaced in the mouths of your bags; perhaps it was a mistake. (13) Take your brother too; and go back at once to the man. (14) And may

El Shaddai dispose the man to mercy toward you, that he may release to you your other brother, as well as Benjamin. As for me, if I am to be bereaved, I shall be bereaved.”

(15) So the agents took that gift, and they took with them double the money, as well as Benjamin.

They made their way down to Egypt, where they presented themselves to Joseph.