



Make a donation or pay outstanding shul obligations online. Go to www.bethaaron.org/donate

Congregation Beth Aaron

950 Queen Anne Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 ·
Phone: (201) 836-6210 · Fax: (201) 836-0005
www.bethaaron.org · bethaaron@optonline.net
Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi

Ronnie Schwartz, President

Shabbat Announcements

Parashat Vayishlach December 5, 2009 18 Kislev 5770

- Latest Candles: 4:10 P.M.
- *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 4:15 P.M.
- *Shacharit. Hashkamah*: 7:30 A.M.
- Rabbi Rothwachs's *Tefillah shiur*: 8:20 A.M.
- Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
- Youth *Minyan*: 9:30 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 9:26 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- *Daf Yomi*: 2:55 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: 3:05 P.M. We will begin *Sefer Melachim Alef, Chapter 1*. All women are welcome.
- *Mincha*: 4:05 P.M., followed by a *shiur* by Rabbi Reuven Ungar.
- *Maariv*: 5:10 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 5:19 P.M.

Schedule for Week of December 6th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	6:06	6:07	6:08	6:09	6:09	6:10
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:30	5:56	5:57	5:58	5:58	5:59
	7:15	6:20	6:30	6:30	6:20	6:30
	8:00	7:10	7:15	7:15	7:10	7:15
	8:45	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
<i>Mincha</i>	1:00					3:00
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	4:15	4:15	4:15	4:15	4:15	4:15
<i>Maariv</i> :	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	
	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	

Weekly Shiurim:

- *Daf Yomi: Shabbat*: 2:55 P.M. For other *Daf Yomi shiurim*, go to www.teaneckshuls.org/daf
- **Chabura on Revadim method of Talmud Study**: Sunday evening at 8:15 P.M.
- **Rabbi Feldman's shiur: Halachot of Chanukah**. Monday evening at 8:45 P.M.
- **Parshat ha-Shavua shiur by Rabbi Neil Lauer**: "The Making of a *Tzaddik*" - Tuesday evening, 8:45 to 9:30 P.M.
- **Rabbi Rothwachs' Bava Kama shiur**: Wednesday evening at 8:30 P.M.
- **Chabura by Rabbi Herschel Grossman on Sefer Nefesh ha-Chaim** - Thursday evening, 8:15 to 9:00 P.M.
- **Morning Mishnah Chabura**: Monday and Thursday - 6:55 A.M.; Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 7:00 A.M.

Mazal Tov:

- *Mazal Tov* to Gary and Nurit Adler on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ehud.
- *Mazal Tov* to Jeff and Michelle Burbank on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Adam.
- *Mazal Tov* to Eli Schaap and Fern Amper on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children Nomi and Eli Daitchman.
- *Mazal Tov* to Mark and Marsha Siegel on the birth of their grandson Zev Alexander, born to their children Ron and Jennifer Siegel.
- *Mazal Tov* to Phil and Tova Meyer on the birth of their grandson Shalom, born to their children David and Soroh Meyer of Baltimore.
- *Mazal Tov* to Itch and Marilyn Zeidel on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Duvie and Nava Zeidel of Far Rockaway. All are invited to the *shalom zachor*, which will take place on Friday evening at the Zeidel home, 169 Carlton Terrace, beginning at 7:15 P.M.

We are pleased to welcome this Shabbat **Rav Reuven Ungar**, who will be speaking between *mincha* and *maariv* on *Shabbat* afternoon on the topic of "Channel 7 & The Special *Halachic* Unit – The 7 *Mitzvot Bnei Noach* and the *Mehalech* of the *Ohr Sameach*." Rav Ungar is the current Director of Alumni Affairs for Yeshivat Sha'alvim and currently delivers a weekly *shiur* at the *Yeshiva*. In addition, he formerly was a full-time *bekiyut rebbe* in Yeshivat Sha'alvim's Moty Hornstein Institute and the high school at Yeshivat Sha'alvim. A native of Bergen County, he is a graduate of MTA and Yeshivat Sha'alvim's Teachers College.

Please consider participating in the **Project Ezra** Dinner, to be held this Saturday night, December 5th, at Keter Torah. Among the honorees at this year's dinner, receiving the *Ahavas Chesed* Award, are our own **Chaviva and Rabbi Rothwachs**. Project Ezra is a unique organization that continues to offer considerable support to many members of the greater Teaneck community. I can personally think of NO more important cause towards which we, as a community, should focus our efforts at this time.

If you are unable to attend the dinner, donations can be made directly to Project Ezra or through the shul's discretionary fund. Thank you for your generosity and consideration. --Ronnie Schwartz

Miscellaneous Shul Announcements

The **Sisterhood Book Club** will meet this Sunday night, December 6th, at 7:30 P.M., at the Markovitz home, 201 Grayson Place. We will be reading "The Zookeeper's Wife," by Diane Ackerman, a nonfiction book about a Polish woman who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust by hiding people in the zoo. All Beth Aaron women are welcome. For more information, contact Diane Fogel, (201) 837-0651, difogel@aol.com.

This Sunday, December 6th, after the 8:45 A.M. *minyán*, Beth Aaron's resident tech guru, **Avi Greengart** will discuss and answer your questions about the latest cell phones, PDAs, home theatre equipment, MP3 players, etc. Admission is free, and a light breakfast will be served.

We are pleased to announce that the **Beth Aaron Boys' Choir** will be presenting the following *Chanukah* performances at the shul: This Sunday, December 6th, at 2:00 P.M., the choir will perform at the Youth Department *Chanukah Chagiga*. On *Shabbat Chanukah*, December 12th, the choir will be singing *An'im Zemirot* and *Adon Olam* on the *bimah* at the conclusion of the *main minyan*. All are invited to attend.

On Monday, December 7th, there will be a **Beth Aaron Sisterhood pre-Chanukah jewelry sale** at the Pudell home, 166 Edgemont Place, from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. Gorgeous costume jewelry from \$3-\$48. A portion of the proceeds goes to benefit the Beth Aaron Sisterhood.

On Friday, January 22nd, at 10:30 AM, the Beth Aaron Sisterhood will be going to **Disney on Ice -- 100 Years of Magic**. Tickets are \$20 each. For information regarding ordering, please contact Aliza Fischman, (201) 833-0801 or fisch.chips@att.net.

Beth Aaron Junior NCSY will have an **American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course** (designed for 11 to 15 year-olds) on Saturday evening, January 23rd, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M., and on Sunday, January 24th, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The course is \$55. Spaces are limited, and reservations are with payment. For more information or to sign up, contact Moishe B. Singer, moish+babysitting@gmail.com.

Beth Aaron Youth:

- The **learning group for 3rd grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, December 5th, at **3:00 P.M.**, at the Breen home, 68 Edgemont Place. We will continue studying *Sefer Shmuel*. For more information, contact Doug Dubitsky, douglas_dubitsky@glic.com.
- The **learning group for 4th grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, December 5th, at **2:50 P.M.**, at the Klavan home, 927 Red Road. Please bring your own *Mishnah (Masechet Beitzah)*. For more information, please contact Rebecca Kurz, rkurz1@yahoo.com, or Esther Klavan, eskslp@aol.com.
- This *Shabbat*, December 5th, from 9:15 to 9:30 A.M., all 3rd-5th graders are welcome to join **Tefilah and Shoko**. Cookies and chocolate milk will be served.
- **Parent-Child Learning** will take place this Saturday night, December 5th, at 6:00 P.M., at the shul. Children and parents are invited to learn together, enjoy snacks and participate in a raffle for great prizes.
- This Sunday, December 6th, at 2:00 P.M., we will have a **Chanukah Fun Day** at the shul. All toddlers (18 months) through 5th graders are invited to a great program of fun and games. It will feature a performance by the Beth Aaron Boys' Choir, an olive oil press workshop, cookie decorating, arts and crafts, *Shabbat* ticket trade-in, a toddler music program, donuts, and much more.
- **Happy Birthday to Shimmy David**. The David family will be sponsoring a **birthday Kiddush** for the "Mommy and Me" group this *Shabbat* during group time. Want to celebrate your child's birthday with their friends in *Shabbat* morning groups? You can sponsor a birthday *kiddush* for your child's group for \$36.
- If you would like to sponsor any of these events, please contact Erica and Jason David, bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com.

Junior NCSY (grades 6-8):

- This Saturday night, December 5th, Regional NCSY is sponsoring a **Lock-In at Funtime America**, 111 Highway 35, Cliffwood, NJ. This all-night arcade event features unlimited video games, laser tag, rock wall climbing, bumper cars, simulator rides, and an all-night-long pizza party. The bus leaves Teaneck at 11:00 P.M. and will return to the shul on Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. The cost is \$45, plus \$20 bus fare, to be paid when you get on the bus.
- Next Friday night, December 11th, from 8:30 to 11:00 P.M., there will be a **DeLIGHTful Chanukah Oneg** at the Samuel home, 860 Red Road.
- On *Shabbat*, December 12th, at 3:00 P.M., we will have our next **Nosh of Torah** program in the shul basement.
- On Sunday, December 13th, we will be having a **Chanukahpalooza with Yachad** from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at Congregation Arzei Darom. Come for singing, dancing, games, pizza and jelly doughnuts! The cost is \$10. This event is being hosted by Arzei Darom and by the Beth Aaron and Fair Lawn Junior NCSY chapters.
- To RSVP, or if you have any questions about our events, e-mail Danielle, bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com, or call (201) 247-7961.

Beth Aaron Teens (grades 9-12):

- On Friday night, December 18th, at 8:00 P.M., BA Teens will be celebrating *Chanukah* at a **Chanukkoneg** at the Metzger home, 250 Merrison Street. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate *Chanukah* and *Shabbat* all in one shot! If you would like to host an *oneg* at your home in the future, please let us know.
- Join us on *motzaei Shabbat*, December 19th, from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M., for an **Ice Skating Extravaganza** at the Ice House, 111 Midtown Bridge Approach, Hackensack. The cost is \$12, including skating and skate rentals. Please arrive on time, so we can include you in the group rate.
- Stay tuned for more details about a **Study Party** we'll be having right around midterms/finals time. After all, what's better than having lots of candy and friends to talk to during study breaks?
- We hope to see you (and your friends) at our events. All events are open to all local 9th to 12th graders. We'd love to hear feedback about past events and ideas for future events. We can be contacted at bethaaronteens@gmail.com, or by calling Shiffy (Staiman) Friedman, (201) 341-6022, or Noam Friedman, (201) 937-6249.

Senior NCSY (grades 9-12):

- This Friday evening, December 4th, at 7:30 P.M., Teaneck Senior NCSY is having an **Oneg** at the Feuerstein-Rudin home, 370 Rutland Avenue. All high school students are invited.
- Next Friday evening, December 11th, **Shoreh** (the NCSY program for high school boys) will be sponsoring a *tisch* at the Margulies home, 1570 Jefferson Street, beginning at 8:00 PM. All high school boys are invited. For more information, please contact Willie Roth, (201) 965-5601, or Tuvia Brander, (561) 271-4148.

Community Announcements

CareOne, the kosher rehabilitation and nursing center located at 544 Teaneck Road, needs volunteers to help make a *minyan*. This Friday, *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat* will begin at 4:20 P.M. *Shacharit* will be at 9:00 A.M., followed by a hot *Kiddush*. Youth groups begin at 9:30 A.M. *Mincha* will be at 4:00 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 4:15 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 5:13 P.M.

This Sunday, December 6th, at Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Avenue, from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., the **National Association of Chevra Kadisha** is sponsoring a **Yom Iyun** for the North Jersey Jewish community. Although primarily intended for members of the *Chevra Kadisha*, the program is open to the entire community. To RSVP, contact Arnon Hiller or Warren Levie, YomIyun2009@yahoo.com.

This Sunday, December 6th, at Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, TorahWeb.org is sponsoring a *Leil Iyun*. At 8:00 P.M., **Rav Mayer Twersky** will speak on "Withstanding Corporate Pressure: Succeeding in Corporate America with My Neshama Intact," and at 8:45 P.M., **Rav Dr. Abraham J. Twerski** will speak on "Withstanding Social Religious Pressure: Living By Hashem's Standards."

This Sunday, December 6th, from 6:00 to 10:00 P.M., **Sinai Schools** will be sponsoring a **Chanukah Boutique** at the Torah Academy of Bergen County, 1600 Queen Anne Road. Featured items include hats; candle oil jewelry; tablecloths; hostess, baby and general gift items; children's and ladies' clothing; men's shirts and ties; hair accessories, *kippot* and more. For more information, contact Sandy, (201) 837-1848, bern1836@aol.com; **Leorah**, (201) 837-8309, Imarcus14@gmail.com, or Laurie, (201) 387-8218, blgopin@verizon.net.

This Sunday, December 6th, at 7:30 P.M., at the Gutfreund home, 74 Glenwood Drive North, Bergenfield, there will be a parlor meeting to learn about **Yeshiva Tiferet Shmuel Ezra -- The Jewish Foundation School of Staten Island (JFS)**, which provides an excellent *Limudei Kodesh* and secular education, 40 minutes from Teaneck/Bergenfield. For more information, contact uri.gutfreund@singernelson.com.

This Sunday, December 6th, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., **Yeshivat Ben Porat Yosef** is hosting its annual literary fundraising event, **Reading Rocks**, at Barnes & Noble at Riverside Square Mall. There will be face painting, musical entertainment, prizes, poetry and story readings, book signings and readings by featured children's author Karen Kaufman Orloff, and an interactive musical presentation of *The Hungry Caterpillar* by featured storyteller Lauren Hooker of Music Legends. In addition, a gift buying guide will be available and there will be plenty of time for purchase of books, CDs, DVDs and other gifts. All proceeds will benefit the Ben Porat Yosef library and Shelter Our Sisters, a local shelter for families who are victims of domestic violence. For more information, contact Galit Cohen, galitzcohen@gmail.com.

On Monday, December 7th, at 8:00 P.M., at the *beit kneset* of The Moriah School, 53 South Woodland Street, Englewood, **Rabbi Neil Winkler** will present the school's annual community lecture on "**Ezra and the End of Prophecy**." For more information, please contact Erik Kessler, ekessler@moriahschool.org, (201) 567-0208 ext. 376.

On Tuesday, December 8th, from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M., **Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls** will be hosting a **Chanukah boutique**. Israeli artist, Tamar Messer, will be featured. For more information, contact Reva Judas, (201) 692-9302.

On Thursday, December 17th, at 8:00 P.M., **Rav Matisyahu Salomon**, the *mashgiach ruchani* of the Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood, will be speaking on **Inyanei Chanukah** at the Yeshiva Gedolah of Teaneck, 1443 Palisade Avenue. All Are welcome.

On Friday, December 25th, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, **Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls** will be sponsoring a community-wide **Day of Study in the Liberal Arts and Sciences** at the school, 1650 Palisade Avenue. The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Dr. David Berger, head of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva College and Dean of the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Dr. Berger's speech will be followed by sessions on a wide array of topics in the humanities and sciences. For more information, please contact appelt@maayanot.org.

The entire community is looking forward to the opening of the new, state-of-the-art **Teaneck mikvah** in the next few weeks. However, only the first phase of the building project has been financed and completed. The Teaneck Mikvah Association needs your support to complete the second phase to meet current demand, alleviate waiting times, and properly service the entire community, including the physically disabled. Show your support by making a tax-deductible donation before the end of the year or increasing the amount of your existing pledge at www.teaneckmikvah.com or by contacting teaneckmikvah@gmail.com. The *mikvah* project is finally near completion -- let us finish it together!

The students of **The Sinai School** are offering a **free pick-up service of clothing donations** in good condition to community members. A **tevilat keilim** service is also available. All pick-ups are on Thursday evenings. Dishes will be returned within two weeks of pick up. There is a suggested donation of \$2 for *tevilat keilim*. For more information, contact Rochel Weitzman, Rrodina@sinaischool.org, (646) 701-1255.

Parasha Questions for Parashat Vayishlach:

- (a) Why did Ya'akov let Eisav know he was nearby (2 reasons)? (b) What mistake did Ya'akov make? (c) When did *Bnei Yisrael* make a similar mistake with *Eisav's* descendants? (d) Who were the messengers Ya'akov sent to *Eisav*, and what was their mission (2 opinions)? (e) Why did Ya'akov believe that *Eisav*, after 34 years, still hated him? (*Beresheet* 32:4)
- (a) Since *Hashem* had promised Ya'akov, "I will guard you wherever you go" (*Bereishit* 28:15), why was Ya'akov afraid when told that *Eisav* was coming toward him (10 reasons)? (b) The *Torah* tells us that Ya'akov crossed the *Yabok* River with 11 children; since Ya'akov then had 12 (11 sons and a daughter), where was the 12th child? (c) How do we know that Ya'akov did not hide one of his sons from *Eisav*? (d) Regarding this, what mistake did Ya'akov make? (e) How was he punished? (f) Why did *Hashem* prohibit *Bnei Yisrael* from eating the *gid ha-nasheh* (sinew of the thigh-vein)? (*Beresheet* 32:8,23,33)
- (a) Since Ya'akov embodies *emet* (truth), how was he able to lie to *Eisav*, saying that he and his family would meet *Eisav* in *Se'ir*, when his intention was to travel to *Shechem* and not go to *Se'ir*? (b) What does "*shalem*" mean when the *Torah* says that Ya'akov arrived in the city of *Shechem* "*shalem*" (7 explanations)? (*Beresheet* 33:14,18)
- (a) Why did *Hashem* punish Ya'akov with *Dinah's* abduction (5 explanations)? (b) How old was *Dinah* when *Shechem* abducted her (3 opinions)? (c) Since he heard and apparently agreed with his sons' deceptive response to *Shechem* and *Chamor* about circumcising the men of *Shechem*, why was Ya'akov upset when the men of *Shechem* were massacred? (*Beresheet* 34:1,13)
- (a) Why was the place where *Rivka's* nurse *Devora* died called "*Alon Bachut*" (Oak of "Weepings") in the plural (2 explanations)? (b) Why did Ya'akov bury *Rachel* on the road to *Efrat*, less than a mile from *Beit Lechem* (3 reasons)? (*Beresheet* 35:8,16-19)
- (a) From where do we learn that when a person marries, all of his previous sins are forgiven? (b) Which 4 of the 613 *mitzvot* did *Bnei Yisrael* know how to perform from the genealogy of *Eisav*? (*Bereishit* 36:3,12)
- In the *haftara*, why does the only recorded prophecy by *Ovadia ha-Navi* concern *Edom's* future? (*Ovadia* 1:1)

Learning Opportunities

· The **Amud Yomi shiur** meets week nights at 9:30 P.M. at Rinat Yisrael.

Motzei Shabbat

Rabbi Reisman's satellite *Navi shiur*: 7:30 P.M. at Keter Torah.

Sunday

· This Sunday, December 6th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Midreshet Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for women. The program which will be held at the Shenk Shul in the Schottenstein Center (on West 185th Street, between Audubon and St. Nicholas Avenues) is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Midreshet Yom Rishon will feature **Rabbi Meir Goldwicht** and **Mrs. Dena Knoll**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M.; second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, call (212) 960-0041, or visit www.midreshetyomrishon.org.

· This Sunday, December 6th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Kollel Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for men. The program, which will be held in Furst Hall Room 501 (500 West 185th Street, at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue) is open to participants of all ages, back-

grounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Kollel Yom Rishon will feature **Rabbi Meir Goldwicht** and **Rabbi Josh Blass**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M., second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, call (212) 960-0041 or visit www.kollelyomrishon.org.

· The **Chofetz Chaim Women's Learning Group** will meet this Sunday, December 6th, at the Stobezki home, 1117 Trafalgar Street.

Monday

· Each Monday, from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M., a **Tehillim group** will meet at Rochi Lerner's home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

Tuesday

· Rochi Lerner's **Tehillim shiur** takes place every Tuesday evening at 8:30 P.M. at Rochi Lerner's home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

Wednesday

· On Wednesday mornings, at 10:30 A.M., Rochi Lerner presents a **Megillat Esther shiur**, in memory of the Seidenfeld children, at the Lerner home, 274 Johnson Avenue.

· Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky's Wednesday evening *shiur* takes place at Bnai Yeshurun at 9:15 P.M.

Thursday

· **Rabbi Yissocher Frand's** weekly *shiur* will be broadcast at 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah.

· Each Thursday evening, at 8:30 P.M., at the Yeshiva Gedolah, 1443 Palisade Avenue, **Rabbi Roberts** gives a **Parasha Shiur**, followed by *maariv* at 9:30 P.M.

· **Rochi Lerner's** Thursday morning *shiur* at Yeshivat Noam, which explores the characters of *Yitzchak* and *Shimshon*, will resume on Thursday, December 10th, at 11:00 A.M..

Friday

· The **Bergen Community Kollel for Baale Batim** meets every Friday morning in the Beth Aaron library. The schedule is as follows: 8:00-8:20 A.M. - *Mussar Classics*; 8:20-9:30 A.M. - *Gemara Ketubot*; 9:30-10:00 A.M. - *Hilchot Shabbat*. For more information, contact Dr. Andy Fink, (201) 833-2527.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, **Keter Torah** presents **Torah in the AM**: 9:00 to 9:40 A.M. - *Navi chavura* on *Sefer Shmuel Bet*; 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. - Rabbi Menachem Meier's *Talmud shiur* on *Bava Metzia*, Chapter 5; 10:50 to 11:40 A.M.-Rabbi Meier's *shiur* on Jeremiah (Thursday only); 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon - Rabbi Baum's *shiur* on *Sefer Ezra* (Tuesday only)

Answers to Parasha Questions:

1. (a) (1) *Ya'akov* attempted reconciliation with *Eisav* by confronting him while *Yitzchak* was still alive, since *Eisav* would not do anything to grieve their father (*Zohar*). (2) Since the southern part of *Eretz Yisrael*, where *Yitzchak* lived and to where *Ya'akov* was traveling, adjoins *Edom*, *Ya'akov* had to pass through *Edom* or travel near it; because he feared *Eisav* would hear about his coming, *Ya'akov* took the initiative to send messengers to placate him; (b) he should have avoided *Eisav*, who was going his own way; (c) the *Chashmonean* kings should not have sought alliances with the Roman Empire, causing *Eretz Yisrael* and the *Beit ha-Mikdash* to fall into Roman hands (*Ramban*). (d) (1) the *malachim* were human, i.e., *Ya'akov's* servants; he wanted to find out *Eisav's* intentions (*Sforno*). (2) He sent real angels to impress and terrify *Eisav* (*Rashi/Bereishit Raba*). (e) *Ya'akov* saw this from the names *Eisav* gave to the land on which he lived. *Eisav* lived in the land he called "Se'ir" in "Edom's Field." *Se'ir* means goat, and *Eisav* wanted to remind himself constantly that *Ya'akov* wore goatskins to "steal" the blessing that *Yitzchak* wanted to give him. *Edom* means red, reminding *Eisav* of the birthright that *Ya'akov* had "stolen" from him with red soup (*Siftei Kohen*).

2. (a) *Ya'akov* feared that *Eisav* would be able to harm him because: (1) *Eisav* had great merit from living in *Eretz Yisrael* for the previous 20 years, while *Ya'akov* was *chutz la-aretz*; (2) *Eisav* honored his father perfectly, while *Ya'akov* was away for 34 years (*Targum Yonatan*). (3) *Ya'akov* was spiritually lowered, being too busy tending *Lavan's* sheep to study *Torah*; (4) had sinned by marrying 2 sisters; (5) thought that perhaps *Hashem's* promise of protection extended only to him, not to his children; (6) thought he had sinned by sending messengers to *Eisav*; (7) was made fearful by the angels, so that he would pray to *Hashem*, who desires the prayers of *tzadikim* (*Bereishit Raba*). (8) did not know whether *Eisav* was coming for good or for evil (*Chizkuni*). (9) was fearful he would have to slay others in a battle with *Eisav* (*Rashi*). (10) thought *Yitzchak* would be angry with him if he slayed *Eisav* (*Medrash Tanchuma*). (11) thought that *Eisav's* coming to attack him meant that *Yitzchak* had died (*Da'at Zekeinim*). (b) *Ya'akov* hid *Dinah* in a box so that *Eisav* would not see her and try to marry her (*Rashi*). (c) *Esther Raba* says that the *Beit ha-Mikdash* was built in *Binyamin's* territory because *Binyamin*, who had not been born yet, was *Ya'akov's* only son who did not bow to *Eisav*; this indicates that the other 11 did bow to him (*Vilna Gaon*). (d) He should have let *Eisav* marry *Dinah*, who could have influenced *Eisav* to a path of goodness; (e) *Shechem* abducted her (*Rashi*). (f) To remind us that although *Eisav's* guardian angel inflicted pain on *Ya'akov*, *Ya'akov* prevailed. *Eisav's* offspring will inflict pain and suffering on *Ya'akov's* offspring, but during *yemot ha-Mashiach* (Messianic days), *Bnei Yisrael* will prevail over *Edom* (*Sefer ha-Chinuch – Mitzvah 3*).

3. (a) *Ya'akov* was talking about his descendants meeting *Eisav's* descendants in *Se'ir* during *yemot ha-Mashiach*, when *Bnei Yisrael* will go to *Har Se'ir* to judge *Bnei Eisav*, as stated in the *haftara*, *Ovadiah* 1:21 (*Rashi*). (b) When *Ya'akov* arrived in *Shechem*, he was *shalem* (whole), i.e., (1) physically whole; the limp caused by the angel was cured; (2) financially whole; *Hashem* repaid him for the gifts he had given *Eisav* – he lost nothing; (3) spiritually whole; he did not forget his *Torah* learning while living with *Lavan* (*Rashi*). (4) He arrived in the city named *Shalem*, ruled by *Shechem* (*Rashbam*). *Ya'akov* felt *shalem* (safe), believing that: (5) the people of *Shechem* would protect him from his enemies; (6) since he was close to *Yitzchak's* home, *Eisav* would not attack him; (7) the merit of being in *Eretz Canaan* would protect him (*Ramban*).

4. (a) (1) *Ya'akov* had felt pride when *Hashem* told him he would dominate the lower world; he was punished by the people of *Shechem* not respecting him; (2) he let *Dinah* explore outside his house in an immoral city; (3) when he told *Lavan* that the sheep gave birth to spotted lambs through his merit, he displayed pride; (4) he hid *Dinah* in a chest, so that *Eisav* would not see her and desire to marry her; (5) he delayed fulfilling the vow that he made in *Bereishit* 28:20; (b) (1) 15½ years old (*Bereishit Raba*). (2) 8 years and one month old (*R. Bechaya*). (3) 6 years old (*Pirkei de-Rebi Eliezer*). (c) *Ya'akov* thought that the men of *Shechem* would refuse circumcision and would release *Dinah*. If they did agree, he thought his sons would rescue her when the men were weakened; he was upset with *Shimon* and *Levi* for killing the men of *Shechem* without his approval (*Ramban*).

5. (a) (1) *Rivka* died at the same time, and people wept for both *Rivka* and *Devora*; (2) people cried for *Rivka* for 2 reasons: (i) in mourning for her death; and (ii) because she was not honored by having any *tzadik* present at her burial, since *Yitzchak* was blind and unable to leave his house and *Ya'akov* was away in *Sukkot*; (b) (1) When *Ya'akov* saw prophetically that *Beit Lechem* would be in *Yehuda's* territory, he buried *Rachel* near *Efrat*, which would be in her son *Binyamin's* territory (*Ramban*). (2) Since a woman who dies in childbirth, being covered with blood, must be buried immediately, *Ya'akov* did not wait (*Shabbat* 23b). (3) *Ya'akov* saw prophetically that *Bnei Yisrael* would pass along this road when *Nevuchadnetzar* took them into exile; they would be able to pray there that *Rachel* would intercede for them to ask for *Hashem's* protection (*Ohr ha-Chaim*).

6. (a) One of *Eisav's* wives was *Yishmael's* daughter *Busmat*; in 28:9, she is called *Machalat*, from the word *mehila* (forgiveness); *Chazal* learn that when *Eisav* married her, his previous sins were forgiven (*Rashi*). (b) The *Torah* commands *Bnei Yisrael* to annihilate the offspring of *Eisav's* grandson *Amaleik* (*Devarim* 25:18 – *Mitzvot* 603-605) but not to despise his other descendants (*Devarim* 23:8 – *Sefer ha-Chinuch Mitzvah* 563); the genealogy tells us to which people these *mitzvot* apply (*R. Bechaya*).

7. *Ovadiah* was a *geir* (convert) from *Edom*. Although he lived with the wicked *Achav* and *Izevel*, he followed *Hashem* and did not learn from their evil deeds. It is fitting that *Ovadiah* give prophecy about the descendants of *Eisav*, who, in contrast, lived with the righteous *Yitzchak* and *Rivka* but did not learn from their virtuous deeds (*Rashi*).