

## Destiny Fulfilled

According to Merriam-Webster, destiny implies *something fore-ordained and often suggests a great or noble course or end*. The dictionary definition for destiny is *a predetermined course of events often held to be an irresistible power or agency*. A lot of destinies are fulfilled at the end Genesis.

This week's *Parashah* is *Vayechi* [*"And Ya'akov lived..."* (Gen. 47:28)] and it concludes the book of *Genesis* (in Hebrew the name is *Bereshit*, which means literally, *In the Beginning*). Genesis has 50 chapters, 4 events, 4 people and 12 *Parashiot*. Do you remember the 4 events? (These are: *creation, fall, flood, and nations*). And who are the 4 people? (They are: *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph*). King Solomon said at the end of *Ecclesiastes* (in Hebrew *Kohelet*): *"<sup>13</sup>A final word, when all has been heard: Fear God and keep His mitzvot! For this applies to all mankind. <sup>14</sup>God will bring every deed into judgment, including everything that is hidden, whether it is good or evil"* (Eccl. 12:13-14). At the end of the *Book of Beginnings*, when times are tough, in the company of family, in a strange land, after experiencing *Yah's* promises, when he is tired, when he is old, after so many have died, in sickness and in health, *Jacob lived* (and *fulfilled his destiny*). Accordingly we should also live and *fulfill our destiny* in *Yah Adonai*.

The record of the life of Joseph also concludes in *Genesis*. We see that although Joseph spent a lot of time crying (Gen. 43:30; 45:1-2, 14-15; 46:29; 50:1, 17) he perseveres until the end. This is Joseph's blessing from his father Jacob on his deathbed; *"<sup>22</sup>A fruitful son is Joseph, a fruitful son beside a spring—daughters walk along a wall. <sup>23</sup>The archers were bitter and shot arrows and were hostile towards him. <sup>24</sup>Yet his bow was always filled, and his arms quick-moving—by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob. From there a Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, <sup>25</sup>from the God of your father who helps you, and Shaddai who blesses you, with blessings of heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of breasts and womb. <sup>26</sup>The blessings of your father surpassed the blessings of the ancient mountains, the desire of the everlasting hills. May they be upon Joseph's head, upon the crown of the one set apart from his brothers"* (Gen. 49:22-26).

Joseph's (יוסף) name means: *and He added*. Rachel eagerly anticipated a second son; hence she named her first son with a word that indicated: *"May the Lord add to me another son."* Thus, the name Joseph refers to *double fruitfulness*. As we read in this week's *Parashat*, Jacob adopted the two sons of Joseph {the entrance song today is entitled *HaMalach HaGo'el Oti, which is from Gen. 48:16*} and gave Joseph an additional portion above his brothers: *"<sup>21</sup>Then Israel said to Joseph, "Look, I am about to die. But God will be with you and will bring you back to the land of your fathers. <sup>22</sup>Now I myself give you one portion more than your brothers, that which I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and my bow"* (Gen. 48:21-22). After much suffering and disgrace while enduring afflictions, Joseph *fulfilled his destiny* with and through his sons. Though born from a Gentile mother and raised in Egypt as Egyptians, the sons will become *two of The tribes* that inherit property in the Promised Land. At the end of *Genesis* Joseph is indeed doubly fruitful through his seed. We see that Joseph also fulfilled his destiny.

What an amazing testimony before his brothers (BTW, our most significant testimony *IS before our family*) who did him much wrong and who are responsible for years in prison and untold hardship! But there is more. In Gen. 50:20 we see one of the most significant statements anyone could make about *Yah Adonai* and His plans for us: *"you yourselves planned evil against me. God planned it for good, in order to bring about what it is this day—to preserve the lives of many people (Gen. 50:20)"* (and we need to *engraft this phrase into our spirit*). We should repeat this phrase until we can quote it the same way we in *KS* quote Rev. 12:11— *you yourselves planned evil against me. But, God planned it for good*. Joseph had cried again in Gen. 50:17 when the brothers brought back the memories of the past: *"...Then Joseph wept when they*

*spoke to him...*" In our congregation many have experienced *extenuating and trying circumstances* (memories from the past). But we see that what Satan meant for evil, *Yah Adonai* will turn unto our good. And we know: *"<sup>28</sup>Now we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose" (Ro. 8:28) ... "focusing on Yeshua, the initiator and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame; and He has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:2).* Life is tough. Many people, not just believers, experience hardship, difficulties, suffering. But we have *Messiah Yeshua*. We should live our life (as our father Jacob and Joseph lived), even in our imperfect circumstances, in the fear and admonition of *Yah* and *fulfill our destiny*.

Another secular new year has just begun. Do you know that *Yah Adonai* has a special purpose for your life? Yes, you do have a purpose in *Yah Adonai*! Like *Yeshua* we must *endure our cross while disregarding its shame* so that we will *fulfill our destiny*. Set out, against all odds, to fulfill His calling upon your life. Let us build up fathers (parents) and their children and eliminate the potential curse (*Mal. 4:7*) upon *our corner of the world*. Let us strive to obey first and understand later whatsoever *Yah Adonai* has asked us to do. Let us resolve to seek Him and meditate in His Torah daily so whatever we do shall prosper. Let us *finish our course* and not become weary in well doing. Let us *"press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Messiah Yeshua."* *Genesis* is over so let us *chazak, chazak, venitchasek—be strong, be strong and be strengthened*. Let us purpose to be all He wants us to be, individually, and as His congregation. May He be pleased with us this year – the year of fulfillment. *Shabbat Shalom!*