

# Knesset Israel

## Your Beverlywood Shul

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### Parshat Vayigash

#### By Rabbi Avraham Scheffres

*Due to a misprint last week, we are republishing last week's Dvar Torah.*

Humankind once found paradise – the Garden of Eden – but then was expelled. Similarly, Eretz Yisrael is our land but galus (diaspora) is still a reality. How do we deal with galus? We can learn the answer from Yosef, who was the next in line for leadership of the Jews as we read in last week's parsha 'and these are the generations of Yaakov Yosef.....' (Beraishit 37:2). Yosef, who had no choice in coming into galus, decided to make the best of it until such time that Hashem would choose to end galus. We can learn about galus and about the way Yosef handled it in order to succeed as a Jew.

There are four lessons that we can learn through Yosef's actions and one characteristic that may not be so apparent but very important. First, galus has temptation. Yosef faced temptation with the wife of Potifar and recognized the challenge, yet did not give in to those temptations. We encounter temptations of all kinds and it is up to us to refuse them. Additionally, Yosef took action in order to keep his traditions for himself and his family. His children were well versed in Judaism as is apparent when Yosef's brothers came to Mitzraim (Egypt) for provisions. Moreover, Yosef, from the beginning of his success, is attributing all of the credit of interpreting dreams to Hashem: in jail with the wine server and butler when he says 'do not interpretations belong to Hashem' (ibid 40:8), and with interpreting Paroh's dreams when he says 'it is not me but Hashem will give an answer that will bring peace to Paroh' (ibid 41:16). It is of the outmost importance that we not only give credit to Hashem, but understand that He is an integral part of our lives. Finally, Yosef takes care of his brothers by providing them with the best he can offer. Taking care of our family and people is a beautiful gesture we may want to emulate.

The characteristic that may not be so apparent as a means to making it in galus is being a dreamer. Yosef is called baal hachalomot, the master of dreams, even by his own brothers (ibid 37:19). His career as a dreamer started in his youth, when he told his brothers about a dream and then included his parents when he relayed a similar dream (ibid 37:6-10). However, not only was Yosef a dreamer, he was an interpreter of dreams as well. This idea can be seen when Yosef was in jail and went in front of Paroh as mentioned above. It seems that dreams – having them and interpreting them – are a focal point in the success of Yosef in galus. It seems that it is in our interest to be dreamers even when we have a difficult time understanding what they are all about. Even Jewish sources are not entirely clear on dreams. On the one hand, the Talmud states that dreams are one-sixtieth of prophecy (Brachot 57b). Yet at the same time the Talmud writes that no dreams are without nonsense (ibid. 55a), and that the interpretation of a dream depends on the explanation given by the interpreter (ibid 55b). The Talmud does make clear, that any dream can have either a good or a bad interpretation, and it is at the mercy of the one who interprets it. Nonetheless, being a dreamer seems to be an important part of Yosef's journey and thus ours.

The leader who teaches us how to deal with galus, Yosef, is conveying to us that avoiding temptation, keeping traditions, realizing that all is from Hashem, and taking care of each other are imperative to our success. In addition, being a dreamer is an additional key component to visualizing a good future for ourselves, our children, and our nation.

Chanukah is a holiday of nisim, miracles, which are as illusive for us to understand as dreams. It is perhaps the illusiveness in these two elements that allow for a higher reach in our emunah, belief in Hashem. This may be the entire 'secret' of our people which is the belief in a G-d that does not need to be physical in order for us to believe. We can believe in Hashem, miracles, and dreams even if we can't quite seem to touch them.

We, at Knesset Israel have dreams as well. We would like to increase the base of 'minyanners' or regulars who come to daven with us. We thank the precious individuals and their families who give of their time, skills, and resources to the shul. If you are not a regular, we ask you to join us and enjoy nice services and great divrei Torah from Rabbi Weiner. Shabbat Shalom, Chag Chanukah Sameach, and looking forward to seeing you in shul.

### Shabbat Times

#### Erev Shabbat Dec 18, 2015 / 6 Tevet, 5776

Candle Lighting.....3:46 pm to 4:29 pm  
Mincha.....4:35 pm

#### Shabbat Day Dec 19, 2015 / 7 Tevet, 5776

Shacharit.....9:00 am  
Kiddush.....11:30 am  
Mincha.....4:25 pm  
Havdalah / Shabbat Ends.....5:30 pm

### Mazal Tov

Happy Birthday Ruth Tamar Partush! (Dec 19)  
Happy Birthday to Chana Partush! (Dec 22)  
Happy Anniversary Selwyn & Glynis Gerber! (Dec 22)

### Sefer Torah Repair Project

