

“and he lived”

Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face again, and look, God has let me see your offspring as well.”
Genesis 48:11



Vayechi means “and he lived”, from the root word CHAI, which means `LIFE! (Pictured (חי) in the heart above). Like with our foremother Sarah in “Life of Sarah”, the word “life” is used here to refer to the life of our forefather Jacob. He dies in this parsha and yet, he “lives” on through his righteous life and through the generations.

Jacob, who thought he might never see his son Joseph again, blesses not only all his sons — the twelve tribes of Israel —but also his grandsons. Grandchildren!! May we remember as we pray today how it is through the generations that we will see the continuation of the Torah! The blessings Jacob gives to his grandsons are the same blessings that families bless their sons today on every Shabbat (Genesis 48:20)!! Jacob says that this is how all Israel is to be blessed!

May the boys grow up to be like Ephraim and Manasseh! May the girls be like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. May God bless each in their unique way that He designed them to be!

We praise God for His one and only son whom He loves, Messiah Yeshua, who gathers us back to Him! He is the way, the truth and the LIFE! Le-chayim! (לַחַיִּים), To Life! And life everlasting in Yeshua!

Praise

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Psalm 127:3

May the LORD continually bless you from Zion. May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live. May you live to enjoy your grandchildren. May Israel have peace!

Psalm 128:5~6

For He established a testimony in Jacob and ordained Torah in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach their children, so that the next generation might know, even the children yet to be born: they will arise and tell their children. Then they will put their trust in God not forgetting the words of God but keeping His *mitzvot*. Psalm 78:5~6

Confession

Help us, God of our salvation —for the sake of the glory of Your Name. Deliver us, and atone for our sins— for Your name’s sake. Psalm 79:9

Thanksgiving

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah!

1Corinthians 15:57

Intercession

For I know the plans I have for, declares the LORD, plans to prosper and not to harm, plans to give a hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Make known to the path of life. May he/she know the abundance of joys that are in Your presence, the eternal pleasures at Your right hand. Psalm 16:11

For Your salvation waits, LORD! Genesis 49:18

May multiply to a multitude in the midst of the land (from Jacob's blessing to Joseph for his sons) Genesis 48:16c

For boys: May God make like Ephraim and like Manasseh. Genesis 49:20, Shabbat blessing for boys

For girls: May God make like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah Shabbat Blessing for girls

Though has not seen Him, loves Him. And even though doesn't see Him now, trusts Him and is filled with a joy that is glorious beyond words. 1Peter 1:8



Tribes of Israel map/illustration

Teachers

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You, who walk in the light of Your presence, LORD. Psalm 89:15

Schools

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. John 8:12

Congregation

Finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, tenderhearted, humble-minded. 1 Peter 3:8

Israel

Ascribe strength to God—His majesty is over Israel and His strength is in the skies. O God, You are awesome from Your holy places. The God of Israel gives strength and power to the people. Blessed be God! Psalm 68:35-36

Scatter the nations that delight in war! Psalm 68:31

There the tribes go up, the tribes of ADONAI— as a testimony to Israel — to praise the Name of ADONAI. For there thrones of judgement are set up, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem— may those who love you be at peace! May there be shalom within your walls— quietness within your palaces. For the sake of my brothers and friends, I now say “Shalom be within you. “ For the sake of the House of ADONAI our God, I will seek your good.

Psalm 122: 4~9

Blessing to go

Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD. Isaiah 2:5