

**VaYechi- ויחי - And He Lived**



**B'reishit / Genesis 47:28- 50:26**

The *parasha* Vayechi is the final portion of the first book of the Bible, *B'reishit / Genesis*. So we say, as is customary at the conclusion of the study of each book of the Torah.

**Chazak, chazak, ve'nitchazek! חזק חזק ונתחזק**  
 Be strong, be strong and let us strengthen each other!

The death of Jacob / *Ya'akov* is recorded. He is aware that it is the end of his earthly journey and he makes a solemn request of Yosef that he will bury him in the cave of *Machpelah* in Hebron / *Chevron* - חברון. His **grandfather** and **grandmother** / *Saba* and *Savta* - סבא וסבתא - Avraham and Sarah and his **parents**/ *horim* - הורים, Yitzchak and Rivka are all buried there.

Ya'akov then assembles his sons around his deathbed in order to **bless** them - *le'varech* - לברך - and to give them a  **blessing** / *bracha* - ברכה.

he blesses	<i>hu mevarech</i>	הוא מברך
she blesses	<i>hi mevarechet</i>	היא מברכת
they bless ( <i>m.pl</i> )	<i>hem mevar'chim</i>	הם מברכים
they bless ( <i>f.pl</i> )	<i>hen mevar'chot</i>	הן מברכות

In Jewish thought, to give a *bracha* is likened to placing a beautiful crown / *keter* - כתר or diadem / *atarah* - עתרה on a person's head. A wife is called "the crown of her husband" / *ateret ba'alah* - עתרת בעלה .

The Sages say we should bless G-d for His greatness and goodness a hundred times a day. The many customary blessings that help to do so all begin:  
 Blessed are You O Lord our G-d... *Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu* - ברוך אתא " אלוהינו

When we are blessing G-d in prayer and praise, we are crowning Him with many crowns!

The *Haftarah* is the portion read from the Prophets or Writings to accompany the *parasha*. The Hebrew Scriptures are called the **Tanach** (OT) **תנ"ך**, which is an acronym for **Torah**, **Nevi'im** and **Ketuvim** - Teaching, Prophets and Writings.

This week's *haftarah* is 1 Kings 2:1-12, which records the death of King David - מלך דוד. He had reigned for 40 years - in Hebron for 7 years and in Jerusalem for 33.

40 : *arba'im* - ארבעים

7 : *sheva* - שבע and 33 *shloshim ve'shalosh* - שלושים ושלוש

10	esser	עסר
20	esrim	עסרים
30	shloshim	שלושים
40	arba'im	ארבעים
50	chamishim	חמישים
60	shishim	שישים
70	shiv'im	שבעים
80	shmonim	שמונים
90	tishim	תשעים
100	mei'ah	מעה

Feminine when counting - but when qualifying nouns need to match the gender. E.g.,  
 25 bananas - *esrim ve'chamesh bananot* 25 busses - *esrim ve'chamisha autobussim*

### VOCABULARY - MILIM

strong	chazak	חזק
weak	chalash	חלש
blessing	bracha	ברכה
to bless	le'varech	לברך
diadem / crown	ateret / keter	עתרת / כתר
husband	baal	בעל
wife	isha	אישה
parents	horim	הורים

