

Parshat Toledot

Genesis Chapter 25:19-34

First Aliyah

¹⁹ This is the story of Isaac, son of Abraham. Abraham begot Isaac. ²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took to wife Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac pleaded with the Eternal on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Eternal responded to his plea, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² But the children struggled in her womb, and she said, “If so, why do I exist?” She went to inquire of the Eternal.

Second Aliyah

²³ And the Eternal answered her,
“Two nations are in your womb,
Two separate peoples shall issue from your for body;
One people shall be mightier than the other,
And the older shall serve the younger.”

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first one emerged red, like a hairy mantle all over; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Then his brother emerged, holding on to the heel of Esau; so they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born.

Third Aliyah

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the outdoors; but Jacob was a mild man who stayed in camp. ²⁸ Isaac favored Esau because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah favored Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the open, famished.

Fourth Aliyah

³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, “Give me some of that red stuff to gulp down, for I am famished—which is why he was named Edom. ³¹ Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” ³² And Esau said, “I am at the point of death, so of what use is my birthright to me?” ³³ But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Jacob then gave Esau bread and lentil stew; he ate and drank, and he rose and went away. Thus did Esau spurn the birthright.