

PARASHAT VAYISHLACH

Genesis 32:4–36:43

Vayishlach means “and he sent” and refers to Jacob sending messengers to his brother Esau before their meeting after twenty years of separation. We are told of Jacob’s fears, of his division of his community into two camps, and of his wrestling with a man-angel who changes Jacob’s name to Israel. Following that struggle, Jacob and Esau meet and part peacefully, each going his separate way. After Jacob and his community settle in Shechem, Dinah, the daughter of Leah and Jacob, is raped by Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite. Jacob’s sons take revenge by murdering all the males of Shechem and plundering the city. Jacob is critical of his sons for what they have done. Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin and is buried near Bethlehem. Isaac dies and is buried in Hebron near Abraham and Sarah. The Torah portion concludes with the genealogy of Jacob and Esau.
