**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

I was fired by the humility of Yehudah in the Nazarean Talmud translation: **Yehudah** ben David**, a servant of Yeshua the Messiah** King of Israel**, and brother of Ya’aqob ben David …**

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 29:32?

**and she named him Reuben** – What is the significance of his name?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 29:34?

**this time my husband will be attached** – Why did she have such confidence in this third son?

**Therefore** – What do we learn from the use of this word?

**He named him Levi** - [I wondered why] it is written concerning this one, “and he named,” while concerning all [the others], it is written, “and she named”.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 30:1?

**and Rachel envied her sister** – What did Rachel envy in her sister?

**Give me** – What did she expect from her husband?

**I am dead** – What do we learn from this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 30:2?

**Am I instead of God** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**Who has withheld from you** – Why did Yaaqob place the emphasis on Rachel?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 30:3?

**on my knees** – How are we to understand this pasuk?

**so that I, too, will be built up** - What is [the meaning of] “too”?

**so that I, too, will be built up from her** – What did she have in mind?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 30:10?

**And Zilpah...bore** – Why are we not told that she concieved before she bore?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 30:14?

**in the days of the wheat harvest** – What does this pasuk tell us?

**dudaim –** What is this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 30:15?

**that [you wish] also to take my son’s dudaim?** – Why is ‘taking’ mentioned?

**Therefore, he shall sleep with you tonight** – What is the meaning and implication of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 30:21?

**Dinah** – Why was she so named?

1. What determinate Halakhot are found in the Nazarean Talmud for the Sidra of B’resheet (Genesis) 29:31 – 30:21‎‎?

It is the duty of every Nazarean Jew to guard himself and his community against the subversives who would repudiate the validity of Halakhic norms established by Nazarean Hakhamim as they study and interpret the Torah norms for the sake of the community.

1. Why do the Sages take Ya’aqob to task regarding his angry answer to Rachel?

In Beresheet Rabba:[[1]](#footnote-1) "The Holy One, blessed be ‎He, said to Jacob, 'Is this the way to answer a woman ‎ who is oppressed by her barrenness? By your life! Your children are destined to stand before her son Joseph!' " ‎

1. How do we know that the Matriarchs used perfume to entice their partners, and to smell nice on the Sabbath?

Leah had done **in the customary way of women**, just ‎as it is written, *I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon*.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. What do we learn from our Matriarchs in their habit of perfuming the marital bed?

That sexual relations should leave one with a sense of pleasantness rather than a foul smell. Therefore we should customarily pefume our bed.

1. What is the importance of the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite?

It was the future site of the Holy of Holies and was to be a place of intimacy.

1. There are seven Sabbaths of Strengthening/Consolation and there are seven Paqidim (officers) in the congregation. Who of the seven officers is addressed this Shabbat by all the readings for this Sabbath?

Yesod – the female parnas.

1. What consolation/s (strengthening/s) are offered in the readings for this very special Sabbath?

**Yeshayahu (Isaiah) ‎60:3-4** And nations shall go by your light and kings by the brilliance of your shine. 4. Lift up your eyes all around and see, they all have gathered, they have come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be raised on [their] side.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?

Be careful to treat family and friends with compassion.

1. 71:10. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Proverbs 7:17. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)