

# VAYCHI

**GM** Yaakov Avinu was born in the land that was to become Eretz Yisrael. At age 63 he got the brachot which angered Eisav. He 'fled' to the Yeshiva of Eiver, where he learned for 14 years. At 77, he went to Charan to continue distancing himself from Eisav and to find a wife (wives) there. He remained in Chutz LaAretz for 20 years and returned to the Land at 97. Yosef was 6 years old at the time. Yosef was taken to Mitzrayim at age 17, when Yaakov was 108. 22 years later, Yaakov and family went down to Mitzrayim to be reunited with Yosef. Yaakov lived the last 17 years of his life in Egypt. Yaakov was brought back to the Land for burial, as we read in B'reishit 50:7 -

וַיַּעַל יוֹסֵף לְקַבֵּר אֶת-אָבִיו וַיַּעַל אִתּוֹ  
כָּל-עַבְדֵי פַרְעֹה וְקַנֵּי בֵיתוֹ  
וְכָל קַנֵּי אֶרֶץ-מִצְרָיִם:

*"Yosef headed north to bury his father, and with him went all of Pharaoh's courtiers who were his palace elders, as well as all the [other] elders of Egypt."*

Yaakov spent 37 of his 147 years outside of Eretz Yisrael, and/but he died in Chutz LaAretz and return to the Land posthumously. In somewhat of a contrast, we have his descendants poised at the threshold of Eretz Yisrael 193 years after

Yaakov 'returned', not after death, but as a new nation ready to put its Egyptian exile experience behind them and to LIVE in Eretz Yisrael. Bamidbar 34:17 is a GM (3523) to the above pasuk -

אֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-יִנְזְלוּ  
לָכֶם אֶת-הָאָרֶץ אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן  
וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן-נּוּן:

*"These are the names of the men who shall parcel out the land. [First, there shall be] Eliezer the kohen and Yehoshua son of Nun."*

It would be nice to say, and finally, Yaakov's children lived happily ever after in Eretz Yisrael. It would be nice, but we are still waiting, hoping, praying, and working towards that happily ever after.