

Lunch & Learn with the United Synagogue

Parashat Toledot

19th November 2020 / 3rd Kislev 5781

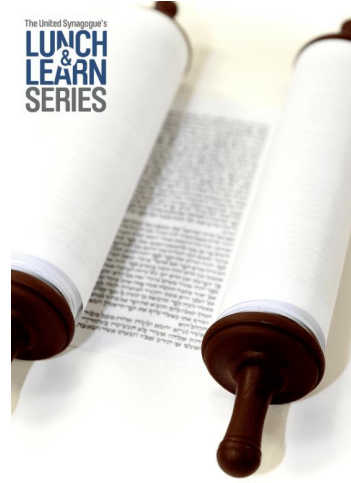
“The Cry of Esau”

Dedicated to

Martin & Sharon Kole z”l

Mordechai ben Binyamin & Sarah bat Ya’acov

ת' נ' צ' ב' ה'



Source 1 – Genesis 27:34

כְּשָׁמַע עֵשָׂו אֶת־דְּבַר־יְאֹבִיב וַיִּצְעַק צְעָקָה גְדֹלָה וּמְרָה עַד־מָאֵד וַיֹּאמֶר לְאָבִיו בְּרַכְנִי גַם־אֲנִי אָבִי:

When Esau heard his father’s words, **he burst into wild and bitter sobbing**, and said to his father, “Bless me too, Father!”

Source 2 – Book of Esther 4:1

וּמֶרְדֵּכַי יָדַע אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר נַעֲשְׂהָ וַיִּקְרַע מְרִדְכַי אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבַּשׁ שֵׁק וַאֲפֹר וַיֵּצֵא בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וַיִּצְעַק צְעָקָה גְדֹלָה וּמְרָה:

When Mordecai learned all that had happened, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes. He went through the city, **crying out loudly and bitterly**,

Source 3 – Midrash Bereshit Rabbah, Chapter 67

אָמַר רַבִּי חֲנִינָא כָּל מִי שֶׁהוּא אוֹמֵר שֶׁהַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא וְתָרַן הוּא יִתְּוֹתְרוֹן בְּנֵי מְעוּהִי, אֶלֶּא מֵאֲרִיף אִפִּיָּה וְגַבִּי דִּילִיָּה, צְעָקָה אַחַת הִזְעִיק יַעֲקֹב לַעֲשׂוֹ, דְּכַתִּיב: כְּשָׁמַע עֵשָׂו אֶת דְּבַר־יְאֹבִיב וַיִּצְעַק צְעָקָה, וְהִיכֵן נִפְרַע לוֹ בְּשׁוֹשֵׁן הַבִּירָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (אֶסְתֵּר ד, א): וַיִּצְעַק צְעָקָה גְדוֹלָה וּמְרָה עַד מָאֵד.

Whoever maintains that the Holy One Blessed be He is a foregoer (of His just claims), may he forego his life! He is merely long suffering, but ultimately collects his due. Jacob made Esau break out into a cry but once, but where was he punished for it? In Shushan the capital, as it says “And he cried out with a loud and bitter cry”.

Source 4 – Rashi comments on Psalms 80:6

הַאֲכַלְתֶּם לֶחֶם דַּמְעָה וְתִשְׁקֶמוּ בְּדַמְעוֹת שְׁלִישׁ:

You have fed them tears as their daily bread, made them drink great measures of tears.

וְתִשְׁקֶמוּ בְּדַמְעוֹת שְׁלִישׁ ... וּרְבוּתֵינוּ פִּירְשׁוּהוּ עַל ג' דַּמְעוֹת שֶׁהוּרִיד עֵשׂו שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר בּו (בְּרַאשִׁית כ"ז:ל"ד) וַיִּצְעַק צְעָקָה הָרִי אַחַת, גְּדוֹלָה הָרִי שְׁתַּיִם, וּמְרָה הָרִי שְׁלֹשׁ, וְעֲלֵיהֶם זָכָה לַחַיּוֹת עַל חֲרָבוֹ וְהָיָה כְּאִשֶׁר תִּרְיַד וְגו' (שם):

...And our Rabbis explained that the “threefold tears” [play on words with the word “Shalish”, meaning three] that Esau cried were measure for measure against the three expressions of “crying”.