



A New Understanding of *B'tzelem Elohim*: Biblical Text through the Lens of Disability Studies

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יט ואלה תולדות יצחק בן-אברהם אברהם הוליד את-יצחק: כ ויהי יצחק בן-ארבעים שנה בקחתו את-רבקה בת-בתואל הארמי מפדן ארם אחות לבן הארמי לו לאשה: כא ויעתר יצחק לה' לנכח אשתו כי עקרה הוא ויעתר לו ה' ותהר רבקה אשתו: כב ויתרצצו הבנים בקרבה ותאמר אם-כן למה זה אנכי ותלד לדרש את-ה': כג ויאמר ה' לה שני גינים [גוים] בבטןך ושני לאמים ממעך: יפרדו ולאס מלאם יאמץ ורב יעבד צעיר: כד וימלאו ימיה ללדת והנה תומם בבטנה: כה ויצא הראשון אדמוני כלו כאדרת שער ויקראו שמו עשו: כו ואחרי-כן יצא אחיו וידו אחזת בעקב עשו ויקרא שמו יעקב ויצחק בן-ששים שנה בלדת אתם: כז ויגדלו הנערים ויהי עשו איש ידע ציד איש שדה ויעקב איש תם ישב אהלים: כח ויאהב יצחק את-עשו כי-ציד בפיו ורבקה אהבת את-יעקב: כט ויגד יעקב נזיד ויבא עשו מן-השדה והוא עיף: ל ויאמר עשו אל-יעקב הלעיטני נא מן-האדם האדם הזה כי עיף אנכי על-כן קרא-שמו אדום: לא ויאמר יעקב מכרה כיום את-בכרתך לי: לב ויאמר עשו הנה אנכי הולך למות ולמה-זה לי בכרה: לג ויאמר יעקב השבעה לי כיום וישבע לו וימכר את-בכרתו ליעקב: לד ויעקב נתן לעשו לחם ויגיד עדשים ויאכל וישת ויקם וילך ויבז עשו את-הבכרה:

Genesis 25:19-34

19. And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son; Abraham fathered Isaac; 20. And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah for his wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Padan-Aram, the sister to Laban the Aramean. 21. And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22. And the children struggled together inside her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord. 23. (K) And the Lord said to her, Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples shall be separated from your bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. 24. And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25. And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. 26. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. 27. And the boys grew; and Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. 28. And Isaac loved Esau, because he ate of his venison; but Rebekah loved Jacob. 29. And Jacob cooked pottage; and Esau came from the field, and he was famished. 30. And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I beg you, with that same red pottage; for I am famished; therefore was his name called Edom. 31. And Jacob said, Sell me this day your birthright. 32. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point of death; and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33. And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore to him; and he sold his birthright to Jacob. 34. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way; thus Esau despised his birthright.

בראשית כו:לד - כז:ה

לד ויהי עשו בן-ארבעים שנה ויקח אשה את-יהודית בת-בארי החתי ואת-בשמת בת-אילן החתי: לה ותהיין. מרת רוח ליצחק ולרבקה: ס
א ויהי פי-זקן יצחק ותכהין. עיניו מראת ויקרא את-עשו | בנו הגדל ויאמר אליו בני ויאמר אליו הנני: ב ויאמר הנה נא זקנתי לא ידעתי יום מותי: ג ועתה שא-נא כליך תליך וקשתך וצא השדה וצודה לי צודה [ציד]: ד ועשה לי מטעמים כאשר אתבתי והביאה לי ואכלה בעבור תברכך נפשי בטרים אמות: ה ורבקה שמעת בדבר יצחק אל-עשו בנו וילך עשו השדה לצוד ציד להביא:

Genesis 26:34 - 27:5

34. And Esau was forty years old when he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; 35. And they made life bitter for Isaac and for Rebekah. 1. And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said to him, My son; and he said to him, Behold, here am I 2. And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death; 3. (K) Now therefore take, I beg you, your weapons, your quiver and your bow and go out to the field, and catch me some venison; 4. And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless you before I die. 5. And Rebekah heard when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it.

בראשית כז:מא

מא וישטם עשו את-יעקב על-הברכה אשר ברכו אביו ויאמר עשו בלבו יקרבו ימי אבלי אבי ואהרגה את-יעקב אחי:

Genesis 27:41

41. And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him; and Esau said in his heart, When the days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

בראשית כח:ו - ט

ו וירא עשו כי-ברך יצחק את-יעקב ושלח אתו פדנה ארם לקחת-לו משם אשה בברכו אתו ויצו עליו לאמור לא-תקח אשה מבנות כנען: ז וישמע יעקב אל-אביו ואל-אמו וילך פדנה ארם: ח וירא עשו כי רעות בנות כנען בעיני יצחק אביו: ט וילך עשו אל-ישמעאל ויקח את-מחלת | בת-ישמעאל בן-אברהם אחות נביות על-נשיו לו לאשה:

Genesis 28:6-9

6. When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padan-Aram, to take a wife from there; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, You shall not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; 7. And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padan-Aram; 8. And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; 9. Then went Esau to Ishmael, and took, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth, to be his wife.

בראשית לג

א וישא יעקב עיניו וירא והנה עשו בא ועמו ארבע מאות איש ויחץ את-הילדים על-לאה ועל-רחל ועל שתי השפחות: ב וישם את-השפחות ואת-ילדיהן ראשנה ואת-לאה וילדיה אחרנים ואת-רחל ואת-יוסף אחרנים: ג והוא עבר לפניהם וישתחו ארצה שבע פעמים עד-גשתו עד-אחיו: ד וירץ עשו לקראתו ויחבקהו ויפל על-צוארו וישקהו ויבכו: ה וישא את-עיניו וירא את-הנשים ואת-הילדים ויאמר מי-אלה לך ויאמר הילדים אשר-תנו א-להים את-עבדך: ו ותגשן השפחות הנה וילדיהן ותשתחוּן: ז ותגש גם-לאה וילדיה וישתחוּן ואחר נגש יוסף ורחל וישתחוּן: ח ויאמר מי לך כל-המחנה הנה אשר פגשתי ויאמר למצאתו בעיני אדני: ט ויאמר עשו יש-לי רב אחי יהי לך אשר-לך:

Genesis 33

1. And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children to Leah, and to Rachel, and to the two maidservants. 2. And he put the maidservants and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost. 3. And he passed over before them, and bowed to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. 4. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him; and they wept. 5. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with you? And he said, The children whom God has graciously given your servant. 6. Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and they bowed down. 7. And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves; and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed down. 8. And he said, What do you mean by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord. 9. And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep what you have to yourself.

תהילים כג

א מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד ה' רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר: ב בְּנֵאֲוֹת דָּשָׂא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מֵי מְנַחֲוֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי: ג נַפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבָב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ: ד גַּם כִּי־אֶלֶךְ בְּגִיא צַלְמוֹת לֹא־אֵירָא רָע כִּי־אֲתָה עִמָּדִי שִׁבְטֶךָ וּמִשְׁעֲנֵתֶךָ תִּמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי: ה תִּעְרָךְ לְפָנַי | שְׁלֹחַן נֶגֶד צַרְרֵי דִשְׁנֵת בְּשִׁמּוֹן רֵאשֵׁי כֹּוֹסֵי רוּיָה: ו אֵךְ טוֹב וַחֲסֹד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל־יְמֵי חַיֵּי וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית יְהוָה לְאָרְךָ יָמִים:

Psalm 23

1. A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2. God makes me lie down in green pastures; leads me beside still waters. 3. God restores my soul; leads me in the paths of righteousness for God's name's sake. 4. Even though I walk through the valley of deepest dark, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. 5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. 6. Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 18:10

תהילים יח:י

וַיִּטְ שָׁמַיִם וַיִּרְדַּ וַיִּעַרְפֹּל תַּחַת רַגְלָיו:

And God bowed the heavens, and came down; and darkness was under God's feet.

Psalm 97:2

תהילים צז:ב

עָנָן וַעֲרַפֵּל סְבִיבוֹ צֶדֶק וּמִשְׁפָּט מְכוֹן כְּסֵאוֹ:

Clouds and darkness are around God; righteousness and judgment are the foundation of God's throne.

Job 12:22

איוב יב:כב

מִגְלָה עֲמֻקוֹת מִנִּי־חֹשֶׁךְ וַיֵּצֵא לְאוֹר צַלְמוֹת:

God uncovers deep things from darkness, and brings out to light the deepest dark.