

## A SELECTION OF PICTURE BOOK TITLES AND COLLECTIONS OF BIBLE STORIES FOR THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS

## **BERESHEET**



Cohen, Deborah Bodin; illustrated by Melanie Hall. *The Seventh Day*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2005.

In this adaptation of the creation story, God creates desert canyons and riverbeds as a potter would, the leopard's spots and the zebra's stripes as a painter would, and the voices of laughter as a musician would.



Greene, Rhonda Gowler; illustrated by Anne Wilson. *The Beautiful World That God Made*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2002.

Presents a retelling of the Creation story, in which various features of the Earth and its inhabitants are praised for their beauty, splendor, and role in the beginning of the world.



Greengard, Alison; illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. *In the Beginning*. Albany, CA: EKS, 2000.

Beautifully illustrated with full color reproductions of silk paintings, *In the Beginning* is the first in a series of illustrated Bible stories. Written in both Hebrew and English, this book is a lovely way to introduce children to the simplicity and beauty of the first story in Genesis. Includes a word-for-word translation.



Hickman, Martha Whitmore; illustrated by Giuliano Ferri. *And God Created Squash: How the World Began*. Morton Grove, IL: A. Whitman, 1993.

As God thinks about light and darkness, water and land, plants and animals--and people--the world is created.



Ray, Jane. *Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

At the very beginning of the world the earth was a dry and dusty place, where nothing could live and nothing could grow. So God made a mist which watered the ground all over. Then with his great hands, he formed the first man of the clay of the newly watered earth. Jane Ray's beautiful version of the familiar story takes into account creation myths the world over.



Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg; illustrated by Joani Keller Rothenberg. *Cain and Abel: Finding the Fruits of Peace*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 2001.

In a world often hurt by violence, this retold biblical story gives children and adults a starting point for discussing anger and its effects on those around us. By harnessing the power we have to deal with our emotions in positive ways, we can once again cultivate the fruits of peace—and change the world for the better.



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Swartz, Nancy Sohn; illustrated by Melanie Hall. *In Our Image: God's First Creatures*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 1998.

In this playful new twist to the Genesis story, God asks all of nature to offer gifts to humankind—with the promise that the humans would care for creation in return.



Zalben, Jane Breskin. Light. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2007.

Inspired by a legend from the mystical Kabbalah, the author created this original story based on a sixteenth-century idea about why people were created: to find the sparks of light and bring them back together so that the world would be perfect.





Bartoletti, Susan Campbell; illustrated by Holly Meade. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011.

Naamah is the wife of Noah, and her name means "great singer." For forty days and forty nights, as the ark tosses on storm-wracked seas, Naamah sings. She sings to the animals, two by two. She sings to her husband, her sons, and their wives. She sings, and they all sleep, finally at peace.



Gerstein, Mordicai. *Noah and the Great Flood*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999.

Bold full-color illustrations capture the drama and struggle of this classic Bible story about Noah and his animals and their battle for survival against the great flood aboard their wooden ark.



Greengard, Alison; illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. *Noah's Ark*. Berkeley, CA: EKS, 2004.

Told simply in Hebrew and English, this familiar story is a hopeful reminder of God's promise to renew and sustain all of creation. Features full color reproductions of silk paintings.

Gadot, A. S.; illustrated by Cecilia Rebora. *Tower of Babel*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben, 2010.



When all the people in the world spoke one language, life was convenient but boring. So the townsfolk of Shinar decide to build a tower. As they reach the heavens, they proudly congratulate themselves on their achievement. Suddenly thunder and lightning strike, making the townsfolk unable to understand each other. A whimsical, irreverent retelling of the Bible story of the Tower of Babel.



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Greengard, Alison; illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. *The Tower of Babel*. Berkeley, CA: EKS, 2001.

A small but powerful story about people who shared a language and city and how they were dispersed throughout the world with separate languages and cultures. Features full-color reproductions of silk paintings and includes a word-for-word translation, glossary and transliteration.



Janisch, Heinz; translated by Rosemary Lanning; illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger. *Noah's Ark*. New York: North-South Books, 1997.

Faithful to the spirit and content of the Bible text, this version is graced with stylish and distinctive illustrations which are fanciful yet reverent.



Kuskin, Karla. *The Animals and the Ark*; illustrated by Michael Grejniec. New York: Atheneum, 2002.

Despite everything being in place for their journey aboard the ark, Noah is surprised when the animals quickly become bored with the adventure and soon finds himself adrift with a diverse ensemble of unhappy passengers making a collection of loud squeals, squawks, and moans.



Lewis, J. Patrick; illustrated by Reg Cartwright. *The Boat of Many Rooms*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997.

A series of poems of varying rhyme and rhythm are accompanied by bold illustrations and presents a new look at the story of Noah and the ark, complemented by an animated host of animal creatures.



Pinkney, Jerry. Noah's Ark. New York, NY SeaStar Books, 2002.

Retells the biblical story of the great flood and how Noah and his family faithfully responded to God's call to save life on earth.



Reid, Barbara. Fox Walked Alone. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 2009.

Usually Fox sleeps in the day and hunts alone at night, but today something strange is happening. Two by two, different animals pass by - mice and tortoises, leopards, wolves, and birds. Fox decides to follow along on this mysterious journey. It leads to a boat resting on a dusty plain - and to someone Fox never expected.



Singer, Isaac Bashevis; translated by Elizabeth Shub; illustrated by Eric Carle. *Why Noah Chose the Dove*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1983.

In this fresh and lively approach to the age-old account, Isaac Bashevis Singer sets down the dialogue of the animals as they vie with one another for a place on the Ark.



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Spier, Peter. Noah's Ark. New York: Dragonfly Books, 1977.

The story of Noah and his ark, his family, and all their many guests is here retold almost entirely in pictures of great charm and intricate detail. Winner of the Caldecott Medal, an ALA Notable Children's Book, and a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year.

### **LECH LECHA**



Jules, Jacqueline; illustrated by Natascia Ugliano. *Abraham's Search for God*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2007.

Who made the clouds? Abraham asks. "Who made the flowers?" Even as a child, he knows there must be something greater than idols of clay and stone. As he observes and questions the world around him, Abraham comes to the conclusion that there is one God. A creative midrash about the father of the world's religions.



Greengard, Alison; illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. *The Journey of Abraham and Sarah: Lech Lecha*. Berkeley, CA: EKS, 2004.

Lech Lecha is God's commandment to Abraham instructing him to leave his homeland. Abraham and Sarah, with only the reassurance that they will have descendants as numerous as the stars, embark on a journey into the unknown. This ancestral story is told using the language of the Hebrew Bible and includes an English translation.



Rosenfeld, Dina; illustrated by Ilene Winn-Lederer. *A Little Boy Named Avram*. Brooklyn, NY: Hachai, 1989.

The famous tale from the Midrash of how our forefather Abraham, at the early age of three, discovered the existence of the one, true God.





Gerstein, Mordicai. *The White Ram: A Story of Abraham and Isaac*. New York: Holiday House, 2006.

Made on the sixth day of Creation, a white ram waits patiently in the Garden of Eden. The other animals leave one by one, but the ram waits and waits until he is needed to fulfill God's will. Running to the aid of Abraham and Isaac, the ram must prevail over many temptations in order to save a child.

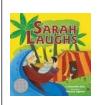


Grossblatt, Ruby M.; illustrated by Sara Kranz. *Who's That Sleeping on My Sofabed?* Brooklyn, NY: Hachai, 1999.

Yoni loves to sleep on his family's new sofa bed, but it seems that only visitors get a chance to use it. He eventually learns the mitzvah of *hachnosat orchim*, welcoming guests like Abraham and Sarah.



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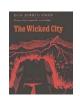
Jules, Jacqueline. Sarah Laughs. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2008.

Tells of the elderly Sarah who laughs in delight when she overhears three strangers tell her husband Abraham that he will soon become a father. When a son is born to her the following year she names him Isaac, which means laughter, and the world rejoices with her.



Kimmel, Eric A.; illustrated by Martina Peluso. *Joseph and the Sabbath Fish*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2011.

Joseph always welcomes guests to his Sabbath table, while his greedy neighbor Judah scoffs at Joseph's generosity. Even as his fortunes decline, Joseph's door remains open. But times change, and Judah turns to Joseph for help. A very special fish helps Joseph save the day.



Singer, Isaac Bashevis; illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher; translated by the author and Elizabeth Shub. *The Wicked City*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1972.

Retells the Biblical story of Abraham's nephew Lot, of Lot's wife and daughters, of the bargain Abraham tried to make with God, and of "the raging fire that descended from the sky."





Blanc, Esther Silverstein; illustrated by Tennessee Dixon. *Berchick*. Volcano, CA: Volcano Press, 1989.

Homesteading in Wyoming in the early 1900's, a Jewish mother develops an unusual relationship with a colt she adopts named Berchick. This title and another of the author's books, *Long Johns for a Small Chicken*, illustrate the theme of kindness to animals – which Rebecca exhibits in this *parasha*.



Greengard, Alison; illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. *Rebecca*. Albany, CA: EKS, 2002.

Rebecca, destined to become the matriarch of two mighty nations, is remembered for her generosity and compassion, as well as her beauty. In this volume, told simply in Hebrew and English, we are introduced to the young Rebecca who journeys to an unknown land to meet her betrothed, Isaac.



Renberg, Dalia Hardof; illustrated by Ruth Heller. *King Solomon and the Bee*. New York: Harper Collins, 1994.

A retelling of the traditional tale about a bee that repays King Solomon's kindness by helping him solve the Queen of Sheba's riddle. Another story of King Solomon's treatment of animals is *The Wisdom Bird: A Tale of Solomon and Sheba* retold by Sheldon Oberman and illustrated by Neil Waldman.



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Rosenfeld, Dina; illustrated by Ilene Winn-Lederer. *Kind Little Rivka*. Brooklyn, NY: Hachai, 1991.

This story highlights Rivka's acts of kindness to others, including ten very thirsty camels.

## **TOLDOT**



Auld, Mary; illustrated by Diana Mayo. *Jacob and Esau*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2000.

Retells the story of the relationship between two brothers and how one uses trickery to gain their father's blessing meant for the other.



Waldman, Neil. *The Two Brothers: A Legend of Jerusalem*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997.

After King Solomon notices the simple and selfless acts of kindness on the part of two brothers, a miracle occurs that leads to the building of the holy temple and ancient city of Jerusalem. This book along with another version of the story, *The Brothers' Promise* by Frances Harber and illustrated by Thor Wickstrom, offers a different model of fraternal relationships from that of Jacob and Esau.

### **VAYEITZEI**



Bang, Molly. *When Sophie Gets Angry--Really, Really Angry...* New York: Blue Sky, 1999.

A young girl is upset and doesn't know how to manage her anger but takes the time to cool off and regain her composure. This book can be used to discuss how angry Jacob felt when Laban tricked him into marrying Leah instead of Rachel.



Greengard, Alison; illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. *Jacob's Travels*. Oakland, CA: EKS, 2005.

This retelling of the story from Genesis is a reminder of God's constant presence in our lives. At a time when he feels most alone, this realization brings Jacob great comfort. In Hebrew and English.

## VAYISHLACH

See **TOLDOT** above.

### **VAYEISHEV**



Greengard, Alison; illustrated by Carol Racklin-Siegel. *Joseph the Dreamer*. Oakland, CA: EKS, 2008.

The themes of family love, ambition, jealousy, betrayal, and reconciliation are found in this retelling of the Joseph story in the original Hebrew, with a simplified English translation.



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Kassirer, Sue; illustrated by Danuta Jarecka. *Joseph and His Coat of Many Colors*. New York: Aladdin, 1997.

After being sold into slavery in Egypt by his jealous brothers, Joseph becomes an important man and is able to come to his family's rescue during a famine.



Koralek, Jenny; illustrated by Pauline Baynes. *The Coat of Many Colors*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

Retells the biblical story of Joseph and his father's gift in simple language.



Wildsmith, Brian. Joseph. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997.

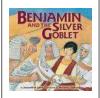
The tale of eleven brothers who sell their favored brother into slavery is illustrated with brilliant colors and fascinating details, vividly depicting the vast deserts of the land of Canaan and the lavish architecture of ancient Egypt.



Williams, Marcia. *Joseph and His Magnificent Coat of Many Colors*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 1990.

Using a colorful, comic-strip format, this entertaining retelling of the biblical story follows Joseph's adventures, from his father's gift of a magnificent coat, to his slavery in Egypt, to his rise to power and reconciliation with his family.

## **MIKETZ**



Jules, Jacqueline; illustrated by Natascia Ugliano. *Benjamin and the Silver Goblet*. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2009.

When drought comes to Canaan, Jacob's sons must travel to Egypt to look for food, and their brother Joseph, now governor of the land, wonders if his brothers have changed since the days they sold him into slavery, in a story about Joseph's test and the dramatic reunion of the brothers.

Also see **VAYEISHEV** above.

### **VAYIGASH**

See VAYEISHEV and MIKETZ above.

#### VAYECHI

Michelson, Richard; illustrated by Edel Rodriguez. *Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016.



In this biography of the late actor Leonard Nimoy, the iconic Spock from Star Trek, we learn that eight-year-old Leonard was fascinated by what he saw in *shul* during the priestly blessing. He practices what he witnessed the *Cohanim* doing with their fingers, later using this ancient Hebraic gesture as his character's Vulcan greeting. It is the custom for Jewish parents to bless their children on Friday evenings with this blessing, preceded for boys with the blessing Jacob gives to his grandsons Ephraim and Menasheh found in this *parasha*.



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## **BIBLE STORY COLLECTIONS**



Araten, Harry. Two by Two: Favorite Bible Stories. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben, 1991.

Presents popular one-page Bible stories in simple text and illustrations.



Frankel, Ellen; illustrated by Avi Katz. *JPS Illustrated Children's Bible*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2009.

Drawing on the 1985 JPS translation (NJPS) of the Hebrew Bible, an acclaimed storyteller and Jewish scholar presents an enticing selection of Bible stories that will both delight and educate today's young readers.



Hanft, Joshua; illustrated by Seymour Chwast. *Miracles of The Bible*. Maplewood, NJ: Blue Apple Books, 2007.

A visual celebration of the many miracles recounted in the Bible, brought together with fold-out illustrations.



Klein, Joyce. *The Shabbat Book: A Weekly Guide for The Whole Family*. Mevasseret Ziyyon: Scopus Films, 1997.

With a colorful page for each week of the Jewish calendar, *The Shabbat Book* is designed to integrate the weekly Torah portion with the ideas, traditions and customs of the Sabbath.



Kolatch, Alfred J.: illustrated by Harry Araten. *Classic Bible Stories for Jewish Children*. Middle Village, NY: Jonathan David, 1994.

Retold in conversational prose, the memorable Bible stories included in this collection are easy to read yet capture the flavor and excitement of the original narrative.



Zeldis, Yona; illustrated by Malcah Zeldis. *Eve and Her Sisters: Women of the Old Testament*. New York: Greenwillow Books. 1994.

Here are fourteen women of the Bible – wives, mothers, and daughters, but also prophets and judges, warriors and queens – whose names and deeds echo through history.



Zeldis, Yona; illustrated by Malcah Zeldis. *God Sent a Rainbow and Other Bible Stories*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1997.

Presents a series of stories from the Torah, including God's creation of the world, Noah and the ark, the sacrifice of Isaac, Joseph and his brothers, and the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses.