**OHH! Vayigash - “And He Approached”**

**Introduction**:

Hebrew letter:

* כּ - chaf - 20
* Meanings: palm, spoon, crown, bent, container

Hebrew names/words and meanings:

* Teshuvah = repentance
* Tzaddik = righteous

History:

* Ezra the scribe (Ezra HaSofer):
  + Led the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael) after the Babylonian Exile (423-353 BCE).
  + He oversaw the building of the 2nd Temple.
  + He canonized the 24 books of the Old Testament.
  + He formalized prayer.
  + He was a prolific writer and authored 2 books of the Old Testament: Chronicles and Ezra. However, Hebrew tradition says he also wrote the book of Malachi.
  + He wrote a Torah Scroll manuscript that could be used as a “template” to check other Torah scrolls for accuracy.
  + He left a strong imprint on Judaism.
  + He passed away on the 9th of Tevet in the year 3448 from creation (313 BCE) exactly 1000 years after God gave the Torah on Mount Sinai.
* Paul, the Apostle, was from the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5).

Fun Factoid:

* In Israel, breakfast is served with a salad!

**Body**:

Torah Portion summation (Genesis 44:18-47:27):

* Judah Speaks for His Brothers
* Joseph Reveals His Identity
* Pharaoh Invites Jacob to Egypt
* Jacob’s Journey to Egypt
* Jacob’s Family Arrives in Goshen
* Jacob Blesses Pharaoh

Torah Portion Themes:

* Forgiveness
* Reconciliation

**Conclusion**:

So What?!! Application section:

1. How old was Benjamin in Genesis 44? Why was he referred to as “a lad” or “a little child”?
2. Could the loss of Judah’s two sons (Genesis 38:6-11) have caused him to empathize with his father, Jacob, leading him to offer his own life in place of Benjamin?
3. How does Ezekiel 37 and the two sticks compare to the meeting of the brothers in Genesis?