**OHH! Vayetzei – “And He Went Out”**

**Introduction**:

Hebrew letter:

* ז – Zayin – 7
* Meaning: Crown, Perfection, Completeness, Nourishment, Sustain,

Weapon, Sword, Knife, Spirits of Adonai

Hebrew names and meanings:

* Ya’akov = Jacob = "may God protect”, to follow, to be behind, to seize by the heel, to watch, to guard, to protect, to supplant, to overreach.

Hebrew Words:

* Hodaya = thanksgiving
* Hodu = turkey
* Bethel = House of God

History:

* Sukkot, a festival that celebrates the fall harvest, may have been the influence that led to America’s Thanksgiving.
  + Scholars believe there are strong connections between Judaism and Thanksgiving.
  + The Pilgrims and Puritan settlers were very familiar with the Hebrew Bible and strongly identified with Jewish traditions and customs possibly causing them to model their thanksgiving celebration after the feast of Sukkot.
  + The Hebrew word for Thanksgiving (hodaya) is very similar to the Hebrew word for Turkey (hodu).

Fun Factoid:

* A Jewish businessman, named James Lazarus, Jr. (the chairman of the organization that eventually became Macy’s), helped change the date of Thanksgiving (from the last Thursday of November to the third Thursday of November) by convincing President Roosevelt that the change would help the nation’s retailers prosper during the Christmas season.

Culture:

* Examples of the importance of the number 7 in Jewish culture:
  + Tefillin are wrapped around the arm 7 times.
  + Jewish people sit Shiva for 7 days.
  + In Jewish Marriages, the Bride Circles the Groom 7 Times.

**Body**:

Torah Portion summation (Genesis 28:10-32:3):

* Jacob Has a Dream at Bethel
* Jacob Arrives at Paddan Aram
* Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel
* Jacob Becomes the Father of Many Children
* Jacob Becomes the Owner of Large Flocks
* Jacob Runs Away from Laban
* Laban Chases Jacob
* Jacob Gets Ready to Meet Esau

Torah Portion Theme:

* Exile

**Conclusion**:

So What?!! Application section:

1. When Jacob left Beersheba and went towards Haran, which way was he going? Why is this important?
2. Why did Rachel steal her father’s idols?