

Igbo Torah Thoughts

Parashah #11 Vayigash “And Came Near”

Gen. 44:18-47:27, Ezk. 37:15-28

Rabbi Yehudah “Tochukwu” ben Shomeyr

And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly. – Gen. 47:27

Igbos, like Jews can be found all over the globe. Wherever they go outside their homeland they, being a chosen people by God and having an unbreakable entrepreneurial spirit, thrive in their place of diaspora and seeing as Igbos are Hebrews, through Gas and various other Israeli tribes of Israel, the same principle holds true.

It is said if there is a place in which an Igbo is not found, it therefore must be uninhabitable or not a good enough place for a human being to dwell.

Igbos have a strong presence and community in Europe, North and South America as well as other African Countries.

Igbos have found their place of fame and recognition in Hollywood with the likes of Chiwetel Ejiofor, Forrest Whitaker and Blair Underwood. In ministry with T.D. Jakes and in sports with NFL’s Victor Abiamiri, Emeka Okafor, Ike Nwankwo. In Boxing with such folks as Dick Tiger, Emmanuel Nwodo and Friday Ahunaya. Igbos also thrive in music with such musicians such as Nneka and models like Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, authors such as, the late Prof. Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda

Ngozi Adichi and Oluadah Equiano. These names simply scratch the surface of all the famous Igbos in various fields and professions. There are too many Igbos to name that are successful businessmen, scientists, and politicians. Igbos, like Jews bloom where they are planted, find success and enjoy the blessings of Chukwu Abiama (the God of Abraham).

The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all. Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore. – Ezk. 37:15-28

This passage speaks of a coming day when the Jewish staff of Judah and the staff representing the lost tribes of Israel which include the Igbos, will be recognized and united into one whole staff before Messiah returns to rule and reign.

SHABBAT SHALOM! IGBO KWENU!

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