



The Beginning

Lesson 19: Jacob Goes To Egypt

(Genesis 46:1-47:26)

After Jacob was convinced that Joseph was alive in the land of Egypt, Jacob journeyed to Egypt. He took all his family and all that he had in order that he might live in Egypt and all his family could survive the famine. As he traveled, he came to Beersheba and offered sacrifices to God. Then, God spoke to him in visions during the night.

God called out to Jacob and Jacob said, “Here I am” (Genesis 46:2). God said that He was the God of Jacob’s father, Isaac, and that Jacob should not fear going down to Egypt. Then, God also promised Israel (Jacob) that He would bring Jacob back up from Egypt to Canaan. This promise would be kept in two ways. First, Jacob’s body would be brought back to Canaan to be buried. Second, Jacob’s children would also be brought out of the land of Egypt and back to Canaan later. So, Jacob was not to fear going to Egypt. God would keep all the promises that had been made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Having this promise, Jacob went from Beersheba to Egypt. His sons carried Jacob, their little children, and their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to bring them to Egypt. They also brought all the animals and possessions they had gained in the land of Canaan with them. “And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.” (Genesis 46:27).

Whenever they were getting closer, Jacob sent Judah to go ahead of them to Joseph so they would know how to get to Goshen (part of the land of Egypt). Joseph made his chariot ready and went up to Goshen to meet his father. When he saw his father and showed himself to him, he fell on his father’s neck and cried for a good while. Then, Jacob said that he could now die because he had finally seen Joseph’s face again and knew that he was alive!

Joseph told his family that he would go to Pharaoh and tell him they had arrived in Egypt and that they were shepherds and brought their flocks with them (and everything they had). Since shepherds were hated by the Egyptians, this would

help the Israelite people remain separate from the Egyptians. And, when Joseph told Pharaoh these things, he took five men from his family and presented them to Pharaoh.

When Pharaoh asked what they did to make a living, they told him that they were shepherds and had come to Egypt to find pasture for their flocks because of the bad famine that was in the land of Canaan. So, Pharaoh told Joseph to give his family the best of the land of Egypt and to let them live in Goshen. And, if there were any good keepers of livestock in Joseph's family, Pharaoh wanted them to be put in charge of his livestock. So, Joseph brought his father before Pharaoh and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Then, Joseph's family lived in Goshen and enjoyed the best of the land, while Joseph provided for them all during the famine by giving them bread to eat.

Joseph continued to work for Pharaoh in Egypt throughout the famine. There was no bread in Egypt or in Canaan and people came to Egypt in search of food. But, they soon ran out of money. When they had no money, they sold Joseph all their animals so that they could have bread. Then, whenever all their money and animals were gone, they sold themselves and their lands. So, Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh during this famine, except the land of the priests. The people were moved to Egypt and given seed to work in the fields. And, whenever they would harvest anything, they were required to give Pharaoh one-fifth of what was collected. Therefore, Joseph saved the lives of all these people!

As the Israelites lived in Goshen, they gained even more possessions and the family grew very large. Jacob was 130 years old when he came to Egypt and lived 17 years there. Then, whenever Jacob was about to die he called Joseph to him and wanted him to promise that he would not be buried in Egypt. Instead, he wanted to be buried with his fathers. So, Joseph made this promise to his father.

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Study Questions:

1) Who went to Egypt? What did they take?

2) What did God promise Jacob?

3) What did Joseph do whenever he met his father?

4) What did Jacob say whenever he saw Joseph?

5) Where did Pharaoh allow the Israelites to live?

6) How did Joseph save the Israelites during the famine?

7) How did Joseph save others from Egypt and Canaan during the famine?

8) What did Jacob want Joseph to promise him?

Memory Verse:

“So, He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.”
(Genesis 46:3-4).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: