

Genesis 46-48

Worldview: God is Faithful

Part 1: Relocation (46:1-27)

1. Jacob travels to Beersheba to offer sacrifices.
2. God assures Jacob that He will be with him in his journey.
3. Jacob and his descendants – not including his son’s wives – were 66.
4. Including Joseph and his two sons make that total 70.

Questions:

1. **What is significant about Jacob’s travel to Beersheba?**
2. **What promise does God reiterate to Jacob?**
3. **How great a nation did Israel become in Egypt? (see Exodus 12:37)**

Part 2: Family Reunion (46:28-34)

1. Jacob and Joseph are reunited
2. Joseph tells his brothers his plan concerning notifying Pharaoh that they have arrived.
3. He tells them to tell Pharaoh that their occupation is shepherd, so that they may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.

Questions:

1. **How old is Joseph at his reunion with his father? How long has it been since he’s seen him?**
2. **What is the significance of Joseph’s telling his brothers to say they are shepherd?**

Part 3: The Best of the Land (47:1-26)

1. Joseph brings 5 of his brothers and presents them to Pharaoh.
2. His brothers explain they are shepherds and need pasture for their flocks.
3. Pharaoh addresses Joseph and tells him to allow them to settle in the land of Goshen, and if there are able men among them, put them in charge of Pharaoh’s livestock.
4. Joseph then presents Jacob to Pharaoh, and Pharaoh asks him his age.
5. Jacob responds by saying “Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life” – he is 130 years old.
6. Joseph settled his father and brothers “in the best of the land” and provided them with food.
7. In the last 2 years of famine, Joseph collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan in exchange for food.
8. When the Egyptians ran out of money, Joseph exchanged food for livestock.
9. In the last year of famine, the Egyptians ran out of livestock, so Joseph made all the people servants.
10. The priests of Egypt had a fixed allowance, so they were unaffected.
11. A statute was adopted during this time that “Pharaoh should have the 1/5th”

Questions:

1. **Consider all that has happened to Joseph and the end result for his family.**
2. **Contrast that with the outcome for Pharaoh’s own people.**

Part 4: Do Not Bury Me in Egypt (47:27-48:22)

1. Jacob lives in Egypt for 17 years and nears death.
2. He asks Joseph to put his hand under his thigh and swear an oath that Joseph not bury him in Egypt.
3. Soon after, Jacob becomes ill and Joseph goes to him with his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
4. Jacob recalls the promises God gave him at Luz in the land of Canaan: "Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession."
5. Jacob declares that Ephraim and Manasseh are his sons – just as Reuben and Simeon.
6. Jacob asks who Joseph's sons are, and Joseph brings them close, as Jacob's eyes were "dim with age, so that he could not see."
7. Joseph positions his sons in front of Jacob for their blessing in firstborn order – the oldest – Manasseh – on Jacob's right.
8. But when Jacob blesses them, he crosses his hands which upsets Joseph.
9. But when Joseph goes to move his hands, his father refuses saying the younger brother will be greater than the older brother.
10. Jacob says to Joseph: "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers."

Questions:

1. **Considering what you know about the 12 tribes of Israel, what is the significance of Jacob's adoption of Ephraim and Manasseh?**
2. **Considering Israel was blind and had never met Ephraim and Manasseh, how did he know to switch hands?**

Next Week: Genesis 49-50