

Genesis: God and Man

The Way to Goshen

Genesis 46-47

Previously:

- Joseph second only to Pharaoh
- Brothers go once to get grain, Simeon kept in Egypt. Told to bring Benjamin.
- Their money returned, their hearts failed them.
- Return at the last possible moment
- Feast with him, Made merry
- Sacks filled, money returned again, Joseph's cup in Benjamin's sack
- Servant pursues them
- Pledge death and slavery
- Judah steps up and lays his life down for Benjamin
- Joseph breaks down, reunited at last
- Forgiveness.
- Pharaoh's invite to Goshen
- Sent back with the riches of Egypt to bring their families to live in Egypt

Are you alone? Do you maybe just feel that way?

Do you not know why something is happening?

Is your provision dried up?

Have you sold things, made compromises you never thought you'd have to make, maybe just to survive?

46:1-7 (God speaks to Jacob again)

Jacob moves to Egypt. Everything is packed and they head out.

Jacob offers sacrifices in Beersheeba. God of his father, Isaac...maybe Jacob/Israel had been feeling distant from God, abandoned with all that happened with Rachel, Joseph, the famine, and now his boys. But he was returning to worshipping God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Beersheba - well of the sevenfold oath, southern edge of Israel

Hagar and Ishmael fled through this area

Abraham and Abimelech made a peace treaty there - fighting over wells

Abraham had planted a grove here

Isaac made a peace deal with Abimelech here

It's so often we fight over the same source of provision. It's the cause for many wars, political problems, but even sadly, problems in the church. We do not need to fight over our source of life Jesus. He will always fill all of our cups to overflowing.

I love that God calls Jacob Israel and his new name is apparent when he's going in the way the Lord wants him to go.

"Here am I" when God calls, this is what we should say. What his servants say naturally. Samuel.

Fear not Jacob was afraid. Wouldn't you or I be? Such economic and physical trial in the land. Moving to a far away foreign land, not knowing, what about God's promises to inherit the promised land? This seems like the very opposite, leaving it.

Reminded that God will make of him a great nation and that God will go down with him there. Egypt was a godless place, but God would go with them and be there with them.

Maybe Jacob's eyesight was going as well, like his father's. Joseph will put his hand on your eyes. You'll see him again.

How important it is to worship God and hear from him before we do anything major. Before we actually set out. Before we actually go.

He'll quell our fears and encourage us and confirm that it's him, or he'll show us it's not the right way to go.

The sons of Israel I'm so glad to have my boys. But these sons are now caring for their dad like they should. He's old and they will take care of him.

It must have been something to move to this foreign land. The most powerful nation at the time. In wagons provided by the king himself.

God provided for their move into Egypt using the wealth of Egypt
God provided for their Exodus out of Egypt using the wealth of Egypt

"Where God guides God provides" it's been said. And sometimes it takes years of famine, trouble, and doubt for us to finally arrive at the bus stop so to speak. God had to set up a lot for them to go there. Without Joseph it wouldn't have happened and they likely would have died in the famine.

[Psa 68:6 NKJV] 6 God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry [land].

Everybody went. The family was intact. Their remaining goods and cattle were still with them. Nothing was lost.

[Pro 10:22 KJV] 22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

NET God settles those who have been deserted in their own homes;

Joseph had been deserted in his own home. But God settled him in an ever greater way.

Things happen to us for a reason. Patterns of evens - dreams, coat, pit, sold,, in charge, falsely accused, prison, in charge, dreams, forgotten, exalted, in charge, in the final place to provide for his family.

Things in my life. In your life.

Losing things. Some people sin and make more friends, but maybe you and I sin and lost friends because of God's favor. You and I were destined for much more. Maybe God has let you be solitary because he has planned for you to be holy, to be separated unto him. We look at things backwards sometimes. It's not God casting us off when others do, but it's God drawing us nearer. Setting us up for something spiritually greater.

:8-28 (genealogy)

Sons of Jacob's sons. The beginning of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (he lost two sons - maybe God used that to change his heart), Issachar, Zebulun, Dinah, Gad, Asher, Joseph, Benjamin

We do see Benjamin had sons so he was still treated like the precious baby of the family but he was clearly a grown man with a large family.

33+16+14+7=70 + Jacob's wives

Quite the family. Quite the journey to get to this point.

Judah sent ahead, again taking a leadership role that Reuben seems to have let happen in life

Being firstborn, or whatever our position in the family, it is our duty to take the spiritual lead if the spiritual leader is not

Praise should always go before us into anything. Sent the praise band ahead in battle.

Judah to get ahead of them, let Joseph know they're there that they might get into Goshen easily. Sort of how on vacation I get out first and go check in to the hotel before bringing the whole crew and luggage in while Ash gets the kids ready to go in.

Goshen = "drawing near"

a region in northern Egypt, east of the lower Nile, where the children of Israel lived from the time of Joseph to the time of Moses

:29-34 (Arrival at Joseph, Joseph's instructions)

Joseph made ready his chariot

He wasn't waiting for his dad to arrive, he was going out to meet him.

He presented himself to him. What a reunion. Hugged and wept a good while.

"Fell on his neck" can we use that instead of hug?

Imagine seeing your little boy, after all these years, whom you thought dead...now a grown man, in charge of the day-to-day of an entire nation. Wearing the finest suit, showing up in the nicest car, and knowing that you're there to live with him for the rest of your days. That your family is safe from the famine. That's all behind you now. That there's forgiveness and favor and riches at your disposal.

It sounds a lot like Heaven, doesn't it?

Israel/Jacob, still a codgity old man, "now let me die"

He held on to see Joseph. That's all he wanted in life was to see Joseph again, and now he had. So he could die in his mind. But a lot like before, a lot like Isaac with Jacob and Esau, he wasn't going to die yet.

We really don't know how long we have in life. Don't take it for granted, but don't sell yourself short. You just may have more than enough time left to see God do amazing things in and through and for you.

Being coached on what to say to Pharaoh. Joseph worried about his family's heritage and possibly not being able to go to Goshen if Pharaoh thinks they're undesirable. The Egyptians didn't like the people of the back country, shepherding. Almost somehow how the upper echelons of our society look down on blue collar work or farmers like country bumpkins. Not the case. In my almost 20 years experience in the world, I've seen a lot of capable people in high places, but I've also seen quite a few that might think farmers weren't smart but any farmer or tradesman could run circles around as far as actual talent and intelligence.

47:1-12 (Going before Pharaoh)

Joseph goes to Pharaoh with five men from among his family to present to Pharaoh

(probably the most well-spoken, better looking) choose your cards wisely so-to-speak. Best foot forward.

Pharaoh asks, they say shepherds

What do you think Joseph's face looked like at that moment?

Pharaoh doesn't seem to flinch. Turns to Joseph, and I think because of his respect for Joseph and perhaps a personal liking for the man and how he interpreted his dreams and has cared for Egypt and kept Pharaoh in power, makes sure that Joseph's family is well taken care of.

Favor.

They can dwell in the best of the land, in Goshen.

And Pharaoh says if anyone is competent (probably thinking if Joseph is this wise, perhaps he also has some wise brothers and nephews) put them in charge of my things. Give them a chief job.

Jacob brought in

Pharaoh says "How old are you?"

Jacob might look pretty old. It can be hard to tell how old someone is who has worked their whole lives outdoors or had a hard life.

Jacob again still salty when he goes before Pharaoh

I'm 130 and the days of my life have been short and evil. Jacob feels like he hasn't lived up to the lives of Abraham and Isaac. "Days of their pilgrimage" probably talking of their journey from Ur down but also that he knows this life is just a pilgrimage

[1Ch 29:15 KJV] 15 For we [are] strangers before thee, and sojourners, as [were] all our fathers: our days on the earth [are] as a shadow, and [there is] none abiding.

[1Pe 2:11 KJV] 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech [you] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;.

This life isn't it.

But Jacob's life he says has been full of evil. Probably thinking of all the trouble with Esau as a kid, lying to his dad, on the run, in Laban's house and the trouble there, being tricked there, coming back and dealing with Esau and with the people of the land, Dinah, Rachel dying, Joseph's "death," sons lying to him for all of those years, now famine

Jacob blessed Pharaoh. I wonder how that went.

Joseph dishes out more food of the land for them in accordance to their number. **Rations.** The Egyptians were living on rations as well at this time. Remember the land was hurting severely and the famine was far from over.

Joseph was their sole provider now.

:13-26 (money fails, 20% to pharaoh)

All the wealth was in Pharaoh's hand. People had spent everything to get bread and the famine still wasn't over.

The money is worthless. Hyper inflation. Economic collapse.

Germany after the war, wheelbarrows of Deutschmarks, African money worthless overnight. The paper we have, the digits in our electronic accounts, what is it really?

It has no intrinsic value. Gold and silver might fare better, but in the end, you can't eat gold and silver (although some rich do now).

Now trading livestock for food. Only lasts another year. (3-4 years in now?)

Next year...now there's no more livestock. Out of money. Out of anything worth money. "We will not hide the fact we're broke" Sell themselves into slavery.

This is why I worry about being overly dependent on the government. Soon the government's money will be worthless and we'll have given over all of our possessions and freedoms and rights and we'll effectively be slaves keeping the government afloat - which is Communism. And it always crushes the people.

But in Egypt, there was a severe famine unlike any the world had seen. But still, I don't know that selling yourself to the government to live is the answer.

They sold their fields. Worthless in a sense now, but when the famine is over, they'll be budding again. Pharaoh moved them into cities. Reminds me of the ghettos in Nazi Germany. Although I know this situation is different. It's scary when the government has that much control over the people.

Pharaoh now owns everything. Total power. The priests were under rations from Pharaoh. Joseph's wife was the daughter of an Egyptian priest.

Bought them and their land, now take seed and work the land for Pharaoh.

Going back to work their own lands but not for themselves anymore. Obviously something was still growing. Why did they not buy seed instead of bread?

20% to Pharaoh, 80% for yourself. Not a bad deal given that Pharaoh owns everything.

How much tax do you and I pay today? Roughly 30% plus state and local taxes. The Egyptians were straight up slaves and only taxed 20%. God only asks for 10% and we balk at that but when a politician promises “free” healthcare, student debt forgiveness, retirement, we sign up right away...but it’s not free. It’s not managed well. And it always fails. And then they tax us some more. So I ask, who really owns what you or I own? Probably the bank. And at the end of the day, probably the government. If some politicians this year get their way, you and I could be paying up to 60% tax. And you know they won’t stop there. The goal is 100%. Total government because we the people aren’t capable of taking care of ourselves. And if that’s the case, then who elected the government but incapable people electing even more incapable people.

:27-31 (Jacob lives another seventeen years, keeps thinking he’s about to die and has plenty of time left)

They lived in Goshen and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

Pretty amazing, let alone being planted there in a famine.

Jacob lived 17 more years. 147. He thought he was ready to die, but definitely not.

Asks Joseph to pledge to not let him be buried in Egypt. His heart was in the promised land. This is how we’re to be. Our heart in heaven, not in this world.

Joseph agrees. Joseph at his death wants to be carried out as well, and when the Israelites do leave 400 years later, they leave with his bones.

But Israel doesn’t die just yet, but soon. More on the last days of Jacob in the next two chapters.

Where are you now?

Is it feast? Is it famine?

Do you feel alone or abandoned?

Know that God truly has a plan to provide for you in it and through it. And that perhaps we don’t see the big picture, or even, we’re missing out on that God has allowed this solitary time because He’s drawing you near to himself and setting you apart for greater things.