

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Chapter 46 & 47 Study Guide

August 22, 2004

Genesis 46

1. EXEGESIS & PICTURES OF CHRIST

We begin with a positive – notice it is Israel not Jacob that God summons. Names are important in the scriptures and Jacob is one of the many that had his name changed by God, but with Jacob the new name doesn't always stick. More times than not when Jacob is walking in his old nature God refers to him as Jacob; but when he is walking in his new nature it is Israel.

God calls out emphatically twice, no doubt giving a sense of urgency.

Small Groups Question

1. Where else in the Scriptures do we see this calling of a name twice?

Israel must have had his doubts about Egypt but God speaks clearly to the patriarch that the time had come for Israel to begin the transition from an individual to a nation and the land of Egypt is where the pregnancy would bring forth the birth.

Remember God had this whole thing planned out!

Small Groups Question

1. What events can you think of that originated from Egypt? (Make sure you check out Hosea 11:1)

In chapter 47 we have the actual move. Goshen was the best that Egypt had to offer, so even in the midst of trial and famine God always provided for his people. I'm sure Pharaoh had intended on being the blesser (v 7) but old feeble Jacob is the one who gives the formal blessing. (Note the Pharaoh does not refuse).

The rest of this chapter shows the administrative genius of Joseph. Notice the progression of how he obtains the wealth of Egypt. One final note, when it comes to tithing notice how much the Egyptian tithe was.

Small Groups Question

1. What percentage did the Egyptians tithe?
2. What percentage did the Israelites tithe?
3. If we look at Jesus' teaching on giving what do you think the minimum of His tithe would be?

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple of predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is the fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.



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Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

3. Theology

So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.
- Genesis 46:1

For many of us that may have come from a more “religious” background, the word *tradition* can bring about negative feelings. There are, however, certainly good aspects to it within Scripture. For example, like in this verse (Genesis 46:1), we see throughout the OT that the way people primarily came to know God was through their family members telling them “The God of his father Isaac.” In fact, as we continue through the Torah we will see God time and time again telling His people to pass along forms of worship, covenants, and the stories that have come to define Israel's relationship to God. Our more “tentative” impressions of the word, *tradition*, are not without good reason though, for Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and scribes in Matthew 15 for creating traditions that lead the people away from the Commandments of God Himself.

Soul-Winner So What

Are we leading people in our family to the Lord? Are we raising our children in the Lord? Evangelism is not meant to be practiced just outside of our families, to strangers, but also to those in our families, our children our parents, etc.

Small Groups Question

What does it mean to raise a child in the Lord? Are Christian parenting principles different than secular?

4. WORD STUDIES

Word: Beersheba **באר שבע** B@'er Sheba` = "well of the sevenfold oath"
Named by Abraham, who lived there. (21:31), The place where Isaac lived (26:23), In the inheritance of Judah (Joshua 15:20), Two sons of Samuel were judges there (1 Sam 8:2), Became a seat of idolatrous worship (Amos 5:5). This well belonged to Abraham and Isaac Gen 21), An angel fed Elijah there (I Ki 19:5,7). Abraham swore an oath there with Abimelech, and called on the name of the Lord. See Gen 21. He



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called this place “shebah” (Gen 26:33) and today it is called “Beersheba”. This city sits on the Southern edge of the Holy Land (Israel).

Here in Chapter 46 we have Jacob coming into Beersheba and offering up sacrifices to God. He chose to acknowledge the fellowship his Father (Isaac) and Grandfather (Abraham) had with God there, (see Gen 21 and 26). Here Jacob asks God for mercy before entering into Egypt where God had not let his Father go previously in Ch. 26.

Soul-Winner So What

As Jacob acknowledged God where his previous family had done, he also asked God for future blessing and mercy as he journeyed into Egypt. He looked back to what God had done and remembered God’s promise as He encountered his journey into Egypt.

Note that just as God had closed the door to Egypt before, here He is with Jacob as he goes into Egypt.

Small Groups Question

1. Do you have set places of thankfulness and communion with God? 2. What can you “bank” on as you enter new territory? 3. How would seeing the history of Beersheba help you where you are today?

5. Gospel & Culture

So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." And 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." Gen. 46:1-4

- What would have Jacob remembered about Abraham in Genesis 12:10-20?
- What would he have remembered about Isaac in Gen. 26:2?
- What reassurance did God provide in Gen. 46:1-4?

Instead of being a place of defeat, Egypt would be a place of blessing, as the nation would increase in spite of suffering.

Verses 28-34

Note that Judah was now the trusted one, as Jacob sent him ahead as the leader. Meanwhile Joseph was preparing the way to find them places to live. Since Egypt is a picture of the world system, it does not surprise us that shepherds were an abomination to the unsaved people (vs. 34). Our Lord is the Good Shepherd, and the world will have nothing to do with Him.



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Soul-Winner So What

As a soul winner, do you see the difference in *going out into Egypt* rather than *being part of Egypt*? What effect does that truth have on your witness for Jesus Christ?

6. Attributes of God

God can speak to us in visions-

²Then **God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night**, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!"
And he said, "Here I am."

God commands us to not be afraid-

³So 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. ⁴I 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."

God can go with us-

³So 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. ***4I 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."

God can deliver us-

³So 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. ⁴I 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."

Soul-Winner So What

God told Jacob to move to a land far away. No doubt this was frightening for Jacob. Sometimes God leads us to "land" that is unfamiliar and frightening to us. God also told Jacob that He'd be with him. Whenever God calls us to leave our comfortable land, we need to remember God's promise that He's going with us.

Small Groups Question

What has God called you to do that makes you afraid?
Where else, in the bible, does God promise to be with us?
Where else does He tell us to not be afraid?

7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

"I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will



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surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes." Genesis 46:3-4 God promised Jacob he would bring him back to the promise land but he died in Egypt (Gen 49:33) and never returned to the promise land. It looks as if this promise was never fulfilled but was it?

This promise was fulfilled to Jacob in several ways: First, it was a promise to Jacob's future generations who were brought back out of Egypt. This is indicated by the statement, "I will make of you a great nation" (v-3). Second, Jacob was probably brought back firm Egypt along with Joseph, but not alive (Gen 50:25, Ex 13:19). Finally, after the resurrection Jacob will return to the land alive (Matt 8:11).

Small Groups Question

Sometimes we feel God is not fulfilling something that He has promised. Example of promises: Matt 6:25-27, Jeremiah 29:11, 1 John 5:13-15, but just like Jacob we don't see everything that God sees. Share something that you're struggling with and find a promise

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Genesis 47

1. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

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Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

2. Theology

Now there was no food in all the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished by reason of the famine. And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt...

- Genesis 47:13-14

The foreknowledge of God is a theological principle that is illustrated in many ways throughout Scripture. Sometimes it is plainly stated such as in the book of Acts when Peter says, "...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God..." At other times, it is implicitly stated in songs and proverbs. God's foreknowledge is also conveyed in OT stories such as the one we are finishing about Joseph and his family. If you remember back in Genesis 41 God warned both Joseph and Pharaoh that the famine was coming and that they should prepare for it by taking specific measures. Now, in these final chapters we are seeing the fruit of their obedience. It was only through God's foreknowledge that they were able to prevent themselves from falling into the same catastrophic position that gripped the rest of Egypt and the Middle East.

Soul-Winner So What

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he says that those whom God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29).

Small Groups Question

What practical implications could God's foreknowledge have on our prayer life?



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3. WORD STUDIES

Word study: Goshen (go'-shen) = drawing near. 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. Joseph obtained a part of this land for his family from Pharaoh because he had been such a blessing to him and his kingdom. Pharaoh would be kind to Joseph's family for his sake but, it was required that they were to work in the land over the cattle and be responsible workers. This is our benefit from being in relationship with Christ; because He is such a blessing to God and His Kingdom, we who are in relationship with Him reap undeserving rewards in His land, however, we are required to work and not be stagnant in his land. We must continue to *draw near* to Him and this takes work. It is our responsibility. God blesses those and identifies those who work hard.

Soul-Winner So What

Believers should note that Joseph and his family were recognized for their good work ethics. The Bible talks about a man who is diligent in his work will stand before Kings. Being a soul winner involves being a hard worker in whatever you do. As much as talking about living for Jesus, we should demonstrate working hard at our Christian service and in our secular jobs.

Small Groups Question

1. Can you point out in this chapter the many ways Joseph exemplifies Christ?

4. Attributes of God

Soul-Winner So What

In the long run, Joseph's faithfulness helped his whole family. Sometimes we will not be able to see what God is doing through our faithfulness. God wants our faithfulness especially when we can't understand the outcome.

Small Groups Question

What has God given you to be faithful with?

