

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

So last week, Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers.

Joseph was so moved by the selflessness proposed by his brother Judah – to be allowed to take the place of Benjamin as a slave.

This act of loyalty was proof that the brothers had repented from the ways they had treated Joseph years earlier.

Not only does he reveal himself to them – he also pardons them for what they did.– and tells them that all of it was part of God's plan.

And then Joseph sends them back to tell their father Jacob with Egyptian U-Haul trucks to get all their stuff and animals and move them down to Egypt.

So this evening, we are going to see the big move from Canaan to Egypt.

**[Gen 46:1-34 NKJV] 1 So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.**

Now, there is something here that **we must take notice and learn from what Jacob is doing.**

Let's look at the decision that Jacob has to make.

- They are running out of food in Canaan and Egypt is the only place that has food.
- Jacob's children have all returned to him and revealed to him that Joseph is still alive.
- Not only is he still alive – he is the ruler of the land – only Pharaoh is above him. He is charge of all the food and has invited Jacob and the entire family to travel down to Egypt.

Even though everything is pointing for him to go, Jacob goes to Beersheba to offer a sacrifice to God to ensure that what he is about to do, is truly acceptable in the eyes of the Lord.

He wants to make sure this is all part of God's will.

You see, Jacob doesn't want to make the same mistake that his grandfather Abraham had done when he went down to Egypt.

He also went down to Egypt in a time of famine – and he also returned back to Canaan with many things. One of them was a servant girl named Hagar, and this set in motion a series of events where the effects are still being seen to this day.

Jacob's father, Isaac, also faced a famine and God spoke to Isaac and specifically told him not to go down to Egypt. And Isaac was obedient to the command of God.

Jacob just wants to do the right thing in the eyes of God.

Think about how many decisions we make in our lives without seeking the council of the Lord.

We buy homes, we get into relationships, we change jobs - and when everything starts to crumble around us and we get into trouble, we start asking why God hasn't blessed us.

How can He bless us when we never sought Him in the first place?

When we went against His will the entire time.

**2 Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." 3 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. 4 "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."**

Look at the promises that God makes to Jacob

**I will make you a great nation** – they go down with 70 people and come back with over 2 million people.

**I will go down with you to Egypt** – God is not limited by borders – just because they will be in Egypt doesn't mean that God was going to abandon them. In the same way that God was with Jacob when he went to Uncle Laban's house. God was going to go down there to protect them and make them prosper.

**I will also surely bring you up** – God had promised them the Land of Canaan – their trip to Egypt was going to be temporary. Four hundred years later, God had already had planned to raise Moses to lead them out of Egypt.

And Jacob must have been reassured by this because his grandfather, Abraham had been told by God that this was going to happen.

**[Gen 15:13 NKJV] 13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land [that is] not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.**

And the last thing that God promises Jacob is that he will not outlive Joseph.

That Joseph is going to have the privilege of closing his eyes when he dies.

**5 Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him. 7 His sons and his sons' sons, his**

**daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.**

This shows the great faith Israel had. He brought the entire family down to Egypt. No one was left behind to continue a presence in Canaan.

I am pretty sure that Jacob and his family looked like the Beverly Hillbillies as they made their way into Egypt.

**8 Now these [were] the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben [was] Jacob's firstborn. 9 The sons of Reuben [were] Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 10 The sons of Simeon [were] Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. 11 The sons of Levi [were] Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 The sons of Judah [were] Er, Onan, (these were the two wicked sons of Judah that God killed because they were**

wicked and Shelah was the youngest son that Judah refused to give to Tamar to marry) Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. 13 The sons of Issachar [were] Tola, Puvah, **Job** (many theologians believe that this is the Job from the scriptures – many give credit to Moses writing the book of Job) , and Shimron. 14 The sons of Zebulun [were] Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These [were] the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter **Dinah**. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, [were] thirty-three. 16 The sons of Gad [were] Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. 17 The sons of Asher [were] Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and **Serah**, their sister. And the sons of Beriah [were] Heber and Malchiel. 18 These [were] the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob: sixteen persons. 19 The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife,

**[were] Joseph and Benjamin. 20 And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. 21 The sons of Benjamin [were] Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.**

Little Benjamin appears to have had 10 sons by the time he is in his mid twenties.

**22 These [were] the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: fourteen persons in all. 23 The son of Dan [was] Hushim. 24 The sons of Naphtali [were] Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. 25 These [were] the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob: seven persons in all. 26 All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, [were] sixty-six persons in all. 27 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**. 28

Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him [the way] to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen.

Notice that Jacob does not send the oldest before him to Joseph.

Judah is the fitting choice as he demonstrated the true spirit of repentance and change of heart among Joseph's brothers.

29 So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. 30 And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you [are] still alive."

The father who was certain that his son was dead now encounters him face to face and says – let me die, my life is complete.

So Jacob and his family are now in Egypt – however, there is still one more thing that needs to get done. They still have to get approval from Pharaoh for the land that was going to be set aside for them.

**31 Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who [were] in the land of Canaan, have come to me. 32 'And the men [are] shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.' 33 "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' 34 "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we [and] also our fathers,' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd [is] an abomination to the Egyptians."**

Two weeks ago, as Joseph brought his brothers into his house and they sat and ate – the Egyptians sat on one table, the brothers sat on another table and Joseph sat by himself.

The scriptures tell us that it was an abomination for an Egyptian to eat with a Hebrew.

So what Joseph does here is that he instructs the brothers to tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds by trade – which they were. Joseph is not telling them to lie.

What he is doing here is protecting them. He is going to place a mark on them, a mark that will keep his brothers from assimilating into the Egyptian culture.

Because for the Egyptians, the work of the shepherd was dirty and beneath them.

As long as they were branded as being shepherds – they were allowed to live in isolation without the influence of the Egyptian culture.

**[Gen 47:1-31 NKJV] 1 Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they [are] in the land of Goshen." 2 And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.**

Now, scriptures do not tell us what five brothers were chosen.

The interesting thing is that Joseph took five brothers with him.

You see, the number 5 in scripture is the number of grace.

And we see it throughout scripture.

For example,

The tabernacle that the God gives the Children of Israel the plans to erect in the wilderness contained five curtains (Exodus 26:3), five bars (Exodus 26:26 - 27), five pillars and five sockets (Exodus 26:37) and an altar made of wood that was five cubits long and five cubits wide (Exodus 27:1). The height of the court within the tabernacle was five cubits (Exodus 27:18).

Here Joseph demonstrates grace as he presents five of his brothers before Pharaoh – he didn't reveal their past failures to Pharaoh. He simply presented them to Pharaoh as his family.

In the same way that the Lord will present us as we stand before God.

**3 Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What [is] your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants [are] shepherds, both we [and] also our fathers." 4 And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to dwell in the land, because your**

**servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine [is] severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."**

So the brothers respond to Pharaoh just like Joseph instructed them to.

**5 Then Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. 6 "The land of Egypt [is] before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know [any] competent men among them, then make them chief herdsmen over my livestock." 7 Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. 8 Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old [are] you?" 9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage [are] one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not**

attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage." 10 **So Jacob blessed Pharaoh**, and went out from before Pharaoh.

I asked you guys to underline in verses 7 and 10 where it says that Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Pharaoh is the most powerful man in the world at this time. Jacob is a 130 year old man, a Hebrew and a shepherd who is running away from a poverty stricken land.

If the greater always blesses the lesser, how can Jacob bless Pharaoh?

Because in God's eyes, Jacob was greater than Pharaoh.

I also asked you to underline where Jacob says the years of my pilgrimage...

Because Jacob knew that his real home was somewhere else – in heaven.

In the same way that you and me are also pilgrims here on earth. We have a short term visa – because our true residence is in heaven as well. That is why we are told to build our treasures in heaven and not here on earth.

**11 And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in [their] families.**

So, Joseph provides for them just like he said he would.

**13 Now [there was] no bread in all the land; for the famine [was] very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. 14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt**

and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. 15 So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed." 16 Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you [bread] for your livestock, if the money is gone." 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread [in exchange] for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread [in exchange] for all their livestock that year. 18 When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. 19 "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us

and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give [us] seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate." 20 Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's. 21 And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from [one] end of the borders of Egypt to the [other] end. 22 Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations [allotted to them] by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands. 23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, [here is] seed for you, and you shall sow the land. 24 "And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food

**for your little ones." 25 So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants." 26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, [that] Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, [which] did not become Pharaoh's.**

So the drought continues – there are still five years left of drought.

And people can no longer buy food because they have ran out of money. So Joseph had them buy food with their livestock.

And then the next year, he had them sell their land for food and he continued to provide for them by moving them to the cities – if you remember, that is where Joseph stockpiled the grain during the years of plenty.

He also gives them seed to plant and demands a 20% tax on what they harvest.

However, notice that the people did not complain.

You see, Joseph was actually treating them fairly.

He could have easily demanded a 80% tax or he could have said all of it is mine.

But, Joseph treated them fairly and the people of Egypt were ok with it.

**27 So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly. 28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years. 29 When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt, 30 "but let me lie with my fathers; you**

**shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place."**

**And he said, "I will do as you have said." 31 Then he said,**

**"Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.**

So chapter 47 ends with Jacob becoming bed ridden.

The drought is over – Jacob's family has been blessed exceedingly so far –

And Jacob has Joseph promise him that when he dies, he will be buried in Canaan and not Egypt.

And at the end of Genesis, we will see Joseph's brothers make the same promise to Joseph that they will take his bones back to Canaan when they return.

And it isn't until the end of the book of Joshua that they finally bury the bones of Joseph in the Promised Land 450 years later.

**Let's pray...**