

Genesis 46:1-34

**Note: There was no Sunday school 12/13.*

Understanding the Book of Genesis is essential to understanding the rest of the bible and the world as it is today.

- 1 ¶ **And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.** God uses Jacob's name "Israel". This is an important stopping point because Joseph has told his brothers who he is and sent them to get the rest of the family to bring them to Egypt so he can take care of them during the famine. Everything is going good, but when the face Jacob, who is now 130 years old, he's an old man and he doesn't exactly trust his sons after all they did in the past. They get to Beersheba and Jacob stops because Abraham had not listened to God and had gone to Egypt and got into all kinds of trouble. Now God tells Jacob to do just the opposite and to go to Egypt, so Jacob stops and makes an offering to make absolutely sure that this is God's will.
- 2 **And God spoke unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.** God speaks to Jacob in a dream.
- 3 **And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation:** God tells Jacob don't be concerned, this is totally different from your ancestors; go to Egypt like I told you.
- 4 **I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.** God says Jacob will die in Egypt, but He will bring the rest of the family out of Egypt.
- 5 ¶ **And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him.** Jacob is no longer able to walk or ride a donkey and they didn't use horses back then, so Jacob rode in a wagon.
- 6 **And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him:**
- 7 **His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt.** He took the whole extended family down into Egypt because God told them to and there was a famine.
- 8 **And these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.** We're not reading vs 8-25, but it tells each and every descendant of Jacob's family. We should go through these names ourselves and get a reference book and see the lineage of Christ in these names. We will encounter these people and their descendants in the rest of the bible. Job is in here, and we believe this is the man the book of Job is written about.
- 9 **And the sons of Reuben; Hanoch, and Phallu, and Hezron, and Carmi.**
- 10 **And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman.**
- 11 **And the sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.**
- 12 **And the sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Pharez, and Zerah: but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul.**
- 13 **And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron.**
- 14 **And the sons of Zebulun; Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel.**
- 15 **These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three.**
- 16 **And the sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli.**

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- 17 And the sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah, and Serah their sister: and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel.**
- 18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bare unto Jacob, even sixteen souls.**
- 19 The sons of Rachel Jacob's wife; Joseph, and Benjamin.**
- 20 And unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.**
- 21 And the sons of Benjamin were Belah, and Becher, and Ashbel, Gera, and Naaman, Ehi, and Rosh, Muppim, and Huppim, and Ard.**
- 22 These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob: all the souls were fourteen.**
- 23 And the sons of Dan; Hushim.**
- 24 And the sons of Naphtali; Jahzeel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shillem.**
- 25 These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and she bare these unto Jacob: all the souls were seven.**
- 26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons'**
- 27 And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.** The total number of Jacob's descendants was 70. 490 years later it totaled over a million when they left Egypt with Moses.
- 28 ¶ And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.** Judah is sent before Joseph to lead the way.
- 29 And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.** It had been about 22 years since Joseph seen his father. Joseph looked totally different than his brothers because Egyptian men shaved their heads and their bodies and wore lots of gold. His brothers were hairy and looked like barbarians next to him. Joseph cried and cried when he was reunited with his father Jacob (Israel).
- 30 And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.** Israel is so happy that he's seen Joseph and its one of the greatest days in his life.
- 31 And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and show Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, are come unto me;** Joseph tells his family to stay put and he's going to go tell Pharaoh that you all have arrived. Let me make the first entrance into the house of Pharaoh. In Egypt at that time the Egyptians were divided into 7 social casts. They didn't mix at all. Shepherds were the lowest of the bunch. This is why Joseph is going to Pharaoh to smooth the way for his family, who are shepherds.
- 32 And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have.**
- 33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation?** Joseph warns his family that Pharaoh will ask their occupation, and he tells his family how to answer that question. Egyptians at that time believed Pharaoh was a god incarnated. They weren't even allowed to touch him.
- 34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.** They are to answer we have been shepherds all our lives until now, but we are lowly and an abomination to the Egyptians. Joseph wants to make it clear to his family that they are down here at the invitation of Pharaoh, but that doesn't mean they will live as an accepted part of Egyptian society. When we go to other countries today we find out about the culture we are visiting and respect it. Example: there are words we use everyday here that are an obscenity in Scotland. We should respect other cultures just as Joseph is instructing his family to do.
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