

Jacob Settles in Goshen, Egypt

Genesis 47

Introduction

- Jacob and his big family (70 plus) have arrived in Egypt at the invitation of Pharaoh (Gen. 45:16-20).
- God moved upon Pharaoh's heart to be generous to Joseph's extended family and offer them "the best of the land of Egypt" (45:18).

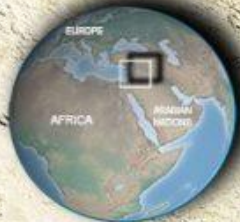
PRIME REAL ESTATE

“Pharaoh...will let you live here in the region of Goshen because it’s away from where most other Egyptians live. Egyptians hate shepherds.” Genesis 46:33-34

Jacob, father of the 12 tribes of Israel, moves his entire extended family to Egypt to escape a drought.



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About 200 miles (360 km),
Hebron to Nile River Delta
by coastal or desert route



Ancient
Goshen



Jordan

Israel

THE GREAT SEA (Mediterranean Sea)



Joseph Presents 5 Brothers to Pharaoh (47:1-6)

- (Read Genesis 47:1-6)
- God is able to give favor to his followers.
- The brothers ask permission to seek temporary residency (“to sojourn”) in Egypt in the land of Goshen (47:4)

- They are throwing themselves on Pharaoh's good graces and mercy.
- Three times they refer to themselves before Pharaoh as "your servants" (47:3,4 (twice)).
- They never mention that they have come to Egypt because Joseph invited them (45:9ff), or because Pharaoh also invited them (45:17ff).

- Pharaoh responds and offers “the best of the land,” which is the land of Goshen, to Joseph’s family. (47:6).
- We are not told why Joseph introduces only five brothers nor are we told which brothers.
- Pharaoh asks Joseph to pick some able men to supervise Pharaoh’s livestock.

Joseph Presents His Father to Pharaoh (47:7-10)

- (Read Genesis 47:7-10)
- Normally, the superior blesses the inferior in Scripture. (Hebrews 7:7)
- Jacob is inferior to Pharaoh as regards position, but may be superior to Pharaoh in the matter of age, and

- is well beyond the Egyptian ideal of a 110-year life.
- Perhaps Jacob's blessing was that Pharaoh may be blessed with a long life. If so, that may explain why in the next verse (47:8) Pharaoh inquires how long Jacob has lived.
- Jacob blessed Pharaoh twice – when he came in and when he went out.

- God seemingly responds to Jacob's blessing by blessing Pharaoh through Joseph's wise administration.
- At this time Jacob is 130 years old. He will live another 17 years and die at age 147. His life span is less than his father Isaac who died at age 180 (35:28) and less than his grandfather Abraham who died at age 175 (27:7).

- According to Jacob's evaluation, his life has had more sorrow than joy.
- His life would close with 17 years of peace and happiness in Egypt.
- It appears that Jacob's problems have not made him bitter or cynical. Mixed with his bad memories, is a sense of gratitude to God for

- preserving his family through the kindness of a pagan king.
- The polite relationship Jacob has with Pharaoh differs from the hostilities that Abraham and Isaac endured in foreign lands. The implication is clear: the Lord is with Jacob in this land as he is with Joseph. Egypt is a place of refuge for the Hebrews.

Joseph Administers the Food Supplies in Egypt (47:11-26)

Joseph gives his father and brothers a possession in the land of Egypt.

- (Read Genesis 47:11-12)
- Joseph settled Jacob and his large family on their own property. This land grant was from Pharaoh himself (47:6).

- During the last 5 years of famine, Jacob and his family lived comfortably and had no worries because of their relationship with Joseph.
- The Egyptian people, on the other hand, will become poorer and poorer until they finally have to sell themselves into slavery in order to live.

Joseph sells the Egyptians food for money until all their money was gone.

- (Read Genesis 47:13-15)

Next, Joseph sells the Egyptians food in exchange for their livestock.

- (Read Genesis 47:16-17)

Finally, the Egyptians ask that they and their land become Pharaoh's property.

- (Read Genesis 47:18-22)
- People today talk about bad times, and poor economies. America has never seen anything like the havoc this 7 year famine wrought in Canaan and Egypt.

- Without food, people would die by the thousands, if not millions.
- The Egyptian people themselves introduce the idea of Joseph buying them and their land in order that they could live and not die (47:19).
- Joseph agrees and also agrees to provide seed for future crops when the famine is over.

Joseph provides seed for planting and requires only a 20% tax on the crops for Pharaoh.

- (Read Genesis 47:23-26)
- By the time the famine ended and farming could begin again, Pharaoh possessed all the money in Egypt, owned all the people and their

- property, except the land of the priests.
- The Egyptians were thankful to Joseph and said, “You have saved our lives We will be servants to Pharaoh (47:25).

- Not only had Joseph saved the nation from starvation, but he also set up an economic system that enabled Pharaoh to control everything, except the priests, without totally destroying the spirit and hope of the Egyptian people.

- Joseph's reforms were still a law in Egypt at the time Moses is writing this history some 350 years later – for we read: “and it stands to this day” (47:26).
- Jacob and family entered Egypt in 1876 BC and the Exodus occurs 430 years later in 1446 BC.

Jacob's Last Request of Joseph: Bury Me in Canaan

- (Read Genesis 47:27-31)
- God begins to fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and as a result Jacob's descendants "were fruitful and multiplied greatly" (47:27).

- By the time God is ready to use Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and back to Canaan, Exodus 12:37 reveals there were 600,000 men, not counting women and children.
- There were probably over 2 million Israelites at the time of the exodus from Egypt.

- God promised to make them a great nation and He always keeps His promises.
- Jacob requested Joseph to swear an oath to bind his promise. The oath would reinforce Joseph's memory, and in taking an oath would make Joseph directly accountable to God

- And places Joseph under God's wrath if he reneges on his promise.

Conclusion

- Pharaoh was a pagan ruler who worshiped a multitude of false gods, and yet the Lord worked in his heart and used him to care for Jacob and his family.
- Remember **Proverbs 21:1** The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

- God can accomplish His plans and work His will even through unbelieving leaders like Pharaoh, Cyrus (Ezra 1:1ff; Isa. 44:28), Nebuchadnezzar (Jer. 25:9; 27:6), and Augustus Caesar (Luke 2:1ff).
- With God there is nothing impossible. Don't let discouraging circumstances cause your trust in God to waver!

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