

Genesis Study—Moving Day Egypt Bound

Genesis 46-47

1. God speaks to Jacob on the way to Egypt. *Israel [Jacob] took his journey and came*

to Beersheba: This was the _____ outpost of the Promised Land on the way to Egypt. He stopped there to honor God with sacrifices.

>Both Abraham (Genesis 22:19) and Isaac (Genesis 26:23) lived for a time at Beersheba.

>Israel's grandfather Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba many years before and had called on the name of the LORD there (Genesis 21:33). Isaac received a special promise from God and built an altar for sacrifice there, calling on the name of the LORD (Genesis 26:24-25). It was probably at this very place Israel [Jacob] sacrificed.

> **God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night:** More than _____ before, when Jacob was about to leave the Promised Land, God spoke to him in a dream (Genesis 28:12-17). Now, when he is about to leave the land again, God brings _____ through a dream again.

> **Do not fear to go down to Egypt:** This indicates that Israel was afraid to go to Egypt. Jacob may have remembered Abraham had gone to Egypt in a time of famine once before, and it was a manifestation of his _____, and much evil eventually came from it (Genesis 12:10-20). He also may have remembered God told his father Isaac not to go down to Egypt (Genesis 26:2).

Also, Jacob knew God told Abraham that his descendants would *be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years* (Genesis 15:13). As Jacob led his family into this foreign land, he did not know what the future held. At the same time, he knew the future was in God's hands.

2. *I will make of you a great nation there:* God told Israel what His purpose was in bringing this large family or clan down to Egypt. Because of the exclusive, segregated nature of Egyptian life, Israel's descendants could grow as a large, distinct nation there. Egypt will become a "_____” to Israel as a nation.

>**All his descendants he brought with him to Egypt:** This shows the _____ Israel had. He brought the *entire* family down to Egypt. No one was left behind to continue a presence in Canaan. Jacob *knew* they would be back.

The sons of Judah were: The sons of Judah are of special note because this is the _____ . The line of descent so far goes like this: Abraham - Isaac - Jacob - Judah - Perez - Hezron (Luke 3:33-34).

>**All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy:** The total number of males of this clan was 70 - 66, plus Jacob himself, Joseph, and his two sons. This large family will become a nation of more than _____ over the next 400 years.

3. Like many great works of God, Israel [Jacob] had a slow beginning.

- From the time God called Abraham, it took at least 25 years to add one son - Isaac
- It took Isaac 60 years to add another son of Israel - Jacob
- It took 50 or 60 years for Jacob to add 12 sons and one daughter
- But in 430 years, Israel will leave Egypt with 600,000 men
- Took this family 215 yrs grow from 1 to 70, but another 430 years they grew to _____.

Discrepancy explain--In Acts 7:14 Stephen says that there were **75** who went into Egypt. This is because Stephen quoted from the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, which says 75. The number in the Septuagint is not wrong, just arrived at in a different way, specifically adding _____ of Joseph born in Egypt.

4. The family settles in the land of Goshen.

Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way: It was fitting for Judah, _____ to escort Israel into Goshen, the land of abundance.

Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive: This reunion of Israel with Joseph is more than he ever dreamed before. This is a dramatic change from *all things are against me* (Genesis 42:36).

Every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians: The Egyptians were agricultural in the sense of farming crops. They considered sheep unclean, and therefore detested shepherds.

5. Jacob Meets Pharaoh; the Family Settles In Egypt. This is an amazingly _____.

Little did Pharaoh know that this little clan would incubate to over 2 million some centuries later and would devastate the Egyptian empire as they return to the land.

> **Dwell in the best of the land.** Pharaoh gives them the best of the land.

> **The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years:** Jacob confessed he was on a **pilgrimage**. He knew that his real home was somewhere else: _____

> **Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life:** This was not a cynical statement by Jacob. He recognized that the general character of his life (lived in the flesh) and the length of his life did not compare both to eternity and to the lives of his ancestors.

> **So Jacob blessed Pharaoh:** Pharaoh acknowledged Jacob was a _____ by accepting his blessing. In the Egyptian religion, Pharaoh himself was thought to be _____. They considered Pharaoh the human embodiment of Ra, the sun god. This means that it was remarkable that he allowed Israel to bestow a blessing on him.

6. **Joseph situated his father and his brothers:** The family of Israel looked to Joseph, and Joseph only, as their source of provision and supply.

Personal Note--Its peculiar that some Christians feel government involvement by a believer is "off limits." Yet, here, Joseph is serving in a highest capacity in a corrupt, pagan government and definitely being used of God. Add to Joseph Nehemiah, Esther, Mordecai, Daniel, Hananiah [Shadrach], Mishael [Meshach], Azariah [Abednego] not to mention all the Kings of Israel and Judah [i.e. David]. Are we not to be "salt" and "light" in all areas? Why not in government? Why do we exempt that one area?

Paul states in Romans 13, "*...For all authority comes from God*" and "*The authorities are God's servants.*" The error seems to come from those quoting "*render to Caesar...God.*" which is a misapplication of Jesus' teaching and takes it out of context. Our Founders preferred Christians to serve in government and, in fact, most to the original 13 colonies **required** in their **original** constitutions that you had to acknowledge God and His Son Jesus Christ as Savior in the oath of office before serving.

Furthermore, many Christians repeat the repeated liberal lie of "separation of church and state." These words do not appear in our Constitution although it is interesting and ironic to note they do appear in a previous USSR constitution and such implications are made in many Communist governing documents which oppose Christianity violently. This phrase did appear in a letter from Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury, Connecticut Baptist Association, in which he was clearly implying the opposite meaning. But, as the evil men tell us if you repeat a lie often enough people will start believing it. Shame on Christians who repeat lies.

7. **In the later years of the famine, Joseph arranged ways for the people to purchase food with whatever they have to give.**

>**So the land became Pharaoh's:** In the process, the power and wealth of Pharaoh was multiplied greatly. In times of _____ the power of central government often _____. This is an important point that needs to be seen in our world today. People, motivated by _____, will relinquish FREEDOMS for SCURITY/SAFETY.

>**In the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh:** Joseph wasn't unfair. He fed the people when they would have starved, and in return asked for one-fifth (20%) annually from the produce of the land. Many people today would be happy with only a _____.

8. **Israel anticipates his death.** So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly. Henry Morris calculates the initial group of five (Jacob and his four wives) grew into a clan of about 100 in 50 years (the 100 includes the 70 of Genesis 46:27 plus a few wives of the sons not mentioned and grandchildren). That is a growth rate of just over _____ per year. At that rate, there would be several million descendants by the time of the Exodus _____ later.

>**Israel makes Joseph vow to bury him in Canaan.** And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt 17 years. So the length of Jacob's life was _____. 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 _____, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt, 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." Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.