

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

Lesson 7 – Genesis 47-48

Joseph has successfully settled all of his family in the land of Goshen and, though the famine continues, his family is provided for in Egypt. Joseph also establishes a plan to provide for all the people with the grain set aside in Egypt. But time does move on and, after Jacob has been in the land of Egypt for seventeen years, he begins to prepare for the time when he will die. As we read of the end of Jacob's life, we also see God's provision through Joseph and the promises yet to be fulfilled.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is 1 Corinthians 2:9.

*“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

Read Genesis 47:1-11.

1. After Joseph met with his family in Genesis 47:1, he went to Pharaoh to tell him of his family's arrival. He took five of his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.

- a. What did Pharaoh ask them in verse 3?
- b. What was the response of the brothers?
- c. From our lesson last week, we know Joseph asked them to give this answer. Why was this important?

2. Read through the brothers' response in Genesis 47:3-4.

- a. What eight letter word did they use three times to describe their relationship with Pharaoh?
- b. What message would this word portray to Pharaoh?

3. Joseph showed his deference to Pharaoh's authority by keeping Pharaoh informed. His brothers showed it in the way they addressed him. What do the following scriptures say about submission to authority?

- a. Romans 13:1

b. 1 Peter 2:18

c. Describe how we should relate to our governing authority.

4. According to Genesis 47:4, what did the brothers request of Pharaoh?

a. What was Pharaoh's response to their request in verse 6?

b. How did Pharaoh describe Goshen?

c. What additional position did he offer them?

d. Why would Pharaoh go so far to be generous to Joseph's family?

5. Jacob then brought his father before Pharaoh in Genesis 47:7.

a. What did Jacob do?

b. What does this show about Jacob?

6. Jacob referred to his life as a pilgrimage in verse 9. Define pilgrimage.

7. In Genesis 47:9, Jacob said of his years, "...*they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.*"

a. How does Hebrews 11:9-10 describe his fathers' pilgrimage?

b. According to Hebrews 11:13, what did they confess?

c. In what ways would viewing our life as these men did, as a pilgrimage, and living by their confession affect the way we live?

Read Genesis 47:12-26.

1. Genesis 47:13 states that “...*there was no bread in all the land, for the famine was very severe.*”

- a. What does verse 12 say about Joseph’s family?
- b. What does it mean when verse 12 says “*according to the number in their families*”?
- c. What does Psalm 145:15 say about provision?
- d. What did Jesus say that applies here in Matthew 6:31-32?

2. As the people of the land came to him for food, according to Genesis 47:14, what did Joseph do?

3. Read Genesis 47:15-17 and describe Joseph’s plan to provide bread for the people of Egypt.

4. But the famine continued...

- a. What was the people’s request when they came to Joseph again in verse 19?
- b. What was their reason?
- c. What did Joseph do in Genesis 47:20-23?

5. As we have seen, it took great planning to make the available grain last for the entire famine, and Joseph took many steps in the way he distributed it.

- a. How do you see his provision, even with the tax, in verse 24?
- b. From verse 25, what was the response of the people to this?
- c. Why do you think the people had this attitude, even though they had no money left and had sold their livestock and their land?

Read Genesis 47:27-31.

1. The names *Israel* and *Jacob* are interchanged in the next few verses, but remember that Israel is not only God's given name to Jacob, but it is His given name to His people. What does Genesis 47:27 tell us about the *people Israel*?

2. In these closing verses of Genesis 47, we find that the life of Jacob is also closing.

- a. How long had Jacob lived in Egypt?
- b. How old was Jacob now?
- c. What did Jacob do *when the time drew near* from verse 29?
- d. What did Jacob request of Joseph?

Note: The placing of the hand under the thigh is a gesture of swearing or attesting that a person will do what they have committed to do.

3. Jacob, although provided and cared for in Goshen, still yearned for his home. Egypt would never be "home" for God's people. Although God had brought His people to Egypt, it was never His intention for them to remain there. According to Genesis 15:13, how long would the people of Israel remain in Egypt?

Read Genesis 48:1-7.

1. What did Joseph do after he was *told that his father was sick*?

2. Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. In Genesis 48:3-4, Jacob told Joseph of his encounter with God at Luz (Bethel) after his father, Isaac, had sent him away. Read the account originally recorded in Genesis 28:10-15. What did God promise Jacob in each verse below?

- a. Genesis 28:13
- b. Genesis 28:14
- c. Genesis 28:15

3. Read Genesis 48:4 again.

- a. Which of God's promises from Genesis 28 did Jacob repeat to Joseph here?
- b. Why do you think Jacob chose to tell Joseph of this encounter?

4. Who did Jacob claim as his own sons in Genesis 48:6?

Because of Jacob's adoption of Joseph's sons there were now 13 sons of Israel. The 12 were born to Jacob, but Joseph was divided into two tribes. This explains why there is no tribe of Joseph, but "half" tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, but each had equal land with the other 11 tribes.

5. Why do you think Jacob gave the details of Genesis 48:7 to Joseph?

Read Genesis 48:8-22.

1. In Genesis 48:9, Jacob asked Joseph to bring his sons to him.

- a. Why did he ask this?
- b. How did Jacob greet them in verse 10?
- c. What more does verse 10 tell us of Jacob?

2. Record the words of Jacob from Genesis 48:11.

- a. Go back and read Genesis 42:35. What was Jacob's outlook then?
- b. God had not changed but Jacob's attitude had. What can we learn from this?

3. It was the custom to bless the *firstborn* above the younger son.

- a. How did Joseph position his sons before Jacob in Genesis 48:13?
- b. What did Jacob do, *knowingly*, in verse 14?

4. From Genesis 48:15-16, what was the blessing that Jacob pronounced on both of Joseph's sons?

5. Joseph saw where his father had placed his hands for the blessing. From Genesis 48:17-18, what did Joseph...

- a. feel about this?
- b. do about this?
- c. say about this?

6. We see in Genesis 48:19 that Jacob understood what he was doing for the blessing. What did he say about each son?

- a. Manasseh– the older son
- b. Ephraim – the younger son
- c. What does Jeremiah 31:9 say about Ephraim?

7. The blessing continued in Genesis 48:20-22.

- a. What blessing did Jacob pronounce on both of the boys in verse 20?
- b. What more did Jacob give this family in verse 22?

8. In Genesis 48:4, Jacob reminded Joseph of two parts of the promise God had spoken to him at Luz. In Genesis 48:21, he reminds Joseph of the third promise.

- a. Complete his words below.

I am dying, but God _____
_____.

- b. Share your thoughts on the amazing power of these two words in this promise... **but God!**

In closing...

1. We have seen how God was with Jacob and with Joseph, even when times were hard, yet God was faithful to His promise to be with them. How have you seen the Lord to be faithful to be with you in your own life? Include scriptures if you can.

2. How does the promise that God will be with you help to carry you through difficult times?

3. At the end of Jacob's life we have seen how important it was to pass on the promises of God to the next generation. How can we pass on the promises of God to the next generation?

Memory Verse

*"But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

1 Corinthians 2:9