

## **Genesis 44-47**

So we ended last time with Joseph testing his brothers.

Remember with me...

After arresting his brother Simeon, Joseph sent the other brothers back for Benjamin.

When they had returned home they found that their money had been returned to them.

Remember Jacob thought everything in his life was working against him.

When in turn God was working a plan of deliverance for him and his family.

However, Jacob did not send Benjamin right away, in fact time passes on before the famine gets so severe that Jacob decides it is better to risk Benjamin's life rather than lose his whole family to starvation.

Remember Jacob's name goes from Jacob to Israel again, because no longer is he reasoning with human thinking and understanding but he is using faith, and trusting beyond the human circumstance.

He blesses his son's journey with Benjamin, and assures them his God will protect them, ensuring them he is a man of faith again.

God has promises for this family, there is no man too great that can alter this families calling.

If Yahweh is for us who could be against us?

And the boys head back to Egypt with gifts to please the man who wanted to see Benjamin and held Simeon captive.

They arrive with Benjamin, and Joseph is overwhelmed with emotion.

He invites them all over for a meal.

And remember the brothers tried to explain things to the servant about their money being in their bags still.

What did the servant say?

Your God the God of your father has given you your money back.

This showed us that Joseph in this foreign pagan land, is still believing and preaching about the God of his father, and all the wonderful promises God had for this family.

And by this time, everything is making sense for Joseph, he is starting to understand that God sent him to Egypt to fulfill this plan for his family, to preserve them.

But Joseph tests his brothers, to see if Jealousy and Envy are still in their hearts.

To see if they treated his younger brother the same way he was treated.

To see if they have truly repented.

And remember he gives Benjamin 5 servings and the other brothers only 1 serving.

But they seem to be okay, they actually as we ended last time, ate and drank and were merry.

Their luck had changed; they found favor with this mysterious ruler in Egypt.

I imagine they were wondering what was going on, they must have had a huge relief and weight just dropped off their shoulders.

However this Great Egyptian Ruler will have one more test for these probably emotionally exhausted men from Canaan.

### **Joseph's Cup**

44:1 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack. 2 Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. 3 As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.

So we see here the stage is set for the final test for these brothers.

Joseph needs to be sure they have changed, that they are indeed ready for the enormous calling God has placed on this family.

You see they are most definitely a special people, set apart by God.

There are many promises for this family.

Joseph knows these promises.

His faith in these promises is the very thing that has kept him humble, through all the adversity that has come his way, his faith in what would be sustained him.

He just is perhaps not sure if his brothers are ready, so another test has to be administered, to be sure they are godly in character, and matured in their calling.

Don't despise life's testing church, the trials you are facing now are surely preparation for what God will do next in your story.

These brothers will go from relief and celebration, to another weighty trial.

And maybe some of you are there tonight, you feel like sometimes you get a glimpse of hope, and then bam, another trial hits.

You might be thinking "what gives?" I thought I was past that.

And one more trial comes, well hold on, as we will see in this story it just might be preparation, God still has more to teach you.

Let's read on...

4 When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good? 5 Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.'"

Egypt was a mystical place, we see throughout scriptures magicians and spiritualists.

Joseph I think was trying to maintain his cover here as an Egyptian.

We know Joseph's insight on how to rule Egypt came from God Alone.

And remember last time he sat his brothers from oldest to youngest, and they marveled at how he could have done this.

Joseph, probably not caught up in divination, or sorcery of any kind, he is still faithful to Yahweh as his source of understanding things to come.

But anyhow he is trying to test his brothers one more time.

How would they treat Benjamin if they saw him as greedy, trying to take this Egyptian Ruler's divination cup?

Would they like Joseph be okay with Benjamin being arrested and all of them going free?

Would they off their privileged brother or would they try to defend them.

This is the final test for Joseph's brother.

To see if they had indeed changed over the 22 years, or have they remained just as wicked.

6 So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words. 7 And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing. 8 Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? 9 With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

They had no idea it was in Benjamin's bag.

What would they do when they find out, would they keep their oath, and let Benjamin die?

10 And he said, "Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless."

So the scene is set up, the one whom it is found will be his slave.

You see the Joseph is setting up conditions similar to his own 22 years ago in the desert.

These scoundrels left him to slavery.

11 Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack. 12 So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. 13 Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

Notice right off the bat they go back to the city with Benjamin, they could have left him to rot in Egypt.

We see the sorrow, and grief as they tear their clothes in an act of remorseful distress.

14 So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground. 15 And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"

Again Joseph maintaining his cover until he sees the character of his brothers.

They had his supposed “Diviners Cup.” So we can see he is not attributing any fortune telling to the mystical beliefs of Egypt.

16 Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."

17 But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."

Do you see what Joseph is doing here?

He gives room for the brothers to act selfishly.

Maybe they would start thinking here, “I mean our dad’s life went on just fine without Joseph, surely he can get over Benjamin being gone.”

“After all at least we will have provisions for our families to live.”

“Maybe we can use the same scheme and say an animal attacked Benjamin too.”

Or maybe robbers killed him.

They even can say this ruthless ruler took him, and it would not be their fault...

He won't be dead just a slave in Egypt.

All of these things could be running through their heads if God has not done a work in their hearts over the years.

Let's see what happens?

### **Judah Intercedes for Benjamin**

18 Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh. 19 My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?' 20 And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.' 21 Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.' 22 And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' 23 But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'

24 "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord. 25 And

our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.' 26 But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.' 27 Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; 28 and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since. 29 But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'

30 "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life, 31 it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. 32 For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.' 33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. 34 For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

Oh Judah, Judah, Judah, what a work God has done in your life.

You Judah who headed up selling Joseph to the slave traders, you now have honor, integrity, love for others, you are honoring your father above your own comfort.

God has surely done a work in his life.

What is so awesome about Judah being the brother who would substitute his brother's penalty due to him?

What picture is God painting here?

Judah, was the one chosen who would bring the Messiah to the world.

It was Judah's heir that would go to the cross to take our penalty deserved to us upon Himself.

It will be the Lion of the tribe of Judah that would substitute our punishment we so rightly earned.

Jesus looked at that cross that me and you deserved and said take me instead, he went to the cross to bear our burden of sin and death.

This is why this picture of Judah saying take me instead of Benjamin is so wonderful.

Let's see how Joseph reacts, perhaps he will just take Benjamin anyway, they can live together away from these brothers who wronged him so greatly.

Maybe Joseph will be jealous that Judah sold him into slavery and is sticking up now for Benjamin.

This is not fair. Maybe Joseph will get even with his brothers after all these years?

Let's see...

### **Joseph Revealed to His Brothers**

45:1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

Think of this release of emotion here.

Put yourself in Joseph's shoes.

All these years of wondering how could my family do this to me?

Joseph for 22 years wondered if he would ever get to see his father again.

All these years of pain and anguish, so much heartbreak.

Joseph wondered if his brothers had changed, were they sorry?

And here Judah, makes this ultimate act of love, and tries to take someone else's punishment.

And Joseph loses it. He weeps from his soul.

Have any of you ever heard someone weep from their soul.

It is hard not to break down and weep with them.

And then after this release of emotion Joseph explains...

3 ~~Then Joseph said to his brothers,~~ "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Now hear this, look what Joseph understands now.

His life was not a series of unfortunate circumstances.

He did not go through all he went through because his brothers were wicked.

In fact God was working a plan of deliverance for Joseph and his family.

You see what the devil meant for evil, God was using for good.

I imagine Satan as he is trying to destroy the work of God over the centuries, get so upset to find that God was using all of it for his own good.

**Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

You see we must understand this promise if we are believers.

God will allow Satan to do harm to our lives, but nothing happens to us outside of God's plan and will.

When my wife would tell me stories of her childhood, I would think "God why did she have to go through all of this?"

Why did she have to witness so much violence? Why did she grow up seeing these things happen to her mother?

Why did she have to experience fear and uncertainty growing up as a little child?

Why as a young woman did her innocence get taken from her, why did these horrible things happen to her?

But she and I understand more fully now.

You see scripture says...

2 Cor. 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Jess went through all of that, so when she encountered God, and God changed her life, she would be able to minister to young girls that come from a hard life.

Every time she gets a late night phone call from one of these young ladies, who are just in turmoil, she can now say with certainty, "My God will help, look what He did in my life."

And all week long she ministers to many young girls who are hurting, with hurts most people cannot understand, but Jess understands their pain and misery, and she understands more importantly there is hope in Jesus.

She can now give this hope to those who think their lives are hopeless.

When she was a little girl, she had one encounter with God she thought was useless, and it turned out to be one of the greatest moments in her life.

You see she prayed as a little girl that God would help her dad get better.

Her father was an alcoholic, extremely violent man, and an outlaw.

She says she remembers clearly being little and one time she prayed, if you are real God, please help.

She prayed to a God she did not know to be there for sure.

Well God did not answer her little expectant heart right away.

Her dad did not get sober and better right away. In fact, at times it seemed it got worse...

So over time she figured God was not real.

Many years later actually through a series of circumstances, her father stopped drinking.

She had long forgotten about her prayer, and figured it was chance, but it was way too late, so much damage had been done.

But shortly after that Jess gave her life to the Lord.

And now that her dad was sober, he too through his own daughter's story gave his life to the Lord.

You see God saw the final outcome, he heard little Jessica's prayer.

But He also knew when the right time for her father to get sober was.

God knew that shortly after his sobriety that his daughter would be saved, and be able to share this life saving gospel with him.

So you are going through it right now?

Maybe you are dealing with life trials so unbearable.

Just know if you are a believer here tonight, God is working everything for His good and in His time.

I know it's hard, but we have Joseph as an example.

22 years he went through trials to finally understand the complete picture.

We have a hard time with a trial that is more than a day long sometimes. Stick it out, be encouraged by this story tonight.

So now the brothers know who Joseph is, and I imagine it is a relief to Joseph that he does not have to try and hide his identity any longer.

So next Joseph will give some instructions.

9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. 10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. 11 There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine.'"

12 "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. 13 So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. 15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

We see here the power of forgiveness; we see it restores this family.

Joseph could have held a grudge and kept bitterness in his heart, but he chose to forgive.

Listen to me.

If you have an unforgiving spirit tonight, I would challenge you to learn from this story.

Forgive and let God heal your life.

In the light of all we ask God to forgive us for, may we show the same.

**Matt 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."**

Joseph and his brothers now wept, and in their weeping just let it all go.

It says they talked with one another.

16 Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well. 17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan. 18 Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land. 19 Now you are commanded — do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come. 20 Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

We see the kind of reputation Joseph has in Egypt.

He saved Pharaoh and all his family, and even his nation, surely Pharaoh was grateful.

And by this honor, we see he held Joseph to the highest esteem.

He declares the best of all the land is yours.

How can we hold back anything since you saved everything Joseph?

So next we read...

21 Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey. 22 He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments. 23 And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey. 24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

25 Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. 26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor

over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them. 27 But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived. 28 Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Jacob at the news of all of this is overwhelmed.

I sat with my family last night on our bedroom floor.

I looked at my beautiful wife, and my two beautiful daughters, and my son and thought this is pure joy.

Now if one of my daughters, or my son who I love so dearly ever came up missing, or it was told to me they were dead.

I would be devastated; it would take everything in me to keep my sanity.

You see children are the greatest joy God has given humanity.

I understand Joseph was Jacob's beloved son, from his most precious wife.

Now to believe and grieve all these years thinking Joseph was dead.

Maybe even praying to God for a miracle, to bring him back to life.

And too hear this crazy news that he is alive and in Egypt it must have been all too overwhelming.

The disbelief at first, than the joy when realizing he is indeed alive was incredible!

He might be thinking now... "What are you all waiting for let's go see him!"

### **Jacob's Journey to Egypt(Ex 6:14-25)**

46:1 So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 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."

So Jacob right before he enters Egypt here, calls out to his God, the God of his father, and gets clarity before committing the rest of the way of this journey.

God confirms to Jacob to go.

You see Jacob was excited, full of emotion, and elation, but Jacob has responded emotionally in the past.

He has made great errors reacting on his emotion, and by the time he gets to Beersheba, he realizes, I need to call on God, be governed by God, even if that means I cannot go to Egypt.

You see Jacob knows Egypt is not the land of his inheritance, Canaan was, and we see here God's promises are finally more important than the greatest desire of Jacob's heart, to be restored to his beloved son.

And as the scriptures proclaim.

**Matt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

**Ps 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,**

**And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**

God should be first in your life, when He is, then you seek his will, your delight, will be His delight.

Your desires will be godly desires.

So Jacob seeks God first, and God blesses Jacob's journey to Egypt.

And tells him, this is where He will make him and his descendants into a nation.

Jacob is also told Joseph will have the honor of covering his eyes at his death.

His long lost son will comfort him in his last days...

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.

So we see after all Jacob has been through, he learns not to move without the Lord's council.

He even puts his excitement aside, and before rushing to go see Joseph, he sacrifices to the Lord, and hears God's confirmation to go.

To many times out of excitement I have rushed into things without waiting on the Lord.

I am learning to wait for Him to speak!

Don't rush into something over excitement, seek the Lord first, and let Him tell what direction to go.

So next we have names of all those who went with Jacob to Egypt.

70 went to Egypt, many hundreds of thousands will leave Egypt.

God will build his nation in this foreign pagan land.

And when Israel's decedents finally come back to the land, they will be a mighty force to be reckoned with.

They leave few, and weak, they will come back numerous, and mighty!

So we will skip the laborious reading through the names here and pick it up in verse 26.

~~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, 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, 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. 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.~~

So next is the reunion between father and son.

### Jacob Settles in Goshen

28 Then he (Jacob) sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen. 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.

An amazing reunion!

I imagine the brothers kind of felt shameful at this point.

All that they put their father through for all these years.

However they also must have felt a relief that they no longer had to carry on this lie.

Healing is taking place in this family!

30 And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive."

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."

We again see God's sovereignty at work here.

The Egyptians at this point in history, were a refined, educated culture, they despised cattle raising and shepherding.

It was too lowly of a job for these culturally superior Egyptians.

But God all along had plans to build his pure nation in a foreign land.

He knew they would have to stay a pure race. So he made the Egyptians over time learn to consider their trade as unclean, and filthy.

This thought is what kept the Egyptians from intermarrying with the Israelites for 400 years.

Usually a people group would intermix with the culture they were received into. Their heritage and bloodline would over time be long forgotten as they assimilated into the stronger people group.

But here they will be treated as an abomination, and in that rejection, God would keep them from corruption.

So don't feel so bad if your old friends mock you, or your co-workers scorn you for your beliefs, that might be the very method God is using to keep your godly character intact.

He might be using your rejection as a means to keep you pure.

### **Joseph Is Governor of Egypt**

47:1 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. 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."

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."

Because no Egyptian would want this what was considered a filthy occupation.

And we see God all along having plans not only to preserve His people, but to use even this pagan nation to prosper His people Israel.

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.

It is interesting here the most powerful man in the world is being blessed by this weak, old man.

It shows us a glimpse of how God works.

Even today in the church the unlearned, the weak things, the outcast of the world are who God chooses for His work.

1 Cor. 1:26-31 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

Jacob blesses Pharaoh!

I imagine Jacob has a commanding presence about him, a godly strength, after all these years of hard lessons, deep trials, he tells Pharaoh the reality of this life he has learned is that his days were evil and few.

The older we seem to get the more this reality comes to us.

As we are deceived by loved ones, hurt by strangers, as death comes to those we love, we experience the reality that this life is far from fair and just.

The older we get the more our eyes are opened to the evils of this life.

The young person can still be blinded by the hopes and dreams they are endeavoring to find in life.

They hope that after college they will embark in their dream job, the world is waiting for them, and ready to help them on their journey of success.

They dream of the perfect family, and a husband that will keep his tongue at bay their whole marriage, who will just worship them, bring them flowers home every night.

The romance of their ideas keep them floating through life, barely touching the ground.

Oh wait, what is that up ahead, they see something in the distance, what is that? They wonder.

Smash, Oh, that is reality. As they find, the world is not waiting to embrace their dreams, success might come, but it will come through blood, sweat and tears.

Oh my husband has a hairy back now, oh, morning breath is horrible, oh what is this?

And really at the end of it all, many conclude as Jacob did, these days are full of evil, and darkness.

But that is this life, we are children of God, and God's Word points us away from the perils of this life, this is just a temporary pilgrimage.

We await a new home, a place that is prepared for us by the Son of God Himself.

And that thought is where our joy is found, it makes this human experience a little more enjoyable as we live out these dark days.

So Jacob is just real before Pharaoh, and in his real preaching, Pharaoh wants a blessing.

The story continues on.

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 God's chosen people are provided for and preserved.

So next we remember that there is 5 years left in the famine, so we will see how Joseph is used by God to continue to save his family, and all of Egypt.

## Joseph Deals with the Famine

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.

Looks like Joseph was not able to deal with the false Priests of the Land, maybe out of conscious sake he leaves them to Pharaoh, but for whatever reason, Pharaoh protects these priests, and they are set apart for Pharaoh to deal with.

For which they probably had a lot of political power, and Pharaoh deals with them generously.

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 we Joseph rules fairly here.

Every time the people came desperately for help, Joseph would not give them something for nothing, however, he used fair methods.

And he allowed the nation to be preserved through this severe famine.

He collected a fair share of taxes, but only to preserve the country.

And in the end the people didn't grip, but they praised Joseph for saving them and their families.

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

### Joseph's Vow to Jacob

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.

Joseph promises Jacob he will bury him in Canaan, the promised land.

Jacob very feeble at this point, understands the promises of God, and trusts that one day his family will be back in the promised land.

He asks to be buried where his family will one day be a nation.

Even at the end of his life he is leaving a heritage of faith.

They will be able to pass down from generation to generation that their forefather was asked to be buried in their future land.

The Israelites would be able to share with their children that one day they will be there with him.

Jacob is finishing his ministry well, he sees the bigger picture here, he does not care for fame, or for a royal Egyptian burial, but understands he must pass the vision on to the next generation.

This act of carrying his bones to Canaan will serve as a stone of remembrance to the next generation.

This is a good example for us, to keep in mind the legacy we are leaving for our children, is it one of personal success, or one of personal sacrifice, to bring glory to God?

We must pass all this on one day, will we build a ministry around a man, or build around God, and leave the mission to our children?

That is a great perspective to live out our days here in this life.

Only what we do for God matters, all the rest will burn up.

So next week we will finish Genesis.

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And we have almost finished our first Old Testament book together, on this Survey through the Bible here on Wednesday night.

If you have missed any of the teachings of this book, they are all online at [calvaryvv.org](http://calvaryvv.org).

Next we will be in Exodus... and we will keep on going through the Bible, until Christ takes us home.