

## Genesis Ch. 46

- Joseph's brethren returned to the Land of Canaan and told their father that his son Joseph was yet alive.
- There must have been some interesting conversations on the way back to Canaan.
- Their cruelty reviewed, the initial hardness of the prime minister, the kindness and tenderness of their brother Joseph, forgiveness, and restoration, their good fortune and the grace of God.
- The maturing process that God had brought to bear over these last 22 years, now evident in their lives.
- Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.
- Then they told him all the words of Joseph, a type of Jesus, and he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to fetch him and his spirit "revived" – and he was called "Israel".

V: 1 "Israel" responds to the invitation, taking his journey.

*"with all that he had,..."* – all or nothing – commitment.

*"... came to Beersheba..."* A significant place in the lives of his family.



**Genesis 21:33** “And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God.” – “El-Elyon”

**Genesis 26:2-4** <sup>2</sup>“And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: <sup>3</sup>Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father; <sup>4</sup>And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”

**Genesis 26:24-25** <sup>24</sup>“And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servants Abraham’s sake. <sup>25</sup>And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac’s servants digged a well.”

**Genesis 26:** Isaac digs a well there, after having dug several others, and the inhabitants of the land no longer strived with him, it became his home, a place of refreshment and rest.

- Beersheba is one of the last stops before leaving the land of Canaan and entering into the land of Egypt.
- Israel is very aware of the admonition given to his father Isaac not to leave the land of Canaan, the land of promise.
- Israel stops in Beersheba to offer sacrifices, to pray, and to seek God’s will.
- It would seem like a no-brainer to simply follow the instructions of Joseph and be re-united with his son.
- Here, Israel is checking with God before moving on.
- Confirmation of the decision he’s made before this: Israel places greater value on God’s will and God’s direction in his life than his reunion and restoration to his son.
- Earlier in Genesis, Abraham placed his son on the altar and in his heart sacrificed him to God.
- Israel does the same thing in a seemingly less a dramatic fashion – it is no less real, no less a sacrifice.

Sacrifices – plural: There were different offerings in the Old Testament times.

- **Sin offering:** offering an animal to God upon which they had laid their hands, confessing their sins, transferring them over to the animal, then the animal was killed as an offering to God for their sin.

- This was done to open the door to fellowship with God, there was the understanding that sin caused a breach in that relationship.

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- The Old Testament requirement is met for us in our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Isaiah 53:6** “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Jesus is our sin sacrifice, He has borne our sins making fellowship with God possible.

**1 John 1:7** “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

**Burnt offering:** The “burnt offering” was the sacrifice of consecration. Stating that I want to consecrate my life to God, I want to submit myself to the will of God and to His plans for my life – yielding themselves to the will of God.

- We do the same thing by allowing God to be the Lord of our lives in a real sense.

**Romans 12:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

- **Peace offering:** Also known as the fellowship offering; the fat of the lamb would be burnt, which was God’s portion. Then they would sit down and eat the rest of the offering, having fellowship with Him, communing with God.
- After Israel had offered sacrifices to God, God speaks to him.

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### In today’s terms, what is our sacrifice to God?

**John 6:28-29** “<sup>28</sup>Then said they unto Him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”

**Mark 8:34** “And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

**Our sacrifice to God? (cont.)**

**Psalms 51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

**Galatians 2:20** “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

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- These things may at first glance seem simply spiritual, or philosophical – but the full meaning could be our bodies, our health, our comfort, our homes, and our families, whatever it is that we hold dear.
- The Gospel is free, but it may cost us everything...
- After Israel had offered sacrifices to God, God speaks to him.

V: 2            God speaks to Israel, comforts, re-assures him – in visions of the night.

**Hebrews 1:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in the time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”

- God is able to speak to us as he chooses. Most often He will speak to us through his Word – a scripture will jump or perhaps it will directly address a question or situation in our lives. He has spoken to me many many times through His word.
- Part of it is the looking for Him to speak to us, anticipating it, throwing questions out to the Lord and expecting answers.

**Joel 2:28** “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”

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**Matthew 12:29** “Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his good, except he first bind the strong man? And the He will spoil his house.”

- Summer camp / Green Valley – dream, prayer: teaching, testimony, outpouring of God’s Spirit – 3 young men presently in ministry, several others walking with the Lord.
- House building: plumbing, drain pipe – no clue – dream – direction – completion.

V: 3-4 God explains that this will be part of the process to fulfill God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob about making them a great nation.

- God identifies Himself to Israel as “El Elohim”, I am the God of your father.
- *“Fear not to go down to Egypt”*: which brings understanding as to why God referred to “Jacob, Jacob” in the previous verse – there was some element of fear in Israel’s heart and mind.
- God is the One who will make them a nation:

**Zechariah 4:6** “... Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

**Matthew 16:18** “... I will build My church;”

*“I will go down with thee unto Egypt...”*

- Later under Moses’ leadership the children of Israel learned that as the Pillar of Cloud by day or the Pillar of Fire by night stayed or moved they learned to either follow or stay put.

**Exodus 33:15** “And he said unto Him, if thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.”

- Don’t worry, I’ll bring you home again – and Joseph will be the one to close your eyes, he will be with you too.

V: 5-8 With God’s blessing and assurances in hand, Jacob get’s going.

- Jacob is 130 years old when he starts out on his new life.

**Psalms 71:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. <sup>15</sup>My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. <sup>16</sup>I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. <sup>17</sup>O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. <sup>18</sup>Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.”

- Contrary to Pharaoh's instructions, they brought all their stuff with them.
- "Jacob" – that's who he was when they were born, son's of Jacob.

V: 9-27      Scoreboard

Leah	Zilpah	Rachel	Bilhah
6 sons	2 sons	2 sons	2 sons
29 grand	14 grand.	12 grand.	5 grand.
- 2 died			
33	16	14	7
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70 total	minus 1 daughter + Jacob = 70		

- 70 comes up several more times in Israel's history:
  1. Moses appointed 70 elders to help guide the nation.
  2. Later there would be 70 "elders" in the Sanhedran, the Jewish high counsel.
  3. There were seventy "7's" determined upon the house of Israel. We've seen 69 of those weeks come to pass.
  4. Israel was held captive in Babylon for 70 years.
  5. Jesus sent out 70 disciples to minister to the house of Israel.

V: 28 Israel is acting decisively. Judah has seemingly emerged from the crowd as the leader, Jacob sends Judah ahead of the family to Joseph to get direction for the family.

V: 29-30      Joseph is seen in his power and might as he prepares his chariot.

- Joseph is reunited with his father.
- In Israel's words – "I can die now, it doesn't get any better."
- Israel / governed by God was ready to die once he's seen Joseph, a type of Jesus.
- Once we've had a personal encounter, once we've embraced Jesus, once we too are governed by God, then we're ready to die, ready to leave this world.

**Hebrews 9:27**      "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

- Whether we get run over by a truck, or have a sudden health issue, maybe we choke on a jalapeno bratwurst, or my personal favorite: thrown into a volcano by marauding savages – if we know Jesus, and He knows us – then we're ready.

V: 31-34 Joseph is going to prep the way for his family with Pharaoh.

V: 33 *“What is your occupation?”*

**Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.”

**2 Timothy 2:3-4** <sup>3</sup>Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

*“... every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.”*

- Egyptian art and records un-earthed by archeologists portray shepherds as dirty, crippled, and unsightly.
- As mentioned a week or two ago, besides dealing with cattle in general, the eating of cows was highly offensive to the Egyptians.
- The Egyptians saw themselves as being culturally superior, not willing to lower themselves to the level of these “shepherds” – would prevent the intermarrying of these two groups of people.
- God used this prejudice to preserve this new nation of people that He would call his own.

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- The Hebrews were an abomination to the Egyptians, in the same way we as followers of Jesus Christ are an abomination to the world.
  - Question: Are we abominable? Is there a difference? Do we seek the acceptance of the world?

**2 Corinthians 6:14** <sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

**James 4:4** “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

**1 John 2:15-17** “<sup>15</sup>Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

- Ecclesia – church – called out ones.
- How do we become Abominable?
- Speak the truth, speak the truth in love, speak the word of God, live out the word of God – and we will be plenty abominable.
- Either we will be an abomination to the world, or we will be an abomination to God.

**John 17:14-17** “<sup>14</sup>I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup>I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them through thy truth, Thy word is truth.”