

## Genesis Ch. 47

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V: 1 Joseph's family arrives from the land of Canaan settling in the land of Goshen.

V: 2 Joseph takes a representative group from among his family – they may have been his brothers, perhaps Benjamin, perhaps some of his nephews.

- Chuck Missler refers to the Bible as an “integrated message system” – everything has meaning, nothing is place here by accident – there are no coincidences.

**Matthew 5:18** “For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

- The dot of the “i” or the cross of the “t” – it all has meaning.
- 5 men are presented unto Pharaoh: Indicative of God's grace.
- Israel's family had done nothing to deserve the goodness which is now bestowed upon them. Their lives are spared, they are given both land and provision, favor with Pharaoh – all because God keeps His promises.

V: 3 Pharaoh asks Joseph's brethren what is your occupation – in a sense who are you?

- Just as when Jacob wrestled with God at the river Jabbok and was asked by the Angel of God – what is your name – forcing Jacob to admit to who and what he was.
- It was then, after coming to a place of truth about himself that God re-named Jacob to Israel – governed by God.
- Here the sons of Jacob enter into the land of Egypt and are asked what is your occupation? In a sense who are you? We are shepherds – we are that thing that you loathe.
- The first time, Jacob crossed the River Jabbok headed to the Ur of the Chaldees he had only his staff; coming back he was a family, a small multitude.
- Thus God begins a new work in the sons of Jacob as they cross into Egypt a family; when they leave they will be the nation of Israel.

V: 4 The children of Israel have come to “sojourn” – to stay temporarily, not permanently, with the intent of returning to the promise land.

V: 5-6 Pharaoh speaks favorably to Joseph about his family, offers them jobs.

V: 7-10 Joseph brings Jacob his father in before Pharaoh.

Jacob blesses Pharaoh:

**Hebrews 7:7** “And without contradiction the less is blessed of the better.”

- In God’s eye, this old shepherd whom God chose to be the father of a nation was greater than the king of the most powerful kingdom of the world at that time.
- It stands to reason that Pharaoh only asked that question because Jacob must have looked really old.
- The response: 130 years old, few and evil have been the days of his “pilgrimage” – Jacob realized that he wasn’t a permanent resident, just passing through.
- Jacob’s response must have startled Pharaoh, the average life span back then was very short, in modern times life spans have increase in western countries – but 130 years would still be considered extraordinary.
- Jacob would live 17 years in Egypt and die at 147.

**Psalm 90:10** “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”

- Abraham lived 175 years, Isaac lived for 180 years. Jacob probably assumed at that time that his death was eminent – 147 isn’t bad.

**James 4:14** “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

V: 11-12 Joseph establishes his family in a goodly place and at the same time makes sure that their needs are met and that provision is made for them.

V: 13-20 Joseph is still the chief steward to Pharaoh.

- As he sells grain to the Egyptians, they eventually run out of money, then they sell their flocks and their herds, and finally they sell their land and themselves into slavery. (Their suggestion)
- The blessing is that there is food to be purchased.
- Pharaoh ends up owning everything and every one, except that which was owned by the priests – which Pharaoh already owned and supported.

V: 21 Joseph then moves all the people from the rural areas to the cities, making food distribution easier.

V: 22 The priests are the only ones exempt from these measures.

- Because the sons of Jacob had their portion from Pharaoh through Joseph, there was no need for them to sell off their herds or cattle.

V: 23-24 Joseph gives the people seed to plant with the provision that 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the harvest, or 20% would come back to Pharaoh as his portion.

V: 25-26 The people are grateful, knowing that their lives have been spared from starvation, and they willingly accept their new positions.

V: 27 The nation of Israel grew and multiplied – they increased in number & prospered.

V: 28-31 As Jacob draws near to death; he compels Joseph to promise to bury him in the land of his fathers, back in the promise land. Joseph agrees.

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## ***Genesis Chapter 48***

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V: 1-2 A servant reports to Joseph that Jacob is sick.

- Jacob is told that Joseph is coming, and “Israel” is strengthened.
- We too should be strengthened with the knowledge that our greater than Joseph, our Lord Jesus is on the way! Be strong and of a good courage!

**Revelation 22:20** “Behold, I come quickly!”

V: 3 Jacob was 77 years old when he left home to go to Padan-Aram to find a wife. On the way he slept in Luz where he had a vision of God – where God appeared to him. He re-named the place “Beth-El”, the “House of God.” (Gen. 28 & 35)

- An event 70 years prior that was so meaningful that he still speaks of it – a place of blessing for Jacob.

V: 4 Check it out – it has happened.

- Next is the land...

V: 5 In claiming Joseph's sons as his own Jacob is in a way giving Joseph a double blessing, or a double inheritance.

- Joseph would normally get one portion which would later be split by his sons.
- Joseph is already pretty well set up as #2 in Egypt, his sons become Jacob's sons and they each receive an equal share with the rest of Joseph's brothers.
- This is also why when the tribes of Israel are listed sometimes they use "Joseph" sometime they use "Ephraim" and "Manasseh", other names drop off at times.

V: 6 Any other children after Ephraim and Manasseh are on you.

V: 7 Near the end of his life, Jacob is recalling the biggest events of his life.

- His greatest joy: God appearing to him, speaking to him.
- His saddest day: Burying the love of his life, Rachel – Joseph's mother.
- Expected more children from Rachel...

V: 8-9 Israel is going to bless the sons of Joseph, who Joseph freely acknowledges are a blessing from God.

- Israel has spoken of Ephraim & Manasseh, but as explained in the next verse, his failing eyesight keeps him from recognizing them – too blurry.

V: 10 Israel, like Isaac before him had gotten to the age where his eyes were dim – physically blind.

- Unlike his father, Jacob is seeing very clearly in the spirit; he is living what Paul described:

**2 Corinthians 5:7** "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

V: 11 Israel acknowledges the blessing; he didn't ever expect to see Joseph again, yet now he get's to see both Joseph and his sons!

- Joseph disappeared from Israel when he was 17 years old, now he has gotten to live with and be near by Joseph for these last 17 years.
- Restoration has taken place in Israel's life.

**Joel 2:25** "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."

V: 12-14 Joseph's sons were born in the years of plenty and were probably around 7-8 years old when Israel first came to Egypt. Now add 17 years to that which makes them somewhere around 24-25 years old. Joseph is around 56-57 years old at this time.

- Joseph bows down before his father, then brings his sons forward to receive the blessing.
- Joseph knows that Manasseh is the eldest and pre-arranges him on the left so that Israel's right hand will fall upon him and Ephraim, the younger so that Israel's left hand will be upon him.
- Israel crosses his hands to do just the opposite, "wittingly" putting the right hand of blessing upon Ephraim, giving the greater blessing – similar to the birthright and blessing that Jacob had obtained through trickery from his father Isaac.

V: 15-16 Israel blesses Joseph, describing the God of Abraham and Isaac who has taken care of me all these years.

- When you are governed by God, you are a blessing to all those around you.
- The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who has kept his word!

Later as Joshua was preparing to die, he exhorted the leaders:

**Joshua 23: 14** "And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof."

**Isaiah 40:8** "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

V: 16 "*The Angel which redeemed me from all evil,...*"

- 1<sup>st</sup> mention of "redeemed" in the bible.
- "Redeemed" (H1350) ga'al, (gaw-al' / **goel**) "kinsmen redeemer" to redeem, to buy back from bondage, to be the next of kin and as such to buy back a relative's property, marry his widow, purchase, ransom, redeem.
- Israel understood the concept of being redeemed; he understood God's redemptive grace.
- He knew – that his calling and election were sure. (**2 Peter 1:10**)
- "May the God who has redeemed me bless the boys..."

*“Let my name be named on them”* – I am “governed by God” may they also be “governed by God”.

- May the promises of God given to me be given to them also – now there’s a blessing!

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V: 15-16     **Trinity:**

1. “God” – “Elohim”, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked.
  - **God the Father.**
2. “God which fed me...” - Elohim + “fed me” (H7462). ra'ah, raw-aw'; to tend a flock, to shepherd.
  - Meaning God, the **Holy Spirit** which has fed me all the days of my life.

**Psalm 23:1-2**     *“<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.”*

3. “The Angel which redeemed me from all evil.” Jesus is often referred to as “The Angel of the Lord” in the Old Testament, and He is our “redeemer”
  - **God the Son – Jesus, our redeemer** lives!
  - Later in the N/T Jesus tell us “call no man father” (**Matthew 23:9**) – because “father” means “life giver”
    1. God the Father, our heavenly Father – our life giver.
    2. The Holy Spirit, the Shepherd of our soul – our life sustainer.
    3. Jesus, the Angel of the Lord – our life redeemer.

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V: 17-18     Joseph tries to correct his father, trying to switch Israel’s hands.

V: 19 Israel refuses, explaining that he knows what he is doing.

- Somehow, God had communicated to Israel who to bless and how to bless them.
- Israel is exercising spiritual discernment, walking in the Spirit.
- A word of prophecy; the younger shall be greater – but they both shall be blessed.
- Later the tribe of Ephraim would be much greater than the tribe of Manasseh.

V: 20-21 Another word of prophecy; you meaning Joseph – will be brought into the land of your fathers.

V: 22 Israel acknowledges that Joseph, through his sons, has received a double portion / inheritance.

- Taken from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow – weapons of war. No previous mention.

**John 4:5** “Then cometh He to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.”