

Genesis 46

Jacob Moves to Egypt

So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." ³ Then He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. ⁴ I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also assuredly bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes."

⁵ Then Jacob left Beersheba, and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶ They also took their livestock and their possessions, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him: ⁷ his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

Those Who Came to Egypt

²⁶ All the people belonging to Jacob, who came to Egypt, his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons, *were* sixty-six persons in all, ²⁷ and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two; all the people of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, *were* seventy.

²⁸ Now *Jacob* sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph, to guide him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen. ²⁹ And Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared to him, *Joseph* threw himself on his neck and wept on his neck a long time. ³⁰ Then Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive."

³¹ But Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who *were* in the land of Canaan, have come to me; ³² and the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' ³³ When Pharaoh calls for you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

³⁴ you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock since our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' so that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. Jacob having been convicted by the carts sent to them, 'care of Pharaoh', he proceeds to Egypt.
2. On his way to Egypt, Jacob makes a stop at Beersheba Why?
3. Why did Jacob stop to offer a sacrifice at Beersheba?
4. Genesis 21:33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.
5. Why does the narrator use the term 'vision of the night' and not 'a dream'?
6. Why did God call Jacob twice?
7. Jacob hears God's reassurance in His tone and comforting words. How important is tone and words?
8. God says to Jacob 'don't be afraid to go down to Egypt', this word is enough now for Jacob to continue on his journey.
9. Why as human beings do we need this level of reassurance in life?
10. God makes a promise to Jacob to bring great blessings upon his family in fulfilling Abraham's original promise to become 'a great nation'.
11. Not only that, but He promises to go with them to Egypt. What did this mean to Jacob? What does it mean to us for God to be with us?
12. The promise continues and when they are a strong nation they will be brought back to the land of Canaan.
13. Why was Egypt the incubation of the nation of Israel?
14. God encourages Jacob further by saying that Joseph will be there, with him, when he dies (close eyes).
15. So they set out for Egypt in Joseph's carts, the whole family as well as the cattle. Egypt, here we come!
16. Verses 8-25 are a record of the names.
17. Verse 26 – 66 people represent the seed of the new nation, that's not including Jacob's wives. Why were they not included? Nor the sons of Joseph born to him in Egypt. All included, 70 people represent the seed.
18. Joseph designates the land of Gosham for his family to sow the seed.
19. Gosham kept them separate from the Egyptians and gave them exclusive opportunity to remain a unique nation unto God.
20. Joseph sets out to meet his dad and family. Can you imagine the emotion charged in that atmosphere? They hugged and wept a long time, so much restoration, wholeness and healing. How many people in this time need to do something similar?
21. Jacob's lifelong wish to be restored to his son, Joseph, has been fulfilled, now he is ready to die.
22. Joseph informs Pharaoh of the safe arrival of his family.

23. He informs him that they are shepherds by trade, knowing full well that Egyptians have nothing to do with shepherds.
24. Do you think Pharaoh took delight in Joseph's family coming to Egypt? In a strange kind of way they bought with their resources and assets useful to Egypt and to Pharaoh.
25. So, Joseph is actually wanting his family to not culturally be contaminated with Egyptian culture. Why were shepherds loathsome to the Egyptians?