

Genesis 47

Jacob's Family Settles in Goshen

Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, 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?" So they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers."

⁴ They also said to Pharaoh, "We have come to reside in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen."⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you.⁶ The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock."

⁷ Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.⁸ And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many years have you lived?"⁹ So Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my living abroad are 130; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their living abroad."¹⁰ So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from his presence.¹¹ Now Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them property in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered.¹² Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their little ones.

¹³ Now there was no food in all the land, because the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.¹⁴ And Joseph collected all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan *in payment* for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.¹⁵ When the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph saying, "Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For *our* money is gone."

¹⁶ Then Joseph said, "Give up your livestock, and I will give you *food* for your livestock, since *your* money is gone."¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and the flocks and the herds and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.¹⁸ But when that year ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord the fact that our money is all spent, and the livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left for my lord except our bodies and our lands.

¹⁹ Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. So give us seed, so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate."

Result of the Famine

²⁰ So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's. ²¹ As for the people, he relocated them to the cities from one end of Egypt's border to the other. ²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy, because the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off the allotment which Pharaoh gave them. Therefore, they did not sell their land.

²³ Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, today I have purchased you and your land for Pharaoh; now, *here is* seed for you, and you may sow the land. ²⁴ t the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food, and 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 slaves." ²⁶ Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, *valid* to this day, that Pharaoh was to have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh's. ²⁷ Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous. ²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt for seventeen years; so the length of Jacob's life was 147 years.

²⁹ When the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Please, if I have found favor in your sight, place your hand under my thigh now and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness: please do not bury me in Egypt, ³⁰ but when I lie down 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 And he said, "Swear to me." So he swore to him. Then Israel bowed *in worship* at the head of the bed.

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

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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

Paul's observations and insights

1. The family, having arrived, are presented to Pharaoh by Joseph.
2. Why did he only choose five of the brothers?
3. How is Pharaoh feeling having heard that Joseph's brothers are shepherds?
4. To sojourn is to come and live alongside a nation. The danger of doing this is social contamination.
5. Pharaoh's willingness to let more people come and live in Egypt is a generous perspective, after all, there are more mouths to feed!

6. Pharaoh declares that they can live anywhere in the land of Egypt, they can even look after his cattle!
7. Then Joseph presents Jacob, his father, to Pharaoh, but it is Jacob who does the blessing. Why?
8. Jacob is 130 years old when he blesses Pharaoh, his life has had many twists and turns, hills and valleys, ups and downs.
9. The land of Rameses was the best of the land of Egypt in Gosham.
10. Joseph provides food from Pharaoh, free of charge, for his family.
11. The famine is very severe and the land is languishing.
12. Joseph made Pharaoh rich during the famine years and God was protecting Israel.
13. Now the Egyptians sell their livestock to survive the famine.
14. Pharaoh takes possession of all the livestock of the people, but not from Israel.
15. Joseph then takes the land from the Egyptians so that Pharaoh owns all of Egypt, he makes slaves of the Egyptians.
16. Having taken possession of the Egyptian people, why did Joseph move them from the countryside to the cities?
17. The Egyptian priests were protected, as well as their land.
18. Joseph makes a long term financial commitment, to extract one fifth of the Egyptian people's provision, for Pharaoh's treasury.
19. Joseph provides the seed for the Egyptian people to sow. When we tithe, we are sowing into the future seed of tomorrow.
20. 'Ninety percent blessed is better than one hundred percent cursed' said Malachi.
21. Four fifths to the needs of the Egyptians, one fifth to Pharaoh. Why were the Egyptian priests protected from giving and selling their possessions.
22. The Jewish nation during the famine, bought land and became prosperous, unlike the Egyptians who are now slaves with no possessions.
23. Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years, he died at 147 years old.
24. At the point of Jacob's death, he asked Joseph to make a promise with regards to his bones not being buried in Egypt.
25. Why was touching someone's thigh considered as a bond of
26. agreement?
27. Joseph agrees with his father to take his bones back to Israel.
28. What does a promise mean to you?