

Chapter 46

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 46 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class

Verses 1-4

From Geneva Study Bible- "And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and {a} offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.

(a) By this he signified both that he worshipped the true God, and that he kept in his heart the possession of that land from which need drove him (away from) at that time."

Read Genesis 21:33, Genesis 26:23-25

Beersheba seemed to be a special place for Abraham and his family, to seek and pray to God.

1. We know God is always with us, but is there a special place that you feel closer to the Lord every time you are there?

Verses 2-4

God's promises are faithful. The God of Abraham and Isaac continues to guide and protect that special family.

God had to tell Jacob to not be fearful in this move from Canaan. Joseph knew that God had a plan in bringing his family to Egypt. Jacob, however, did not know the Lord's plan until God told him to leave without fear. God assured him He would return the family back to the Promised land.

Life Application Study Bible, "When new situations or surroundings frighten you, recognize that experiencing fear is normal. To be paralyzed by fear, however, is an indication that you question God's ability to take care of you."

2. Read Matthew 10:28 and write this important truth it in your own words.

In your life currently, what things are causing you fear? Are you paralyzed by that fear? Do you need to confess that sin and rest in God's ability to take care of you?

3. What Scripture can give you peace when you are faced with fearful circumstances?

"I am God, the God of thy father.—Heb., *I am the El, the Elohim of thy father*. This is the last revelation given to Jacob, nor is any other supernatural event recorded until the vision of the burning bush (Exodus 3:4)... Jacob is to migrate into Egypt, his race is to grow there into a nation, so that the stay there would be long; God's presence and blessing will accompany and remain with them, and finally will bring them back to the promised land. For himself, too, there is the promise that Joseph will tend his sick bed and be with him at his death."

- Ellicott's Commentary

4. In verse 4, God says, "*I will go down with you to Egypt,*" Which verses can you find about God "being *with us*" and/or "will never leave us"?

The Lord is never far from those that love Him and follow Him. He is moving Jacob's family to Egypt to save them and preserve the line of the Messiah. He is also placing them on the path of much pain as they will eventually be enslaved by a future Egyptian Pharaoh. Sometimes it is in God's will for us to go through difficulties.

"We should not seek to confirm God's will by the absence of adversity." -- Alistair Begg

Does the Lord have you on a difficult path right now? We must keep the mindset of Eli, in 1Samuel 3:18, "*He is the LORD,*" replied Eli. "*Let Him do what is good in His eyes.*"

Verses 5-7

The entire family moved with their possessions. Jacob intended to stay, at least, through the remaining 5 years of the famine.

We can see that God is already beginning to fulfill the blessing of Isaac in Genesis 28.

Review Genesis 28:1-3

Verses 8-27

5. Look in Matthew 1:3 to see which of Judah's sons will continue the line to Jesus. _____

Gill's Exposition of the Bible - "And the sons of Levi, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. From these sprung the priests and Levites."

Read Numbers 3:5-9. Who appointed this family tribe to be priests? _____

There were 70 members of Jacob's family listed in the genealogy. These 70, were the beginning of the nation of Israel. Abram was promised 220 years earlier, (in Genesis 12:2) that God would make him a great nation. Does it surprise you that after 220 years, the family was a mere 70 people?

6. Read Revelation 22:20,21. What is declared by the Lord?

Believers have been waiting since those final two verses of the Bible were revealed to John. Is God slow in keeping His promises? Explain using Scripture.

Verse 28-34

Jacob sent *Judah* ahead. He was the trusted one to meet Joseph to find the way to Goshen.

Verse 29- Joseph's family reunion is now complete, as he meets his father as the family settles in Goshen. What a joyous sight that reunion must have been.

Can you imagine the joyful reunion when Jesus returned to His Father after completing His earthly purpose? Read John 20:17, Hebrews 12:2

7. Is there a Heavenly reunion you are looking forward to? A loved one that is awaiting your arrival in Heaven?

Be patient in hope, dear ones. It will happen soon. Romans 12:12 Until then, stay busy for the Lord.



Verse 32-34

Barnes Notes- "Joseph intends to make the "occupation" of his kindred (family) a prominent part of his communication to Pharaoh, in order to secure their settlement in Goshen. This he considers desirable, on two grounds: first, because Goshen was best suited for pasture; and secondly, because the chosen family would thus be comparatively isolated from Egyptian society."

"Shepherds are an abomination to the Egyptians." But they are important in Scripture and important to God.

David was the Shepherd boy that became Israel's Shepherd. Read Ezekiel 34:23.

And God sent a descendant of David, as the promised Good Shepherd. Read John 10:11-14

The religious leaders were not good shepherds. Read Ezekiel 34:8

Shepherds were the first ones given the Good News. Read Luke 2:8

They were ceremonially unclean from working with the animals, and socially looked down upon. But God chose them to be the first recipients of the Gospel message and to share the Good News.

Jesus is The Good Shepherd- Read John 10:11

In John 21:16, After His resurrection, Jesus told Peter to "Feed my sheep." Jesus still considered Himself the Good Shepherd after the Cross.

The Lamb will be The Shepherd. Revelation 7:16- 17 *" They will no longer hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any scorching heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."*

Jesus is the sacrificial lamb, but will always be The Good Shepherd.

It was important that Joseph instruct them to reveal that they were shepherds. Because of this, the family ended up in Goshen, which was very good land, and kept them from mingling and possibly intermarrying with the Egyptians.

As second in power, in Egypt, Joseph knew the land, knew the attitudes that the Egyptians had towards shepherds, and knew the most favorable location for his family to settle during their stay in Egypt.

Not only did God use Joseph to save Jacob's family from the famine, but He settled them in a certain area, to protect them in the future.

In Exodus, we find that the Israelites were spared from the plagues on the Egyptians, because they were providentially separated when they first arrived.

8. Read Exodus 8:20-23, 9:4, 9:25,26, 10:22

Explain the comfort that Christians can have in knowing that God can distinguish between His people and those who do not belong to Him, just as He did with the Israelites.

As we see the world seemingly spinning out of control, remember who you belong to and the unlimited power that He possesses. We are not hopeless. We should not act as is we are.

9. Who do you have in your circle of friends and acquaintances that needs this comfort? Pray for them and share the hope that we have in Jesus. What Scripture can you use to remind yourself and share with others?
