

Passage: Genesis 46

Title: Fear Not: God's Confirmation for the Journey Ahead

Summary: Life often brings us to crossroads where the path forward seems uncertain. We stand at the border between what we know and what lies ahead, torn between the pull of our hearts and the wisdom of waiting. In these moments, we need more than good intentions—we need divine direction. Jacob (Israel) will be given Divine direction in our passage today as he takes the whole family down to Egypt; and along the way the Lord will give us insights on how to seek His Divine direction when we are making our life decisions.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap / Joseph Revealed to Brothers / Bring Jacob / 5 years Left

Last chapter we see Joseph revealing himself to his brothers, and what a shocker it must have been. He sends them back to get Jacob and the rest of the family as Joseph will preserve them for the remaining 5 years left in the 7 year famine. Jacob doesn't believe it until he saw the wagons coming.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Genesis 46:1 NKJV) So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Far From Over for Jacob

Our days are numbered by the Lord, and there's a peace in resting in that, that he holds our breath in his hands, the breath you are taking right now, did you hear this, the breath you are taking right now, as you read this? Got it, given that breath. The heartbeat, life from the heart of a good, good father, and I just pray peace that you know you're in the hands of the Lord.

We're here, Jacob, years ago, thought he was going to die. No doubt for 22 years, die in heartache because of his role in his mind of sending Joseph to go check on the brothers. No doubt taking a blame if he had not done that, Joseph would not have been torn to shreds by this wild beast as the story was told. But here he's going to get to live a long life longer than expected. He's going to see Joseph, who he thought was lost, and dead, they're going to behold and hold one another, and then Jacob gets to not just end there. He gets the blessed, pray a blessing on the most powerful man on the whole earth, Pharaoh, so his life is far from over.

Psalms 90:12 (NKJV)

¹² So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Daniel 5:23 (NKJV)

²³ and the God who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways.....

So Step Out – God For It

Some Christians, maybe too many Christians, think the purpose of life is to arrive at death safely.

And I think many a Christians then live in that continual safety zone, afraid to step out, afraid to do anything, afraid of consequences so called of failure, whereas. The most exciting place to be is the place where it could fail. And it could blow up, and it could end in nothingness, that you show up, you step out, and nothing happens. And that's the excitement of the walk of faith, and that if we knew it would succeed, we would have no worries of stepping out, but stepping out with the possibility of sinking brings the excitement because then it brings us to the place of calling upon the Lord. To keep us from sinking. It draws us to him, to seek him, saying you're asking me to step out of the boat to go do this thing that you've told me to do, and I'm sure to sink if you don't hold me, but if you've called me, it's impossible to see, and that will be regardless of what the outcome looks like. To man, because sometimes it's not about what happened. It's about what's happening, and that is that we're in the boat with Jesus. We're launching out into the deep with Jesus. We're walking on water with Jesus, we're casting our nets to where Jesus says, called, and that's exciting.

And if he is holding our breath in his hands and knows the number of our days, then we need not worry about anything else. We just need to be, what is a continual theme of our book today? Living sacrifice. The excitement of being a living sacrifice, the honor of being a living sacrifice, and the absolute amazement that God would consider our lives, our sacrifice, a sweet sweat, smelling aroma on the him..

And let me say, sometimes the living sacrifice isn't about the ministry, so called, it's about the faithfulness to the Lord, saying no to the things that would make us comfortable, saying no to the things of the flesh, saying, Lord, may this sacrifice be holy, and the Moravian missionaries always used to have a scene, may the lamb. receive his inheritance, and that we are an inheritance of the life that was sacrificed on the cross to redeem us, and that the Lord considers us his inheritance, that's mine blood.

Any powerful point is in Revelation, that the saints cannot be touched in the tribulation period until their testimony is complete, and that is the same, it was true for each and every one of us. We are untouchable. Until our testimony is complete.

Edge of Promise Land

They left the area of Hebron and began their journey toward Egypt and came to Beersheba. Beersheba is on the edge of the desert, which is the edge of the land of Canaan or "land of promise." Once you leave Beersheba you are in the wilderness area.

Beersheba is a southern town in Israel. On the way to Egypt it's the last stop before you cross the hot sands of the Sinai. Apparently, it was in those hot sands that Jacob got cold feet. Remember, Abraham faced an earlier famine and fled to Egypt, but it was a mistake. He should've trusted God and stayed in the promised land... Jacob may now be wondering if he should do the same...

Beersheba / Abraham's Hometown / Jacob with Isaac

Beersheba held a lot of memories for Jacob, for he lived there, as a child, with his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac. They had built an altar there in Beersheba and Jacob offered sacrifices on that altar.

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

Jacob was Open – Has Ears to Hear

The Lord's giving Jacob a vision because Jacob is open to receive the vision and not just think that it was something he was thinking or some dream that meant nothing. God gives him this vision. So that he would have confidence in the direction that God is leading and giving him. And I think there's just pure power there for all of our lives that, Lord, I'm open. For confirmation to hear from you of where I'm going and what I'm doing next and I think there's something to be said about just waiting on the Lord. That may not come in the form of a vision or a dream, but it will come in the form of direction by his word, a piece that will pass understanding or a confirmation from, um, a brother or sister who gives you a word that you go, This is of the Lord, and we need to stay open for those things because when he goes, there's a lot at stake if you consider, that he's going to go into Egypt, which the last time was, this isn't the place that you should be. And the family should be, and he needs to know that this is what God has called him to go and to do.

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

Great Nation

I love this in that it is God who makes the great nation, not Jacob. We don't have to put the burden on ourselves but simply rest in the Lord to do the work. All we have to do is "abide"

[John 15:4-8 \(NKJV\)](#)

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Closing of the Eyes

In the culture of the day, closing the eyelids was the last act of kindness done for a dying man. It was an honor reserved for the closest relative. Joseph would oversee Jacob's death. Interestingly, for Abraham a trip to Egypt was a lack of faith - for Jacob it was a show of faith. What was wrong for Abraham was right for Jacob. The difference was God's will. Abraham was fearful. Jacob is faithful.

Jacob about 130 – Tough Travelers / Deep Emotion – Didn't Inquire of Lord

At this point, Jacob could have been one hundred and thirty years old and travelling on a cart wasn't too comfortable for him; but, his decision to go was one of deep emotion. Hearing that Joseph was alive and so anxious to see his son, he just decided to go and see him and didn't really inquire of the Lord or seek His will.

Appearances Deceiving / Seem Right can be Wrong

Appearances can be deceiving, things that appear to be so good and right, can be so wrong. Things that appear one way can be totally something different. Important we seek the Lord.

Isaac Told not to Go

Maybe, he was remembering how God had told Isaac not to go down to Egypt.

(Genesis 26:1 NKJV) There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

(Genesis 26:2 NKJV) Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you."

Abraham's Trip to Egypt – the Lie – Almost Death

Maybe he remembers the story of when Abraham went to Egypt and it almost cost him his life because he lied about Sarah being his sister and not his wife:

(Genesis 12:10 NKJV) Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.

(Genesis 12:11 NKJV) And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance."

(Genesis 12:12 NKJV) "Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live."

(Genesis 12:13 NKJV) "Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."

Grief of Hagar / Ishmael – Arab Muslims

Maybe he is remembering all the grief that was caused by Abraham going down to Egypt as he remembers back to what Abraham brought out of Egypt with him, when the Pharaoh said get out of Egypt you and your sister, excuse me your wife, and here are some riches for you, and take this maidservant - Hagar. From Hagar would come Ishmael, and we still see the struggles today there in the Mid-East that was caused by the child produced by Hagar and Abraham.

(Genesis 16:1 NKJV) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

Jacob Inquires of Lord / Check the Heart

He probably began to wonder if God was in this whole move. Maybe I should inquire of God whether or not I should go. I don't want to go against God's will even though my heart is drawing me there and so, he offered sacrifices (plural) to the God of his father Isaac. Jacob is going to do a heart check. The heart can be so deceitful, we need to keep it in check.

Stops at Border / Seem Right – Maybe Last Resort / Sound Familiar / Gets Confirmation

So Jacob stops at the border of Egypt and he stops to make sacrifice unto the Lord, he stops to make sure that what he is doing is right. It may seem like the right thing to do, maybe the last resort (sound familiar), but he stops to consult the Lord, for confirmation from Him, and the Lord says fear not, go into the land.

God gives Go-ahead / 400 yrs of Slavery – People Question / For Us – Place to Return To

God gives Jacob the go-ahead to go down to Egypt, and with it a most vital example for every one of us. What will happen to the children of Israel after some time there in Egypt? Enslavement, 400 years of enslavement. Surely they would have questioned why did Jacob bring the family down here to Egypt, God told his father not to go there for it was evil, nothing but problems, yet you came. Listen, when the struggle began, this is the place that they were to return to, God said fear not. Go down to Egypt. They were not to go back to, well Joseph was 2nd in the land, they were not to go back to there was a famine in the land, they were to go back to God said go to the land.

Talk this Often – Make Part of Life / Seek Him – He will Lead You

Christian we talk about this often, and it is so important to make this part of life, we are to seek the Lord on these matters. He will lead His children, He will speak to you on what you are to do.

What I Do / 4 Things / Scriptures – Counsel – Time – a Word

Here is what I do when I am faced with decisions such as this; I ask myself is this in opposition to the Word given in the Scriptures, If so then stop right there. I seek godly counsel with just a few (not many) and see if they see something I may be missing because my emotions are deceiving me. I also wait on the Lord for time will outlast my emotions, and anything that is of the Lord will last over time, it will keep coming back to my heart, it will stay upon my heart (for He would have put that desire in my heart). And as a major part, I ask the Lord for a Verse or a clear Word from Him.

In Agreement with the Word:

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(Psalms 119:105 NKJV) Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Godly Counsel:

(Proverbs 1:5 NKJV) A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

(Proverbs 11:14 NKJV) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Wait on the Lord:

(Psalms 27:14 NKJV) Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

(Psalms 37:34 NKJV) Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

(Psalms 37:4 NKJV) Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

(Psalms 37:5 NKJV) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

(Psalms 37:6 NKJV) He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

(Psalms 37:7 NKJV) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

Confirmation by Word or Verse:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

For this Church / Acts 8:26 – Go South

As for this fellowship the Lord spoke clearly to me as I did my morning studies, I was in Acts and God told Phillip to arise and go to the south and we know then he witnessed to the Ethiopian. God spoke to me and said go to the south (I was supporting at a church in Baltimore County, and obviously Anne Arundel County is south). I remember that moment as if only a moment ago:

(Acts 8:26 NKJV) Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

Why Important – Hard Times Come / Word to Stand On – Outside Circumstances

Why is that so important, because when the hard times came, and I questioned myself, the work, all the warfare, I always had that verse to stand on. No matter how bad it may have seemed, I always came back to the place and said I know this is your will for my life, and I am exactly where you want me to be. Doesn't matter what my outside circumstances may say, the Word is greater than my circumstances.

400 yrs of Slavery

400 years of slavery, but God said:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Be Slow to Run to Something / When Opposition Comes - Strengthened

Christian be slow to run into something, for a some point opposition will come and you will be glad, comforted, strengthened for the battle when you have taken you time and thought these things through. Is it that new job? Is it that person you are considering marrying, that ministry to be involved in? Christian god will always honor your waiting to hear form Him, He will bring it to pass even if it looks like it is now or never.

(Genesis 46:5 NKJV) Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

(Genesis 46:6 NKJV) So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him.

(Genesis 46:7 NKJV) His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

Whole Family Goes – Joseph will Preserve / Parents – Your Kids / Your Influence

The whole family goes to be with Joseph who will preserve them. Notice not one person of the family said no thanks, I'll stay here, I get by my own way. No the whole family goes with Father Jacob. Parents I believe you stick with Jesus, you live a life for Him, centered on Him, where He is the family priority, and your whole family will be saved, persevered. They are not saved by default (Psalm 49:7 & Duet 24:16), they are saved by demonstration. Mom and Dad you have a tremendous power and influence in your child, it something in the blood, and you can bring them to the greater than Joseph, Jesus Christ. Parents don't cave to the pressures of this world, don't worry about upsetting them, keep your attention on the King, and they will look to see where you are looking:

(Acts 16:31 NKJV) So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

(Acts 16:32 NKJV) Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

(Acts 16:33 NKJV) And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

(Proverbs 22:6 NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

God Preparing for Your Whole Family

God is preparing a place for your whole family.

By Name

By name I might add as we see here:

(Genesis 46:8 NKJV) Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn.

(Genesis 46:9 NKJV) The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

(Genesis 46:10 NKJV) The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

(Genesis 46:11 NKJV) The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

(Genesis 46:12 NKJV) The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

(Genesis 46:13 NKJV) The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron.

(Genesis 46:14 NKJV) The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

(Genesis 46:15 NKJV) These were the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, were thirty-three.

(Genesis 46:16 NKJV) The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

(Genesis 46:17 NKJV) The sons of Asher were Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and Serah, their sister. And the sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel.

(Genesis 46:18 NKJV) These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob: sixteen persons.

(Genesis 46:19 NKJV) The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin.
 (Genesis 46:20 NKJV) And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.
 (Genesis 46:21 NKJV) The sons of Benjamin were Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.
 (Genesis 46:22 NKJV) These were the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: fourteen persons in all.
 (Genesis 46:23 NKJV) The son of Dan was Hushim.
 (Genesis 46:24 NKJV) The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.
 (Genesis 46:25 NKJV) These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob: seven persons in all.

All

And here's the trip's manifest, a passenger log... Israel lists twelve sons, his daughter Dinah, fifty-two grandkids, and four great-grandsons... Of note, Dan had fewest kids, just one son... Benjamin had most, ten sons

Sons Listed by Name / Genealogy of Christ – Matt & Luke

Notice that each son of Jacob and his offspring are listed by name. Why are these lists of names given to us in the Scriptures? Doesn't God have more important information to give to us? My friend, there is nothing more important than our Lord Jesus Christ, and this is the genealogy that leads to Him. We will find some of these names in the genealogy in the first chapter of Matthew, at the beginning of the New Testament. Again, we will find some of these names in the genealogy given to us in Luke, chapter 3. These lists of names are important for that reason.

Another Reason / Lamb's Book of Life

There is another reason, and it is very personal. Have you heard of the Lamb's Book of Life? The question is: Is your name written there? Just as you got into the line of Adam (and we all are in that line), you get into the line of Christ—that is, by birth. But in the case of the Lamb's Book of Life, you get there by the new birth which comes about by receiving Christ as your personal Savior. When you do that, you become a child of God.

God Knows You / Knows Hair on Head / Knows You Personally

How important are you? Well, God knows you. In fact, He has numbered the very hairs of your head! He knows you better than anyone else knows you. He knows you and loves you more than your mother ever did—I don't imagine that she ever counted the hairs of your head! God did. God knows you personally.

Names Mean Nothing to Us – Everything to God

In Jacob's genealogy there are names that mean nothing to me. Often times as I drive to church on Sunday I see the ball fields filled with people, or I see them in their cars driving up to Ravens stadium for the game. As I looked at them, I thought, God knows each one of them, and God loves each one. They are not thinking of Him (most of them), but each one is precious in God's sight, and Christ died for each one. My friend, here you are in the midst of a great population explosion with literally millions of people around you, yet you are an individual to God. And the names listed in Jacob's genealogy are people whom I don't know. Candidly, I'm not that interested in them. But God is. He delighted in putting their names down because they were His. This again causes me to ask you the question: Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

(Genesis 46:26 NKJV) All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all.
 (Genesis 46:27 NKJV) And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.

66 people plus Joseph and his 2 sons, equal 69, and Jacob is seventy. These 70 names are important to us because we will see some of these names again as we are given the lineage of the Messiah in Matthew 1 (lineage of Joseph) and Luke 3 (lineage of Mary).

Jacob Great Nation / 600K Adults 400yrs

God said that He would make of Jacob a great nation there in Egypt. When they left Egypt four hundred years later there were six hundred thousand adult males over the age of twenty.

1.5 – 2.5 million / Only 5% Increase/yr

It is estimated that there was probably between 1.5 and 2.5 million people who made the Exodus with Moses. God made of him a great nation in the four hundred years that they were in Egypt. You might say that sounds impossible, but, if you take the age of Jacob at the time that he was married and the number of descendants he had by the time he went to Egypt it was a six percent per year increase in the population of the family. If you had a hundred people and you had a 5% per year increase in population, in two hundred and twenty-five years you have a population of more than two million. It was seventy that went down, six hundred thousand adults males over the age of twenty that came out, four hundred years later.

(Genesis 46:28 NKJV) Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen.

Judah Goes before Them / Praise & Worship – Into His Presence

Judah went before them, to point out, prepare the way, for the joyful reunion with Joseph, a picture of Jesus Christ. Judah means “praise”, how fitting that praise leads the way into the presence of Joseph. We are so blessed to have praise and worship here as it prepares and brings us into the presence of the Lord. Worship is a wonderful gift from the Lord.

(Genesis 46:29 NKJV) So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

(Genesis 46:30 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive."

After 22 Years

After 22 years, thinking and not knowing, the father and the son are reunited. Imagine for just a moment what that reunion was like.

The Father Stands

I read a story years ago about a man who taken away to the concentration camp, and separated from his only son, yet somehow miraculously survived the years in camp, and years later after being liberated from the camp, was miraculously reunited with his son. The son says, still to this day, every time he walks into the room, his father stands..... Yeah grab the tissue.

Tatte

The Jerusalem Post had an incredible article a few years ago. The story is about a man who had been rescued from a concentration camp during the Holocaust. He was raised in South Africa and while there as a young man he committed himself to the Jewish faith. He eventually became a Rabbi. Once he found himself on an airplane seated next to an elderly gentleman that he felt particularly drawn to. They spoke in Yiddish, talked about Israel and politics and the Jewish world. When breakfast came the young rabbi encouraged the elder man to skip the sausage (kosher meal), but the elder man said since I lost my only child in Auschwitz, he ate whatever he liked. They parted but the rabbi was deeply disappointed that he did not ask the elder man for his telephone number. 2 years later on a visit to the holocaust museum there in Jerusalem the rabbi saw a familiar figure at the entrance to the building, he ran over to the man and speaking in Yiddish said do you recognize me, do you remember our plane trip? The man smiled and said I do, and I still eat the sausage. The rabbi asked if the elder man would join him on his walk through the museum, the old man said I never go in, didn't I tell you that I lost my only son at Auschwitz.

Something suddenly clicked in the rabbi brain and he said what was your name before the war he asked, and when the man answered, tears began to run down the rabbi face. He said "Tatte" - father, all they gave me at the orphanage was one word, your name, I am your son. Now they both live together in Israel, the father no longer eats sausages, and the only thing the rabbi complains about is every time he enters the room, his father stands up.

Source: [Pastor Joe \(Genesis 46 study\)](#)

Ever Consider the Father – Son Reunion / Forsaken for Sin – So we are Not

I have never thought about this before, but we always consider the apostles and followers of Christ and their great reunion with Jesus after His resurrection. Here Jacob sees the son he thought was dead alive, and they embrace and hold each other, and weep. Have you ever considered the reunion of the Father and Son after Jesus who was dead rises again and is embraced by the Father? The reunion after Jesus would cry out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The sins of the whole world placed upon Him, the sins of Hitler, Saddam, Charles Manson, the sins of the pervert, the sins of the child molester, your sins, and my sin, as the Father would turn away, and Jesus for the first time in eternity asking "why hast thou forsaken me", so all who will chose will never have to be forsaken.

Imagine the Embrace / Smiles – Tears / I Brought Family

I can only imagine, the embrace, as they look into each others eyes, the tears, the smile, and then Jesus would extend His hands towards the risen saints and say, I brought the family. I can only imagine! Dad, the rest will be here soon.

Praise

Thank God for Praise and Worship, for He is worthy.

Joseph Held On to Hope / Jacob the Impossible Happened / Same God

Joseph held on to this hope of seeing his father again. For Jacob an impossible situation has unfolded before him. You know the very same God that took this impossible situation and brought it to past is the same God today:

(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(Malachi 3:6 NKJV) "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Are You Living Impossible Situation / He Works Same Today

Are you living an impossible situation in your life today, that God seems to be over looking, that you may think He worked that was in ancient times, but not for me today; He is the same.

Chance - It Was Meant to Be

Marcel Sternberger was a methodical man of nearly 50, with bushy white hair, guileless brown eyes, and the bouncing enthusiasm of a czardas dancer of his native Hungary. He always took the 9:09 Long Island Railroad train from his suburban home to Woodside, N.Y., where he caught a subway into the city.

On the morning of January 10, 1948, Sternberger boarded the 9:09 as usual. En route, he suddenly decided to visit Laszlo Victor, a Hungarian friend who lived in Brooklyn and was ill.

Accordingly, at Ozone Park, Sternberger changed to the subway for Brooklyn, went to his friend's house, and stayed until midafternoon. He then boarded a Manhattan-bound subway for his Fifth Avenue office. Here is Marcel's incredible story:

The car was crowded, and there seemed to be no chance of a seat. But just as I entered, a man sitting by the door suddenly jumped up to leave, and I slipped into the empty place. I've been living in New York long enough not to start conversations with strangers. But being a photographer, I have the peculiar habit of analyzing people's faces, and I was struck by the features of the passenger on my left. He was probably in his late 30s, and when he glanced up, his eyes seemed to have a hurt expression in them. He was reading a Hungarian-language newspaper, and something prompted me to say in Hungarian, "I hope you don't mind if I glance at your paper."

The man seemed surprised to be addressed in his native language. But he answered politely, "You may read it now. I'll have time later on."

During the half-hour ride to town, we had quite a conversation. He said his name was Bela Paskin. A law student when World War II started, he had been put into a German labor battalion and sent to the Ukraine. Later he was captured by the Russians and put to work burying the German dead. After the war, he covered hundreds of miles on foot until he reached his home in Debrecen, a large city in eastern Hungary.

I myself knew Debrecen quite well, and we talked about it for a while. Then he told me the rest of his story. When he went to the apartment once occupied by his father, mother, brothers and sisters, he found strangers living there. Then he went upstairs to the apartment that he and his wife once had. It also was occupied by strangers. None of them had ever heard of his family.

As he was leaving, full of sadness, a boy ran after him, calling "Paskin bacs! Paskin bacs!" That means "Uncle Paskin." The child was the son of some old neighbors of his. He went to the boy's home and talked to his parents. "Your whole family is dead," they told him. "The Nazis took them and your wife to Auschwitz."

Auschwitz was one of the worst Nazi concentration camps. Paskin gave up all hope. A few days later, too heartsick to remain any longer in Hungary, he set out again on foot, stealing across border after border until he reached Paris. He managed to immigrate to the United States in October 1947, just three months before I met him.

All the time he had been talking, I kept thinking that somehow his story seemed familiar. A young woman whom I had met recently at the home of friends had also been from Debrecen; she had been sent to Auschwitz; from there she had been transferred to work in a German munitions factory. Her relatives had been killed in the gas chambers. Later she was liberated by the Americans and was brought here in the first boatload of displaced persons in 1946.

Later, she was liberated by the Americans and was brought here in the first boatload of displaced persons in 1946.

Her story had moved me so much that I had written down her address and phone number, intending to invite her to meet my family and thus help relieve the terrible emptiness in her life.

It seemed impossible that there could be any connection between these two people, but as I neared my station, I fumbled anxiously in my address book. I asked in what I hoped was a casual voice, "Was your wife's name Marya?"

He turned pale. "Yes!" he answered. "How did you know?"

He looked as if he were about to faint.

I said, "Let's get off the train." I took him by the arm at the next station and led him to a phone booth. He stood there like a man in a trance while I dialed her phone number.

It seemed hours before Marya Paskin answered. (Later I learned her room was alongside the telephone, but she was in the habit of never answering it because she had so few friends and the calls were always for someone else. This time, however, there was no one else at home and, after letting it ring for a while, she responded.)

When I heard her voice at last, I told her who I was and asked her to describe her husband. She seemed surprised at the question, but gave me a description. Then I asked her where she had lived in Debrecen, and she told me the address.

Asking her to hold the line, I turned to Paskin and said, "Did you and your wife live on such-and-such a street?"

"Yes!" Bela exclaimed. He was white as a sheet and trembling.

"Try to be calm," I urged him. "Something miraculous is about to happen to you. Here, take this telephone and talk to your wife!"

He nodded his head in mute bewilderment, his eyes bright with tears. He took the receiver, listened a moment to his wife's voice, then suddenly cried, "This is Bela! This is Bela!" and he began to mumble hysterically. Seeing that the poor fellow was so excited he couldn't talk coherently, I took the receiver from his shaking hands.

"Stay where you are," I told Marya, who also sounded hysterical. "I am sending your husband to you. We will be there in a few minutes."

Bela was crying like a baby and saying over and over again. "It is my wife. I go to my wife!"

At first I thought I had better accompany Paskin, lest the man should faint from excitement, but I decided that this was a moment in which no strangers should intrude. Putting Paskin into a taxicab, I directed the driver to take him to Marya's address, paid the fare, and said goodbye.

Bela Paskin's reunion with his wife was a moment so poignant, so electric with suddenly released emotion, that afterward neither he nor Marya could recall much about it.

"I remember only that when I left the phone, I walked to the mirror like in a dream to see if maybe my hair had turned gray," she said later. "The next thing I know, a taxi stops in front of the house, and it is my husband who comes toward me. Details I cannot remember; only this I know—that I was happy for the first time in many years...."

"Even now it is difficult to believe that it happened. We have both suffered so much; I have almost lost the capability to not be afraid. Each time my husband goes from the house, I say to myself, 'Will anything happen to take him from me again?'"

Her husband is confident that no horrible misfortune will ever again befall the. "Providence has brought us together," he says simply. "It was meant to be."

Skeptical persons will no doubt attribute the events of that memorable afternoon to mere chance. But was it chance that made Marcel Sternberger suddenly decide to visit his sick friend and hence take a subway line that he had never ridden before? Was it chance that caused the man sitting by the door of the car to rush out just as Sternberger came in? Was it chance that caused Bela Paskin to be sitting beside Sternberger, reading a Hungarian newspaper?

Was it chance—or did God ride the Brooklyn subway that afternoon?

[Paul Deutschman, Great Stories Remembered, edited and compiled by Joe L. Wheeler, Focus on the Family Publ., December 1996.](#)

[Galaxie Software. \(2002\). 10,000 Sermon Illustrations. Biblical Studies Press.](#)

Same God Today

Same God! Do you have an impossible situation in your life that you think He won't deal with?

(Genesis 46:31 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

(Genesis 46:32 NKJV) 'And the men are shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.'

(Genesis 46:33 NKJV) "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

(Genesis 46:34 NKJV) "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we and also our fathers,' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

Be Marked Man/Women

Every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians: The Egyptians were agricultural in the sense of farming crops. They considered sheep unclean, and therefore detested shepherds.

Joseph not only intercedes for his brothers, but he also instructs them, saying, "When you go before Pharaoh, and he asks your occupation, tell him you're shepherds." Why did Joseph instruct his brothers to answer this way? Because Egyptian society at that time was based on a caste system. And guess who was at the bottom of the heap, the lowest rung on the social ladder. Shepherds. Shepherds were untouchable. People didn't interact with them. They weren't allowed in the temples of Egyptian deities. Thus, as shepherds, Joseph's brothers would be marked men—completely separated from the worldly Egyptian system. Joseph knew that were his brothers not marked, they would be assimilated into Egyptian culture.

I have discovered that a Bible in my hand, a bumper sticker on my car, or a Christian logo on my shirt makes me a marked man. Secret, closet Christians get in all kinds of trouble and are susceptible to walk into temptation needlessly. Identify yourself at every opportunity, gang—even if it makes you look like a "shepherd" in the eyes of society. Don't say, "I'm going to a meeting." Say, "I'm going to Bible study. Why don't you come with me?"

Joseph—a picture of Jesus—said, "I want you to be marked in this land in order that you might keep your purity and identity intact." Wise is the one who follows his instruction

[Courson, J. \(2005\). Jon Courson's application commentary: Volume one: Genesis–Job \(pp. 201–202\). Thomas Nelson.](#)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need