

Genesis 46-47

Pastor Jim Thomas

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SERMON NOTES

Genesis

In the beginning...

Genesis 46-47

A Sojourning Reunion

1. Jacob reminds us that seeking after God and worshiping God equip us to be able to hear from God.
2. Jacob and Joseph remind us that sometimes God uses believers to bless non-believers.
3. Pharaoh reminds us that sometimes God uses non-believers to bless believers.
4. Genesis 46-47 leads us to rest in the fact that God is sovereign over human history and points us to the promise that He has planned the greatest reunion of all!

“In a life with God, His guidance, provision, and protection are important, as Jacob and the psalmist knew, but in all such experiences the center and source is God’s presence ‘with’ us. To discover that God is ‘with’ us is probably the most important discovery anyone can make, for, once made, it colors all of life’s experiences.”

- Richard Bauckham, *Who is God?*

“When we feed the hungry only because, once fed, they will listen to the Gospel presentation, we betray the very teaching of the One who had compassion on people because... well, just because He was compassionate.”

- Steve Brown

“Evangelicals for most of their history have had a curious emphasis on the brakes rather than on the steering wheel. They are forever quitting this or that. I was decades into my life in Christ before it seriously occurred to me that we do not become vibrant believers because of the things we quit.”

- Calvin Miller, *Into the Depths of God*

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

“Our lifelong nostalgia, our longing to be reunited with something in the universe from which we now feel cut off, to be on the inside of some door which we have always seen from the outside, is no mere neurotic fancy, but the truest index of our real situation.”

- C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*