

The Story of Joseph: Seeing the Bigger Picture

Week 14: Jacob's Journey to Egypt

Scripture:

Genesis 46:1-27

Motivation (Why You Need This):

Where are we in the story?

- Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers, who were frightened (Gen. 45:1-3)
- Joseph calms their fears by telling them that this was God's plan (Gen. 45:4-8)
Genesis 45:7 (ESV) And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.
Related to God's promise to Abraham 215 years prior (land, nation, blessing)
- Joseph told his brothers to return to Canaan and bring everyone to Egypt so they would be protected during the rest of the famine (Gen. 45:9-15)
- Pharaoh heard what happened and sent provision and promises to Joseph's family (Gen. 45:16-24)
- Joseph's brothers return to Canaan, and their father is revived upon hearing the news of Joseph and agrees to go to Egypt (Gen. 45:25-28)

Now we'll see what happens on their journey to Egypt.

Information (What You Need to Know):

Jacob's Journey to Egypt...

- **Jacob worships and God speaks to him in a vision**
 - ✓ Jacob stops in Beersheba to offer sacrifices to God
Genesis 46:1 (ESV) So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.
Let's rewind to the last interaction (recorded) between Jacob and God...
Genesis 35:11 (ESV) And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. **12** The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." **13** Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. **14** And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. **15** So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

- This interaction was over 22-30 years prior to their trip to Egypt
- God promised a land and nation, as He had to Abraham and Isaac
- Jacob worshiped at that place

What happens following this? Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel, dies while giving birth to Benjamin. Then, Jacob's father, Isaac, dies. Then, in Genesis 37 Jacob thinks he has also lost his son, Joseph...and then over two decades had passed since we've see God and Jacob communing. ***Are these the reasons???*** **God was working, even in the waiting.**

- ✓ God speaks to Jacob in visions at night

Genesis 46:2 (ESV) 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 there I will make you into a great nation. **4** I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

- *"Don't be afraid to go to Egypt"*

Jacob was likely hesitant to go to Egypt. He may have remembered that his grandfather Abraham's earlier journey to Egypt during a famine was tied to unbelief and brought bad consequences (Gen. 12:10–20). Jacob may have also remembered that God had commanded his father Isaac not to go there (Genesis 26:2).

- *"I keep my promises"* (215 years since the promise to Abraham)
- *"I will be with you"*
- *"I will take you safely back to Canaan"*
- *"You'll die peacefully with Joseph near you"*

- ✓ Jacob, his family, and all he had made the journey to Egypt

Genesis 46:5 (ESV) Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. **6** They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, **7** his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

- **Moses records Jacob's family to show God is preserving future generations**

At first, Genesis 46:8–27 can feel like a section we might skip because it is a long list of names - 70 men who would carry on Jacob's family.

Important things to understand about these verses...

- ✓ Jacob did not go to Egypt alone (he brought sons, grandsons, daughters, and grandchildren – this is not just one man relocating during a famine)
- ✓ This was an entire family being preserved by God

These names remind us God was doing more than solving a short-term problem.

- ✓ Jacob sees a *famine*; God sees a *future nation*
- ✓ Jacob sees *survival*; God sees the *continuation of His covenant promises*

This family would grow from 70 men into the nation God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What looks small in Genesis 46 will become a multitude in Exodus.

These verses remind us that God thinks in generations...

- ✓ God was not only caring for Jacob
- ✓ God was caring for the children and grandchildren who would come after him
- ✓ God was preserving a people through whom He would continue His redemptive plan

Genesis 46:8–27 is not just a list of names. It is a testimony to the faithfulness of God. Every name is a reminder that God keeps His promises, protects His people, and works through generations.

Application (What You Need to Do):

God used one generation's faithfulness to help preserve the next.

That matters for us today. As our students serve, we are reminded that the next generation isn't just the church of tomorrow. They are part of God's work now.

So here is the challenge...

- Those who come before them, ***be faithful*** (prayer, example, worship, service)
- Those who are coming behind, ***step up and trust God*** (He wants to use you)

God often uses the faithfulness of one generation to shape the faith of the next.