

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

God's Plans Unfold
Genesis 46,47

Slide 2:

"Waiting for further information. It's gonna be good."

Slide 3:

Genesis 46:1–7 (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. And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." 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. 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." 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. 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, his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

Slide 4:

"Do not be afraid"

Slide 5:

Genesis 46:8 (ESV)

Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt...

Jacob (Leah) = 33 descendants

Jacob (Zilpah) = 16 descendants

Jacob (Rachel) = 14 descendants

Jacob (Bilhah) = 7 descendants

70 go into Egypt

Slide 6:

I. It's not intended to be a literal accounting

Slide 7:

What does it mean?

1) Abraham is becoming a "nation."

Slide 8:

What does it mean?

1) Abraham is becoming a "nation."

2) This is when God makes them into a "great nation."

Slide 9:

What does it mean?

- 1) Abraham is becoming a "nation."
- 2) This is when God makes them into a "great nation."
- 3) God's redeeming plan revealed through 70

Slide 10:

Genesis 46:28-29 (ESV)

He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

Slide 11:

Genesis 46:30–34 (ESV)

Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive." Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

Slide 12:

Genesis 47:1–6 (ESV)

So Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers, with their flocks and herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen." And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were." They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."

Slide 13:

Genesis 47:7–12 (ESV)

Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?" And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning." And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh. Then Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a

possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

Slide 14:

The Blessing is Tied to a Love Covenant

Slide 15:

Nothing is "Free"

Joseph is finding a way to say "yas" to people without taking their dignity.

Slide 16:

Genesis 47:27–31 (ESV)

Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly. And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said." And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

Slide 17:

Joseph went before to prepare a place.

Jesus has gone before to prepare a place for us.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. If you have time to read Genesis 46 and 47 as a group it would be worth it! This is the text where all of the "things" come together in fulfillment of what God had promised to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3 and 15:13-16. What are those things?
2. How do you process life when it doesn't make sense? How does theology and emotions work together for you? How would you describe faith?
3. Why do you think God wanted Israel out of Canaan and into Egypt in order to become a great nation?
4. Jacob was hardly a blessing wherever he went. Joseph was. What do you think was the difference between those two people? What is required in order to be a blessing?

5. Why do you think Joseph required something from people in exchange for food?

6. Goshen became an "Eden" inside enemy territory. Someday there will only be "Eden" (in city form) and no enemy. What will that be like?

Imagine life with no hardship, with no temptation. What else will be absent? And what will be present?

7. Prayer and praise