

Genesis

Lesson 25 Family Reunion Genesis 47–48

Memorize the TRUTH!

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28

Meeting the King – Genesis 47:1-6

Day 1

1. a. What decisions did Joseph make in arranging the meeting with Pharaoh?

b. How did this reflect his God-given wisdom?
2. What do you think Joseph hoped to accomplish for his family?
3. How did Joseph's actions help protect his family's future well-being in Egypt?

Learn the TRUTH!



In spite of his rocky start with God, Jacob is showing himself to be a true patriarch. In the waning years of his life, he is finally resting in the sure faith of his fathers.

How much less anxiety there would have been if he had arrived at this point sooner! Why do we fret so much? God has a plan, and He will work it out!

Jacob and Pharaoh – Genesis 47:7-12

Day 2

4. a. What does Hebrews 7:7 suggest about God's evaluation of Jacob and Pharaoh?

b. How would this differ from the world's assessment?
5. a. How do the events of Joseph's life demonstrate the truth of Romans 8:28?

b. Share one way in which you have seen Romans 8:28 demonstrated in your own life.

Joseph Saves Egypt
Genesis 47:13-27

Day 3

6. a. How did Joseph's planning and administrative skills save the lives of the Egyptians?

 - b. How did he also build up the wealth and status of Pharaoh's government?

 - c. What was the attitude of the people toward his policies?
7. How was the status of the Israelites different than that of the rest of the population?

A Promise to Israel
Genesis 47:28-31

Day 4

8. How long did Jacob live after he was reunited with his son Joseph?

 9. a. What was Jacob concerned about as he approached the end of his life?

 - b. What request did Jacob make of Joseph?

 - c. How did this request demonstrate his faith in the promises of God?
10. In what ways can you demonstrate faith in God's promises to you?

Blessing Joseph's Sons
Genesis 48:1-22

Day 5

11. What terms of God's covenant did Jacob explain to Joseph in Genesis 48:3-4?

 12. a. What unexpected move did Jacob make when he blessed Joseph's sons?

 - b. Where in Genesis have we seen this before?
13. a. What phrases did Jacob use in verse 15 to describe his relationship with God?

 - b. What phrases would you use to describe your relationship with God today?

Live the TRUTH!

There's a lesson for all of us in Joseph's visit to his father. The minute he heard the news of Jacob's illness, he scooped up the grandchildren and made the trip immediately. Although he was very old and ill, this pleased Jacob — the Bible says, "He rallied his strength and sat up on the bed" (Genesis 48:2). That trip to see Grandpa was worth the effort! No one can take your place. Honor your parents. This is right and pleases God.

Commentary Genesis Lesson 25

Joseph asks Pharaoh to confirm the decision he has made to settle them in Goshen. He chooses five brothers to present before the king. When Pharaoh asks them to reveal their occupation, they explain that they are shepherds who intend to stay in Egypt only as long as the famine remains so terrible in Canaan. It conveys several unstated key points: Because shepherds are repulsive to Egyptians, it is clear that the family has no social or political ambitions. They are not looking for status, though they are related to Egypt's viceroy. Neither will they be likely to intermarry with Egyptian women. They request permission to settle in Goshen, which will place them away from the population centers of Egypt. As Joseph expected, Pharaoh orders Joseph to settle his brothers there. He graciously adds that he will be glad to hire any who have special ability for his own staff.

Joseph then introduces Jacob to Pharaoh. Instead of appearing as a person with special needs, Jacob blesses Pharaoh. Jacob is favored by God, which gives him unapologetic status. The patriarch acknowledges that he has not achieved the age of his fathers, and his life has known many trials.

Pharaoh directs Joseph to settle his family in Goshen. Pharaoh not only gives them permission to sojourn there, he gives them ownership of the land itself. This is in marked contrast to the Egyptians themselves, who soon will lose their property to the crown because of famine.

As each year of the famine passes, the Egyptians become more desperate. At first, they purchase food with cash. Soon Pharaoh possesses the entire money supply of Egypt. When it comes time to plant next year's seed grain, the people pay for it by exchanging their livestock. The people trade all the animals to Pharaoh for seed and are completely desperate the following year. They ask Joseph for permission to be tenant farmers on their property that will now belong to the crown of Egypt. Joseph agrees to this proposal and gives the people of Egypt what they need to survive in exchange for their property and their service. Now Pharaoh owns virtually everything in Egypt. The Egyptians consider Joseph's actions to be merciful. "You have saved our lives," they say.

The royal ownership of Egypt's land should be contrasted with the situation in Israel after the Exodus. God insisted that the land of Canaan be distributed by lot among the families of Israel. Once the land was divided, it was to be held in perpetuity by individual families. Even so, they were to understand that the land of Canaan was a gift from their own Sovereign God.

The Israelites experience a significant population increase and acquire additional property in the area of Goshen. Jacob lives another 17 years. As he senses the end nearing, he sends for Joseph. Joseph swears an oath to bury his father in Canaan in the cave of Machpelah where his ancestors lie; Israel is now ready to be reunited with his fathers. Soon the hour arrives, and Jacob rallies long enough to bless Joseph before he dies. Jacob plans to formally adopt Ephraim and Manasseh as his own. They will be honored as tribes of Israel. Reuben and Simeon have forfeited their rights to preference. Jacob will later eliminate Simeon and Levi because of their violence and cruelty. The adoption will be Jacob's way of showing his delight in Joseph and his gratitude to him.

**Check
It Out:**

Jacob had endured many hardships in his life. As a young man he was forced to flee from home. His father-in-law took advantage of him for years. His children caused him deep pain. Add to that the loss of his beloved wife Rachel, who died in childbirth. Perhaps most grievous was the tragic loss of his favorite son Joseph and, though now Joseph is restored to him, Jacob must process the fact that his older sons were capable of the hateful, jealous act which caused him and Joseph such pain. But note well that he blessed Pharaoh — Pharaoh did not bless him. This old shepherd is "greater" than the Pharaoh of Egypt! Greatness has nothing to do with possessions or position.

Israel surprises his son by crossing his hands and formally recognizing Ephraim as the favored son of the pair. Once again the recurring theme in Genesis of a second son being favored over a first happens. Seth is favored over Cain, Isaac over Ishmael, and Jacob over Esau. Throughout the book, God makes choices that violate the customs of the time and the expectations of parents. Sometimes it is difficult for parents to adjust to the prospect of the future unfolding in a manner contrary to their expectations. Part of Christian living involves allowing God to overrule our plans: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21). Joseph struggles with Jacob's giving Ephraim the preeminence.

Jacob, however, is speaking God's prophetic plans. He predicts that Ephraim and Manasseh will increase in numbers over the years. His words will come true dramatically in the years following the removal from Egypt. During the era of the divided kingdom, Ephraim will be the leading tribe of the northern kingdom. Joseph is comforted by the knowledge that both his sons will be productive in the years ahead. To sweeten the blessing still further, Jacob bequeaths to Joseph a piece of property. Jacob also predicts that Joseph will be taken back to the Promised Land. This would be after his death, when the departing Israelites disinterred Joseph from his honored grave and placed his bones in a cart. Once the land was conquered, Joseph was re-interred on property given to the tribe of his son Ephraim.



Jacob saw his journey through this life as a pilgrimage. Perhaps it was because of the many problems he had that he never really felt like this world was his home. Jacob was acknowledging the fact that he was not putting down roots because this world was not his ultimate destination. Jacob was anticipating heaven.

When your life is comfortable and relatively problem-free, it is easy to settle down and to think of this world as home. In reality, each of our lives is a pilgrimage. One dictionary definition of pilgrimage is a holy expedition. Our life here is temporary — a brief interlude to prepare us for eternity and determine where we will spend it. Our job is to put our faith in Christ and get on with the business of being conformed to His image. We need to stop thinking of this world as the ultimate place of enjoyment, ask God what we are to do here, and cooperate with Him.



In what practical ways can you demonstrate faith in these promises?

Matthew 6:19-21

John 11:25-26