

# Genesis - Lesson 47

Genesis Chapter 47

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Memory verses for this week: *1Ti 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 1Ti 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*

**Introduction:** We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as Jacob and his family move into their new home in the land of Goshen in Egypt. We begin this week's lesson as Jacob and his sons come before Pharaoh.

## I. Jacob and His Sons before Pharaoh

*Gen 47:1 Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they are in the land of Goshen.*

*Gen 47:2 And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh.*

*Gen 47:3 And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers.*

*Gen 47:4 They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.*

Joseph first comes and tells Pharaoh that his family have arrived from the land of Canaan and they now are in the land of Goshen. He first announces their arrival and then took five of his brethren in before Pharaoh. They are asked what their occupation is, and they tell him they are shepherds. Honesty is normally the best policy, although this was not the advice Joseph gave them in the end of chapter 46.

*Gen 46:33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation?*

*Gen 46:34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.*

So they declare their true occupation and state the problems they had faced in Canaan with the famine, and ask to be allowed to dwell in the land of Goshen.

*Gen 47:5 And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are*

*come unto thee:*

*Gen 47:6 The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.*

Pharaoh speaks to Joseph and their request is granted. Joseph was highly esteemed by Pharaoh and his brethren are blessed because of Joseph. He also tells him that they will be promoted to rulers over his cattle, which was a double blessing.

*Gen 47:7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.*

*Gen 47:8 And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old art thou?*

*Gen 47:9 And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.*

After meeting with the five brothers, Joseph's father comes before Pharaoh. Hopefully wisdom and honor comes with age, and that is the case as the aged Jacob brings a blessing to Pharaoh. What a meeting!! The mighty monarch and the aged but wise and dignified Jacob meet.

Formerly Jacob had sent gifts to Pharaoh, but now he pronounces a blessing. This involved Jacob's religion and his God. "Christ will, at His second advent, present His brethren, the Jews, in the court of heaven, restoring them to the place of blessing in the earth. As Jacob here blesses King Pharaoh, so Israel's portion in the Millennium will be that of blessing the kings of the earth." quote by Keith L. Brooks

Pharaoh asks his age, and he tells him that he is 130 years of age. He gives a brief history of his life and explains that he has had a good life, but not as great as some of the forefathers before him.

*Heb 7:5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:*

*Heb 7:6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.*

*Heb 7:7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.*

Joseph was not yet 39 years of age.

*Gen 45:4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.*

*Gen 45:5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.*

*Gen 45:6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.*

He was born when his father was 91 and had spent 14 years in Padanaram.

*Gen 30:25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country.*

Jacob was 77 years old when he left Beersheba after receiving the blessing. His whole life had been a pilgrimage. That pilgrimage had been: (1) Perpetual; (2) Short; (3) Sad. God's people should ever remember that they are pilgrims. We don't have a long time on this earth, and we need to be careful to redeem the days of our life.

*Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

*Heb 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.*

*Heb 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*

*Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

*1Pe 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

While living a long and fruitful life, Jacob had not attained the years of his fathers. Abraham had lived to be 175 and Isaac lived to be 180.

*Gen 47:10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.*

So after blessing Pharaoh, the aged Jacob departs from his presence.

## **II. Joseph's Wise Administration**

*Gen 47:11 And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, 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.*

*Gen 47:12 And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.*

Joseph, by the order of Pharaoh, established wise policy toward the Israelites. He gave them a possession in the best of the land according to verse 11 in the land of Rameses. Also, Joseph gave them their portion of food without charge. And besides this, he gave them protection.

*Gen 47:13 And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine.*

*Gen 47:14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.*

Joseph not only had wise policy toward his family, but also had it for the Egyptians. The grain was sold for money, until the money was all gone. Eventually, they had to take care of the people without them being able to pay with money. We know Jacob and his family were blessed with their relationship with Joseph, but perhaps no one gained more than Pharaoh.

John Gill talked of how wisely Joseph managed the store houses and allowed Pharaoh to become very rich.

**"and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house"** into his repository, as the Targum of Jonathan, into his treasury, not into his own house or coffers, in which he acted the faithful part to Pharaoh; for it was with his money he bought the corn, built storehouses, kept men to look after them to sell the corn; wherefore the money arising from thence belonged to him; nor did he do any injury to the people: they sold their corn in the time of plenty freely; he gave them a price for it, it then bore, and he sold it out again to them, at a price according to the season; nor was it ever complained of, that it was an exorbitant one; it was highly just and necessary it should be at a greater price than when it was bought in, considering the great expense in the collection, preservation, and distribution of it: it must be a vast sum of money he amassed together, and Dr. Hammond (e) thinks it probable that this Pharaoh,

who, by Joseph's advice, got all this wealth, is the same with Remphis, of whom Diodorus Siculus (f) says, that he spent his time in minding the taxes and heaping up riches from all quarters, and left more behind him than any of the kings that reigned before, even in silver and gold four million talents, the same that Herodotus (g) calls Rhampsinitus, who, he says, had the greatest quantity of money of any of the kings of Egypt.

*Gen 47:15 And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth.*

*Gen 47:16 And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail.*

*Gen 47:17 And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.*

*Gen 47:18 When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands:*

*Gen 47:19 Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate.*

*Gen 47:20 And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.*

Great wisdom was shown to the people by Joseph. When the money failed, the grain was traded for their livestock. Later when the cattle were gone, he further bargained for the land. Pharaoh was made rich in effect by Joseph's good policies.

*Gen 47:21 And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof.*

*Gen 47:22 Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.*

*Gen 47:23 Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land.*

*Gen 47:24 And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones.*

*Gen 47:25 And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.*

*Gen 47:26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's.*

As money and possessions began to dwindle, the people moved to the cities, near the stored grain. The priests of Egypt were not disturbed it says in verse 22.. The people were given seed to plant for a 20% tax. A fifth part of the crops would go to Pharaoh while they would keep 80%. This was reasonable according to their standards. Among some nations seed tax amounted to approximately 50%.

Verse 25 indicates the gratitude of the people. They knew they were being treated fairly and honestly. Some critics have said that Joseph over-charged and over-taxed the people, but this verse indicates that the people did not think so. Joseph's rules became

the long-standing law of the land. The priests were exempted from the requirements of the 1/5th tax.

### III. Jacob's Residence in Egypt

*Gen 47:27 And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly.*

*Gen 47:28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years.*

So the Israelites lived and thrived in the land of Goshen for the remaining years of famine and many more. It became Jacob's residence for seventeen years. During this time, his family lived in prosperous security. Jacob lived in peace and comfort for 17 years. When we look to the Lord for our provision day by day, He will provide and bless us.

*Php 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

*Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

*Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

*Gen 47:29 And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:*

*Gen 47:30 But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will do as thou hast said.*

*Gen 47:31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.*

The end of life approaches for Israel, and Jacob makes his request at his decease. He knew of his approaching death. I think God gives us wisdom when our time draws near that our death is imminent. We are warned to live daily as if that is the case. If we really thought today was our last day, we probably would make better use of our time.

Israel knew that he should not be buried in Egypt. Canaan was his home land, and he desired to be buried in the promised land. In verse 11, Joseph promises to return him to Canaan.

*Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.*

**Heb 11:22** *By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.*

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did Pharaoh say that Joseph's brethren could be rulers over in Egypt?

*Gen 47:6 The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.*

Those of activity were to be made rulers over his cattle.

2. How old was Jacob at this time? What was Joseph's age?

130 years of age. A little under 39 on Joseph.

3. What did Jacob say about his pilgrimage?

*Gen 47:9 And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.*

4. What did he mean that he had not attained unto the days of the years of the life of his fathers?

His grandfather and father had lived longer than he.

Abraham had lived to be 175 and Isaac lived to be 180.

5. Describe Joseph's wise dealings with his brethren.

He gave them a possession in the best of the land according to verse 11 in the land of Rameses. Also, Joseph gave them their portion of food without charge. And besides this, he gave them protection.

6. Describe his wise dealings with the Egyptians.

The grain was sold for money, until the money was all gone. Eventually, they had to take care of the people without them being able to pay with money. They traded their cattle and ultimately their land for grain.

7. What per-cent return were the people to give for planting seed?

20%

8. How long did Jacob live in Egypt before his death?

17 years

9. How old was he when he died?

147 if he lived 17 years after he came to Egypt.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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