

LESSON 11

JACOB GOES TO EGYPT

Scripture Texts: *Genesis 46:1-4, 28-34; Genesis 47:1-31*

The experience of the brothers is a type of salvation. They were forgiven their sin by Joseph, the one they had sinned against. Their needs were supplied by him. They were promised a home near him. They were sent to tell others to come to him. Saints are forgiven by God whom they have sinned against (Romans 5:8). Their needs are supplied by Him (Philippians 4:19). They are promised a home with Him (John 14:3). They are sent out to tell others how to come to this home (Mark 16:15-16).

We can now see God working out His purposes. His plan for bringing the Israelites into Egypt is progressing.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."*

Matthew 5:6

Acting Upon Faith

Genesis 46:1-4 Jacob was an old man. He had pulled up stakes in his own country and was taking his family to a strange land. In a long, tiresome line of loaded wagons and numerous people, Jacob, as head of his family, was leading them to Egypt to live near his long lost son, Joseph. Was it best? What laid ahead of them? His God was not known or worshiped there. Jacob had doubts and fears. Jacob here set a good example to all of us who become troubled with doubts and fears. Soon Jacob stopped them at Beersheba. The journey must be put into the hands of God. There he offered sacrifices unto the God of his father, Isaac. God saw and heard and accepted and answered. In a night vision He spoke to Jacob. **Fear not to go . . . I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee . . . I will also surely bring thee up . . . Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.** God wishes His people to not fear or worry. Often He tells us to fear not. If God's people would go to God with the moves they are planning to make, many of the moves would not be made. If God does not assure us that He will go with us, we had better not go. Sure trouble in our Christian experience will result from such moves. If a move cannot be made in faith, do not make it.

Jacob's sacrifices and worship were sweet incense to God. He spoke to Jacob. He assured Jacob of His presence and future care. Trusting His promises, Jacob could go on with confidence, knowing he was in God's will. The loving, dependable promises of God made Jacob content. They journeyed on. God will do the same for us in moments of doubt and times of crisis if we listen to His voice, always ready to obey.

The Settlement in Egypt

28-34 Entering Egypt, they sent Judah ahead to Joseph for directions into Goshen, the section of Egypt where they were to live. Joseph came to meet his father—after over twenty years of separation. What a glorious reunion this was. He fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. Joseph had a tender heart. His love was real and deep. Jacob's love for him was also deep and strong. Seeing Joseph again was such a great blessing that he felt content now to die. This is the contentment we find when we meet Jesus. Joseph advised his brothers to tell Pharaoh that

they were shepherds. Then he would allow them to live in Goshen, since Egyptians greatly disliked shepherds.

Genesis 47:1-10 Joseph reported to Pharaoh his family's arrival. He presented five of his brothers to him. When he inquired their occupation, they said they were shepherds and wished to live in Goshen. Pharaoh told Joseph they could choose from the best of the land. If any of the brothers were trained and ambitious workers, they might care for Pharaoh's cattle. Joseph then presented his father. Jacob blessed Pharaoh. He was grateful to Pharaoh, and his faith led him to look to God to fulfill his good wishes for him. Pharaoh spoke kindly as to an old man and asked his age. He was **an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been.** Perhaps he was remembering his deception of his father and injustice to his brother, being deceived in obtaining a wife, defrauded in wages, the sins of his sons, his grief over Joseph and worry concerning Benjamin. He lived in a sinful world, but his citizenship was in a better world.

11-26 Joseph placed his family as they desired in the rich land of Goshen and provided them with food. Even when the Egyptians had no bread, Joseph's family was provided for, for the famine was very sore. All of Canaan and Egypt were in need of bread. Joseph sold to them from the storehouses, first, for money, then, to the Egyptians for livestock, and at the last, for land. This made a dependent people of them, as they rented back the land for one fifth of the produce.

27-31 Israel prospered and grew in numbers. After seventeen years, Jacob, knowing his earthly life was drawing to a close, called Joseph and asked a promise. He asked that his body be carried back to Canaan and buried with his fathers in the ancestral burial cave. Joseph promised to fulfill his wish.

Some Things Never Change

Scattered through the Bible are incidents of human nature which are interesting because they are similar to human nature now. Notice Pharaoh asking the aged Jacob, "**How old art thou?**" How often we do the same in showing care and concern for older people? In the previous lesson, after being sent out of the room, the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard Joseph weeping. Were they listening outside the door? Who in our day could avoid a little curiosity after hearing Judah's plea followed by Joseph's cry to go out from him? They had to hear the end of it. And having heard, how could they resist passing on the news that these were Joseph's brothers? How else was the **fame thereof . . . heard in Pharaoh's house?**

It is true that times have changed in some respects, but human nature has not. God's Word is just the same today as it was hundreds of years ago. The same sin binds people and the same Gospel will still set them free from it as it did when Christ was on earth. That Gospel is fitted to the basic needs of human nature, and it does not change with the years.

JUST A THOUGHT

**"It's what we learn after we know it all
that really counts."**