

# The Story of Joseph: Seeing the Bigger Picture

## Week 15: Settling into Egypt

### Scripture:

Genesis 46:28-47:12

### Motivation (Why You Need This):

#### *Where we left off last week...*

- Jacob allowed his sons to return to Egypt with Benjamin to hopefully get food
- Jacob sent them with a blessing
- Upon arrival in Egypt, Joseph's brothers were invited to a feast
- Joseph's brothers shared a meal with him, although his identity was unknown

**Genesis 43:34 (ESV)** Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were merry with him.

- ✓ They get fed. They get treated kindly. Grace shows up through the hands of this "Egyptian."
- ✓ Why? God didn't send Joseph to Egypt to get even with his brothers. He sent Joseph ahead to keep them alive. This is the BIGGER PICTURE.

Today, we are going to ask a deep question...

**Is it ever too late for heart change, or to right a wrong?**

We will see Joseph clearly drawing out of his brothers the true condition of their heart and whether these many years have changed them.

### Information (What You Need to Know):

#### **Jacob and Joseph Reunited**

**Genesis 46:28-30 (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. **29** 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. **30** Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

Judah, as the family leader, goes ahead to alert Joseph that his father has arrived. Joseph, so eager, does not wait for the servants to prepare his chariot. He does it himself.

Jacob is fulfilled. After so much loss and difficulty in his life, he is revived and feels complete. Another picture of this is seen in the life of Simeon in Luke 2. We have a little bit about him, but we know he eagerly awaited the Messiah.

### **Simeon - Luke 2:25-35 - Expectation Fulfilled**

**Luke 2 25-32 (ESV)** Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **27** And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, **28** he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, **29** "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; **30** for my eyes have seen your salvation **31** that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Jacob, in all his pain, is fulfilled holding his beloved son once more.

**Interesting anecdote:** Seventeen is an interesting number for Joseph and Jacob. Joseph was taken from Jacob's life when he was only 17 years old. And we find that Jacob will live exactly 17 years more years with Joseph before he dies. 17 years for the beginning of Joseph's life and 17 years at the end of Jacob's life.

### **Joseph Coaches His Brothers**

**Genesis 46:31-34 (ESV)** 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. **32** 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.' **33** When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' **34** 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."

Joseph understands the Egyptian culture and how to work with Pharaoh.

For Joseph, it is all location, location, location. He wanted his family in Goshen. It was Joseph's idea and plan.

### **Joseph's Family Plan (a quick look back)**

**Genesis 45:10-11 (ESV)** **10** You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. **11** There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

**Genesis 45:20 (ESV)** Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'" Pharaoh offered the best of the land. But Joseph had that land already picked out.

### **WHY was Goshen the plan?**

1. **Separation** - To keep his family separate from the people and culture of Egypt

- He was OK with his family being seen as an abomination. No Egyptians would mess with them or try to influence them.

Joseph wanted to protect his family and keep them purely focused on God. Remember when he came to Egypt, God was all that Joseph had. God

protected, led, and provided for all of Joseph's needs. Like God, he wanted to keep his family distinct and unblemished from the ways of Egypt and their gods. They are Sojourners!

**2. Escape** - To provide a way of future escape back to Canaan

Joseph remembers all that his father taught him about God's promises. Egypt was not their home but a temporary place to live and be cared for. He longed for Canaan and knew that God would one day get them there, somehow. He believed and had faith in God's promises. He had seen God bless the world through his family. (Provision amidst the famine)

### **Sneak Peek at the End of the Story**

**Genesis 50:24 (ESV)** And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

### **Joseph's Brothers are Taken Care Of**

**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." **2** And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. **3** Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were." **4** 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." **5** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. **6** 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.”

Joseph was exactly right about what Pharaoh would say when meeting Joseph’s family. His brothers listened and followed his lead. He was careful to choose who would go in and see Pharaoh. It is interesting that he chose a specific 5 brothers. There are actually two views on this. And we are not told which of the brothers was chosen.

1. **Joseph chose the finest and best of the brothers.** To perhaps show the quality of men who were shepherds. Kind of a best-and-brightest situation. Good, strong caretakers.
2. **Joseph chose the lesser of the brothers.** Joseph did not want his brothers to be conscripted to the military (Pharaoh was a war Pharaoh) or into any other work. The Egyptians were very clean and fastidious. Joseph chose the shortest and hairiest. To confirm the stereotypes of the Egyptians and Pharaoh.

Joseph’s brothers show tremendous respect and deference to Pharaoh. But they point out that this would not be home, but rather a place to stay during the difficult famine affecting the world. Pharaoh goes further and has the brothers take over the royal livestock.

### **The Blessing Stealer Blesses**

Jacob’s story begins with a battle with his brother in utero. He buys his brother’s birthright for a cup of soup. And he steals Esau's firstborn blessing by tricking his father into thinking he's Esau. The last thing we would expect is what we are about to read about Jacob.

**Genesis 47:7-12 (ESV)** Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. **8** And Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many are the days of the years of your life?” **9** 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.” **10** And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh. **11** 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. **12** And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

Pharaoh had already learned the family occupation from the brothers. But Pharaoh is intrigued by this very old man. Egyptians had not seen and heard of anyone living beyond 110 at this point. So, Pharaoh asks about Jacob's age. And Jacob goes above and beyond in the few moments of sharing. Here, we get to see a reflective Jacob.

Jacob understands he is a Sojourner - A Sojourner is one who travels through lands that are not his own. One who is just passing through. By faith, he understood that God had something greater in store.

**Hebrews 11:8-10 (ESV)** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Jacob understood his spiritual journey. Few and Evil (or hard and troubled) were the days of Jacob. Battling with his brother in the womb. Taking the unwanted birthright. Tricking his father and betraying his brother for the blessing. Fleeing to his uncle, where he was taken advantage of and tricked into marrying his sisters. He lived a difficult/complex family life. I would never call his family...happy. His

married life is not portrayed in an admirable or positive light. His daughter is raped, and his sons go wild and murder a whole town. His oldest son tries to steal the fatherly leadership position. His beloved wife dies during childbirth. And his sons deceive him, and he thinks his beloved son is dead. It feels he has spent his life at odds with God. But now standing before Pharaoh alongside Joseph, he is at peace.

Jacob understood his lineage. His grandfather had come to Egypt for the same reason he was there now. Famine. Abraham used deception during their time in Egypt. Isaac went to Gerar and did a similar thing. Deception was in the family. But now. The deceiver was done. The man who stole a blessing would now bestow a blessing. The greatest thing that Jacob can leave with Pharaoh is the blessing of God upon him. This is the greatest thing we leave...the Gospel.

### **Application (What You Need to Do):**

It is amazing the journey that God takes us on. God did not waste any of the hurts and pains in Jacob's life (even if he was the one who brought them on). Joseph and Jacob understood that this would not be their final destination. They are sojourners in this world. And this might be one of the most important things we need to understand from these Patriarchs. We are living and looking for a city whose foundation and builder is not here. We are sojourners in this world. Representatives and Ambassadors of God.