

GENESIS

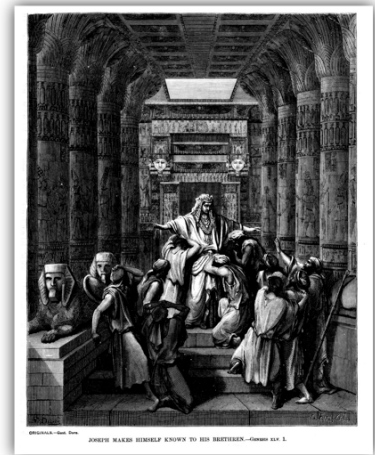
Lesson 16

God meant it for good . . .

JOSEPH PROVIDES FOR HIS FAMILY

Genesis 45:1-46:27

Chapter 45 is a story of reconciliation. Joseph heard the impassioned plea of Judah and could contain himself no longer. He asked all the Egyptians to leave the room and he revealed himself to his brothers. At first, the brothers are quite concerned (Genesis 45:3) since they had treated him so badly and sold him into slavery. They must have wondered how he would retaliate.



Joseph told his brothers not to be distressed because it was God who had sent him to Egypt to preserve their lives. Joseph saw his time in Egypt as an act of divine providence (Genesis 45:5, 7, 8, 9).

1. **What does Joseph tell his brothers to do? (Genesis 45:9-13)**
2. **What did Pharaoh give to Joseph's family? (Genesis 45:17-23)**
3. **How does Jacob react to the news that Joseph is alive? (Genesis 45:25-28).**
4. **What promises does God make to Jacob in Genesis 46:1-4?**

Joseph in Egypt Genesis 39-50				
SERVANT 39:1-19	PRISONER 39:20-40:23	PLENTY 41:1-52	FAMINE 41:53-47:26	SOJOURN 47:27-50:26
Potiphar's House	Meets the Butler and Baker	Two Children Born	Brothers, Benjamin Arrive Jacob Arrives 1877 B.C.	Goshen Jacob Dies 1860 B.C.
Age 17-19 (2+ Years)	Age 19-30 (11 Years)	Age 30-37 (7 Years)	Age 37-44 (7 Years)	Age 44-110 (70 Years)
1901-1898 B.C.	1898-1887 B.C.	1887-1880 B.C.	1880-1873 B.C.	1873-1807 B.C.
Steward	Dream Interpreter	Prime Minister		

Chart adapted from James Smith, *The Pentateuch*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1992.

The list of Israelites entered Egypt is 70 if we take the list in Genesis 46 and add Jacob, Joseph, and the two sons of Joseph. We note that some of these names are of people who were born in Egypt, but they are said to have come into Egypt since they are of the household of Jacob. They were in the loins of their fathers. In Acts 7:14 Stephen says that 75 had gone to Egypt. He must have counted Joseph's three grandsons and two great-grandsons who were born later.¹

JACOB AND JOSEPH ARE REUNITED

Genesis 46:28-47:12

5. Where did Jacob and his family settle? (Genesis 46:28-29)

6. Describe the scene of Jacob and Joseph being reunited. (Genesis 46:29-30)

¹ Constable, Thomas L. *Notes on Genesis 2009 Edition*.

7. What were Joseph's brothers to tell Pharaoh when they met him? (Genesis 46:31-34)

8. What question did Pharaoh ask Jacob and how did he answer? (Genesis 47:8-9)

JOSEPH AND THE FAMINE

Genesis 47:13-31

The famine came just as Joseph had said as God showed him the meaning of the dreams of Pharaoh. Even though it may look as if Joseph is harsh, in fact his actions save the Egyptians and enrich Pharaoh. Even after they have spent their money, sold their animals and land, and themselves into slavery, they are allowed to keep 80% of their harvests. The people readily agreed with Joseph.

Meanwhile Joseph's family prospered in the land of Goshen which is believed to have been on the eastern side of the fertile Nile river delta. During the centuries that followed the Israelites grew greatly in number. Jacob lived in Egypt for seventeen years before his death.

JACOB BLESSES EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH

Genesis 48:1-22

9. What are the names of Joseph's two sons? (Genesis 48:5)

10. What promises of God does Jacob recount to Joseph? (Genesis 48:3-4)

11. What position would Ephraim and Manasseh have in Jacob's family? (Genesis 48:6)

12. Describe the blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh by Jacob. (Genesis 48:8-20)

JACOB BLESSES HIS SONS

Genesis 49:1-50:14

As Jacob is about to die, he calls his sons to bless them. To Ruben, he takes away the preeminence as first-born since he had slept with his father's concubine. To Simeon and Levi, Jacob says they would be scattered in Israel because of their violent ways. To Judah is given the rights of the firstborn. He will be courageous and successful in battle. Zebulun was to be successful in the commerce of the sea. Issachar will be comfortable in a pleasant land. Dan provide justice for his people and will be a great protector. Gad would be attacked, but will be able to prevail. Asher will live fruitfully in the land. Naphtali's blessing is difficult to understand, but may mean that his brothers will respect him and he will be fruitful. Joseph is like a fruitful bough and even though he had been attacked, he prospered. Benjamin would be a great warrior.

13. What four names or descriptions of God does Jacob use in Genesis 49:24-25?

14. Where was Jacob to be buried and what others had been buried there previously? (Genesis 49:28-33)

15. Before Jacob was buried, what was done to his body? (Genesis 50:2-3)

16. Describe the procession to the burial site and the events surrounding the burial. (Genesis 50:4-14)

JOSEPH'S FINAL DAYS IN EGYPT

Genesis 50:15-26

17. What was the fear of Joseph's brothers after the death of their father? (Genesis 50:15-17)

18. How did Joseph respond to this fear of his brothers? (Genesis 50:17-21)

19. Describe the events surrounding the death of Joseph. (Genesis 50:22-26)