

Joseph--Genesis 46

Jacob and All His Family Go to Egypt

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. **Beersheba...** Well of the oath, or well of seven, a well dug by Abraham, and so named because he and Abimelech here entered into a compact (Gen. 21:31). On re-opening it, Isaac gave it the same name (Gen. 26:31-33). It was a favorite place of abode of both of these patriarchs (Gen. 21:33-22:1, 19; 26:33; 28:10). It is mentioned among the “cities” given to the tribe of Simeon (Josh. 19:2; 1 Chr. 4:28). From Dan to Beersheba, a distance of about 144 miles (Judges 20:1; 1 Chr. 21:2; 2 Sam. 24:2), became the usual way of designating the whole Promised Land, and passed into a proverb. After the return from the Captivity the phrase is narrowed into “from Beersheba unto the valley of Hinnom” (Neh. 11:30). The kingdom of the ten tribes extended from Beersheba to Mount Ephraim (2 Chr. 19:4). The name is not found in the New Testament. It is still called by the Arabs Bir es-Seba, i.e., “well of the seven”, where there are to the present day two principal wells and five smaller ones. It is nearly midway between the southern end of the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean. [From: *Easton’s Bible Dictionary*, s.v., “Beersheba.”]
2. Acts 7:14 [[70 or 75?](#)... Is there a contradiction here with the number recorded in Gen 46:27? Many have alleged so, but many possible explanations that harmonize the two texts can be envisioned. Such can be harmonized if Stephen was including the wives that were living at the time of the going down into Egypt (they are not listed in Gen 46:27), and not counting Joseph and his two sons who were already there. Judah’s wife had died by this time and likely also Reuben’s. If one other of Joseph’s brothers was a widower at the time, this would leave 8 wives to add to the equation—67 + 8 wives = 75]. For further study, see Eric Lyons’ article online: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/619>
3. Other “visions of the night” (v. 2--Gen 20:3; Job 33:15,16; Mt 1:20; 2:13,19; Acts 16:9; 18:9).

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Patriarchy.**

III. Summary.

Before Jacob leaves Canaan he goes to Beersheba to offer sacrifices to God. Through a vision, God speaks comforting and reassuring words to him about his trek into Egypt. The Lord will bless him and make of him a great nation. The promise from God was that he would bring him up again (i.e., his descendants) back to this land of Canaan and that Joseph would see him in his dying days.

The caravan of Jacob’s family begins to head toward Egypt. A listing of the sons and daughters and grandchildren is given grouped according to the four mothers.

Judah is sent ahead to get further direction from Joseph. Joseph at long last goes out in his chariot to see his father. Their embrace lasted a long while. Both Jacob and Joseph rejoice greatly at the reunion. Joseph will go and announce the presence of his family to Pharaoh. Joseph urges his brothers to tell Pharaoh that they have been “about cattle” THAT (for the

purpose) they might be kept separated from the Egyptians in the Land of Goshen. To the Egyptians, Joseph informed his brothers, every shepherd is an abomination.

IV. Outline.

1. Jacob begins his journey toward Egypt, first stopping at Beersheba to offer sacrifice (1).
2. God speaks to Jacob in a night vision and comforts him about going to Egypt (2-3).
3. The stay in Egypt is not to be a permanent one (4).
4. From Beersheba Jacob’s family moves toward Egypt (5-7).
5. A listing of the seventy “Israelites” that would be with Jacob (Israel) in Egypt (8-25).
 - 1) **33** “sons” of Leah [*This figure excludes Er and Onan, who died in Canaan, but includes Jacob, first on the list (v. 8), and Dinah*] (8-15).
 - 2) **16** “sons” of Zilpah [*Includes Asher’s daughter, Serah*] (16-18).
 - 3) **14** “sons” of Rachel (19-22).
 - 4) **7** “sons” of Bilhah (23-25).
6. Those who came out of Canaan with Jacob, not counting wives nor Joseph and his sons were **66**, or counting Jacob and those already there, **70** (26-27).
7. Judah is sent out as scout to get directions to Goshen (28).
8. Joseph meets his father (29-30).
9. Joseph presents his family to Pharaoh and instructs them about how to answer his question about their occupation (31-34).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ The Egyptians were mostly shepherds.
02. _____ The wives of Jacob’s sons decided to stay in Canaan.
03. _____ There were sixty-six “from the loins of Jacob” who went with him into Egypt.
04. _____ Levi had three sons.
05. _____ Potipherah came with Jacob down into Egypt.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Before Jacob left Canaan, he did what: (a) offered sacrifice to the Lord; (b) visited Machpelah; (c) entertained Esau.
07. _____ Joseph told his brothers that Pharaoh would ask them—What is your: (a) place of worship; (b) occupation; (c) plan to develop the land.
08. _____ Er and Onan were two of Jacob’s—(a) granddaughters; (b) sons; (c) grandsons—who died in the land of Canaan.
09. _____ Which of the following were NOT sons of Benjamin: (a) Hushim; (b) Mupim; (c) Hupim.
10. _____ The granddaughter mentioned in the list in this chapter was: (a) Beriah; (b) Serah; (c) Dinah.

Fill in the Blanks

11. Acts 7:14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his _____, threescore and _____ souls.
12. Acts 16:9 And a _____ appeared to Paul in the _____; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
13. Gen 46:____ And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the _____ of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and _____.
14. God told Jacob, “... fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a _____.”

15. _____ of the fourteen sons/grandsons from Rachel were born to Benjamin.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be given on next week's handout

ANSWERS for Genesis 45 Questions: [(01) False, Genesis 45:2; (02) True, Genesis 45:26; (03) True, Genesis 45:9; (04) True, Genesis 45:16; (05) True, Genesis 45:22; (06) b, Genesis 45:27; (07) c, Genesis 45:3; (08) d, Genesis 45:19; (09) a, Genesis 45:10; (10) c, Genesis 45:16; (11) troubled, Genesis 45:3; (12) governor, Genesis 45:26; (13) worketh; (14) raised, power; (15) corn, bread, meat, Genesis 45:23.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **And Israel took his journey with all that he had, ... and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac** (Gen 46:1). Here is a MAJOR change in the life of Israel and he was interested, before making this move, to commune with the Lord. This is a wonderful lesson for us to follow. Our God is our Heavenly Father and ought to be brought into our lives often, especially in times of change. The vast majority of people in this world leave God out of the picture totally in their quest for happiness. Obviously this was not the case with this godly patriarch. James teaches us something about leaving God out of our plans in James 4:13-15. It seems that I used to hear that expression, "Lord willing," more often in times past. Whether or not we actually use the words, the sentiments ought to be true expressions of our own hearts. Jacob certainly wanted the blessings of God with him as he moves to Egypt.
2. **...and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes** (Gen 46:4). This expression of comfort from the Lord to Jacob seems to indicate that Joseph will now remain with Jacob until the time of Jacob's death, to close his eyes (at least we know this is how it all does turn out). This must have been extremely gratifying for him to hear after spending 22 years without this son of his beloved Rachel. Just think of the many happy moments that they will be able to share during these next seventeen years. It helps to remind us that our God **is** the God of all comfort (2 Cor 1:3).
3. **And these are the names of the children of Israel...** (Gen 46:8). This catalog of Jacob's family surely indicates that he had been greatly blessed by the Lord. Psalm 127:3 tells us... "**Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.**"
4. **all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.** (Gen 46:27). I would refer you to the listing of additional Scriptures above under (I.1.) for the statement of Stephen about **75** of Jacob's kindred going down into Egypt and how it might be reconciled with this statement. The point I would make here is that those who are critics of the Bible would overlook all of the marvelous evidences of the hand of God providing for this family only to bring out what they think they see as a contradiction in two numbers used. Are you not thankful that you have not been blinded by the same negative disposition toward the word of God and can see His marvelous providence here?
5. **... that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians** (Gen 46:34). The reason (THAT) for the particular answer to Pharaoh's question about what was their occupation was so that they might remain separated from the Egyptians. This was also a part of God's plan. Had these Israelites mixed and mingled with the Egyptians, there would have been no great nation coming from the seed of Abraham. This was a very important aspect of the

sojourn of Israel in the land of Egypt. Our Lord still expects His people to remain separated from the people of the world (2 Corinthians 6:14--7:1; 1 John 2:15-17).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P O I L K J U Y J H A R D Y T R E W Q L
 L K B E C H E R J H G F D S A M N B V C
 M N B V C X E H I Z L K J H G F M F D S
 A P O I U Y T R E W Q L K J H G U F D D
 M N B V C H X Z L M K J H G F D P S A P
 O I U Y A T U Y T R A E W Q L J P H G F
 F D S L A M B P B C X N Z L K J I H G F
 F D E S A P I U P Y T R A E W Q M L K J
 H B G F D S A M B I H G F S D S A M N B
 B V C X Z P O U Y T M R E W S Q L J H G
 F D S A M B J O S E P H V C X E P O G I
 U Y A T R E W Q L J H G F D P S H A E M
 N B S R V C X Z K J H G F H D S A P R U
 Y T H R O E W Q L K J H R G F D N S A A
 M N B V C S M N B V C A X Z L A K J H G
 G F E D S A H P P I I U Y T M R E W Q L
 J H L G B E N J A M I N F A D S A M N B
 B V C X Z L J H G F D S A A P O I U Y T
 R E W Q L J H G F F D N S A M B V C X Z
 P O I U Y T R E W Q P K J H G F G D S A

[The names listed below are of the sons and grandsons of Rachel listed in this chapter. They are also located in the puzzle above.]

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|--------------|--------------|
| 01. Joseph | 02. Benjamin |
| 03. Manasseh | 04. Ephraim |
| 05. Belah | 06. Becher |
| 07. Ashbel | 08. Gera |
| 09. Naaman | 10. Ehi |
| 11. Rosh | 12. Muppim |
| 13. Huppim | 14. Ard |

I have prepared a Crossword Puzzle on the contents of Genesis 46 which you can reach by clicking [H-E-R-E](#).