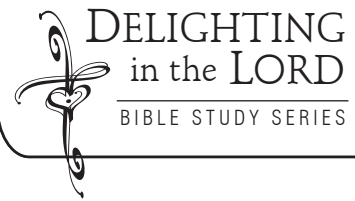


"The one thing I ask of the Lord - the thing I seek most - is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his temple." Psalm 27:4



WEEK 7

TRIUMPH IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Genesis 46 - 47

It had been a brutal few days. As Sunday dawned in Jerusalem, those who loved Jesus were still mourning his death. It was only three days ago that they were watching Jesus suffer an excruciating death as His body was nailed to a cross and hung for all to see. Their Messiah was dead. Confusion intermingled with grief flooded their minds. Little did they know that a day of mourning would quickly turn to joy.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome made their way to Jesus' tomb early that Sunday morning. They were anxious to anoint Jesus' body with spices. The sun was rising as earthquake tremors shook the ground. It didn't stop them. They approached the tomb but, to their astonishment, the stone had been rolled away. Sitting on the stone was a man clothed in white, glowing like the sun which was beginning to shine in the distance. He knew why they were there and immediately comforted them. "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen" (Matthew 28:5-6a). The women entered the tomb and saw it was empty. Jesus' body was gone. The angel of the Lord said to them, "Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" (Luke 24:6-7) And Jesus' words came flooding back to their hearts. He is alive just like He promised. The women ran to tell the disciples the great news.

That evening, the disciples gathered together in Jerusalem. Fear permeated the air in the room. They knew the Jewish leaders were seething with anger over Jesus' resurrection and the accusations that might come their way. They were still processing all that occurred that day. The one they loved was dead, yet now was alive. How could this be? The next thing they knew, Jesus was standing in their midst, showing them His hands and His side, and calming their fears saying, "Peace to you!" (John 20:21) What a glorious day it was; Jesus was reunited with His disciples and would very soon return to His Father in glory, just as He said He would.

For the disciples, it was only a three-day waiting period from Jesus' death to His resurrection. For Jacob, it had been 22 long years believing that his son Joseph was dead before learning the truth. In our verses today we will see Jacob reunited with his beloved son, Joseph. It's hard enough when we don't see someone we love very often. But imagine believing someone is dead, then several years later finding out they are alive. What a reunion it would be!



Not only will Joseph welcome his family into Egypt during a time of great famine, but God will use Joseph and all of the circumstances of the past 22 years to provide for the children of Israel as God continues to set up His promised Jewish nation. God chose Joseph to save the children of Israel during a time of great famine and despair. God would also use Joseph to provide for their needs and bring them blessings, as He remains faithful to His promises going all the way back to Abraham.

Hebrews 13:8 tells us that “Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.” He is faithful. Sometimes as we wait on God’s promises to be fulfilled, we can grow weary and allow doubt to creep into our hearts. Maybe you find yourself in this place today? And yet, just as Jesus met the disciples in the upper room bringing them peace, Joseph meets his father and brothers bringing them peace. Their needs would be met, their well-being sustained, and their lives blessed in ways they couldn’t even imagine. From Egypt to Jerusalem to your life today, God is faithful to meet you in your need, bringing peace where there is fear and directing your steps according to His will for your life.



R RECEIVING God’s Word

Open in Prayer

Read Genesis 46-47



E EXPERIENCING God’s Word

Experience 1: Genesis 46

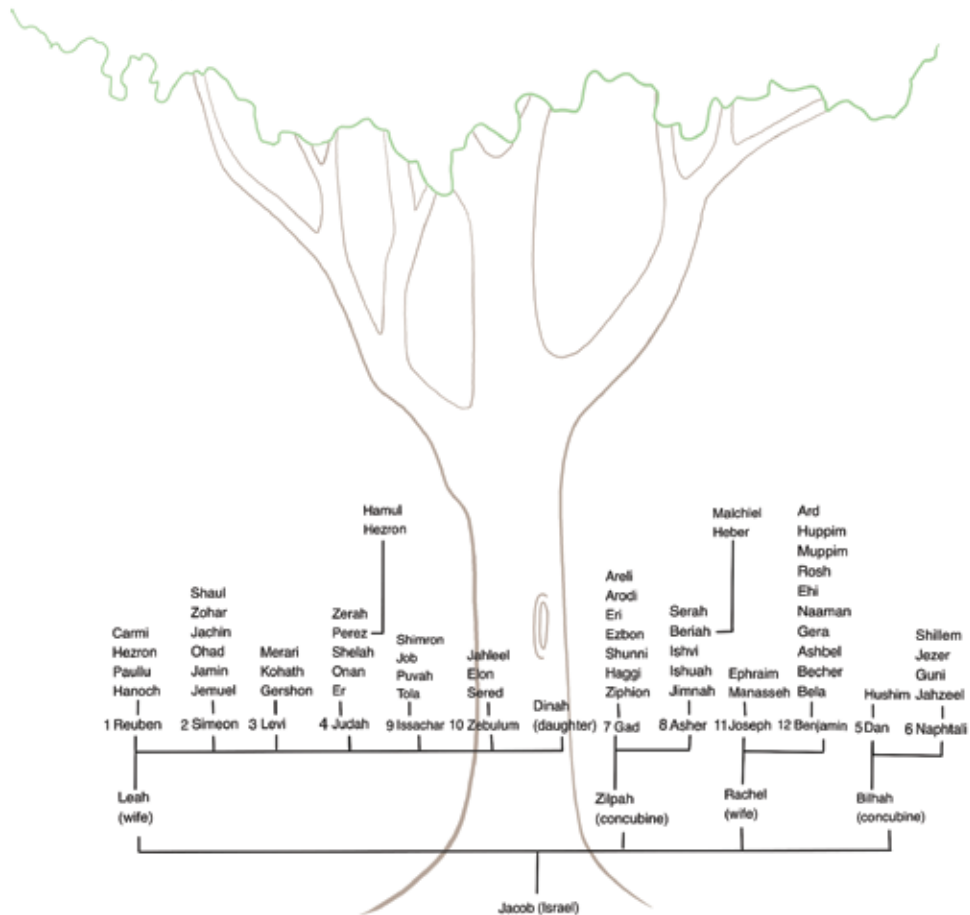
1. Read Genesis 46:1. Recall, Israel is Jacob. Jacob journeys to Egypt with his family to see Joseph. What does he take with him? What does this signify about his travel plans?



- a. Think about what is happening. Jacob is leaving the land of God's promise and going to a foreign land. Why might he need reassurance?
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5. In Genesis 46:1-4 we see Jacob referred to as both Jacob and Israel. In Week 5 of our study you read about Jacob's name being changed to Israel. You may go back and read the text box if you desire. When God changes a name, He often refers to the person by their new name going forward. This has not been the case with Jacob as seen in our verses today. He is referred by both his new and old name. Why might this be significant?
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6. Read Genesis 46:5-7. Jacob and his entire family are leaving Canaan and going to Egypt. How did God provide for this journey?
 - a. How does this demonstrate God's faithfulness?



7. In Genesis 46:8-27 we are given the names of the 12 tribes of Israel who went with Jacob to Egypt. This is the first time the Israelites are referred to as the children of Israel. Verse 27 tells us there were 70 persons in the house of Jacob. This number does not include the wives of Jacob's sons. This was a large group of people traveling together. The family genealogy listed below is from these verses.



*Family Tree designed by Rebecca Harris.
The number beside each son's name indicates birth order.*

- a. Why did God give both Jews and Gentiles this record? How does this demonstrate God's faithfulness to His people?



- b. Think about God's promise to Abraham and Isaac regarding the nation of Israel. How has God used Joseph to establish the nation and further fulfill his promise?
8. In Genesis 46:28, who led the journey to Joseph?
- a. Look at the family tree on the previous page. Who should have led the group based on birth position?
 - b. Re-read Genesis 37:26-28. Why may it have been significant that Judah was sent out first to meet Joseph when they entered Egypt? Can you think of any other reasons why Judah may have been in the lead?
9. In Genesis 46:29-30 Joseph is reunited with his father. It has been 22 years since Jacob last saw Joseph. Describe the reunion.

“Jacob was satisfied to see his son alive, for he was the one designated as the heir, the one whom God had chosen to rule over the family. So, this was more than a family reunion; it was a confirmation that God's promised blessing was intact.” (*Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament*, p. 95)

10. Joseph has a plan to provide for his family during the famine as well as keep them close to him. Read Genesis 46:31-34. How do you see Joseph's wisdom and leadership demonstrated in his plan?

Experience 2: Genesis 47

1. Read Genesis 47:1-4. How do Joseph and his five brothers express respect and submission to Pharaoh when they meet him?
2. According to verses 5-6, how does Pharaoh's response exhibit his respect and admiration for Joseph, considering shepherds were an "abomination" in the Egyptian culture?
3. Read Genesis 47:7. When Pharaoh meets Jacob, Jacob does something unusual. Read Hebrews 7:7. How does this verse speak into the exchange between Jacob and Pharaoh?
4. Read Genesis 47:8-10. How does Jacob describe his life to Pharaoh?

- a. How was this significant considering he thought his son Joseph was dead for the last 22 years?
-
5. In the provisions God has given through Joseph in Genesis 47:11-12, what promises were fulfilled from Genesis 12:1-3?
-
6. Back in Genesis 41, Pharaoh had a dream about the years of plenty and the years of famine, and at that time he appointed Joseph as governor over the land and the people. Read Genesis 47:13-26. In this role, God uses Joseph to provide for Pharaoh and the people.
 - a. How does God use Joseph to save the people when there was:
 - No bread? (v.13)
 - No money? (v. 15)
 - Nothing left? (v. 18)
 - b. How does God use Joseph to bless Pharaoh through the famine?
 - c. In verse 22, whose land was not bought by Joseph and why?

- d. In these verses Joseph does not profit personally; instead, we see him acting graciously toward both the people and Pharaoh. Explain.
7. Based on Genesis 47:13-26, how is Joseph's relationship with the Egyptians like Jesus' relationship with believers?
8. Read Genesis 47:27-31 and answer the following questions:
- a. From verse 27, describe what life looked like for Jacob and the nation of Israel as they lived in Egypt.
 - b. As Jacob's life is drawing to a close, he has a final request of Joseph. What is it?
 - c. Jacob and Joseph make a covenant with each other. How is this demonstrated?
 - d. Why would Jacob not want to be buried in Egypt?



9. How has God been faithful to Jacob for 147 years?

10. How do you see God's sovereignty in Genesis 46 and 47?



TIME STAMP

Before the digital age, when important paper documents were received, a clerk would use an ink stamp to mark the time and date on them to stand as an official record of an event. It has been said that life events can also be like “time stamps” upon our hearts. Incidents that happen in life, both good and bad, leave an indelible stamp upon us and are not easily forgotten.

Joseph has many “time stamp” moments in his life. As you look back on this week’s lesson, what events would you say are “time stamp” moments for Joseph?



ACTING on God's Word

Genesis 46 begins with an encounter between Jacob and God. This is not the first time Jacob has interacted with God. You may recall their interaction previously in Genesis 32:22-31. In verse 28 Jacob was given the name Israel after he struggled with God.

“And He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.’ ”



This was a tenuous time in Jacob's life. He was leaving his uncle's service and returning to his homeland where his estranged brother, Esau, lived. This was likely a highly stressful time in his life and full of questions without known answers. Questions like: Would his brother be willing to forgive him? Could he find a new place to live and provide for his family? Could he maintain peace with Esau, even if he did not kill him immediately upon his return? But God assured and blessed Jacob in a time of his deep unrest and trouble. And just as God was faithful in Genesis 32, He would be faithful again many decades later in Genesis 46.

In our text today we found Jacob again needing reassurance from God. Jacob was once again moving his family, but this time from Canaan to Egypt. True to God's faithful character, He met Jacob in his time of distress and anxiety. To prepare him for the days ahead, God reminded him of some powerful truths about His character. We read four specific encouragements in Genesis 46:3-4 from God to Jacob:

I am in control: "I am God" (v. 3)

I give peace: "Do not fear" (v.3)

I give direction and blessing: "Go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there" (v.4)

I am with you: "I will go down with you" (v. 4)

These reassuring words spoken to Jacob of God's faithfulness should be an encouragement to us today as well, because we know God never changes. Therefore, what He did for Jacob, He can also do for us. Just as God was faithful to Jacob, He will be faithful to us even when He asks us to walk through circumstances we may not understand.

1. Are you facing something that is causing you unrest? If so, what is it?



2. Re-read the four encouraging statements from Genesis 46:3-4 listed below. Then complete the prayers that are started for you. Express how you will trust God in the circumstances which are causing you unrest.

- “I am God” (v.3)

Dear God, because you alone are God, therefore I will...

- “Do not fear” (v. 3)

Lord, thank you that I do not have to fear. Please help me...

- “Go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there” (v.4)

Holy Spirit, you give perfect direction and You know just what blessings to bestow upon me. As I follow your direction...

- “I will go down with you” (v. 4)

Jesus, you tell me that you will never leave me nor forsake me. Please help me...



3. Praise the Lord in your heart for what He will do now and in the days ahead as you watch Him be faithful to you, just as He was to Jacob.



DELIGHTING in God's Word

From today's verses, how has the Lord prompted you to pray?

Write a verse from the chapter that God has spoken to your heart.

Close in Prayer