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**Genesis 46-48:15**

**INTRODUCTION**

We have followed the life of Joseph from the age of 17 - when he was so hated by his 10 older brothers that they sold him as a slave and he was brought down to Egypt.

We watched as he continued to endure unbelievable injustices and suffering.

Through all of it **THE LORD WAS WITH HIM.**

Through all of it he was able to **LOOK ABOVE** his circumstances and **SEE THE HAND OF GOD** in all of it - ***YOU sold me - GOD sent me***

**CRUCIAL LESSON:**

ALL of the abuse and injustices at the hands of man were **God's vehicle** to get Joseph to the position of the 2nd most powerful man in the world **so that he might be God's instrument** of preserving the nation of Israel and continuing His plan of **redeeming the World.**

We watched as Joseph revealed himself to his brethren - a powerful and poignant record.

A beautiful portrait of Jesus dealing with sinners.

He has sent his brothers back to Canaan laden with treasures.

He said *go up and tell Jacob my father that Joseph his son is alive! and that the Lord has made him ruler of all the land of Egypt.*

He calls for them to come down to Egypt - which would be a fulfillment of the promises that God made to Abraham in GENESIS 15.

*Genesis 15:13-16 KJV And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; {14} And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance... {16} But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

THIS PROCESS is beginning now in Genesis 46.

We saw in our last time together that Jacob stops at Beersheba to **SEEK THE LORD.**



He no doubt remembers the warning of God to his own father Isaac - that Isaac was to NEVER GO down to Egypt.

But now he has the promise of God to Abraham that his descendants - which is what Jacob was - would go down to Egypt.

And on top of it this call from his son - and a desire in his own heart to see his own son.

SO he goes to hear from the Lord.

#### CHAPTER 46

*{1} And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac.*

Israel is 130 years old at this time.

*{2} And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. {3} And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt;*

We noted that Joseph's dad was vacillating between FAITH and FEAR - the fear of change. But the Lord had a CURE for Jacob's fears.

*for I will there make of thee a great nation: {4} I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.*

In other words - Joseph will be there to close your eyes when you die. Inferring that Jacob WILL make it safely to Egypt and WILL see his son Joseph.

THAT was part of what was on Jacob's heart - to SEE his son.

*{5} And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. {6} And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him:*

Just picture this - ALL the kids - ALL the grandkids - ALL the wives - ALL the servants.

*{7} His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt. {8} And these are the names of the children of Israel,*

NOW - I'm NOT going to do this to you! But I WILL highlight some of them so that we can see what it is saying to us.

REMEMBER - ISRAEL is that name that God gave to Jacob after He had wrestled with Jacob.

The children of Israel = the children of Jacob.

The tribes of Israel = the tribes of Jacob.

So when we hear the names Jacob and Israel we are looking at the same person.

When we hear of the children of Israel or the children of Jacob these are the descendants of this man - AFTER WHOM an entire nation is named.

INTERESTING - As you have been reading through the OT in the Bible Bus you come across those times when God calls the nation by the name Jacob and other times by the name Israel.

These are almost always used about the NATION in the same way that they were used in regards to this individual.

When God speaks of them as Israel it is OFTEN in the context of the nation living by faith and being governed by God.

When God speaks of them as Jacob it is OFTEN in the context of the nation trusting in it's own strength.

Many times in their rebellion God calls them Jacob!

*Reuben, Jacob's firstborn. {9} And the sons of Reuben;  
{10} And the sons of Simeon;  
{11} And the sons of Levi;  
{12} And the sons of Judah;  
{13} And the sons of Issachar;*

Then it tells us that all six of these men and their sons are of Leah.

*{15} These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three.*

Then we come to the sons of Zilpah who was the handmaid of Leah.

*{16} And the sons of Gad;  
{17} And the sons of Asher;  
{18} These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bare unto Jacob, even sixteen souls.*

Now we come to the sons of Rachel - Jacob's wife

*19 The sons of Rachel Jacob's wife; Joseph, and Benjamin. 20 And unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.*

*{21} And the sons of Benjamin*

Interesting - in Benjamin we have 10 sons.

*{22} These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob: all the souls were fourteen.*

Then we come to the sons of Bilhah - Rachel's handmaid.

*{23} And the sons of Dan  
{24} And the sons of Naphtali;  
{25} These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and she bare these unto Jacob: all the souls were seven.  
{26} All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six; {27} And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.*

By the way - In ACTS 7 we are told that there were 75 -

That is because Acts is quoting the Septuagint - the Greek translation of the Hebrew OT -

And if I'm not mistaken, the Septuagint list gives to us -

- Another son of Manasseh plus two grandsons
- Two more sons of Ephraim who had two sons
- And deletes two of the ones we read

Just in case you're wondering.

*{27} And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.*

Millions would leave Egypt.

*{28} And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.*

The Egyptians detested the Haburai - shepherds.

For all of there amazing advancements in the sciences the Egyptians were still basically a nation of farmers.

They detested the nomadic tribes of shepherds who would come and destroy their crops and lands.

In their hieroglyphics they would portray shepherds as crippled, dirty and small in stature.

*{29} And Joseph made ready his chariot,*

We can only imagine the anticipation in the heart of Joseph.

He has been waiting 22 years to see his father. Many of those years filled with grief and suffering and agony - wondering if he would ever see his dad again.

*and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him;*

Again - imagine the scene

Jacob with the 66 souls standing in Goshen and the chariots of Egypt are approaching with the 2nd most powerful man in Egypt.

Jacob I'm sure paused before getting out of the chariot - looking at his dad who had aged 22 years.

We KNOW that Jacob has poor vision - wondering what all of the fuss was about.

*and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.*

How the Father in heaven must be MOVED at this scene in Genesis because this "father - son reunion is a SHADOW of a scene that was dear to His own heart

There would be a point in space and time when God would hear His Son cry out - "My God, My God - why hast thou forsaken me"

In a mystery that we are incapable of grasping - when in that moment God laid on HIS son all the sin of the world -

- The sin of Adolf Hitler, Charles Manson, Osama Bin Laden,
- The sin of every pervert, every murderer,
- My sin, your sin

And the Father would turn away. And then God fired down upon Jesus all of the wrath that we deserved.

But there would be a reunion.

Jesus would RISE on the third day and then would ascend into heaven.

Jesus would bring Adam's genes and chromosomes back into fellowship at the throne of the Father - FOREVER to be in a carpenter's body.

### **REMEMBER -**

Joseph was the son rejected of his own brethren - sold into slavery - raised to glory and takes a gentile bride - revealed to his brethren and reunited with his father.

What an awesome picture of Jesus.

And how God must have respected the heartache of Jacob and the heartache of Joseph.

### **LISTEN -**

Anything that we do for the Lord - endure for the Lord - will be paid back in such an awesome way.

At this moment I'm convinced that the hearts of these two men were being repaid by God hundreds of times over.

### **KEY APPLICATION:**

This God is the SAME, yesterday, today and forever.

Do you feel that there is an impossible situation in your life and it seems that God SEEMS to be overlooking you?

Does it feel like He seems to get to everyone else's great needs but not yours?

If that is where you are at tonight, bring your impossibility before the God of the impossible right now!!

*{31} And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and shew Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, are come unto me; {32} And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have. {33} And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation? {34} That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.*

### **KEY INSIGHT:**

It is by God's grace that this relationship is established - this SEPARATION between the Egyptians and Israel's family.

BECAUSE of this disdain for shepherds the descendants of Jacob would remain SEPARATE for these 400 years RATHER than be amalgamated into the cultural and religious fabric of Egypt.

But BECAUSE their lifestyle was despised they were able to learn math and science and other things that would be valuable to them back in Canaan - yet WITHOUT losing their own national and spiritual identity!

CHAPTER 47

*Gen. 47:1 Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they are in the land of Goshen.*

*{2} And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh. {3} And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers. {4} They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; (We are only here for a period of time) for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen. {5} And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee: {6} The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen (the fertile area of the Nile) let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them (If any of them can do with cattle what you did with grain - give 'em a job working for me too), then make them rulers over my cattle. {7} And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.*

Here is a 130 year old, near sighted shepherd, blessing the man who from a human standpoint is the most powerful man in the world.

Try to picture Mr. McGoo here!

*{8} And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old art thou? {9} And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of my pilgrimage (Just passing through) are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been,*

The idea here is that they have been HARD.

Looking back 130 years is like a vapor.

*and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.*

Abraham = 170

Isaac = 180

Jacob is 130 here and lives to be 147

*{10} And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh. {11} And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses,*

Up to this point there is no king named Ramases - but a series of kings would come who would be called by that name.

So Moses - the author of the Book of Genesis - takes note of the fact that in the day of Jacob the region was known as Goshen - but when Moses comes on the scene it is known as Rameses.

*{12} And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families. {13} And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine. {14} And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. {15} And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth. {16} And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail. {17} And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.*

*{18} When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands: {19} Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate. {20} And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.*

**KEY INSIGHT:**

Secular history bears this out.

Early Egyptian history is somewhat dim - but there are records of private land owners.

But suddenly there comes a point in the history of Egypt when the land belongs to Pharaoh.

Joseph was the man that brought that about.

We have the missing piece to that history here in Genesis where we are told HOW that took place

*{21} And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof. {22} Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands. {23} Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land.*

**KEY INSIGHT:**

Evidently the famine is now over.

He gives them not only seed for what they need to eat - but because the land is Pharaoh's he doesn't want it to go fallow -

So he gives them seed enough to eat and then some to make pharaoh's land profitable.

*{24} And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones.*

Now Joseph has put a great system into place.

Pharaoh is the land owner.

Each person worked in the portion of ground they had given to Pharaoh and they get to keep 80% of what they raise for their own use or for sale and they give 20% to pharaoh.

No wonder pharaoh loved Joseph.

*{25} And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants. {26} And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's. {27} And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly. {28} And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years. {29} And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:*

He wants to be buried in Beersheba in the fields of Macphela.

He remembers that God told him that Joseph would close his eyes at his death.

He knows he is dying so he calls Joseph to himself.

*{30} But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will do as thou hast said. {31} And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.*

The placing of the hand under the thigh had to do with reproduction and life.

He is making an oath in regards to his lineage.

Try to imagine this scene.

*[Heb. 11:21](#) By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.*

Here he is where he NEVER thought he would be.

Joseph is with him and he knows that if he dies Joseph will close his eyes.

How amazing Jacob's God has proven himself to be.

## CHAPTER 48

*Gen. 48:1 And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.*

Joseph is 56 years old - the boys are in their 20's

*{2} And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed.*

With great dignity he straitens himself up in bed.

*{3} And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, {4} And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. {5} And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.*

He is basically saying:

*Rachel is the wife I loved - If Laban hadn't tricked me and given me Leah - YOU would have been my first born - so as far as I'm concerned - YOU are the firstborn.*

*So instead of giving you the double portion - I am taking your two sons as my own - and therefore the double portion DOES come to you because I will make them tribes of Israel.*

Remarkably Ephraim and Manasseh become 2 of the tribes of Israel.

Levi is set aside as the priestly tribe and they have no possession in the land - the Lord is their portion.

Rather than hearing of Joseph we hear of his 2 sons.

*{6} And thy issue, which thou begettest after them, shall be thine, and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance. {7} And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem. {8} And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who are these? {9} And Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.*

There is a very interesting scene that takes place here.

Joseph takes his sons and he will put Manasseh on Jacob's right hand (because he is the first born and he wants him to get the greater blessing) and he will take Ephraim and place him on Joseph's left hand (to get the lesser blessing)

Jacob - as he reaches out to bless them - CROSSES his hands and places his right hand on Ephraim and his left on Manasseh.

Joseph says - NO DAD - you got it crossed up and Jacob says - I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

**The ironic thing** is that here is Jacob - who as a young man - the SECOND brother - tried to STEAL from his BLIND father the blessing of the first born.

But NOW BLIND JACOB gives the blessing of the first born to the second born.

*{10} Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. {11} And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed. {12} And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. {13} And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. {14} And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. {15} And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,*

LITERALLY - SHEPHERDED ME

He LED me and FED me.

THAT is our Jesus!!

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