

# The Move of Jacob and His Family

## *Genesis 46:1-34*

### I. THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MOVE (Genesis 46:1-7)

#### A. The Venture to Beersheba (Genesis 46:1)

1. Israel took his journey from Hebron to Beersheba
2. It's important to note that Beersheba had been the residence of:
  - a. Abraham (Genesis 21:33)
  - b. Isaac (Genesis 26:25)
3. Beersheba was about 25 to 30 miles from Hebron where the trip began.
4. It was a good place to stop over and prepare for the trip through the desert, for it was the last place in Canaan before one went into the desert on the way to Egypt.
5. It is also interesting to note how symbolic/type you see in Jacob going back to the place where his father and grandfather had worshipped God. Note: when you've strayed from the Lord the best thing you can do is to go back where you remember having fellowship with Him before (Luke 15:11-24).

Note: The Song "*Abide with Me!*" by Henry F. Lyte

Specifically verse 5 from the song:

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,  
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,  
**Thou hast not left me**, though **I oft left thee**.  
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me!

Taken from *Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, number 523

#### B. The Adoration at Beersheba (Genesis 46:1)

1. Jacob worshipped God at Beersheba
  - a. Jacob needed God's direction about going to Egypt, and here he sought earnestly for that direction.
  - b. Jacob would not leave God out of this trip (Proverbs 3:6).

2. Jacob offered sacrifices at Beersheba
  - a. It cost Jacob something to worship God.
  - b. Keep in mind that this was during a famine, no doubt his flocks and herds had been diminished by drought and starvation. Note: a good time of worship of God requires a cost on our part.
  - c. Jacob offered sacrifices before making any plans. Note: it would do well for Christians today to get God's input through prayer and fasting before making many of the plans that they make (Psalm 5:2-3; Psalm 55:17; Psalm 119:62).

C. The Vision at Beersheba (Genesis 46:2-4)

1. The person in the vision (Genesis 46:2, 3)
  - a. *"God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, **Jacob, Jacob ...**"* (Genesis 46:2)
    - (1) Notice it was God that spoke to Jacob.
    - (2) Notice that God said Jacob's name twice. There are seven times in the Bible where a person's name is doubled:
      - (a) Abraham, Abraham (Genesis 22:11)
      - (b) Jacob, Jacob (Genesis 46:2)
      - (c) Moses, Moses (Exodus 3:4)
      - (d) Samuel, Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10)
      - (e) Martha, Martha (Luke 10:41)
      - (f) Simon, Simon (Luke 22:31)
      - (g) Saul, Saul (Acts 9:4)
    - (3) Each of these times involved a significant event in the life of the person named.
  - b. *"I am God, the God of thy father"* (Genesis 46:3)
    - (1) This reference to *"God of thy father"* speaks of the God of the covenant which is so important to Jacob.
    - (2) This is the God in Whom all Jacob's hopes and aspirations lie in. In like manner all our hopes lie in the same God (Malachi 3:6; Matthew 5:18).
2. The permission in the vision (Genesis 46:3)
  - a. *"Fear not to go down into Egypt."*
  - b. This was a big concern for Jacob. Remember Abraham had gotten into big trouble by going down into Egypt during a famine (Genesis 12:10-20).
  - c. Isaac had been forbidden to go to Egypt in a famine (Genesis 26:1, 2).
  - d. Jacob wanted to be sure he was doing right, so he sought God through the sacrificing, and God answered and assured him he was doing right by giving him permission to pursue the invitation to go to Egypt.

3. The promises in the vision
  - a. Not only did God give Jacob permission to go to Egypt. He also gave Jacob some most encouraging promises that would support the permission. The promises were fourfold.
    - (1) One, the promise of **posterity**. *“I will there make of thee a great nation”* (Genesis 46:3).
    - (2) Two, the promise of His **presence**. *“I will go down with thee into Egypt.”* (Genesis 46:4).
    - (3) Three, the promise in **prophecy**. *“I will also surely bring thee up again”* (Genesis 46:4).
    - (4) Four, the promise of **prospects**. *“Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes”* (Genesis 46:4).

D. The Vacating of Beersheba (Genesis 46:5, 6, 7)

1. Jacob rose up and left Beersheba (Genesis 46:5)
  - a. With his sons
  - b. With their little ones, and their wives
  - c. In the wagons sent by Pharaoh
2. Jacob arrived in Egypt (Genesis 46:6-7)
  - a. With his goods (Genesis 46:6)
  - b. With sons, daughters and all his seed (Genesis 46:6-7)

II. THE FAMILY FOR THE MOVE (Genesis 46:8-27)

A. The Sons of Leah (Genesis 46:8-15)

1. Reuben, and his sons (Genesis 46:8-9)
2. Simeon, and his sons (Genesis 46:10)
3. Levi, and his sons (Genesis 46:11)
4. Judah, and his sons (Genesis 46:12); Note: Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan and did not enter Egypt (Genesis 46:12).
5. Issachar, and his sons (Genesis 46:13)
6. Zebulun, and his sons (Genesis 46:14)
7. Total—thirty-three souls (Genesis 46:15); Note: This did not include Dinah.

B. The Sons of Zilpah (Genesis 46:16-18)

1. Gad, and his sons (Genesis 46:16)
2. Asher, and his sons (and daughter Serah) (Genesis 46:17)
3. Total—sixteen souls (Genesis 46:18)

C. The Sons of Rachel (Genesis 46:19-22)

1. Joseph, and his sons (Genesis 46:20)

2. Benjamin, and his sons (Genesis 46:21)
  3. Total—fourteen souls (Genesis 46:22)
- D. The Sons of Bilhah (Genesis 46:23-25)
1. Dan, and his son (Genesis 46:23)
  2. Naphtali, and his sons (Genesis 46:24)
  3. Total—seven souls (Genesis 46:25)
- E. The Sum Total (Genesis 46:26-27)
1. The sixty-six refers to the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt out of Jacob's loins (this *excluded* Jacob's wives which obviously did not come from his loins) (Genesis 46:26).
    - a. Er and Onan are *excluded* because they died (Genesis 46:12).
    - b. While it was obvious that Dinah was excluded in the previous count, she is obviously *included* in this count.
    - c. Lastly, the count *included* all Jacob's sons except for Joseph and his sons, who did not come "*with Jacob*" (Genesis 46:26). This would total the sixty-six mentioned.
  2. The four added to the sixty-six would be the others which came into Egypt that were not from his loins. This *included* the three living wives and Jacob. The souls *of the house of Jacob* which came into Egypt were seventy (Genesis 46:27).
  3. Acts 7:14 mentions seventy-five as "*all the kindred*"; this most likely includes relatives who were not from the "*loins*" of Jacob (Genesis 46:26).
- F. The Notations About the Family (Genesis 46:15, 21)
1. The singleness of Dinah (Genesis 46:15)
    - a. There is no indication from scripture that Dinah ever married after the incident in Genesis 34 (Genesis 34:1-5, 8-16, 25).
    - b. This feature of Dinah underscores the scar of sin. Dinah had her time, but it left her without a husband.
  2. The sons of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
    - a. Ten boys are listed for Benjamin's sons (Genesis 46:21). The critics say Benjamin could not possibly have had ten sons, for at this time he would have only been at most 25 years old.
    - b. The answer to that criticism is that Benjamin could have easily had more than one wife—Jacob had four and twelve children in a period of 13 years. Also, twins could have been conceived in this group.

## III. THE CONCLUSION OF THE MIGRATION (Genesis 46:28-34)

## A. Joseph Meets His Father (Genesis 46:28-30)

1. Jacob's preparation before arriving (Genesis 46:28)
  - a. *"He sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen."*
  - b. Judah had gained Jacob's confidence by his care of the situation with Benjamin, he had offered himself as a slave in exchange for the freedom of Benjamin.
  - c. Judah had made some huge mistakes in his past; but he had reformed and was acting so well that of all the brothers, Jacob trusted him to go see Joseph (Genesis 49:8-12).
2. Jacob's meeting with Joseph (Genesis 46:29, 30)
  - a. The presenting at the meeting
    - (1) *"Joseph made ready his chariot... presented himself unto him."*
    - (2) Joseph came in all his splendor to meet Jacob. He came in the splendor of *"his chariot"* (this would be his royal chariot) and in the splendor of his official apparel.
  - b. The passion in the meeting
    - (1) *"He fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while."*
    - (2) The emotion of this meeting is understandable. Jacob and Joseph loved each other very much and hadn't seen one another for many years.

## B. Joseph's Land for His Family (Genesis 46:28, 34)

1. *"They came into the land of Goshen."*
2. The land where the family of Jacob was to live was Goshen. This land was where Joseph planned for them to live as is stated in his speaking with the brothers in sending them back to get their father—*"Thou shall dwell in the land of Goshen"* (Genesis 45:10).
  - a. Pharaoh approved of Joseph's choice (Genesis 47:6).
  - b. The land would be perfect for the flocks that the family had and would make a good place for the family to grow into a great nation.

## C. Joseph Prepares His Family to Meet Pharaoh (Genesis 46:31-34)

1. The informing of Pharaoh
  - a. Joseph informs his family, especially his brothers, that he would go and inform Pharaoh of two important matters concerning Jacob's family...
    - (1) The **coming** of his family—While Jacob had much authority in the government, he wisely gave Pharaoh the respect he was due. He

knew it was the right thing to notify Pharaoh of his family's arrival.

- (2) The **calling** of the family— Also Joseph said he would be the one to tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds. It was needful to inform Pharaoh of their occupation, “*for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians*” (Genesis 46:34). Though the task of shepherding was a vital part of society, the Egyptians disdained the job. It is eye opening what this world finds disdainful and what God finds disdainful.
  - b. This informing of Pharaoh would prepare him for approving Goshen where Jacob's family should live.
2. The inquiring of Pharaoh
  - a. Joseph prepares the brothers to give the right answer to Pharaoh when he inquires of them what their occupation is.
  - b. The preparation is needed, as was noted, so that Goshen will officially be assigned to them by Pharaoh. The land would make an excellent land for flocks to graze.