

The Arrival of Jacob in Egypt

Genesis 47:1-31

- I. THE AUDIENCE WITH PHARAOH (Genesis 46:1-13)
 - A. The Informing of the Arrival (Genesis 47:1)
 1. The announcement of the arrival—Joseph goes and tells Pharaoh of the arrival of his father, his brothers, and their families in the land.
 2. The courtesy in the informing—as we spoke of in a previous lesson it was a courtesy of Joseph to inform Pharaoh of his family’s arrival. Pharaoh had provided help and encouragement for the move, so Joseph owed him this kindness of informing him of their successful arrival in the land. Joseph’s handling of this is another example of his exemplary performance.
 3. The country in the informing—“*They are in the land of Goshen.*” This land would prove to be a good place for them to grow into a great nation.
 - B. The Interview with the Brothers (Genesis 47:2, 3, 4-6)
 1. The included in the interview—Joseph took five of his brethren to meet Pharaoh. Our curiosity would certainly like to know which five made the cut. You can be sure they would have been the best to represent the family.
 2. The inquiry in the interview
 - a. “*Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation?*” (Genesis 47:3)
 - b. Pharaoh is interested in work. Loafers do not help in building a strong nation, community, churches, families, and marriages. It requires work.
 - c. Note: These brothers knew the answers that they needed give, remember that Joseph had told them to answer honestly (Genesis 46:33-34).
 - d. Remember that their occupation would gain esteem in the court of Pharaoh, “*for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians*” (Genesis 46:34). It is interesting to note just how many shepherds God used in Scripture...
 - (1) Abel (Genesis 4:2)
 - (2) Abraham (Genesis 20:14; 21:7; 22:7)
 - (3) Jacob (Genesis 30:40)
 - (4) Joseph (Genesis 37:2)
 - (5) Jacob’s brothers (Genesis 47:3-4)
 - (6) Moses (Exodus 3:1)
 - (7) The Children of Israel (Exodus 10:9; Numbers 32:26; Nehemiah 10:36)

- (8) The shepherds at night in Bethlehem (Luke 2:8)
 (9) Jesus, the great Shepherd (John 10:11)
3. The intent of the interview
 - a. *“For to sojourn in the land are we to come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan...”* (Genesis 47:4)
 - b. The answer about their occupation was essential to gaining support to live in Goshen where there was good pastureland.
 4. The instructions after the interview
 - a. *“Pharaoh spake unto Joseph... in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell”* (Genesis 47:5, 6).
 - b. Note: This is what happens when the righteous are in power and rule (Proverbs 29:2).
 - c. This allocation of land would keep Joseph’s family apart from the Egyptians, but it would grant Joseph’s desire.
 5. The invitation from the interview (SEE SERMON)
 - a. *“If thou knowest any man of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle”* (Genesis 47:6).
 - b. Shepherds may have been an abomination to the Egyptians, but animals are necessary for food and clothing. Therefore, Pharaoh makes an appeal to Joseph that if there any of his brothers experienced, skilled and hardworking, have him take care of his own flock/herd.
 - (1) Men of God should be men of activity.
 - (2) Traits of men of activity
 - (a) Work – part of the calling (1 Timothy 3:1; 2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15:10)
 - i. A mind to work (Nehemiah 4:6)
 - ii. To remove the rubbish (Nehemiah 4:10)
 - (b) Energy
 - i. To do so heartily (Colossians 3:23)
 - ii. To do so with might (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
 - iii. Example: Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 31:20-21)
 - (c) Diligence—persevering and careful in work
 - i. The act (Proverbs 27:23; Romans 12:11); example: the ant (Proverbs 6:6-9)
 - ii. The outcome (Proverbs 22:29)
 - (d) Purpose
 - i. The example of Paul (2 Timothy 3:10; Romans 15:20; 2 Corinthians 10:15-16)
 - ii. The example of Caleb (Numbers 13:30; Numbers 14:24; Joshua 14:6, 13-14; Joshua 15:13, 14)
 - (e) Focus
 - i. The example of Paul (Acts 20:24; Philippians 3:14)
 - ii. The example of Christ (Luke 2:49; Luke 9:51-52, 53)

- (f) Motion
 - i. The example of the Children of Israel (Deuteronomy 1:6-7; Deuteronomy 2:3)
 - ii. The parable of two sons (Matthew 21:28-29, 30, 31)
- (g) Economy
 - i. Time (Ephesians 5:16; Psalm 90:12)
 - ii. Effect (Proverbs 18:19)
- (h) Completion
 - i. The need of planning (Luke 14:28-30)
 - ii. The need of finishing well (2 Timothy 4:7)
- (3) Examples from history – Theodore Roosevelt
 - (a) NY congressman
 - (b) A sheriff in the western US
 - (c) Police commissioner of NYC
 - (d) US Navy Assistant Secretary
 - (e) Rough Rider
 - (f) Governor of NY State
 - (g) 26th President of the United States
 - (h) Lost his wife to childbearing and his mother to typhoid fever on the same day on February 14, 1884.
 - (i) Quotes by Theodore Roosevelt
 - i. “He who makes no mistakes makes no progress.”
 - ii. “To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”
 - iii. “If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn’t sit for a month.”

C. The Interview with Jacob (Genesis 47:7-10)

1. Joseph brought Jacob before Pharaoh (Genesis 47:7)
2. The inquiry in the interview (Genesis 47:8-9)
 - a. Pharaoh asked how old Jacob was.
 - b. Jacob’s answer was “... *few and evil have the days of the years of my life been.*” (Genesis 47:9)
3. The incredibility of the interview (Genesis 47:8-9)
 - a. This interview with Pharaoh would seem incredible to Jacob.
 - b. He had earlier said, “*All these things are against me*” (Genesis 42:36), not expecting these things now.
 - c. Jacob’s comments were all a matter of perspective and focus. The summation of Abraham’s life was said to be a “*good old age, an old man, and full of years*” (Genesis 25:7-8). The individual must determine to make the best of life’s circumstances.

4. The end of the interview—Jacob went out from the presence of Pharaoh (Genesis 47:10)

D. The Inhabiting of the Land (Genesis 47:6, 12)

1. The encampment of the land (Genesis 47:6)
 - a. The audience with Pharaoh officially established the place where Jacob's family would live (Genesis 47:6)
 - b. In the land of Goshen.
 - (1) Located in a very fertile spot in the land.
 - (2) This location would furnish Jacob with excellent pasture for his flocks and excellent fields where crops could be grown in time.
2. Joseph nourished his family (Genesis 47:12)
 - a. Joseph position would enable him to provide liberally for his father and his brethren.
 - b. God had put Joseph in the position in order to help preserve His chosen people.

II. THE ADMINISTRATION OF JOSEPH (Genesis 47:14-26)

A. The Selling of the Corn Amid the Famine (Genesis 47:14-25)

1. The foresight in selling the corn
 - a. Joseph was very wise in selling the corn instead of just giving it to the people. If he had given them the grain, he would have destroyed the Egyptians. Why may you ask? Because once train a people to not have to work for what they get two or more things happen.
 - (1) They become **dependent** upon the system for their survival and stop being self-sufficient.
 - (2) They become **lackadaisical** concerning themselves. That is, they lose purpose and don't try for themselves.
 - (3) They become **wasteful**. What costs someone nothing they will typically will not fight to keep.
 - b. The Egyptians ran out of food shortly after the famine started. Joseph fed all the Egyptians and many other countries for seven years with just 1/5th of the food produced in the seven good years. Making the Egyptians pay for the food forced them to conserve their food and finances. It thus greatly helped their character.
2. The fee in selling the corn
 - a. There were four different prices for the corn during the famine.
 - (1) **Lucre** (Genesis 41:56). This was the people's money.
 - (2) **Livestock** (Genesis 47:16). When the people ran out of money, they paid with their livestock. Paying with their livestock removed

the burden of feeding them in the famine, and Joseph could bring all of the livestock under the care of Pharaoh.

- (3) **Lands** (Genesis 47:23). Without lucre or livestock, the next thing the people gave Joseph was their land.
- (4) **Lives** (Genesis 47:23). Finally, the people themselves. As a result Joseph moved the people into the cities (Genesis 47:21). Here Joseph could more efficiently feed and care for them. The people would praise Joseph for his actions at the end of the famine (Genesis 47:25).

B. The Sharing of the Corn After the Famine (Genesis 47:23, 24, 26)

1. The work in the sharing of the Corn (Genesis 47:23)
 - a. *“Here is seed for you, ye shall sow the land”* (Genesis 47:23).
 - b. Sharing the corn gave work for the people. People working is healthy for any society. Joseph made sure that the nation wouldn’t be full of non-working, non-productive people. He put the people to work and improved society.
2. The wages in the sharing of the Corn (Genesis 47:24)
 - a. *“You shall give a fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own”* (Genesis 47:24).
 - b. Joseph was generous. Joseph was only asking for a small portion of the overall harvest that would be collected. Thus, this gave the people a path to recovery. For Joseph to work with an 80/20 plan was very generous indeed.
3. The wealth from the sharing of the Corn (Genesis 47:26)
 - a. *“Joseph made it a law over the land unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part”* (Genesis 47:26).
 - b. Governments must have an income to function. So many governments, however, are greedy and inefficient and impoverish their own people. Joseph was a wise ruler, for he provided a good income for the government without being too burdensome on the people.

III. THE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR JACOB (Genesis 47:27-31)

A. Jacob’s Family Prospered in Goshen (Genesis 47:27)

1. In possessions
2. In numbers

B. Jacob Lived Seventeen Years in Egypt (Genesis 47:28)

1. Jacob would have been 130 years old when he arrived in Egypt.
2. Jacob died at 147 years of age.

3. Jacob probably lost out on 22 years of the life of Joseph, but the Lord was gracious and gave him 17 years with Joseph before he died.
- C. Joseph Vowed to Bury Jacob in Canaan (Genesis 47:29-31; Genesis 24:1-9)
1. Jacob entrusted Joseph with his funeral arrangements (Genesis 47:29).
 - a. Jacob trusted that he had found grace in the eyes of Joseph.
 - b. Joseph placed his hand under Jacob's thigh (see Genesis 24:1-9).
 - c. Jacob asked specifically not to be buried in Egypt.
 2. Jacob asked Joseph to bury him with his fathers (Genesis 47:30).
 3. Joseph swore unto Jacob that he would do as he had asked (Genesis 47:31).