

Journey to Egypt

GENESIS 46–48

FIRST DAY: Introduction

God desires to bless our lives! The paths to God's blessing are often circuitous and do not make sense to us at the time. However, God is always working to safeguard our inheritance, preserve and protect our lives, and bring His blessing.

Certainly, the path to blessing in Jacob's life was circuitous and seemingly senseless. Jacob had no idea of the ways in which God was working behind the scenes to safeguard his inheritance, preserve and protect his family, and bring them into all the blessings He had promised. In order to inherit God's blessing, Jacob had to lose his most beloved son for a time, leave the land of promise, and settle his whole clan in Egypt. Yet, God was in all these contrary circumstances, using all of them to fulfill the promises He made.

Do the circumstances in your life seem contrary to what God has promised? Submit them to God completely, that they may become the very pathways God will use to lead you into His blessings.

*Submit any contrary circumstances of your life to God
that He might use them as a means to blessing.*

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 46

1. When Jacob (Israel) *took his journey with all that he had* on his way to meet Joseph, he stopped at the southernmost tip of the promised land, Beersheba. Beersheba had been a significant place in Abraham and Isaac's lives. It was also the place from which Jacob, some ninety years earlier, had fled from his brother Esau. When Jacob *came to Beersheba*, what did he do? Genesis 46:1b
 - a. Connect this with Genesis 21:33 and 26:23–25. What do you see?

2. According to Genesis 46:2, the Lord *spoke to Jacob in the visions of the night*. Use Genesis 46:2b–4 to note and comment on:
 - a. God's call (verse 2b)

 - b. God's assurance (verse 3a)

 - c. God's promises (verses 3b, 4b)

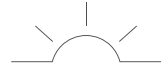
 - d. God's presence (verse 4a)

(1) What significance do you think these promises held for Jacob?

3. From Genesis 46:5–7 briefly document the journey of Jacob's family to Egypt.

4. Genesis 46:8–27 recorded the family members who *went to Egypt*, noting that there were *seventy* (meaning Jacob's entire family at that time). As they approached Egypt, what did Jacob send Judah to do? Genesis 46:28

5. Jacob had not seen Joseph since he was seventeen. Joseph was now thirty-nine years old and an important official in Egypt. Use Genesis 46:29–30 to record this long-anticipated reunion.
 - a. What blesses you most about this scene?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The phrase, *will put his hands on your eyes*, meant that Joseph would be present at Jacob's death.

6. According to Genesis 46:31–32, what did Joseph say he would *tell Pharaoh*?

a. Joseph advised his family to tell Pharaoh the same thing (Genesis 46:33–34a). Why would this enable them to *dwell in the land of Goshen*, apart from the Egyptians? Genesis 46:34b

(1) Why do you think this was necessary? See also Deuteronomy 7:3–4a.

7. What portion of this chapter ministers to you the most?

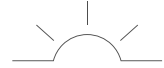
THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 47:1–12

1. After his dramatic reunion with his family, *Joseph went and told Pharaoh* about them and their situation. He then *presented* five of his brothers to Pharaoh (Genesis 47:1–2). When Pharaoh asked their *occupation*, what was their response? Genesis 47:3–4

2. After hearing their request, what did Pharaoh offer Joseph?
Genesis 47:5–6
 - a. How do you see God's favor upon Joseph's family?

3. After this conversation between Pharaoh and Joseph's brothers, *Joseph brought in his father Jacob* (Genesis 47:7a). What did Jacob do? Genesis 47:7b
 - a. Pharaoh was one of the greatest kings in the world at that time; in fact, in Egyptian religion, Pharaoh was considered a god. What does this convey to you about Jacob and his actions? See also Hebrews 7:7.

4. Remark on Jacob's commentary when Pharaoh asked him *how old* he was. Genesis 47:8–9
 - a. Observe that Jacob referred to his life as a *pilgrimage*. Link this with Hebrews 11:9–10, 13–16 and share your thoughts.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Goshen and the land of Rameses are synonymous after Joseph's reign. Pi Rameses (modern-day Qatar) was, for a time, the capital of the Egyptian Empire.

(1) How is this an example for believers? See Psalm 84:5 and 1 Peter 2:11.

5. From Genesis 47:11–12 record how Joseph:
 - a. *Situated* his family (verse 11)

 - b. *Provided* for his family (verse 12)

6. From your study today, share a way you see God's faithfulness to Jacob.

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 47:13–31

1. Although Joseph's family was taken care of, he still had to deal with the *famine*. From Genesis 47:13 describe the condition of the *land* at this time.

2. Genesis 47:14–21 documents how Joseph handled the *famine*. When the people came to him for help, comment on how Joseph managed:
 - a. Their *money* (verses 14–15)

b. Their *livestock* (verses 16–17)

c. Their *bodies* and *lands* (verses 18–21)

(1) Identify the exception to this from Genesis 47:22.

3. According to Genesis 47:23, after Joseph *bought* the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, he gave the *people* seed to *sow the land*. What did he legislate for them? Genesis 47:24, 26

a. Remark on the people's response to these arrangements from Genesis 47:25. See also Proverbs 11:26.

(1) Share a way these events demonstrate Joseph's wisdom and leadership.

4. In contrast to the Egyptians, observe how Jacob and his family fared in Egypt (Genesis 47:27). What differences do you note?

5. Joseph spent the first *seventeen* years of his life with his father, Jacob. Use Genesis 47:28, to underscore God's faithfulness to Jacob during the last *seventeen* years of his life.
6. According to Genesis 47:29–31, what did Jacob make Joseph *swear*?
7. Commentator Henry Morris notes, *Jacob wanted even his burial to be a testimony to his faith in God's promises.*³⁵ How does Jacob's testimony of faith minister to you? See also Hebrews 11:13.

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 48

1. *Now it came to pass*, after Joseph heard that Jacob was *sick*, he took *his two sons* to see him. When Jacob heard they were coming, he *strengthened himself and sat up on the bed* to speak to them (Genesis 48:1–2). Use Genesis 48:3–7 to note and comment on what Jacob said concerning:
 - a. God Almighty (verses 3–4)
 - b. Ephraim and Manasseh (verse 5)
 - c. Joseph's future *offspring* (verse 6)

- d. Rachel (verse 7)
2. Jacob then turned his attention to *Joseph's sons* (Genesis 48:8). Use Genesis 48:9–10 to describe how Joseph presented his sons to Jacob.
- a. From Genesis 48:11, record Jacob's exclamation.
- (1) Connect this with Ephesians 3:20 and share your thoughts.
3. Joseph brought his sons forward, placing the eldest, Manasseh, at his father's *right hand*, and Ephraim at his *left hand* (Genesis 48:12–13). According to Hebrews 11:21, what did Jacob *knowingly* do by faith? Genesis 48:14
4. Beginning with a beautiful description of God, Jacob *blessed Joseph*. Use Genesis 48:15–16a to fill in the blanks with this description:
- a. _____, *before whom my fathers* _____ *and*
_____ *walked.*

b. *The God who has fed me all my _____ to this _____.*

(1) The word Jacob used for *fed* is the Hebrew word *ra'ah*, which means *to shepherd*; it is the first time in Scripture God is referred to as our shepherd. Link this with Psalm 23:1 and John 10:11, 14 and share what this description of God means to you.

c. *The _____ who has _____ me from _____.*

(1) This is the first usage in Scripture of the Hebrew word *ga'al* (*to redeem*). Why do you think it is significant that this is used in reference to Jacob's circumstances?

5. Use Genesis 48:16b to cite and remark on the rest of Jacob's blessing upon *the lads*.

6. How did Joseph react when his *father laid his right hand on the younger son, Ephraim*? Genesis 48:17–18

a. What did Jacob prophesy in response? Genesis 48:19

(1) Jacob's blessing in Genesis 48:20 is the fifth time in Genesis that the younger was blessed *before* the elder. What does this suggest to you about God's ways? See also Isaiah 55:8–9.

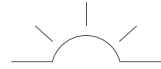
7. What does Jacob's declaration in Genesis 48:21 convey about what he was certain of?

8. From Genesis 48:22 identify the extra *portion* of land Jacob gave Joseph. See also John 4:5.

9. Share a brief testimony of how God has:

a. Fed (shepherded) you all your life long

b. Redeemed you from all evil



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Not only did Ephraim become a greater tribe than Manasseh, but several times in the Old Testament the entire Northern Kingdom of Israel is referred to as Ephraim. Joshua, who would lead the children of Israel back into the Promised Land, was from the tribe of Ephraim.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week, share something that stood out to you concerning:
 - a. Jacob and Joseph's reunion

 - b. Joseph's leadership

 - c. Jacob and his family's occupation

 - d. Jacob's faith

 - e. Jacob's blessing

2. How are you encouraged by the seemingly circuitous ways of Our Great Creator?