

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER NINE – GENESIS 46:1-47:31

INTRODUCTION:

Now in our last study together Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and it is a very emotional time as reconciliation took place. The thing that was shocking to us was that there was no resentment, no bitterness, no feeling of hurt or pain over all that had happened to him. And Gen.45:5 stuck out to me.

Gen.45:5

“And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.”

Now after the reunion takes place and they have a little conversation together an executive order from the Oval Office says, “Take the wagons and go back and get the families and bring them down.”

At the end of the study we read these words. “And Israel said, “I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.” Those words are words that are spoken after all the pain and the stress that he has gone through and for the first time he is speaking words that are in a perfect accord with God’s purpose. That is what is so significant about that.

He surrendered to it a couple of studies ago when we heard him say, “Well if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.” That is turning it over. But now these words fall in perfect accord with God’s plan and purpose.

Genesis 15:13,14

And God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed 400 years. But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.”

They are heading to Egypt and that is exactly where God wants them to go for the next 400 years.

They are now heading down into the land of Egypt.

Verse 1. This is so great! We get to start the study worshipping and end it worshipping. That is just really something special.

v. 1 So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

If you can get the picture of “Fiddler on the Roof” and leaving Anatevka that is the picture we have here. We have some 70 people who are getting ready to make a 250-mile trip southwest to Egypt.

And it has to affect the economy I want to tell you in Hebron when that many people all of the sudden pick up and leave.

Now as soon as they leave Hebron the first place that they are going to head towards is almost straight south. Beersheba is the southern border of the land. You always hear the statement from Dan to Beersheba. Well it is from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south.

Why does Abraham stop at Beersheba? Since that is the boundary of the land he is going to stop there and offer sacrifices to God with one purpose in mind. His whole purpose in offering sacrifices is to be sure that this is God's will.

Now sometimes you and I make the biggest mistakes in our lives when we respond to things emotionally and we do not respond to them as factually and prayerfully about it being the will of God and we get into all kinds of trouble.

If you asked old Jacob in Hebron, "What do you want more than anything else in the whole world that would satisfy you emotionally and fill your heart and just make you excited?" Well, Jacob would say, "I want to see my boy before I die. Emotionally that is what I want."

Now just remember Psalm 37 says:

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of you heart.

But do not equate your emotional desires with the will of God.

Jacob emotionally knows that. His heart is in Egypt. He has heard that Joseph is there but he also knows something else. Everybody who has ever left the land of Canaan and gone into the land of Egypt has gone out of the will of God and they have paid for it boy! Abraham shot right through the land and he took Lot and went down into the land of Egypt and he got into all kinds of trouble down there. You find every time somebody has shot through the land and gone on down to Egypt they have gone out of the will of God and gotten into trouble.

And Jacob is no dummy. And so when he gets to the border he is going to stop. We are going to check our emotions. We are going to check the facts. I want to know God is this really your will. Is this really your purpose for me to go there? I want to just act like it is not so that I will really know in my heart. I want this more than anything but I want Your will first of all in my life and so he stops and offers sacrifices.

v. 2 And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, “Jacob! Jacob!” “Here I am,” he replied.

Oh, that is an emotional deal. When he first left way back there, a young man left Isaac and Rebekah, and because Esau hated him so much and he is going to Uncle Laban's house, the first night out the Lord meets him at the top of the stairs and says, "I am going to be with you and keep you wherever you go and I will bring you back to this land." Now as he gets ready to leave the land for the last 17 years of his life God again comes and speaks.

Would you notice, he knows his name. "Jacob! Jacob!"

It is a wonderful thing in the Scriptures to realize that God knows us each by our names.

Adam where are you in the garden.

Elijah why are you here?

Samuel! Samuel! Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth.

Jacob recognized and knew the voice and he said, "Here I am."

Does God come in the times when we are really wanting, and seeking, and searching His will on a matter and reveals that? Now you are not going to hear any voice out of Heaven but you are going to hear a voice in the Book.

If you are in fellowship with Him and you are reading the Word of God, you are going to be amazed at how the Word of God will come alive and it will speak to you about critical decisions and will give you and will protect you from making some of the miserable mistakes that we all make in the culture in which we live.

v. 3 “I am God, the God of your father,” he said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.”

There is your word again. Your provision is no longer going to be here in Canaan, it is going to be there in Egypt. Do not worry about it Jacob. It is my will. You are lining up perfectly in my purpose even though you do not understand it. I want you in the land of Egypt.

And oh the joy that comes into our hearts when what we want is verified as the will of God and He begins to grant it. “I will make you into a great nation.” Do not be afraid to do that.”

Back in Genesis 15:1 after Abram has miraculously retrieved Lot and his family and all of their possessions from the kings who had overrun the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah he comes back and he is so afraid that those kings are going to retaliate and God says in:

Genesis 15:1

the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram. I am a shield to you. Your reward shall be very great.”

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.

This year in Acts 27 I was so touched by the Apostle Paul having been on the ship for 14 days, tossed in the middle of the sea, and the statement in Acts 27 says everybody gave up hope of ever being saved. In other words they had thrown everything overboard. They are still tossed in the Mediterranean Sea. And for 14 days they have not eaten any food and everybody knew that it was just a matter of time before the ship would be cast on the rocks. And in the midst of that thing while the storm is going on and angel of the Lord comes the Apostle Paul and speaks. And so the Apostle Paul stands up before this battle-wearied crew and he says this.

Acts 27:23-25

“For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, stood before me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.’ Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been foretold.”

But we gave up hope a long time ago. The ship is going down. We are all going to drown. Paul says, “No you are not. You are all going to be saved. And I believe God.”

Jacob! Jacob! It is all right for you to go there. That is going to be My purpose to make you a great nation there in that place. You are in the center of My will. This is in full accord with My eternal purpose. You are to go there.

v. 4 I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph’s own hand will close your eyes.”

Jacob you have 210 more miles to go down to Egypt. And I will bring you back again. And Joseph will be there to close your eyes. What is He saying? Jacob it is a one-way trip physically and I am going to see to it when Joseph closes your eyes, your body is going to be brought back and buried in Hebron.

And we are going to see all that take place before it is over. Joseph’s own hands will close your eyes.

v. 5 Then Jacob left Beersheba, and Israel's sons took their father Jacob and their children and their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him.

This picture is almost like the covered wagon train going west. They are going through a lot of desert flatland to get to this beautiful, rich, lush region of the land of Goshen and the Nile delta region. One of the richest parts of the land.

v. 6 They also took with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan, and Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt.

Now you look at that and you realize that Pharaoh said do not bring anything didn't he? But you see old Jacob still feels like you know you have to earn part of your way. And after all he has some pretty special things in Hebron and we are flat going take them with us. So he is taking livestock and he is taking along several of the things that they had before they left to head down there. He does not want to be a charity case in other words when he gets there.

v. 7 He took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters -- all his offspring.

Now what is so beautiful about the next part of this is that usually everybody skips over this? They do not

read this. Why? Because you are getting ready to have your devotions in the morning and all of the sudden you have a list like this and you say it is going to be a wonderful day! And you do not take time to look at the people that are involved. Let's look at them for a minute because it just makes it come alive.

I mean if you are going to have a big trip you have to have a computer trip of the passenger list. You have to know exactly how many people are going from point A to point B for insurance purposes. Right? And all you have here is a printout, God's printout of the nation landing in Egypt in God's purpose. This is the start of this thing and so it is very specific.

Let's just take a quick look at it.

v. 8 These are the names of the Israelites (Jacob and his descendants) who went to Egypt: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob.

Now Reuben had some kids. Here they are.

v. 9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.

Then Simeon was the second-born. He was the one who was held hostage down there. Remember?

v. 10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.

Then Levi is number three.

v. 11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

Remember Judah? He is the one who has been doing all the interceding. He is fourth-born. His name means, “praise the Lord.” He has got quite a family there.

v. 12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan) The sons of Perez: [*Judah already has some grandchildren here.*] Hezron and Hamul.

v. 13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron.

v. 14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon and Jahleel.

v. 15 These were the sons Leah bore to Jacob in Paddan Aram, besides his daughter Dinah. [*What has he done? The lister has taken all of the children born to Leah, the unloved wife, and listed them first along with the daughter, Dinah.*] These sons and daughters of his were thirty-three in all.

That is the first part.

Now we are going to get the sons and daughters of the handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah. Bilhah is the handmaid of Rachel and Zilpah is the handmaid of Leah.

v. 16 The sons of Gad: Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Er, Arodi and Areli.

v. 17 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. Their sister was Serah. The sons of Beriah: *[Here we have some grandchildren again.]* Heber and Malkiel.

v. 18 These were the children born to Jacob by Zilpah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Leah -- sixteen in all.

So you see out of Leah's side of the thing you have 49 of them. Now when we get down to Rachel's side of it we do not have much. We are almost done when you start subtracting here. If it hadn't of been that Benjamin had been so prolific there would not have been hardly any on this side.

v. 19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

v. 20 In Egypt, Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.

We have already witnessed that.

Now get a load of this next one. I cannot do this next one without laughing every time. I think when they got to Benjamin they must have run out of names or something.

v. 21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

Everytime I read that “Muppim, Huppim and Ard!”

I start to laugh and think of Winken, Blinken and Nod!

When you have a list that long you just kind of run out names I guess and Benjamin was getting kind of weary there you know that is 10 kids all together and when you have 8, 9, and 10 you are probably running out of something to call them.

v. 22 These were the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob – fourteen in all.

v. 23 The son of Dan: Hushim.

Now this is Bilhah, Rachel’s handmaid now that wraps it up.

v. 24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shillem.

v. 25 These were the sons born to Jacob by Bilhah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Rachel -- seven in all.

v. 26 All those who went to Egypt with Jacob -- those who were his direct descendants, not counting his sons’ wives -- numbered sixty-six persons.

v. 27 With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all.

Now there is the complete, accurate passenger list for flight insurance purposes. We now have it all down.

v. 28 Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. When they arrived in the region of Goshen,

You see Jacob now has really learned to lean heavily upon Judah and he comes into play because he is such an effective servant. He has taken over the reconciliation proceedings in getting Benjamin down there and back and now Jacob turns to him and says you know, "Please go and get directions to where we are supposed to be going." And of course it is altogether fitting because it is going to be out of the tribe of Judah that we are going to see the Messiah is going to come.

v. 29 Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. *[I am sure as soon as Judah arrived Joseph dropped everything administratively, Got his chariot ready and he and Judah took this 70 mile trip back north to Goshen to see his father. And now we come to a very emotional time.]* As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time.

Well it has been 22 years. His heart has not only been bound up in Benjamin, it has been bound up in Joseph, and now this beautiful time of reconciliation. Joseph has now come, they throw their arms around each other, and they weep for a long time.

v. 30 Israel said to Joseph, “Now I am ready to die, since I have seen for myself that you are still alive.”

I have seen Joseph that is all I really need. I am ready to die. I have seen for myself that you are still alive.

You know I wonder how he feels about the 22 years of sadness here. How he feels about living with the thought that Joseph yes died and that the dreams would never be fulfilled and now he sees them all completely fulfilled.

v. 31 Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father’s household, “I will go up and speak to Pharaoh and will say to him, ‘My brothers and my father’s household, who were living in the land of Canaan, have come to me.’

v. 32 The men are shepherds; they tend livestock, and they have brought along their flocks and herds and everything they own.’

v. 33 When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, ‘What is your occupation?’

He is prompting them now on what to say.

v. 34 you should answer, ‘Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did.’ Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians.”

He knows them well. So he says tell them this and then he is going to put you into the rich, arid pastureland which is where you want to be located. He has already made a survey and he knows where the best land is and he wants his family to have the best of the land of Egypt.

47:v. 1 Joseph went and told Pharaoh, “My father and brothers, with their flocks and herds and everything they own, have come from the land of Canaan and are now in Goshen.”

And they are now in Goshen. He is just giving him a progress report here.

v. 2 He chose five of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh.

Now he probably picked out his four oldest brothers plus Benjamin. That would mean that Reuben and Simeon and Levi and Judah and Benjamin were the five.

v. 3 Pharaoh asked the brothers, “What is your occupation?” “Your servants are shepherds,” they replied to Pharaoh, “just as our father were.”

v. 4 They also said to him, “We have come to live here awhile, because the famine is severe in Canaan and your servants’ flocks have no pasture. So now, please let your servants settle in Goshen.”

They just come out with it. You know we would really like to settle in the land of Goshen since we are involved in livestock operation.

v. 5 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you,

v. 6 and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen. And if you know any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock.”

Oh he is gracious. Any of the boys want a job working for the government, I would love to have them taking care of my own livestock.

v. 7 Then Joseph brought his father Jacob in and presented him before Pharaoh. After Jacob blessed Pharaoh,

Why? Because of all that he had done for his son over the years. Here is a man with a heart filled with

gratitude. And he comes in and very humbly blesses Pharaoh for the part he has played in making life so beautiful for Joseph.

v. 8 Pharaoh asked him, “How old are you?”

v. 9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers.”

What a humble statement. That is according to the protocol of the day. This is court protocol for a man to humbly come in and say well my years have been few and they have not reached the years of those who been before me and they have been hard and difficult. And so he is just following the normal patterns of the day. And his life certainly has been difficult.

v. 10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence.

v. 11 So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed.

Rameses is a city that is in the land of Goshen. It is right in the Nile River delta region. You know where all the tentacles of the Nile go out as it flows into the Mediterranean Sea. It is 25 miles south of the Mediterranean Sea. It is 75 miles north of Memphis or

the region where Joseph is located at this time. So they are about 75 miles apart but they have got 25 miles to the Mediterranean Sea. So from Hebron they have come south and turned west under the Mediterranean sea and have come down here now to Rameses is the place that Pharaoh has ordered for them to begin taking up residence.

Now notice Joseph does not stop there.

v. 12 Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their children.

v. 13 There was no food, however, in the whole region because the famine was severe; both Egypt and Canaan wasted away because of the famine.

What is that telling you? You see these are the final five years. Remember he said in the last study you have five more of famine? Well they are in it now. Canaan is wasting away. They would have died up there. Everybody around them seems to be dying. But what is happening to them. Joseph has made adequate allowances for grain to take care of all of these people and so during these five years he is making grain appropriations north to Rameses on a regular basis to take care of them.

“There was no food in the whole region because the famine was severe.”

Now since the famine was severe

v. 14 Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in Egypt and Canaan in payment for the grain they were buying, and he brought it to Pharaoh's palace.

Joseph is not involved in any federal give-away programs. He does not give the grain away. He sells it to them and now they are running out of money.

v. 15 When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all Egypt came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? Our money is used up."

In other words, it is now time for you to give us during the remaining period of time food since we are starving.

Now would you notice Joseph will have no part in that kind of a program.

v. 16 "Then bring your livestock," said Joseph. "I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock, since your money is gone."

Do you think they would be excited about that proposal? I think yes and the reason I do is that the livestock is an added burden to them at a time of crisis. And they are willing to turn their livestock over for

that purpose of having food to sustain them. It is a good proposal.

Joseph just said I am really helping you. I am taking the burden of your livestock. I am not violating your dignity. I am letting you pay for grain that you are receiving. And so the livestock becomes the next thing.

v. 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys. And he brought them through that year with food in exchange for all their livestock.

Now their finances are gone, their livestock is gone, what else have they got left?

v. 18 When that year was over, they came to him the following year and said, “We cannot hide from our lord the fact that since our money is gone and our livestock belongs to you, there is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land.

Well Joseph said, “Then let’s go for the land. Let’s get into a real estate exchange program here. That is the next thing.”

v. 19 Why should we perish before your eyes -- we and our land as well? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate.”

The proposal seemed good to Joseph.

v. 20 So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's,

v. 21 And Joseph reduced the people to servitude, from one end of Egypt to the other.

v. 22 However, he did not buy the land of the priests, because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh, and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land.

v. 23 Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground.

The five years are over and he knows it. And now he says, "Here is seed. Go plant it and get ready to care." But watch this.

v. 24 But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children."

Joseph handles five years of economic crisis in an incredible way and he comes back to them and says

now we are going to institute a tax for the land of Egypt. And what do they say? Out of great gratitude. Look at verse 25.

v. 25 “You have saved our lives,” they said. “May we find favor in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh.”

We appreciate this, with thankful hearts that you have brought us through this very difficult time. Thank you for it.

These fellows come through five years of crisis and they say, “You saved our lives and we would be glad to be servants of Pharaoh for the rest of our lives.”

v. 26 So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt – still in force today – that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh’s.

v. 27 Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

That is just a beautiful picture of flourishing in the center of God’s will.

v. 28 Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven.

v. 29 When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt,

It has been 17 years. He has had 5 bad years and 12 good years. He is 147 years old now. And it comes the time to face physical demise.

Basically old Jacob is coming to Joseph and says do not bury me out on the lone prairie you know. I do not want to be here. I want to be buried back there.

v. 30 but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried.”

v. 31 “swear to me,” he said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

That is the one thing that makes Jacob famous in the book of Hebrews.

He is seen in Hebrews 11:21

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.”

We saw him offering sacrifices at the beginning of the study when he came out of Beersheba wanting to know that this was the will of God. Now through the 17 years

God has been faithful. Overwhelmingly he has been blessed and flourished and prospered in the land of Egypt these 17 wonderful years at the end of his life. He is worshipping on the top of his staff.

Eight lessons that come out of those two chapters.

LESSON #1: Jacob wants to be certain that he is in the center of God's will in leaving the land. It never hurts to test when you are getting ready to make decisions to be sure that it is in fact the will of God. So he stops to offer sacrifices to God.

LESSON #2: The Lord will speak to our fears through His Word. When you find yourself fearful and afraid turn to the promises of the Word of God and He will speak to those fears through the Word.

LESSON #3: The Lord always gives the best to those who leave the choice with Him. Great thought that comes out of that chapter.

LESSON #4: Oh, what peace and blessing come when we surrender to God's eternal purpose. These 17 years have been incredible for them in the center of God's will.

LESSON #5: Joseph cares for his father in his old age.

LESSON #6: There were no federal give-away programs during the time of economic crisis.

And I made lesson number 7 the same statement that was made by the citizens to Joseph.

**LESSON #7: We too shall say when we get to glory,
“You have saved our lives.”**

LESSON #8: In this passage we see Jacob seeking the will of God and worshipping God, leaning on the top of his staff.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER NINE - GENESIS 46:1-47:31

NOTES

v. 1 So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

v. 2 And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, “Jacob! Jacob!” “Here I am,” he replied.

v. 3 “I am God, the God of your father,” he said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.

v. 4 I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph’s own hand will close your eyes.”

v. 5 Then Jacob left Beersheba, and Israel’s sons took their father Jacob and their children and their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him.

v. 6 They also took with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan, and Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt.

v. 7 He took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters—all his offspring.

v. 8 These are the names of the Israelites (Jacob and his descendants) who went to Egypt: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob.

v. 9 The sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.

v.10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman.

v.11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

v.12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.

v.13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron.

v.14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon and Jahleel.

v.15 These were the sons Leah bore to Jacob in Paddan Aram, besides his daughter Dinah. These sons and daughters of his were thirty-three in all.

v.16 The sons of Gad: Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi and Areli.

v.17 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. Their sister was Serah. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Maikiel.

v.18 These were the children born to Jacob by Zilpah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Leah—sixteen in all.

v.19 The sons of Jacob’s wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

v.20 in Egypt, Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.

v.21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim and Ard.

v.22 These were the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob—fourteen in all.

v.23 The son of Dan: Hushim.

v.24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shillem.

v.25 These were the sons born to Jacob by Bilhah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Rachel—seven in all.

v.26 All those who went to Egypt with Jacob—those who were his direct descendants, not counting his sons’ wives—numbered sixty-six persons.

v.27 With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all.

v.28 Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. When they arrived in the region of Goshen,

v.29 Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time.

v.30 Israel said to Joseph, "Now I am ready to die, since I have seen for myself that you are still alive."

v.31 Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and speak to Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were living in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

v.32 The men are shepherds; they tend livestock, and they have brought along their flocks and herds and everything they own.'

v.33 When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, 'What is your occupation?'

v.34 you should answer, 'Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians."

47:v. 1 Joseph went and told Pharaoh, "My father and brothers, with their flocks and herds and everything they own, have come from the land of Canaan and are now in Goshen."

v. 2 He chose five of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh.

v. 3 Pharaoh asked the brothers, "What is your occupation?" "Your servants are shepherds," they replied to Pharaoh, "just as our fathers were."

v. 4 They also said to him, "We have come to live here awhile, because the famine is severe in Canaan and your servant's flocks have no pasture. So now, please let your servants settle in Goshen."

v. 5 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you,

v. 6 and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen. And if you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock."

v. 7 Then Joseph brought his father Jacob in and presented him before Pharaoh. After Jacob blessed Pharaoh,

v. 8 Pharaoh asked him, "How old are you?"

v. 9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers."

v.10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence.

v.11 So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed.

v.12 Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their children.

v.13 There was no food, however, in the whole region because the famine was severe; both Egypt and Canaan wasted away because of the famine.

v.14 Joseph collected all the money that was to be found in Egypt and Canaan in payment for the grain they were buying, and he brought it to Pharaoh's palace.

v.15 When the money of the people of Egypt and Canaan was gone, all Egypt came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? Our money is used up."

v.16 "Then bring your livestock," said Joseph. "I will sell you food in exchange for your livestock, since your money is gone."

v.17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys. And he brought them through that year with food in exchange for all their livestock.

v.18 When that year was over, they came to him the following year and said, "We cannot hide from our lord the fact that since our money is gone and our livestock belongs to you, there is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land.

v.19 Why should we perish before your eyes—we and our land as well? Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh. Give us seed so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate."

v.20 So Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh. The Egyptians, one and all, sold their fields, because the famine was too severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's,

v.21 and Joseph reduced the people to servitude, from one end of Egypt to the other.

v.22 However, he did not buy the land of the priests, because they received a regular allotment from Pharaoh and had food enough from the allotment Pharaoh gave them. That is why they did not sell their land.

v.23 Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground.

v.24 But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children."

v.25 "You have saved our lives," they said. "May we find favor in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh."

v.26 So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt—still in force today—that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh's.

v.27 Now the Israelites settled in Egypt in the region of Goshen. They acquired property there and were fruitful and increased greatly in number.

v.28 Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven.

v.29 When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt,

v.30 but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried." "I will do as you say," he said.

v.31 "Swear to me," he said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Genesis 46:1-47:31 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is the first thing Jacob does before he leaves his homeland, and how does God respond?

3. How many went with Jacob into the land of Egypt, according to verses 26 & 27?

4. Describe in your own words the reunion between Joseph and his father, according to verses 29 & 30.

5. What is Pharaoh's response to Joseph's request for his family, according to chapter 47:5, 6?

6. Describe Jacob's first meeting with Pharaoh in verses 9 & 10.

7. Outline the steps that Joseph takes in alleviating the economic situation nationally in verses 13-26.

8. What does Jacob ask of his son Joseph in verses 28-31?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Jacob wants to be certain that he is in the center of God's will in leaving the land, so he stops to offer sacrifices to God.

LESSON #2: The Lord will speak to our fears through His Word.

LESSON #3: The Lord always gives the best to those who leave the choice with Him.

LESSON #4: Oh, what peace and blessing come when we surrender to God's eternal purpose.

LESSON #5: Joseph cares for his father and his old age.

LESSON #6: There were no federal give-away programs during the time of economic crisis.

LESSON #7: We too shall say when we get to glory, "You have saved our lives."

LESSON #8: In this passage we see Jacob seeking the will of God and worshiping God, leaning on the top of his staff.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
