



Sowing the Word



Nile Valley, with Pyramid in Distance

Genesis 45-47

May 27th, 2009

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

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Outline

- I. Creation (1–2)
- II. The Fall of Mankind (3)
- III. Early History of Mankind – First Thousand Years (4-5)
- IV. Noah and the Flood (6-10)
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- VI. Abraham (12-25:18)
- VII. Isaac (25:19-27)
- VIII. Jacob (28-36)
- IX. Joseph (37-50)

Detailed Outline For This Week

- IX. Joseph (37-50)
 - A. Joseph's Early day (37)
 - B. Judah's Folly (38)
 - C. Joseph Purified (39)
 - D. Joseph in Prison (40)
 - E. Joseph Exalted (41)
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 - G. Joseph brings Israel to Egypt (45-47)
 - i. Jacob hears of Joseph – heart stands still (45:25-26)
 - ii. Jacob hears and sees – heart revived (45:27)
 - iii. Jacob commits to go Egypt (45:28)
 - iv. Jacob sees God in vision (46:1-4)
 - v. Jacob's family listed (46:8-27)
 - vi. Jacob meets Joseph! (46:28–30)
 - vii. Joseph instructs on meeting Pharaoh (46:31-34)
 - viii. Pharaoh meets Joseph's brothers (47:1-6)
 - ix. Pharaoh meets Jacob (47:7-10)
 - x. Joseph situates family in Goshen (47:11-12)
 - xi. Joseph deals with famine, Egypt (47:13-26)
 - xii. Jacob's command to bury in land of Israel (47:27-31)

Notes for Booklet

Chapter 45 Highlights and Helps by Pastor Jim

We read and covered this chapter last week. Yet, I have you read it again, specifically to watch and focus on Jacob, how he goes down to Egypt.

It was God's plan for Jacob to go to Egypt.

Prophetically, God had revealed it to Abraham. It is certain that Jacob knew of this prophesy, thus going to Egypt was in God's revealed will for him.

One of the fascinating things to watch in these chapters we cover this week is the use of Jacob's two names – Jacob and Israel. As we have talked about often, the name Jacob means *supplanter, striver*. It is an appropriate description of Jacob's heart and life in an unsundered state. It is a picture of our lives when we are living in the flesh.

Israel is the name God gives him and it means *governed by God*, a picture of a heart surrendered to God – letting God guide, govern, direct and more. For Jacob the transition from Jacob to Israel was not a onetime thing nor something that was solid. He continually switches between Jacob and Israel. There are spiritual lessons here for us. For us as Christians, we also have a flesh that is our enemy. But we have a spirit, or a spiritual side of who we are now...that is real. Consider the description in Galatians 5 of the works of the Spirit and the work of the flesh. May God give us understanding as we read through these chapters in this struggle between the flesh and the Spirit.

Jacob hears of Joseph being alive.

46:26 Jacob's first response was one of complete shock. It says his heart stood still and he found the news unbelievable. (Jacob)

46:27 Jacob's second response after hearing Joseph's words and seeing the provisions is that his spirit revived. (Jacob)

46:28 Jacob's third response is that he committed to go to Egypt. (Israel)
It is enough...go and see before I die

Chapter 46 Highlights and Helps by Pastor Jim

46:1–7 Beersheba. On the way to Egypt, Israel stopped the caravan at historic Beersheba to worship the God of his father Isaac. Beersheba is a notable site about 25 miles SW of Hebron. This was the place where God appeared to Abraham in connection with the offering of Isaac (21:31–22). It was also the place where the Lord appeared to Isaac (26:23, 24). Now He appears to Jacob to encourage him and perhaps to deal with some of the “Jacob” tendencies in his heart.

This is the last of the Lord’s seven appearances to Jacob recorded in the Bible.

46:2–4 God spoke ... in the visions. Jacob’s anxiety about his departure to Egypt was allayed by the Lord’s approval and confirmation of his descendants returning as a nation.

46:4 hand on your eyes. This is a wonderful and kind promise of God to Jacob. He tells Jacob that he will die peacefully in the presence of his beloved son (cf. 49:33). One can only imagine the joy found in this promise, for it further confirmed that Joseph was alive and that Jacob would see him.

46:6 went to Egypt. God takes Jacob and his family down to Egypt in 1875 b.c. They remained in Egypt 430 years (Ex. 12:40) until the Exodus in 1445 b.c.

46:27 seventy sons. It tells us here that Jacob went down to Egypt with 70 people. Yet in Acts 7:14 it says 75. Why the difference? The 75 of Acts 7:14 included an additional 5 people, born in the land, which were added in the LXX (the Greek Septuagint recording of the OT) reading of 46:8–25 (cf. Ex. 1:5; Deut. 10:22). These 5 included two sons of Manasseh, two sons of Ephraim, and one grandson of the latter.

46:28 sent Judah before him. Once again Judah was the leader going ahead as Jacob’s representative, not Reuben. One can see in a quick way a picture of Christ, coming from the tribe of Judah, going before us!

Chapter 47 Highlights and Helps by Pastor Jim

47:1-6 Goshen it is. Joseph’s aim is to have his family stay in Goshen and God’s plan to have them there is wonderfully fulfilled. This would be a place in the land where they could still be separate. Part of God’s purpose

of having Israel in the land of Egypt for 430 years is that they would be in a incubation chamber of sorts. At the end of the 430 years they will be a large, separate and vibrant nation – ready to possess all that God has for them. The key is that they be separate and God so arranges it that nationally, vocationally and intentionally they are kept separate.

47:9 few and evil have been the days of the years of my life Jacob describes his life as a pilgrimage. Since neither Jacob nor his fathers had actually possessed the land of Canaan, describing life as a pilgrimage was a fitting evaluation to give. Yet there is something in these words for us as well...we are on a pilgrimage. Not staying, but passing through this life. In addition, his years seemed few in contrast to Abraham and Isaac (175 and 180 years respectively). And still overshadowed with pessimism, the days were "evil," in the sense of toil and trouble, of many sorrows, distresses, and crises. Sadly, there is some truth to Jacob's self description. So much of his life lived in his flesh, that only brings toil and trouble.

47:13-26 Joseph deals with the famine. This is a fascinating process to watch and see Joseph's wisdom in administering the land for Pharaoh. Yet, one can also see that God was using Joseph to erect a change in the way the land was administered. In a spiritual way you can almost see the building of the incubation chamber for Israel.

47:27-31 – Promise to bury at home. Jacob makes Joseph promise to bury him back in the land that would eventually become the nation of Israel. Joseph agrees and later we see him carry this out. Jacob was in Egypt...but his heart, longing and expectation was for the land that God promised him. May our heart also not be caught up with the world (Egypt) around us but may our longing be for all that God has for us after we die.

"Fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again."

- Genesis 46:3,4

By: *C H Spurgeon*

Taken from: *Morning and Evening*

Jacob must have shuddered at the thought of leaving the land of his father's sojourning, and dwelling among heathen strangers. It was a new scene, and likely to be a trying one: who shall venture among couriers of a foreign monarch without anxiety? Yet the way was evidently appointed for him, and therefore he resolved to go. This is frequently the position of believers now—they are called to perils and temptations altogether untried: at such seasons let them imitate Jacob's example by offering sacrifices of prayer unto God, and seeking his direction; let them not take a step until they have waited upon the Lord for his blessing; then they will have Jacob's companion to be their friend and helper. How blessed to feel assured that the Lord is with us in all our ways, and condescends to go down into our humiliations and banishments with us! Even beyond the ocean our Father's love beams like the sun in its strength. We cannot hesitate to go where Jehovah promises his presence; even the valley of deathshade grows bright with the radiance of this assurance. Marching onwards with faith in their God, believers shall have Jacob's promise. They shall be brought up again, whether it be from the troubles of life or the chambers of death. Jacob's seed came out of Egypt in due time, and so shall all the faithful pass unscathed through the tribulation of life, and the terror of death. Let us exercise Jacob's confidence. "Fear not," is the Lord's command and his divine encouragement to those who at his bidding are launching upon new seas; the divine presence and preservation forbid so much as one unbelieving fear. Without our God we should fear to move; but when he bids us to, it would be dangerous to tarry. Reader, go forward, and fear not.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Genesis 45

Recognition. When Joseph saw that his brothers' hearts were humble, and when he heard them confess their sins, he knew it was safe to reveal his identity to them. Had he done it earlier, they would not have been ready for the blessings he had for them; and had he waited longer, the men might have been in total despair. Our Lord knows just how to work in our lives to bring us to submission. Joseph could have fed them and their father without going through this lengthy procedure, but it would only have further ruined their character.

Reconciliation. Joseph said, "Please come near to me" (v. 4). He had forgiven them, but they were still afraid. In fact, they would still be afraid seventeen years later (50:15–21). In Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled to God, and we need not fear judgment (Rom. 8:1; 2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:20). God wants us to draw near to Him (Heb. 10:19–25; James 4:8).

Reassurance. Joseph explained to them that God had sent him before them to preserve the nation so that Israel could be a blessing to all the earth (12:1–3). God's providential purpose did not minimize their sins or negate their responsibility (Acts 2:23; 3:13–18), but it did help to ease their fear and sorrow. Joseph further reassured them by giving them rich gifts and promising to care for the whole family. The gifts he sent home helped to give Jacob the assurance he needed that Joseph indeed was alive.

Joseph knew his brothers, so he admonished them: "Don't be angry with yourselves!" (v. 5), and "Don't quarrel on the journey!" (v. 24). We quickly lose the blessing when we fail to accept Christ's forgiveness and then love one another. (See 1 John 4:7ff.)

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Ge 45:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Genesis 46-47

It would not be easy for Jacob, now 130 years old, to leave the land God gave him and go to Egypt. Moving to a new home is usually a difficult experience, and the older we are, the more difficult it is. Furthermore, Abraham got into trouble in Egypt (12:10ff.), and God had stopped Isaac from going there (26:2ff.).

But Jacob was able to go with confidence and peace because he was sure of God's promise and presence (46:1-4). In the crisis hours of life, God speaks to us and assures us when we take time to worship. Furthermore, Jacob knew that God had gone before him and that Joseph was there making everything ready for him. The future is your friend when Jesus is your Lord and you follow Him.

Jacob was a blessing in Egypt. He blessed Pharaoh (47:7, 10), Joseph and Joseph's sons (48:15, 20), and all twelve of the sons of Israel (49:1ff.). God blesses us that we might be a blessing. Circumstances change, but God never changes.

Egypt was a haven for Jacob and his family, and there God protected them and built of them a great people. But Jacob knew that Egypt was not his home, Canaan was; and he wanted to be buried there with the others who had made the same pilgrimage of faith. He was a testimony in life, and he wanted to be a testimony in death. Despite his mistakes and failures in life, Jacob ended well.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Ge 46:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

