

June 12, 2011

## *Family & Famine*

### *Genesis 46:1 – 47:28*

#### *Genesis 46:1-7*

- 1 *Israel*- Moses uses Jacob's Promise-Name, describing him leaving the Promised Land  
*Beersheba*- where Abraham worshiped and Isaac received the Abrahamic Covenant from YHWH  
"offered sacrifices"- He is very much the High Priest of his household  
*Luther: He preached the Gospel about the Son of God and exhorted his hearers to fear God, to believe and hope in Him, to live saintly and honorable lives, to pray, to give thanks, and to hope for a future life.*  
(AE 8:76)
- 2 "visions of the night"- probably another way of referring to dreams
- 3-4 God reassures Jacob that even in leaving the Promised Land, He will go with him
- 5 "Sons of Israel carried Jacob"- using both names in one verse!

#### *Genesis 46:8-15*

*In verses 8 – 25 the sons are not listed in exact birth order but by family unit.*

- 10 "Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman"- might as well call him "illegitimate"
- 12 Perez and Zerah were sons of Tamar, the wife of deceased Er  
"sons of Perez were..." What is special about Perez?
- 15 "altogether his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three"- must not include Dinah

#### *Genesis 46:16-18*

7 sons for Gad  
4 sons and 1 daughter for Asher  
2 sons for Beriah  
Beriah is not as notable as Perez, son of Judah.

#### *Genesis 46:19-27*

v19 "Jacob's wife"- Poor Leah, does not have this title in her verses  
2 sons of Joseph  
10 sons of Benjamin

1 "sons" of Dan  
4 sons of Naphtali

26-27 The math seems very sketchy. It is a difficult problem to solve because some daughters are counted, some are not. Here's how I think it works:

33 sons of Leah  
1 daughter of Leah: Dinah  
16 sons (and one daughter) of Zilpah  
14 sons of Rachel  
7 sons of Bilhah  
= 71

Minus Er & Onan (dead) and Joseph, Manasseh, & Ephraim (already in Egypt)  
= 66

V27- "all the persons of the House of Jacob who came into Egypt"- so add to the 66: Jacob, Leah, Bilhah, and Zilpah = 70.

*Genesis 46:28-34*

- 28 “He had sent Judah ahead”- Judah continues to be the leader of the 11  
30 “Now let me die”- He can depart in peace and joy, see the Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:29-32)  
34 “every shepherd is an abomination”- the word indicates a religious/cultural taboo

*Genesis 47:1-6*

- 4 “we have come to sojourn”- indicating this is temporary, Canaan is their home- The Promised Land  
6 “settle...”- the word is “dwell” and has a permanent connotation.  
“Goshen”- though not definite, Goshen is probably the grazing marshes of Northern Egypt

*Genesis 47:7-12*

- 7+10 “Jacob blessed Pharaoh”- in Genesis, the inferior is blessed by the superior  
9 “Few and evil...”- 130 years is few compared to Abraham (175) and Isaac (180). And the years were evil given Jacob’s dramatic life of crises and conflicts  
11 “a possession in the land”- this means they had actual ownership of the land  
“in the land of Rameses”- this is Moses’ reference to where the City of Rameses would be built

*Genesis 47:13-22*

- 13 “Now there was no food in all the land”- five years left of the famine after Israel goes to Egypt  
14 In this time of crisis, all the wealth of Egypt becomes Pharaoh’s  
15-17 Joseph accepts livestock which was able to survive the famine and provided for the people  
18 “the following year”- year 4 of 7 in the famine  
19 “Buy us and our land”- this would be more in line with sharecroppers than common slavery  
21 “he made servants of them”- this sets up the kind of slavery that we will see in Exodus

*Genesis 47:23-28*

- 24 The terms are rather merciful. Most sharecropping asked 1/3

**PSALM 63:1-8**

N: <sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;  
S: my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,  
N: as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
S: <sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
N: beholding your power and glory.  
S: <sup>3</sup>Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
N: my lips will praise you.  
S: <sup>4</sup>So I will bless you as long as I live;  
N: in your name I will lift up my hands.  
S: <sup>5</sup>My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
N: and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

S: <sup>6</sup>when I remember you upon my bed,  
N: and meditate on you in the watches of the night;  
S: <sup>7</sup>for you have been my help,  
N: and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.  
S: <sup>8</sup>My soul clings to you;  
N: your right hand upholds me.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**



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