

**First Southern Baptist Church - April 28, 2021**  
**Migration to Egypt - Genesis 46-47**

**Introduction**

My son is still alive (45:28)

His future is in Canaan - the land promised, but Egypt is his destiny

**I. Israel comes to Egypt (46:1-7)**

1. Camps at Beersheba
  - a pause at his homesite of his father
2. Visions in the night - the only place in Genesis where God's visitation is specifically called a vision (and not a night dream)
3. Do not be afraid (3)
  - check out this promise (15:13)\*
4. God's reassurance:
  - fear not
  - I will go down with you
  - I will make you a great nation
  - Joseph will put his hand on your eyes (4)
5. How will God take care of him? And his people?
  - by placing them in Egypt
  - with good pastureland, with Egypt's protection, with a son in high places
  - Jacob could not have dreamed this up to ask in prayer
6. "Keep close to God then you need fear nothing" - Joseph Eliot

**II. The Names of the Children of Israel that went to Egypt (46:8-27)**

1. I will make of you a great nation (3)
2. Genealogy fits in well here
3. They will leave strong - Exodus 1:7-11
4. These are the names... (8)\*
  - Reuben (9)
  - Simeon (10)
  - Levi (11)
  - Judah (12)
  - Issachar (13)
  - Zebulun (14)
  - Gad (16)
  - Asher
  - Joseph and Benjamin (19)
    - Manasseh and Ephraim
  - Dan (23)
  - Naphtali (24)
5. Verses 26-27 give an accounting - 66 go in... but with Joseph and his sons there are 70
6. Who were the "charter members?"

**III. Joseph, Savior of the Family (46:28-34)**

1. The provision of Joseph for his own household contrasts the hard times for the Egyptians
    - see 47:15-16 - lost their cattle
    - see 47:18-20 - sold their land and themselves into slavery to Joseph
  2. A new home... but they will be “strangers in a country not their own” - Gen. 15:13-16
  3. Actions:
    - Judah gets directions (28)
    - Joseph comes out to meet with his father (in his chariot) (29)
    - weeps “a good while” (29)
    - Jacob says... now I can die (30)
  4. Israelites were an abomination to Egyptians (34)
    - recall an earlier conflict over this - 43:32
  - !!). -“every shepherd is an abomination” - Jesus was a shepherd
  5. So “Goshen” has a great appeal -for both the Egyptians and the Israelites
  6. When you get an audience with Pharaoh - this is what you are to say (31-34)
    - make it clear that we are shepherds (requires expansive territory)
    - shepherds, not a nation of kings and nomadic warriors
    - we have brought “everything we own” (need more territory)
    - in Goshen they will be detached from the mainstream of Egypt
- 

## **Genesis 47 - Jacob and brothers enter Egypt**

### **IV. Brothers Meet Pharaoh (47:1-10)**

1. Formal audience before Pharaoh
2. The brothers have been coached
  - took “five”
  - significance? - “five” helpings for Benjamin and five years of famine that remain
3. They request land to settle (3-4)
  - to live here “awhile”
  - “sojourn”
4. His generosity toward the family is due to his respect for Joseph
  - “you” and “your”
  - select the “best part of the land”
  - “Goshen” was selected in a previous time
5. Keep my cattle as well (6)

### **V. Jacob Meets Pharaoh (47:7-12)**

1. Inquires about his age
  - the ancients revered the “aged”
  - the assumption is that the old had received divine favor or they would not still be alive
  - absence of respect for the elderly was deemed a sign of a decadent society (Dt. 28:50)
2. I am 130 years old and they have seen hard years

- unhappy, misery
- scarred by treachery... just payment for his theft from Esau
- 3. The senior Jacob “blessed” the king
  - upon entering
  - upon leaving
- 4. They settled near “Ramses” - a store city
- 5. “I will bring you up again” - Gen 46: 4

## **VI. The Famine Continues (47: 13-26)**

1. No record of Joseph’s plan in Egypt - archeology
  - the Egyptians did own the land and taxed the people mercilessly
- !!). 2. Egyptian taxation
  - A. Wilbourn Papyrus - (in the time of Ramses V - 1160-1156 BC) report a taxation rate of 30% of their harvest
  - B. The standard rate of Israel is 10% -at that time
    - a tithe three times a year (Dt. 14:28)
    - an annual tithe
3. Joseph sells and buys: 13-19
  - A. He sells them food... until “every last penny” is gone (13-14)
  - B. Joseph barter for livestock (15-17)
    - cattle given in barter for bread
    - cattle, horses, asses
    - first year
  - C. Second year (18) - sold themselves
  - D. Israel wound up in slavery, but at this point it was the Egyptians who were slaves
  - E. He redistributed the people (21)
4. Was Joseph’s policy right? -fair?
  - he enslaved the Egyptian people
  - he took their land
  - he took them into slavery
5. Look at 20-26
  - A. The state owned the land
  - B. The state provided seed with which to begin each year
  - C. The people returned a fifth of the yield
- !!). 6. In Joseph’s defense:
  - A. They were relieved - you have saved our lives (25)
  - B. One fifth tax is generous
  - C. Repeatedly the text says that Joseph bought their lands, cattle and selves... “for Pharaoh” not for his own coffers (19,20,23,24,25,26)
  - D. Joseph is not presented as a brutal taskmaster, but a compassionate overseer
  - E. More or less tenant farmers
  - F. The selling of themselves... into servanthood was their idea -18-19
  - G. He is viewed (by the people) not as a slave owner but a “savior” (25)
7. Through the work of Joseph, Egypt/ Pharaoh become all-powerful in the reign
  - so, God raises Egypt up

-He allows Egypt to do all that is in her power... then brings her down, and sets the people of Israel free -with the plagues  
-surely, it is true... God does ordain the powers that be (Rom. 13:1)

## **VII. Israel in Egypt (47: 27-31)**

1. Fruitful and increased greatly -anticipates their future
2. Jacob lived there 17 years... then died
  - died at 147
3. He urges Joseph to bury him in Canaan
  - lays hold on the promise of a future there
  - about to die in a strange country, but he lays hold on the future
4. Joseph swears to bury Jacob in Canaan (29-31)
5. Jacob bows on his bed (31)
  - a polite petition of his own son
  - a fulfillment of prophecy
  - bows because of frailty (after all, he does limp)

God did the impossible - He took them into the evil place (Egypt) and built a nation there

So... God provides a place for them to weather the famine

- good pastureland
- son in position to help
- all the food they can eat
- away from the mainstream of Egypt (away from the direct influence of Egypt and her gods, on their children)

## **Chapter 46**

Verse 4 - I will go down with you

I will bring you up again