

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Joseph - Genesis 47 and 48

Lesson 7

Genesis 47 begins with Joseph's family settling down in the land of Goshen. While Pharaoh is abundantly providing for them, the rest of the nation has found themselves without means to even purchase grain. Joseph establishes a plan from which both Pharaoh and the people benefit. In Genesis 48, we find Jacob in his last days, ready to pass on final blessings to his children and grandchildren, beginning with Joseph's two sons. Similar to his father, Isaac, he reverses the order of the blessing - pronouncing the blessing of the firstborn upon Joseph's younger son, Ephraim.

OBSERVATION: Read Genesis 47

1. Read Genesis 47 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. List two things Genesis 47 reveals about:

Jacob

Joseph's brothers

Joseph

Pharaoh

JOSEPH'S FAMILY HAS ARRIVED: Read Genesis 47:1-12

1. Genesis 47 begins with the word *then*. After Joseph met with his family, he went to Pharaoh to inform him of his family's arrival. He took *five* of his brothers and *presented them to Pharaoh*. What did Pharaoh ask them?
 - a. Read through the brothers' response in verses 3,4. What eight letter word did they use three times to describe their relationship with Pharaoh?
 - 1.) What message would calling themselves his *servants* portray?
 - b. Joseph showed his deference to Pharaoh's authority by keeping Pharaoh informed. His brothers' showed it by calling themselves his *servants*. What does Romans 13:1 say about submission to authority?
 - 1.) 1 Peter 2:18-22 is addressed to *servants*. What limitation does 1 Peter 2:22a place upon submission to authorities (i.e. when are we not required to submit)?
 - 2.) Practically, describe the way we should relate to any authority.
2. According to Genesis 47:5,6, what was Pharaoh's response to their request?
 - a. Consider Joseph's life as he lived it before Pharaoh. How might that have affected Pharaoh's generosity and favor?
3. *Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh* (verse 7). What did Jacob do?
 - a. Jacob not only acknowledged Pharaoh's authority, but was aware he also had authority, the authority to *bless* on God's behalf. Sometimes *blessings* are simply expressions of kindness. What do you think Jacob might have said to Pharaoh?
4. Jacob referred to his life as a *pilgrimage* (verse 9). Hebrews 11 mentions several saints who accomplished much and endured much in this life. According to Hebrews 11:13, what did they *confess*?

- a. In what ways does *confessing* to be *strangers and pilgrims on the earth* affect the way we live?

- b. Jacob said to Pharaoh, "*few and evil have been the days of the years of my life*". Admittedly, Jacob had experienced heartache. But, he had also experienced many blessings. Take a moment to list some of the blessings in your life and thank God for them.

JOSEPH'S REMEDY FOR THE FAMINE: Read Genesis 47:13-26

1. Although we are told in the preceding verses that Joseph *provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread*, verse 13 states, *Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe*. According to verse 14, what did Joseph do?

2. Read Genesis 47:15-17 and describe Joseph's plan to provide bread for the people of Egypt.

3. As the famine continued, the people were not only without bread and without money, they were also without livestock. According to Genesis 47:20-24, what did Joseph do?
 - a. What was the tax that Joseph put on their *harvests*?

4. What was people's response? Verse 25
 - a. Why do you think they did not begrudge giving up their money, their livestock, and a portion of their harvest?

JOSEPH'S VOW TO JACOB: Read Genesis 47:27-31

1. The names *Israel* and *Jacob* are interchanged in the next few verses. *Israel* is not only God's given name to Jacob, but it is His given name to His people. What does verse 27 tell us about them?

2. In these closing verses of Genesis 47, we find that the life of Jacob is also closing. What did Jacob do *when the time drew near*?

3. What did Jacob request of Joseph? Note: the placing of the hand under a person's thigh is a gesture of swearing or attesting that a person will do what they have committed to.
 - a. Jacob, although provided and cared for, still yearned for his home. Egypt would never be "home" for God's people. Although God had brought His people to Egypt, it was never His intention for them to remain there. According to Genesis 15:13, how long would the people of Israel remain in Egypt?

OBSERVATION: Read Genesis 48

1. Read Genesis 48 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. List two things Genesis 48 reveals about:

God

Joseph

Joseph's sons (Manasseh and Ephraim)

Joseph's father (Jacob/Israel)

JACOB REMINISCES: Read Genesis 48:1-7

1. What did Joseph do after he was *told that his father was sick*?
2. *Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.* He told Joseph the story of his encounter with God at Luz (or Bethel) after his father, Isaac, had sent him away. The story is recorded in Genesis 28:10-22. Read the story.

What did God promise Jacob?

What did Jacob *vow* to God?

- a. Why do you think Jacob chose to tell this story to Joseph?
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3. Who did Jacob claim as his own sons?
 - a. What does Joshua 14:4 claim about Manasseh and Ephraim?

JACOB BLESSES JOSEPH'S YOUNGEST SON: Read Genesis 48:8-16

1. Jacob, *whose eyes were dim with age*, asked Joseph to bring his sons to him. Why?
2. Record the words of Jacob from verse 11.
 - a. Although Jacob seemed to be prone to negative thinking, we find him rejoicing. Share a time God surprised you with a blessing beyond what you expected.
3. It was the custom to bless the *firstborn* above the younger son. Joseph positioned his sons accordingly. What did Jacob do? Verse 14
4. What was the *blessing* that Jacob pronounced on both of Joseph's sons?

JOSEPH OBJECTS; JACOB PERSISTS: Read Genesis 48:17-22

1. *But Joseph was upset when he saw that his father placed his right hand of Ephraim's head* (NLT).
What did Joseph:

do (verse 17)

say (verse 18)
2. What did Jacob say in verse 19 that proves he understood what he was doing?
3. What *blessing* did Jacob pronounce on both of the boys? Verse 20
4. The chapter ends with a promise to give to Joseph *an extra portion of land*. In the previous verse, Jacob reminded Joseph of the promise God made to him at Luz. What was it?
 - a. This promise was a promise made to the family of Israel. However, the Bible contains many more promises which God has made to all those who belong to Him. Why is it important to remind one another of His promises?

REVIEW: Read Genesis 47 and 48

1. What did you learn from studying these two chapters that you will personally apply to your life?

Chapter 47

Chapter 48

*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
- 1 Corinthians 2:9*

Observation Worksheet

Genesis 47

¹ Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they are in the land of Goshen." ² And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. ³ Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and also our fathers." ⁴ And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to dwell in the land, because your servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." ⁵ Then Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. ⁶ "The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know any competent men among them, then make them chief herdsmen over my livestock." ⁷ Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. ⁸ Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?" ⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage." ¹⁰ So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh. ¹¹ And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. ¹² Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in their families. ¹³ Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. ¹⁴ And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁵ So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed." ¹⁶ Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone." ¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year. ¹⁸ When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. ¹⁹ "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate." ²⁰ Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's. ²¹ And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end. ²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands. ²³ Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. ²⁴ "And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones." ²⁵ So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants." ²⁶ And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's. ²⁷ So Israel dwelt

in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly. ²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years. ²⁹ When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt, ³⁰ "but let me lie with my fathers; you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said." ³¹ Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.

Genesis 48

¹ Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. ² And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed. ³ Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, ⁴ "and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.' ⁵ "And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. ⁶ "Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. ⁷ "But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)." ⁸ Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?" ⁹ And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them." ¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. ¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!" ¹² So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth. ¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. ¹⁴ Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day, ¹⁶ the Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; let my name be named upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." ¹⁷ Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." ¹⁹ But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations." ²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!' " And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh. ²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. ²² "Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."