

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

The Protection of Israel – Genesis 46:29-47:12

Context: Genesis 46:8-27

⁸ Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons.

²⁷ And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

The foundation of God's people, Israel was 70. This number corresponds to the number of nations found in the *'Table of Nations'* in Genesis 10.

At Babel, mankind attempted to establish a nation for _____. God foiled their attempt and _____ them.

At Goshen, _____ is establishing a nation for _____. There, he will provide for them, protect them, and multiply them.

At Babel, mankind gathered in _____ of God.

At Goshen, Israel is gathered by the _____ of God.

*66 or 70?

²⁶ All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all.

66 + _____ + 2 sons + X = 70

X = ?

Whatever the answer, it was clear that God's people went to Egypt under the leadership of God and in faith, trusted that there God would keep his covenant with Abraham. (70 → _____?)

The Reunion of Father and Son

²⁸ He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. ²⁹ Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. ³⁰ Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive." ³¹ Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. ³² And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' ³³ When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' ³⁴ you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

47 So Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers, with their flocks and herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen." ² And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. ³ Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were." ⁴ They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." ⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. ⁶ The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."
⁷ Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. ⁸ And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?" ⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 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 sojourning." ¹⁰ And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh. ¹¹ Then Joseph settled 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 And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

Genesis 46:28-47:12

Observations from the text:

Judah's _____:

Judah previously had been the point person on Joseph's _____ from Jacob:

"Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites ..." (Gen. 37:26-27a)

Judah is now the point person on Jacob's _____ with Joseph!

Only God can orchestrate a reversal like that.

Joseph's _____:

"He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while."

Joseph, the royal savior of his people, loves them dearly.

Jacob's _____:

"Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

Virtually all of Jacob's recorded words after the supposed death of Joseph had been about death, but after the revelation that Joseph was alive, that all changed: *"Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." (45:28)*

Jacob's "Nunc Dimittis" moment:

As Simeon would one day say of his Savior Jesus, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace", Jacob can now say of his temporal savior nearly the same.

Joseph's _____:

What he told Pharaoh (and why); what he told his brothers to say when questioned (and why):

1. We won't be a _____ to Egypt. (Why?)
2. You don't have to fear _____ from me/us. (Why?)
3. I have a great idea – _____!
 - Perfect for our flocks
 - Away from Egyptian cities/people who don't care much for _____

Jacob's (sad) _____:

"The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 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 sojourning."

Consider the hardness of Jacob's life ...

Also, when compared to Abraham's 175 years and Isaac's 180 years, his life was relatively brief.

And yet, he was God's means (among many others) of preserving a people and saving humanity. That's called _____.

Their long sojourn begins:

Then Joseph settled 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. And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

"Egypt had been miraculously opened up for the sake of Israel's family because though the Israelites were never permitted to eat at the table of an Egyptian, they were given the very best part of the land! Thus they were afforded both separation and prosperity.

What a grace the ark of Egypt was. There at the fertile borders of Egypt, the people of Israel benefited from the prosperity and protection of Egypt without surrendering their distinctives. There they honed their spiritual and national identity. There they grew from a mere handful to a great nation. There they later fell out of favor with a new regime that "did not know Joseph" (Exodus 1:8) and underwent the sanctifying graces of suffering. There they birthed their greatest of all leaders, Moses. There they experienced the mighty power of God as he effected the exodus."

- R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, p. 530

Next week: Genesis 47:13-26 – The Shrewdness of Joseph