

Genesis: God and the Originals

ISRAEL MOVES TO EGYPT

The Whole Family Moves (46:1-30)

Vv. 1-7

1. What is significant about Beersheba in the storyline of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
2. What are the commands and promises God makes to Jacob in Beersheba?

BONUS: Reflect on the significance of Israel's move to Egypt for the rest of the Bible - its initial and lasting impacts.

Vv. 8-27

3. There are slight differences between this list of Jacob's descendants and the one starting in 29:31. Why does Genesis include genealogies in the first place? What's the point of this one?
4. It seems the math is wrong in vv. 26-27. What's going on?

Vv. 28-30

5. Who does Israel send in front of him to Joseph, and why is this significant?
6. What do you suppose the reunion between Joseph and Jacob was like?

Joseph Secures His Family (46:31-47:12)

Vv. 46:31-47:6

7. What does Joseph secure for his family in these verses?
8. How long do the brothers intend to live in Egypt according to v. 4? Why do you think they speak of it this way?

BONUS: We don't have any ancient sources that speak of Egyptian detestation of shepherds (end of v. 34). What might this verse be referencing?

Vv. 7-12

9. What does Jacob do for Pharaoh and how is this a fulfillment of the covenant of God?

Joseph's Economic Policy (47:13-31)

Vv. 13-26

10. Summarize how, because of Joseph's prowess, Egypt becomes a powerhouse country economically.

BONUS: Does everyone become a slave of Egypt or is there a better way to understand Joseph's economic policy?

BONUS: Is Joseph right in treating everyone the way he does?

Vv. 27-31

11. What promise does Joseph make to Jacob as a fitting way to "end" Jacob's story, but to begin Israel's?