

# The Book of Genesis

## Chapter Forty Six

### *In the World But Not of the World*

#### Lesson Verse:

#### I. Lesson Introduction

- A. Jacob accepted the fact that Joseph was alive. The family begins immediately to make preparations to journey to Egypt. After these many years of believing his beloved son was dead, it is as if in Jacob's mind, that Joseph was resurrected.
- B. Note also how the Author of the Bible referred to the aged patriarch by the name of Israel. This is an important point. In *Gen. 42* he is called by his birth name Jacob. That particular writing was in the days of which he lived by sight. His name was changed by the Lord as a sign of the covenant God made with him. With his faith renewed, he again begins to live by faith.
- C. Is it not the same with us? We all go through times of turmoil and trouble where our only fellowship seems to be in self-help groups with people who have problems in their lives of the same nature as ours. There we sat in our circle of friends pouring our souls out to people who can do nothing but cry with us. What we really need is to have our faith renewed and worship God.
- D. Simple Outline
  - 1. The Departure from the promised Land for Egypt
  - 2. Joseph Prepares to meet his Father
  - 3. Another Family Reunion
  - 4. Don't Be Ashamed of God's Calling

#### II. Study Lesson

##### A. The Departure from the promised Land, For Egypt

- 1. Beersheba. As they set out on their journey they go the way of Beersheba where Israel worshipped God with sacrifices and offerings. It is here as well that God speaks to him for the seventh and final time.
- 2. They brought along their Goods (1 & 6).
  - a. The Bible does not say why Israel brought their sheep and cattle after they were told to leave all their goods. All they had to do was simply come. One reason for bringing the sheep may have been for sacrifices. The Hebrews sacrificed sheep and showed no great respect for cows. The Egyptians considered cows sacred and thought shepherds to be down right dirty.
- 3. Possessions.
  - a. Here in *Genesis 46* is one of the few times where a ruler of the world portrays a picture of God the Father. Pharaoh, as the one sitting on the throne, represents God in this picture of words. Joseph, as has been previously shown, is the second in command, and therefore represents Christ. Now the Father (Pharaoh) has placed everything into the hands of Joseph (Jesus) and is willing to accept all those who come as family members of his beloved Joseph (Jesus), **Rom 8:16-17**.
  - b. For the sake of Joseph Pharaoh sent wagons to transport the family of Joseph. Pharaoh is paying all expenses, for these wagon are in reality vehicles of his grace to carry them to their appointed destination.
  - c. The journey made by Joseph's family is symbolic of God bearing us as we journey through this world to our appointed destination. All we must do is get in the wagon. There is no need to really bring anything, as all our needs will be supplied along the way. You may, however, bring any possessions (gift or talent) that came from the Lord for those will always be accepted. The facts are He expects us to use the talents and gifts entrusted unto us to lift up the name of Jesus.
- 4. Promises Renewed (2), Then Worship.
  - a. Before Israel set out on his journey he worshipped the Lord. This is the first time that we read of him offering sacrifices since *Gen. 35*.

- b. God reminded him that He was still in control. There is an interesting promise that God made to Jacob here that each of us would do well if we considered and practiced ourselves. God told Israel of the place where He would make him a great nation.
- c. In the world. The place where Israel would become great was in the world. The reason why this thought is so important is due to two main reasons:
  - 1) We are told by the Lord we are to be in the world but not of the world;
  - 2) It is God doing the making of a great man in the world and not the man making himself great in the world.
  - 3) In the world vs. of the world.
    - a) It is not a sin to be in the world. God knew that when He placed us here. It is a sin, however, to be of the world for the term of the world means coming from or out of. That is, one has the likeness and attributes of the place from which they came.
    - b) Like produces like. Birds of a feather flock together. Carnally minded church members seek out other worldly-minded church members to have fellowship with because they have so much in common. One seldom if ever sees the sensually minded Christian having communion with mature saints of God. There is no common ground between them. There is one rule that is consistently true 99.99% of the time. That rule is: When one is out of fellowship with God, they seldom invite the preacher over for supper.
    - c) In the scripture here God sent Israel from the Promised Land down into a nation that is a type of the world. What we have to keep in mind, and more importantly is lay hold to the promise, is just as God had the power to send him into the world, He also had the power to bring him out again (4).
    - d) From this situation and of the journey itself,

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\_\_\_\_\_ . That was what Jacob was doing for it was God's will to send him to Egypt.

- e) The principle is the same for us these many years removed from those events. God sent His church into the world just as He sent Israel into Egypt. His children were dispatched into the world and instructed with the truth that He will be with them and do great things with them.
  - f) God told Jacob that He would make of him a great nation while he was in the world. God could have just as easily made of Jacob a great nation while he lived in the Promise Land. However, that was not the will nor the plan at that time for Jacob. What Jacob must remember is it is God doing the making of the man and nation and not Jacob. As long as Jacob remembers who is the Potter and whom is the clay, he will do the will of God.
  - g) This is the same thing a Christian must remember. It is the Lord working in us to do His great will, **Phil 2:12-15**. Because He is great, He will do great things in and through us if we will just allow Him to do it.
  - h) Our problems begin, and never end, because we want to do what we want to do when we want it and where we want it done and it is always in the world. What we must do is practice this verse: *Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:* The word let in this verse means we must get self out of the way. We must have the mind of Christ if we intend to let Christ work a mighty work in us.
  - i) Each day we live our lives in the world and sometimes out of the will of God. When things go wrong we question everyone and thing except God. In addition, when we do question God do we question His will or do we just ask, "Why is this happening to me What did I do to deserve this?"
  - j) We want to be great on our terms and not His. We want to be great and do majestic and mighty things in the world for a world that does not love us. The fear and ridicule of men is greater in man than standing before the Creator and having to explain our actions. Why is it we cannot allow God to do great things in us?
5. I will go down with thee (4).
- a. Has He not already stated that He will not leave us, **Heb 13:5**? Is this not what He told Jacob. Jacob was not afraid to go and he is an old man; 130 when he left Canaan and he was 147 when

he died. He took God at His word. He loaded his possession in the wagon provided by Pharaoh and off he went to Egypt.

- b. God did not tell Jacob what He intended to do with him, when He intended to do it, or how. All He told Jacob was to fear not. Just get in the wagon and go!

**B. The Family That Went Down to Egypt (46:8-28)**

1. By Leah

a. Reuben

- 1) Hanoch
- 2) Phallu
- 3) Hezron
- 4) Carmi.

b. And the sons of Simeon

- 1) Jemuel
- 2) Jamin
- 3) Ohad
- 4) Jachin
- 5) Zohar
- 6) Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman.

c. And the sons of Levi

- 1) Gershon
- 2) Kohath
- 3) Merari

d. And the sons of Judah

- 1) Er
- 2) Onan
- 3) Shelah
- 4) By Tamar - Pharez, and Zerah
  - a) And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul.
- 5) Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan

e. And the sons of Issachar

- 1) Tola
- 2) Phuvah
- 3) Job
- 4) Shimron.

f. And the sons of Zebulun

- 1) Sered
- 2) Elon
- 3) Jahleel.

- g. These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three.

2. Sons by Zilpah

a. The sons of Gad

- 1) Ziphion
- 2) Haggi
- 3) Shuni
- 4) Ezbon
- 5) Eri
- 6) Arodi
- 7) Areli.

- b. The sons of Asher
    - 1) Jimnah
    - 2) Ishuah
    - 3) Isui
    - 4) Beriah
      - a) and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel.
    - 5) Serah their sister
  - c. These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bare unto Jacob, even sixteen souls.
3. The two sons of Rachel Jacob's wife
- a. Joseph
    - 1) Unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born:
      - a) Manasseh
      - b) Ephraim
      - c) Both of which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.
  - b. Benjamin. The sons of Benjamin were:
    - 1) Belah
    - 2) Becher
    - 3) Ashbel
    - 4) Gera
    - 5) Naaman
    - 6) Ehi
    - 7) Rosh
    - 8) Muppim
    - 9) Huppim
    - 10) Ard.
  - c. These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob: all the souls were fourteen.
4. The sons of Bilhah
- a. The sons of Dan
    - 1) Hushim.
  - b. The sons of Naphtali;
    - 1) Jahzeel
    - 2) Guni
    - 3) Jezer
    - 4) Shillem.
  - c. These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and she bare these unto Jacob: all the souls were seven.
5. All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six;
6. And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten (70 people).

**C. Joseph Prepares to Meet His Father (43:29)**

- 1. Preparations.
  - a. Even though it has been years since Joseph saw his father, there is one thing however, that Joseph did that should make an everlasting impression on us. Joseph prepared himself to meet his father. The Bible states that Joseph presented himself unto his father. There is much to be said in this simple passage found in v. 29. It bears repeating: Joseph presented himself unto his father. The Bible does not say exactly what Joseph did, but we know Joseph prepared himself before he went to meet his father.

- b. This is not the first time we were told that Joseph prepared himself before meeting someone. He shaved and changed his raiment before he stood before Pharaoh, **Gen. 41:14**. Joseph has a sense of personal pride. He cared about what people thought about him.
- c. He presented himself unto his father (29).
  - 1) After everything was ready and after he was ready, Joseph went to meet his father. It was important to Joseph for his father to accept him and his position. Joseph did not know what his brothers might have told Jacob about him. Therefore, Joseph present himself unto his father with as much respect for his father as he always had. Never the less he also represented Pharaoh and he had to present himself as a ruler, **1 Cor 9:19**.
- d. Our Presentation And Preparations To Meet Our Father.
  - 1) Joseph spent many lonely nights as a young man away from home, living in a strange land and in somewhat less than favourable conditions. Neither his living conditions nor his elevated position changed the man. Joseph was more than a conqueror of these things. This is manifested to us in that he presented himself as victor to his father.
  - 2) Each of us professing to be Christians ought to compare ourselves to Joseph and see how much we prepare self to meet with God each Sunday and how we are preparing to meet Him in eternity. We ought to take stock of ourselves and determine if we present self to our Heavenly Father as victor in private fellowship as well.

#### D. Another Family Reunion (46:28-34)

- 1. The many years of loneliness are about to become a thing of the past.
- 2. The Presentation, **John 20:17**.
  - a. Shortly after Jesus rose from the dead, He met Mary at the tomb. Once she recognized Him, she wanted to touch Him. He would not at that particular time allow her the honour. It is believed by many that Jesus had not ascended into heaven. The Bible does not say exactly why, but the main thought is Jesus had to present Himself as a clean sacrifice for sin to His Father. God the Father had to accept His person as the atonement for sin. If Mary had touched Him, He would have been defiled and not allowed to enter into the Most Holy Place. Presentation is important. Jesus and Joseph knew this and they practiced it. The question we need to answer is, do we?
  - b. When we present ourselves unto the Lord at church or with private fellowship, do we prepare ourselves to meet the Lord? When we go to church do we dress according to the position we occupy? Do we dress like and of the world or do we spend a little time and money and purchase something that is presentable? Do we smell like world?
  - c. Do we spend a little time preparing self? Do we spend so much time preparing self that we forget to prepare our spirits to fellowship with the Lord? Do we enter into his courts with a song and praise, **Psa 96:8-9, 100:3-5**. God gave His best? We were thoroughly pleased with receiving His best in the person of His son Jesus Christ. Why should He receive anything less from us?
  - d. The prophet Amos gave the nation of Israel a very vivid warning in **Amos 4:10-13** when he told them to prepare to meet thy God. The big problem was it was not going to be a pleasant meeting for the nation for they were deep into idolatry. That same thing abounds today with many carnal minded church members. The warning is the same: prepare to present yourself unto your Father.
  - e. Joseph prepared himself. He and his father were so glad to see one another that they fell on each other and wept for joy. They cried on each other's shoulder for a while. Their fellowship was sweet.
  - f. Each of us must consider our position in Christ and if we are keeping it unspotted. Joseph was still the son of Israel whether he prepared himself to meet his father or not. The same is true for us. We are still born again children of God whether we prepare to meet with Him in sweet fellowship or judgment.
  - g. Israel was very pleased with the man his long lost son had grown to be. He was so pleased that now after all these many years he could die in peace (30).

#### E. Do Not Be Ashamed of God's Calling for Your Life (46:31-34; *Rom 1:16*)

- 1. When the nation of Israel came into Egypt, Joseph told his family that they were not to tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds. He wanted them to say they raised cattle. Joseph was trying to be a politician and keep the peace for he knew there could be trouble between his family and his adopted one.

2. Illustration: A man found an eagle's egg and put it in a nest of a barnyard hen. The eagle hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them. All his life, the eagle did what the barnyard chicks did, thinking he was a barnyard chicken. He scratched the earth for worms and insects. He clucked and cackled. And he would thrash his wings and fly a few feet in the air. Years passed and the eagle grew very old. One day he saw a magnificent bird above him in the cloudless sky. It glided in graceful majesty among powerful wind currents, with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings. The old eagle looked up in awe. "Who's that?" he asked. "That's the eagle, the king of the birds," said his neighbour. "He belongs to the sky. We belong to the earth--we're chickens." So the eagle lived and died a chicken, for that is what he thought he was. Don't be satisfied with chicken lifestyles and cowardly living! "Now when they saw the BOLDNESS of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS." Acts 4:13. Your life is what you and Christ make it. Do not be afraid to spread your wings and fly! - Author Unknown

### III. Conclusion and Study Questions

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