

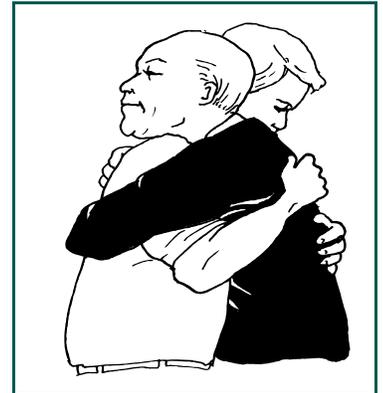
# Jacob and His Family Live in Egypt

Genesis 46 - 50

A young son is gone. A father is struck with heartache at the absence of his son, his favorite son. Years pass as the father, though accepting the death of his son, continues to long for the boy. Then years later, completely out of nowhere comes news that the young man is not dead but alive. The father, naturally aged but more so because of the grief in his life, is filled with shock mixed in with excitement.

As the picture clears and this good news is verified, the father learns that not only is his son alive, but also he is a leader in for the most powerful nation in the world. To top this all off the son wants his father to come to the foreign land so that he can take care of his father.

This sounds like a made-for-television movie or a title from the best seller's list but it is not. This is the true story of how God uses Joseph to care for his father, Jacob, and at the same time protecting the Lord's promise of a Savior to the world during the time of a worldwide famine. Let us journey back and learn how the Lord continues to protect while blessing his people.



## Prayer

Lord God, we thank You for showing us Your loving plan for our salvation. Though mankind, lost in sin, does evil things yet You continue to show mercy and turn evil into good for the sake of Your kingdom and our salvation. Oh Lord, fill us with Your Spirit as we study Your gracious Word together that Your name may be magnified in our hearts and that Your kingdom come to us all. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

## God directs Jacob to Journey to Egypt - Genesis 46-50

Jacob agrees with his sons to leave the land of Canaan, a land of famine, and travel to Egypt. He agrees to do this only because he believes it is the Lord's will. Jacob is assured of the Lord's hand since the Lord had kept Joseph alive. To reassure Jacob, the Lord appeared to Jacob in a vision and promised to be with him. The Lord repeated His promise that He would make of Jacob's family a great

nation and would one day return the family to the promised land of Canaan. The total number of Jacob's household that moved to Egypt was 70.

### Jacob Settles in Goshen

As Jacob and his family neared the land of Goshen he sent Judah to greet Joseph. Joseph and his sons went to the land of Goshen to meet Jacob. When Jacob saw Joseph he was ready to die



because he now knew that Joseph was alive. Joseph presented his family to Pharaoh. After a visit, Jacob, now one hundred and thirty years old, blessed Pharaoh. Joseph saw to it that his family was situated in the land of Goshen which Pharaoh had given to Joseph's family.

The family of Israel lived in the land of Egypt, the country of Goshen. There the Lord blessed them with growth and many possessions. Jacob lived for another seventeen years before he died.

### **Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons**

As was the custom in those days when a family member was about to die, the time had come for Jacob to pass on the family blessings. When Joseph heard that his father's health was failing he took his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to their grandfather. The blessing Joseph would have received Jacob gave to Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob went on to bless all of his sons. The special blessing, the blessing of the Savior did not go to the first born, Reuben, but Judah.

### **Jacob's Last Words to His Sons**

When Jacob finished blessing all of his sons, he breathed his last and died at the age of one hundred forty-seven years. Joseph had the Egyptian physicians embalm his father's body so that it could be carried back to Canaan for burial. All Egypt mourned for Joseph's father for seventy days. Pharaoh gave his permission to

Joseph allowing him to go with his brothers to the land of Canaan and bury his father.

### **Joseph Reassures his Brothers**

When Joseph and his brothers returned from Canaan a fear came over the brothers. Now that their father was dead the brothers were concerned that Joseph would carry out an act of revenge on them for being mean to Joseph. After all it was their desire to get rid of Joseph and the act of selling him into slavery that was very tough on their father, Jacob. Joseph reassured his brothers of the Lord's hand. Joseph pointed out to them that the Lord used their evil and turned it into good. By having Joseph in Egypt the Lord provided a way to save his family from the famine. Moreover, the Lord provided the way for the promise of a Savior to be preserved.

### **Death of Joseph**

Joseph was blessed with a good life in Egypt. His family grew and he had the joy of seeing his grandchildren. Before Joseph died he reminded his family that the Lord would move them back to the promised land of Canaan. He made his family promise that when they went back to Canaan they were to take his body with them. Joseph died at the age of one hundred ten years; his body was embalmed and placed in a coffin awaiting the day when it would be transported back to Canaan with his family.

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**Outer Aim - God builds and preserves His chosen nation from which the Christ would be born.**

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Choose the correct answer.

1. Jacob [blessed – did not believe] his sons when they returned from their second journey to Egypt bearing gifts from Joseph.

2. The Lord appeared to Jacob [during the day – in a vision] reassuring him that going to Egypt was the right thing to do.
3. The Lord [did – did not] promise to return Jacob’s family to Canaan.
4. Joseph was [excited – sad] to see his father again.
5. [Joseph – Pharaoh] gave Jacob and his family the land of Goshen to live in.
6. [True or False] Being pleased with everything that Joseph had done for Egypt, Pharaoh blessed Jacob.
7. Jacob was [130 – 147] when he moved to Egypt.
8. As Jacob’s health [improved – failed] Joseph, his sons, and his brothers gathered to receive their blessings from their father.
9. Jacob gave the blessing of a Savior to [Joseph – Judah].
10. Joseph was [117 – 110] years old when he died.

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**Inner Aim - God’s hand supports and saves those who put their trust and faith in Him.**

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**What the Bible Tells Us - Use the following for Group Discussion.**

1. When a relative, friend, or neighbor is grieved by the lost of a family member how can we help them deal with this grief?
2. God shows Jacob and his family that by remaining obedient to Him He can help overcome personal grief, brotherly hatred, and worldwide famine. What should this reminder move us to remember?
3. Jacob was an elderly man by this time. He had dealt with many issues during his 130 years. Faced with death because of the famine and aware of the instructions of his forefathers to live in the land of Canaan, Jacob realized the hand of the Lord and moves to Egypt. The Lord reassures Jacob by appearing to him and repeating His promises. How does the Lord reassure us as we continue on our life’s journey on earth?

4. The Lord had a plan and Joseph was part of it. Through Joseph's faithfulness to God, the Lord blessed all of Egypt and the countries that surrounded it. Pharaoh and the people of Egypt were grateful to Joseph and his God. How did Joseph's words and actions while in Egypt help to spread the knowledge of the only true God?
  
5. What are some ways that we, living in the foreign world called earth, can show our love for God and spread His love to all?
  
6. The time had come for Jacob to pass on the blessing of a Savior. In giving the blessing to Judah, Jacob reminded all of his children of the comfort that this Savior would bring. Name several times and/or ways that we should discuss the comfort of the Savior with our family; with our relatives; with our community; with the world.
  
7. Jacob blessed the most powerful, earthly ruler in his day, Pharaoh. How should we treat those who have been placed in authority over us at home, at school, in our community, and in our country?
  
8. The reunion of Jacob and Joseph was a joyful occasion. Sometimes reunions are not joyful because of disagreements among family members. This was evident with Joseph and his brothers after Jacob died. Joseph's brothers, even after seeing, hearing, and living all the events of the past several years, feared the power of an earthly ruler, Joseph, instead of the heavenly king God. Joseph had to point out to his brothers God's hand in everything that had happened. God may turn what is evil into our good. Give examples of how we can prepare now so that our family reunions will be joyous occasions both the reunions here on earth and our reunion in heaven.

## Passages

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Luke 17:3-5 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

**Hymn** - Read over TLH #410. May Jesus be our guide as we travel through our lives here on earth. May His strength be our relief that makes us patient and enduring until we are in heaven.

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;  
And although the way be cheerless,  
We will follow calm and fearless.  
Guide us by Thy hand  
To our fatherland.

When we seek relief from a longfelt grief;  
When temptations come alluring,  
Make us patient and enduring;  
Show us that bright shore  
Where we weep no more.

If the way be drear, if the Foe be near,  
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;  
Let not faith and hope forsake us;  
For through many a woe  
To our home we go.

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;  
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us,  
Still support, control, protect us,  
Till we safely stand  
In our fatherland.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your Word is so precious to us because there we see Your hand in the lives of Your people down through the generations. You have always made all things work together for the good of those that love You. As we see these things we pray that You will give us Your Spirit that we may recognize Your hand in our lives guiding, leading and blessing us each day. Amen.