

Jacob and His Family Live in Egypt

Genesis 46 - 50



The Story

God continues to protect His chosen people. He shows how He kept Jacob's family alive during the famine by taking them to live in Egypt. God also shows how the promise of a Savior is passed along in Abraham's and Jacob's family.

After Joseph's brothers returned to Canaan, Jacob and his family made preparations to move to Egypt. As they were getting ready to leave, God talked to Jacob. He said that Jacob shouldn't be afraid to move to Egypt because He would be with Jacob. He also said that Jacob's family would grow into a mighty nation in Egypt.

Jacob was 130 years old when he got to Egypt. When he was near Egypt, Joseph went out to meet him. Both men cried, for it had been a very long time since they had seen each other. Jacob said that he was ready to die because God had let him see Joseph again.

Soon after arriving in Egypt, Jacob was taken to see Pharaoh. While visiting Pharaoh, Jacob asked for the land of Goshen to raise their cattle and sheep. Pharaoh gave Jacob and his family the land of Goshen to live in. There they were able to tend their sheep. They were also put in charge of the cattle and sheep of Pharaoh.

Jacob lived in Egypt for 17 years. He was very old and it was almost time for him to die. He called for Joseph to visit him. Jacob made Joseph promise to take his body to Canaan and bury him there. Joseph

promised to take his father back to Canaan after he died.

As Jacob was on his deathbed, he blessed all of his sons. Judah was given a very special blessing. Jesus would be born from one of Judah's relatives. He also blessed Joseph's two sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

After the blessings, Jacob gave instructions of where he was to be buried in Canaan. Then he laid down and died. Joseph had Jacob's body embalmed. This means that Jacob's body was wrapped in spices and cloth. It took 40 days to embalm the body. All of Egypt was also sad over Jacob's death.

Joseph and his brothers took Jacob's body and buried it in Canaan. Then they went back to live in Egypt. Joseph's brothers were still worried that he might be angry with them for selling him to the merchants. They thought Joseph would try to hurt them.

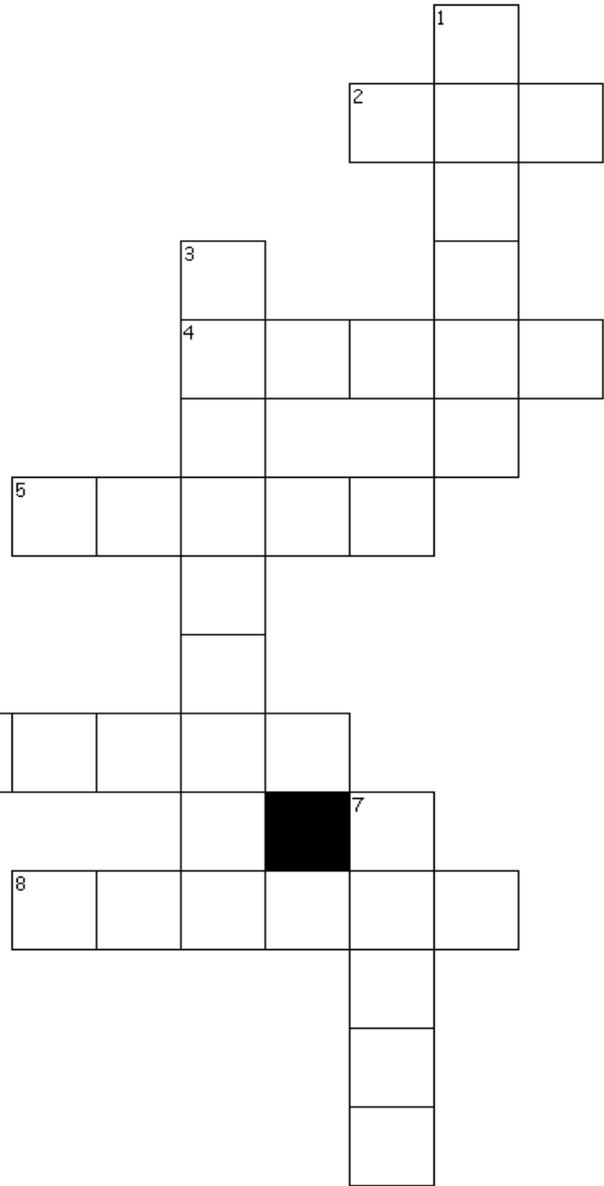
Joseph was sad at how his brothers acted. He told them that God was in charge and wanted him to be in Egypt. He also told them that he would make sure that their families had enough food and clothing.

Joseph continued living in Egypt and saw his great-great grandchildren before he died. Joseph was 110 years old when he died. He was buried in Egypt.

God builds and preserves His chosen nation from which the Christ would be born.

Activity One - Find the answers to the following clues in the Word Box. Then write them in correct boxes in the CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

WORD BOX
Canaan
Egypt
God
Goshen
Jacob
Joseph
seventeen
sheep



Across

- Who wanted Joseph in Egypt to save his family?
- Where was Joseph buried?
- What animals did Jacob's family raise?
- Where did Jacob's family live in Egypt?
- On what land was Jacob buried?

Down

- Who lived to be 110 years old?
- How many years did Jacob live in Egypt?
- What is the name of Joseph's father?

Activity Two - Answer these discussion questions.

- Do you think that Jacob was afraid to move to Egypt? What clue in the story tells you that he could have been?
- How do you know that Jacob and Joseph were happy to see each other after so many years?
- What special job did Pharaoh give to Jacob's family?

4. Who did Jacob give blessings to? Who got a very special blessing?
5. Who was sad when Jacob died? Why do you think the people of Egypt were also sad?
6. What did Joseph's brother think would happen now that their father was dead?
7. How old was Joseph when he died? Where was he buried?

God's hand supports and saves those who put their trust and faith in Him.

Passages

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

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

1. How did Joseph forgive his brothers?
2. How should we forgive others?

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

1. How did Joseph trust in the Lord with his heart?
2. How did God remember Joseph when he was in Egypt? *Hint: Think of all the bad things that happened to Joseph that turned into good things in the end.*
3. How can we trust in God? What do we trust God to do?

Draw a picture of what you trust God to do for you.

Hymn - TLH #410 v. 1, 4

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.

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

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for protecting Jacob and his family in Egypt so that Jesus could be born from his family. You have made all things work together for good. We pray that You will continue to guide and lead our lives just as You guided and led Jacob's life in Egypt. Amen.