

Recap of last three weeks: Famine breaks out in Egypt (128) and Jacob's boys head to Egypt to buy food. Egypt has food because

Joseph was given insight to Pharaoh's dreams by God and that the upcoming 7 years of bountiful harvests would end and be followed by 7 years of wasteland harvests. Joseph tells Pharaoh to appoint a ruler over the 7 bountiful years so that crops would be stored to cover the 7 years of weak harvests. Pharaoh says, "Joseph, you're my guy." Now it has been 20+ years (22 years) since Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and so when they come before him to buy food for their family they do not recognize Joseph (Both, because they assumed he was long gone or dead, and because he now outwardly appeared Egyptian and was well versed in the language) but Joseph recognized them but originally said nothing. On the second trip of the boys they then also brought with them Joseph's little brother

Benjamin. Joseph reveals himself and proclaims the glory of God by giving them a play by play on how God had turned an evil deed of 10 brothers into a plan for salvation for the nation of Israel, also known as Jacob. Jacob finds out that not only does his beloved Joseph yet live but that he is second in charge and that even Pharaoh has secured prime land for them all to live in, and prosper in. He does this (obviously, God inspired him to) because of Joseph's righteousness in his sight.

Genesis 46: 5-7 Jacob head to Egypt with all his family.

Genesis 46: 8-25 I am not sure that there are any scholars this side of heaven who can pronounce these names of the sons of Israel's offspring. So I am not going to embarrass myself by trying. Note however the names of the 2 sons that Joseph had to a pagan wife of royalty in verse 20:

Manasseh and Ephraim.

Genesis 46: 26-27 : 66 people came down to Egypt + 4 people already in Egypt (Joseph his wife Asenath, Manasseh and Ephraim) = 70 people.

Genesis 46: 28-30: The anxious reunion: Jacob (129) heads south with Judah leading the family. Joseph hops in his chariot and heads north to meet up with

his family, most importantly his father. Jacob is so joyful that he says, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face." In other words, "nothing can top this!" (implied "Thank you Lord").

The reason I used the word "Joyful" and not "happy" is because I think that happiness seems to be more because of material circumstances. Whereas Joyful comes more from an internal exuberance or peace. That peace that passes all understanding which Stephan and all the Christian Martyrs had. That we have when we have suffered loss.

Genesis 46: 31-34: Joseph lets his family understand that being a shepherd was being of the lowest of the low in the eyes of the nation of Egypt. Odd, isn't it. Or is it possibly that God is once again point out that evil (Egypt) despises good (God's Shepherd and us as shepherds)?

Genesis 47: 1-6: We can not under sell the obvious fact that God controls the hearts and minds of anyone, at anytime to do His bidding. The Egyptians saw shepherds as an "abomination", and from previous verses in the last chapter not worthy to sit at the table of an Egyptian. So undoubtedly Pharaoh is doing God's bidding when, even knowing who they are, he tells Joseph to give them the best of the best in land and even says pick from your family people to take charge of even my livestock. This also brings me back to God hardening or opening hearts (and souls) according to the continuous will of a person: To absolutely all, He plants a longing for a relationship with Him. For the truth, All who are born are born with a deep down knowledge that He exists. Then He promises that all who seek this truth; seek Him will find Him. To those that find Him, He Lydiatizes them. And to them that continually, without pause, reject Him, He also grants them their wishes. (See Scriptures) Matthew, Romans, Acts

Genesis 47:7 Earthly wise Pharaoh was the top guy. (130)
But this top guy also recognized that Joseph was endowed
with a power from God who is above all things. That
leads me to conclude that Pharaoh was probably sensing
that this man of God, Joseph, had a father who probably was
even more endowed with a power from on high. Either way
he allowed Jacob to bless him!

Genesis 47:8-10 Pharaoh asks this Godly man how old he
is. Jacob replies 130 years old, but that is chump change
compared to how old my forefathers got to be. He also stated
that they were hard years. Maybe implying that if they were
easier he would have only looked like maybe 90. Especially
considering that Abraham had a new flock of children with
his second wife Katurah at age 140. By the way 6 children.
(Scripture says, "Without weakening in his faith, he faced
the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was
about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also
dead", -Romans 4:19).

Genesis 47:11-12 The family settles down in Egypt.

Genesis 47:13-14 Phase 1 of the famine: People are still
purchasing food with money during the famine.

Genesis 47:15-17 Phase 2 of the famine: The money is
gone so Joseph takes livestock as payment on behalf of
Pharaoh. Remember, he is only doing what he is required to do,
according to his obedience to commitments entrusted him. No
where do we read that Joseph dealt harshly with the Egyptians,
but cheated when it came to his people. No, Joseph was
a Godly man. A righteous man. He did what was just even
when no one was looking.

Genesis 47:18-22 Phase 3 of the famine: The money is gone
and the livestock are gone but the famine lingers on. So now
the people sell themselves and their lands to Pharaoh as slaves
for food.

Genesis 47:23-31 God's people Israel dwelt in Goshen in
Egypt and multiplied exceedingly. Jacob lived to be 147 years
old and when his days grew to a close he made Joseph swear to
let him be buried by his people in the promised land.