

## ***IN THE BEGINNING GOD***

### **God Leads Jacob from Canaan to Egypt to Heaven Genesis 46:1—48:22**

*“Then Israel said to Joseph, ‘I am about to die, but God will be with you and take you back to the land of your fathers.’”* Genesis 48:21

#### **Day 1: Read Genesis 46:1–7.**

1. Two famines cause two men, Abraham and Jacob, to seek food for their families in Egypt. What does Jacob do that his ancestor Abraham neglected to do? (46:1b; Gen. 12:10–20)
  
2. In verse 3, God tells Jacob not to be afraid to go down to Egypt. Try to put yourself in Jacob’s place and imagine how the following facts (brought out in a sermon by Charles Spurgeon) might have made him fearful:
  - a. Jacob is an old man.
  
  - b. Egypt is a very pagan country.
  
  - c. Egypt holds bad memories for Jacob. (Gen. 12:10–20)
  
  - d. Jacob has been warned of future hardships. (Gen. 15:13)
  
3. How does God reassure Jacob that his move to Egypt is part of his plan? (2–4)

#### **Day 2: Read Genesis 46:7—47:6.**

4. Describe the emotions Jacob might feel as he is reunited with Joseph, especially in light of what he had been led to believe about Joseph’s fate? (37:31–35)
  
5. How does Pharaoh treat Joseph’s family? (Gen. 46:29; 47:5, 6)
  
6. Because Jacob’s family are shepherds (46:32–34), they are kept separate from the Egyptians in Goshen. Why is this separation a good thing?

**Day 3: Read Genesis 47:7–27.**

7. Jacob describes himself as a pilgrim (in a long line of pilgrims). (9–11 In what way are we to consider ourselves as pilgrims and how does this affect the way we live?). What can be gleaned from Jacob’s perspective and the New Testament about how to view and live in this present world? (Mt. 6: 19–21; 2 Cor. 4:16–5:1; Heb. 11:8–10, 13–16)
  
8. In his role as ruler of Egypt Joseph saves and blesses the nations (12:2, 3). How does this prefigure Christ’s work? (Gal. 3:6–9; Rev. 5:9, 10)
  
9. During the famine how does the fate of the Egyptians (vv. 13–26) differ from the fate of the Israelites? (vv. 5–12, 27)

**Days 4 & 5: Read Genesis 47:28—48:22.**

10. Where do both Jacob and Joseph want to be buried? (47:29b, 30; 50:24, 25)  
How is this an expression of what they believe? (Gen. 46:3; Heb. 11:22)
  
11. In Genesis 47:31, Israel (Jacob) worships. Why is this significant? (Heb. 11:21)
  
12. What information does Jacob consider vital to pass on before he dies? (48:3–4)  
How does this demonstrate the growth in his relationship with God?
  
13. Despite all the hardship suffering and losses that Jacob has experienced in his life he is not bitter, but full of gratitude. Why?
  
14. As we have studied the life of Jacob, we have watched his faith in God go from non-existent to vital.
  - a. What do the blessings Israel gives to Joseph, Ephraim, and Manasseh reveal about what would characterize the relationship God would continue to have with future generations? (48:15–16)
  
  - b. How would these blessings and last words be a source of hope and comfort to Joseph and his sons after Israel’s death?