

Intro: Recently we've seen in Gen 45, after many months of putting his brothers to the test, Joseph finally revealed himself to them, and they had a glorious reunion.

- * Joseph then shared this news with Pharaoh, and both Joseph and Pharaoh sent them back home with abundant provisions for them to move the whole family to Egypt.
- * When they arrived home, they told Jacob- 'Joseph was alive! and was ruler of all Egypt', and had instructed the brothers to move the whole family to Egypt.
- * Jacob was shocked, but after listening to the whole story, and seeing the carts and gifts Joseph had sent to them, -- Jacob was convinced.
- * The family immediately prepared to move, (big task) and then they set out for Egypt.
- * Today in Ch. 46 we'll see their journey to Egypt, and the reunion between Jacob and Joseph.
- * **This part of the story brakes into 3 main points.**

I. AS THEY DEPARTED - JACOB BROUGHT THE FAMILY TO BEERSHEBA. (46:1- read)

- * Beersheba was 30 miles southwest of Hebron, where they currently lived, and Jacob brought the family there so he could offer sacrifices.
- * Each of the 3 patriarchs of Israel, Abraham (Gen 21:31), Isaac (26:33), and Jacob (28:10) had lived in Beersheba for some period of time in their lives, after coming to Canaan.
- * In this place, Both Abraham and Isaac called on God for protection from the Philistines, and sacrificed there, and Abraham planted a tree to honor this as a special place of worship.
- * God taught humanity from the beginning that atoning for sin requires the death of an innocent. (Adam and Eve had skins, Israel had a sacrificial system- all pointing to Christ.) (The sacrifices of God's people teach us-- The wages of sin is death)
- * When Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob needed to worship and confess sin, they sacrificed, and all 3 had done so in this place.
- * And Jacob had grown up here, and now, Jacob has been awakened to God's working in his life, by the news he received that Joseph was alive.
- * This compelled Jacob to go to this special place and worship God in a formal way.
- @ There were 4 good reasons for Jacob to stop here and sacrifice.

A. JACOB WENT TO BEERSHEBA - FOR PERSONAL CONFSSION.

- * Joseph had sent word to his father Jacob, that his being sold into Egypt by his brothers was God's plan for the families good. (he showed him- "all things work together for good")
- * This revealed Jacob's sin of not trusting God, his years of bitterness over losing Joseph, and his resentment that Simeon was imprisoned, and Benjamin had to go to Egypt.
- * Jacob had been a bitter untrusting man, and he came here to confess and atone for his sin.
- * John Phillips points out - that in all that had happened- **God taught Jacob 2 lessons**.

1. Through this trouble, God taught Jacob a lesson about sowing and reaping.

Q- Earlier, God forced Jacob to give up Benjamin by sending him to Egypt, or else the family would starve. This made Jacob trust God to care for him.

- God taught him that what you sow, you reap. Jacob had sown sin in his family by failing to raise godly honest sons, and he reaped the consequences when they got rid of Joseph.
- But when he gave up his last son Benjamin, God not only gave him back his last son, but also his lost son (Joe). Jacob learned all his life was God's, and he must surrender it.

2. This trouble also taught Jacob a lesson about sacrifice.

- Jacob loved Joseph, and he had his whole life planned out. But Joseph was Gods, and Jacob needed to realize- God's plan for Joseph's leadership of the family was different, and it meant 23 years of separation and hardship for Joseph.
- Lesson- We are Christs, following Him means submission to His will, and sacrifice to fulfill it.

B. JACOB ALSO WENT TO BEERSHEBA - FOR FAMILY CONFSSION.

- * The 2nd time the sons arrived back home, they had great news about Joseph being alive.
- , But they also told Jacob everything Joseph said- which meant Jacob learned of the terrible sin his sons had committed against Joseph by selling him, and against himself by lying to him.
- * Now the brothers had repented, so the sacrifices were to atone for their sin, as well.

C. JACOB WENT TO BEERSHEBA TO GIVE THANKS.

- * Even though Jacob knew he had failed much, God kept his promises to him, and led and blessed him anyway, and at this point, Jacob's whole mentality has turned around.

* He was thankful to see God was guiding his life through all his troubles, and he was grateful that he would see Joseph again. This was a time for Jacob to give thanks. 2

D. JACOB WENT TO BEERSHEBA - TO FACE HIS FEARS.

- * Every time there was a big problem in Jacob's life that made him afraid, God met him.
- * Twice he feared Esau would kill him, and he feared Laban would take his family away.
- * And notice in v3, that God told Jacob - "Do not be **AFRAID** to go down to Egypt".
- * Jacob was eager to see Joseph, but there were 4 possible reasons this made him afraid.

1. Jacob was a very old man. (130 years)

- Normally, as we get older, the more fearful we become. We tend to feel secure in familiar surroundings, and we want to stay close to home. (Solomon- danger in the streets)
- Beersheba was the southern boundary of the land God gave Abraham. Jacob never traveled beyond there, so it was natural for him to be a little afraid of leaving his lifelong home.

2. God told Abraham that in the future - Israel would be enslaved 400 years by another nation, who would be punished by God, and Israel would come out with great possessions. (Ge, 15)

- Jacob may have feared moving to Egypt would lead to what God told Abraham, and he was right, because decades later, that's what happened (but it still brought Jacob fear.)

3. Egypt was a large pagan country. Extreme---

- The dominant Empire, military strength, widespread mining, lavish architecture, educated, ultra-modern- rich, a city society, liberated women, wild entertainment. Many pagan gods.
- Jacob's family lived in a slow-paced, more sheltered, country setting, so Jacob may have feared this move would be bad for the family, which would not please God.

4. Jacob needed to confirm this was God's will.

- In the past, Abraham disobeyed and went to Egypt because of a famine, and lied about his wife which brought God's judgment on Pharaoh's house, and harmed God's testimony.
- Later, God forbid Isaac to go to Egypt during a famine. So Jacob wanted to approach God and be sure he wasn't making the same mistake as his dad and granddad did.
- He knew it was Joseph's will for them to come to Egypt, but he wanted to hear from God, and be sure he wasn't doing wrong, and bringing trouble on his family.

Lesson- God wants us to seek and follow His will, which is to walk with God in a holy life, put the kingdom first, and follow God's Word and do right.

- * The priority is not money (but he may give us some), It may not necessarily be a place or job, although God can lead us to those. **Ultimately its - follow the truth and live holy.**
- * Jacob was now trusting God, and he wanted God's will for himself and the family.

@ NOW IN VS 2-4-- GOD ANSWERED JACOBS FEARS. (46:2-4- read)

- * After sacrificing, God encouraged Jacob in 4 ways.

1. God confirmed His identity to Jacob. (2-3a)

- He told Jacob that He was the God of Isaac, Jacob's father.
- This was God's way of reminding Jacob, that God had kept His promises to his forefathers.
- God led Abraham to a new land and protected him through natural disasters and threats from various enemies. God also led Isaac, and protected and preserved him, his whole life.
- God was telling Jacob, I've been faithful to them, I'll be faithful to you. (is God faithful?- Yes)

2. God promised to make a great nation of Jacob, there.

- This must have seemed impossible. Jacob had a splintered family of 70, with 10 older sons that had been sinful and vicious, and they were living in the midst of a famine.
- But God was showing him that hard circumstances are nothing for God, and He would fulfill His promise, and use Jacob to make a great nation to be God's chosen people.

App- Our circumstances may look difficult / impossible, But God has a plan, and He will fulfill it.

3. God promised to go to Egypt with Jacob, and bring Israel back again.

- Jacob knew his grandfather had been brought to dwell in Canaan, which in the future would be their eternal inheritance. So being told to go to Egypt didn't fit that scenario.
- But God assured Jacob that He would be with him, and that in God's good time, God would bring them back again, so Israel could be obedient to what God told Abraham.

4. God promised that JOSEPH would close JACOB'S eyes.

- * This would be the ultimate privilege for Jacob, that his beloved son Joseph, would bury him, when his time came to go home to be with the Lord.

Summary- Q- Keep in mind that Egypt was no less wicked, but God had prepared the greatest Empire of that time, and its rulers, to receive and bless Jacob's family.

And when it was God's time, God prepared Egypt to do just the opposite, to drive Israel out, so they would follow Moses back to their God-given home.

* In all of Jacob's fears, whether earthly or spiritual, God set Jacob's heart at ease, and let him know he could fully trust the Lord that this move was right.

NEXT-- II. JACOB'S SONS BRING THE FAMILY TO EGYPT. (5 - 27)

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II. JACOB'S SONS BRING THE FAMILY TO EGYPT. (5- 27, read v5)

* Years earlier, The older sons separated their father from Joseph out of hate and jealousy.

* Now, with joy, they get to carry their aged father to reunite with his long-lost son.

* After leaving Beersheba, there are 3 details to notice about their going to Egypt.

A. THEY TOOK EVERYTHING TO EGYPT.

* Vs 6- "They took with them their livestock and possessions they had acquired in Canaan",

* Earlier in 45:20, when Pharaoh confirmed that Joseph could bring his family there, he said- "Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours."

* But when leaving, Jacob and his sons, disregarded that encouragement and brought all they had with them. There were 4 good reasons for this.

1. Jacob knew it wasn't right to be wasteful.

- God had prospered the family by their hard work and dedication, and Jacob refused to disrespect God's blessings, so he could receive the material things of a pagan land.

2. Jacob may have been leery about becoming indebted to a pagan king.

- If Jacob came there with nothing, Pharaoh would think he gave them everything, and that they were completely indebted to him.

- Pharaoh needed to see that Jacob had much, because Jehovah God had blessed him.

3. Jacob refused to leave anything, because it would encourage the surrounding pagans to take their belongings, and possess their land, and think it was theirs permanently.

- Those blessings of God, did not belong to the pagans, they belonged to God's people.

4. Taking everything showed Jacob's faith and obedience in God's will for them.

- If Jacob left their belongings behind, they might be tempted to leave Egypt and go back to Canaan when the famine ended, before God was ready for them to go back.
- Taking everything showed that Jacob entrusted all he had, his whole family, and all his possessions, to follow God's leading.

B. THEY TOOK EVERYONE TO EGYPT. (46: 5-7- read, 26-27- read)

- * Vs. 8-27 list the names of his family for history purposes. (We won't read them), but notice-
- * God began the nation of Israel with 1 man, and 1 promised son given to Abraham at age 100.
- * Then Isaac had just 2 children, and the promised blessing went to the younger son, Jacob.
- * Now, Jacob heads to Egypt with a family of 66 plus, (70 including Joseph and his family).

Note. Benjamin had 10 sons. 10 was the number of a multitude.

- And Benjamin being the last son, this showed Jacob that God would keep His promise to Abraham to turn his family into a multitude, to become a great nation.

C. THEY LEFT NOTHING BEHIND IN CANAAN, NOT EVEN A GODLY TESTIMONY. Sad.

- * At this point, Abraham and his descendants had been in Canaan for 2 centuries, and they won't return to live there for another 430 years.
- * The question is- what spiritual impact did they have on Canaan? Not a very good one.
- * They had destroyed the Shechemite men, and ravaged the city. Also, the brothers were doing wicked things in the land, for which Joseph had to report them to their father.
- * The merchants of Canaan experienced first-hand, the brother's hatred of their own little brother, as they sold Joseph into slavery for a mere 20 bucks a piece.
- * And Judah's sons were killed by God for their sin in Ch. 38, and Judah himself acted wickedly toward his own daughter in law. (this is just the sin mentioned)
- * The result was, over the next 430 years, the Canaanite people became so sinful that God led Israel back there to destroy most of them, and drive the remaining pagans out of the land.
- * This was the sad legacy of Jacob and his family in the land of Canaan.
- * It seems they made no righteous impact for God on those pagan people.

Lesson- What kind of an impact are we having in the places where we live?
(Home, work, neighborhood, friends, church, etc.)

- * What does our life look like to those around us?
- * Can people see Christ in us, or are we no different than the world around us?

* This is important because souls are at stake.

III. JACOB'S REUNION WITH JOSEPH. (46:28-30- read)

- * From the beginning of Joseph's time in Egypt, it must have been lonely for him.
- * He had gained leadership under Potiphar but then was imprisoned by Potiphar's lying wife.
- * When he was finally raised to Prime Minister, he was given a wife, who soon, had 2 children that brought him great joy, and helped him to forget all his past trouble.
- * But when the brothers showed up in Egypt, his longing for his father and brother was renewed.
- * Within months, Benjamin came there, and they were reunited when Joseph revealed himself.
- * But all along, he dearly missed his father. In their 2nd visit, Joseph asked about him, and once he revealed himself, he told them to "hurry back to my father" and "tell my father about all the honor given me", and "bring my father down here quickly".
- * And through all these encounters, Joseph had to fight back tears, or even dismiss himself to hide his tears over his yearning to be reconciled to his family, and especially his father.
- * Now the time had come, and when the family arrived in Goshen, Joseph went there quickly to see his father, and they embraced and wept with each other for a long time.
- * Again, as with the brothers, the conversation that passed between these 2 men, who never thought they would ever see each other again, must have been something to hear.
- * Once they greeted each other and talked, Joseph may have gone to each wagon and greeted the whole family, and received their thanks for saving them from the famine.
- * Vs 30 is a classic statement- At the end of their long greeting, in v30 Jacob said--
"Now I am ready to die, since I have seen for myself that you are still alive."

@ This confession by Jacob reveals at least 3 lessons.

Lesson 1- This confession showed Jacob's faith in God's promises. >>>>>>

Lesson 1- This confession showed Jacob's faith in God's promises.

- God had promised Jacob that He would care for him, and lead him throughout his life, and now he's standing in Egypt looking at Joseph, the Prime Minister of this powerful land.
- In that moment Jacob fully knew that God was using him to accomplish His purposes, and this gave him such a spiritual satisfaction, that he felt he was ready to die.
- As Jacob thought back, he must have felt foolish for doubting God's Word to him while he stumbled through his tough life, mostly caused by his own failures.
- Here, just like Joseph's eyes were opened to the big picture when Pharaoh placed him in leadership, Jacob's eyes have been opened to see God was working His plan all along.

Lesson 2- This confession showed Jacob was blessed by his children's successes.

- Parents know that when our kids do well- we're blessed, when they fail- we're grieved.
- For years Jacob was grieved by his older sons, and Joseph and Benjamin were his only joy.
- Once Joseph was gone, Benjamin became Jacob's main joy.
- But now, all the failures of his sons have been swallowed up in their repentance; And God's earthly and spiritual blessings on Joseph, have brought Jacob great joy.

App- As believers, our ultimate goal is to live for Christ, but never forget that as children (young or adult) we are to honor our parents, and the predominant part of that should be our spiritual success, in living for Christ.

- Kids, when you disobey your parents, you disobey the Lord, and you will never know the heartache that brings to them, until you become a parent. (Remember that)

Lesson 3- This confession may have reminded Jacob, of his failures in parenting.

- Parents, because a child's failures can grieve us, that should motivate us to do all we can to raise our kids to be godly responsible adults.
- God had very graciously delivered Jacob from much of the heartache caused by many of his sons, the main one being the terrible heartache of losing Joseph.
- Now, not only was his physically lost son found, but his spiritually lost sons had been found.

Sum- Deep in his heart, he was so spiritually satisfied, He was truly ready to die.

