Genesis: Beginning "Good" with God
New Pilgrim Baptist Church Bible Study
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Lesson: God's Faithfulness and the Promise Pt. 1 **(Genesis 46:1-47:31)**

The dreams of Joseph had come to pass. His sheaf had risen, he was now ruler in Egypt and his family bowed before him. But all for the purpose of saving their lives. Now, God has made a place for them in Egypt. God's faithfulness in keeping each generation for them to bring about God's purposes for the world is on display as Genesis comes to a close.

1. ***God assures Israel, prophetically*** **(Gen 46:1-4):** To assure Jacob's heart of God's plans, the Lord gave Jacob visions to let him know that he should go to Egypt at Joseph's invitation. His father had been told by God not to go to Egypt during a famine. To overcome this precedent, the Lord sent another vision to Jacob to convince him that a different course of action could be taken. God has promised the family would be saved if they go to Egypt. The promise is still in alignment with what God has said previously, he will make Israel a "great nation." This promise goes all the way back to Abraham. God told him this initially. God also told Abraham his family would be placed in bondage but then released and brought back to the land he promised them. The journey of Israel into Egypt would be the way God planned to fulfill his promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
2. ***Israel and His Sons*** **(Gen 46:5-27):** The narrative goes over the names of the twelve sons of Israel. It organizes and groups them according to their mothers.
3. ***Israel settles in Goshen*** **(Gen 46:28-34):** Joseph wanted his family to settle in the land of Goshen. This land places them a bit closer to Canaan. But it also keeps them separated while remaining in Egypt. Joseph told his family to admit to being shepherds. At this time, Egyptians thought of this vocation as abhorrent. Having an abhorrent trade gave Israel a good excuse to remain separated from the Egyptians. The Egyptians would not bother them because they did work that the Egyptians found distasteful. The Bible does not tell us why but it may be Joseph was hoping to keep his family away from foreign influence. We have to remember the Egyptians, on the whole, worshipped false gods and had ways God deemed abominable. Keeping Israel in Goshen gave them a way to remain protected while having their own, essentially, separate nation.
4. ***Israel is Cared for in Egypt*** **(Gen 47:1-12):** Joseph brought his family to Pharoah and Pharoah accepted their stay in Egypt. He gave them the best land. He invited them to oversee his flocks. Favor followed the family of Israel into Egypt. Joseph made sure they were well-fed as well. And because Jacob was still an agent of the true and living God, he was able to bless Pharaoh. Despite the circumstances, Gods power rested on Jacob.
5. ***Joseph saves Egypt from famine*** **(Gen 47:13-26):** In order to survive, the people sold their possessions, and ultimately, their land to Pharoah in exchange for grain. Joseph's plan allowed the people to exchange their resources for survival. It guaranteed that Pharoah and the state would increase its control over Egypt as a result. In the process of feeding Egypt, Pharaoh was able to make sure his family was fed as well.
6. ***The End of Jacob's life*** **(Gen 47:27-31):** Jacob's days drew to a close in the land of Egypt, as God said. Jacob called Joseph. He, like Abraham and his servant, made Joseph place his hand under his thigh to swear not to bury him in Egypt. This gesture was symbolic of the return of the nation back to the land of Canaan. Joseph would ask the same thing about his bones, that he be buried in the land of Canaan. The goal was to make sure they were buried in the soil of promise.