

There is this interesting concept in the Old Testament. The head of the family stands for the family. And the blessings of the family are as it were, the blessings of the head of the family. So that God can say to Jacob, "I am going to bring you out of Egypt and fulfill it with your descendants being brought out of Egypt." And to take it further, God will not physically bring out the men listed here (*the sons of Israel*), but their descendants.

Super important:

The sons of Israel has been used 3-4 times up to this point in Genesis. It will be used approximately 680 times in the Bible to stand for _____. And so beginning in this passage, it becomes a technical phrase for the people of God, the people that He has chosen for Himself. The children of Israel.

Today: Are any of us here (saved by grace) descended from family members before us who walked with God? Who might God choose to follow us?

Verses 28-34: The reunion of father and son

Moses speeds us through the trip, just like he has in the past. No worries there as that would be boring. The important part is that all are back together again, and Dad is satisfied.

Why are verses 31-34 important?

In these closing verse in chapter 46 we can see that God is good to His people.

He blesses them above what they deserve. He prepares the way for Israel to be secluded and protected in Egypt.

They will go many years under the protection of Joseph, and after by Him, before they face strong oppression and opposition.

Series: The Life & Times of Joseph

Title: Israel Goes To Egypt

Topic: God's will with "family"

Review: Last week we saw Joseph reveal himself to his brothers.

The family was back together again. Jacob finally learned that Joseph was alive and preparations began for the trip down to Egypt. As we have seen all through this study, God's hand was all over the lives of His people.

Lesson:

Genesis 46:1-7 The trip begins...with a _____

Beersheba was a place rich in the history of his forefathers.

- Abraham had called upon the name of the Lord here (21:33) and had settled in this place after offering up Isaac on Mt. Moriah (22:19).
- Here at Beersheba Isaac had been visited by God, and the covenant made with Abraham was reiterated (26:23-25).
- It would seem that Jacob lived at Beersheba when he deceived his father and obtained his blessing (chapter 27), for it was from this place that he had fled from Esau and departed to Haran (28:10).

Beersheba was also at the southern extremity of the land of Canaan.

Later the land of promise would be spoken of as "from Dan to Beersheba". Dan being at the northern border and Beersheba at the south.



This was not just a day trip, and this wasn't for a short visit. Jacob was going to Egypt to die. He wanted to see Joseph and then he was ready to die.

1. He took everything he owned.
2. This trip required a lot of faith.
 - He is advanced in age.
 - His grandfather Abraham was embarrassed there.
 - His father Isaac was forbidden by God to go there.
 - To go to Egypt was to leave the land of promise. So, was he outside of God's will if he was leaving the land chosen for his people?

So, Jacob takes a pause in the journey, just to worship for a bit to get a sense of whether this is a good idea...to take this trip.

Today: Should we pause to worship, to pray before making a big decision?

God gave Jacob 3 assurances:

1. The God of Isaac promised Jacob that He would go with him to Egypt and in that pagan land would make of him a great nation.
2. God would bring him back to Canaan, the land of promise.
3. God would give him comfort in his time of death as Joseph would be with him.

Today: Do we sometimes wonder why God seems distant? Could it be that He wants us to seek Him out in _____ and _____...and thereby will meet up with us?

Comforted and confident he was doing what God wanted, they made the trip.

Verses 8-27: The roster of names

.....
Some questions arise as this listing of names does not include everyone who left Canaan. The list or total number of people also differs from other places in Scripture.

The explanation for these questions is rather simple: Moses here intended not to name every person who went into Egypt, but every leader of family or clan who would come forth from Egypt. It was vitally important for those who came forth from Egypt to know their "roots" since the land would be divided according to tribes. In addition to this, tasks were assigned, and the nation was administrated by tribal and family divisions. The purpose of Moses in this genealogy, therefore, is selective. He does not intend to name every person coming out of Canaan, but to name those who will become tribe and family heads.
.....

Verse 8: These are the names of the sons of Israel.

Let's couple this verse with verse 4: *I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again.* What did God mean by bringing him back to the land of promise? Did he only mean that his bones would be brought back?