



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey

Lesson 7 – The Children of Israel in Egypt (Genesis 46-50)

The Children of Israel in Egypt

From Joseph's death in 1806 BC until the birth of Moses in 1527 BC, there was a long period of 279 silent years. God did not speak to His people during this time, and they did not have a written Bible. They had only the memory of God's last promise to Jacob in Beersheba (Genesis 46); Jacob's last words to Joseph's sons (Genesis 48); Jacob's last words to his own sons, especially to Judah and Joseph (Genesis 49); and the bones of Joseph to remind them of their glorious destiny as God's chosen people, ancestors of the **MESSIAH**.

Read Genesis chapters 46-50 along with the notes below. If you have any questions, please ask them.

Genesis 46 – The Children of Israel Arrive in Egypt

God renews the Promise to Jacob (or Israel) on his journey to Egypt (vv. 1-7).

“I will make of you a great nation there...and I will also surely bring you up again” (vv. ____)

A list of the names of Jacob's descendants (vv. 8-27).

Joseph sees his father Jacob (vv. 28-34).

Genesis 47 – Jacob's Seventeen Years in Egypt

The Pharaoh gives Jacob's family the land of Goshen (vv. 1-12).

Joseph sets up regulations for the five remaining years of famine (vv. 13-26).

Jacob asks to be buried in Canaan, the land of his fathers (vv. 27-31).

Note: The children of Israel remained in Egypt for 430 years, from 1877 BC to the Exodus in 1447 BC.

Genesis 48 – Jacob Blesses Joseph's Two Sons

The younger son, Ephraim, receives a greater blessing than Manasseh, the older son.

Genesis 49 – Jacob Blesses His Sons and Dies

The three older sons had forfeited their blessing through their vile sins (vv. 1-7).

Jacob gives Judah the great Promise (vv. 8-12), even though Judah sinned greatly also.

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until SHILOH (the Rest-giver) comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (v. ____)

Jacob blesses his other sons (vv. 13-28).

Jacob asks again to be buried in the cave of Machpelah, then he dies (vv. 29-33).

Note: Judah receives the promise of **JESUS**. Joseph receives a double physical blessing: his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, are counted as Jacob's own sons.

Genesis 50 – Jacob's Burial and Joseph's Death and Burial

Joseph and his brothers bury Jacob in the cave of Machpelah (vv. 1-13).

Joseph reassures his frightened brothers (vv. 14-21).

"You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (v. ____)

Joseph dies and is buried (vv. 22-26).

"You shall carry up my bones from here" (v. ____)

Note: Joseph's bones were preserved, to be carried from Egypt to Canaan.

Questions

1. How did Jacob know that it was God's for him to move his family to Egypt?
2. How did the sad events in Joseph's life serve God's purpose for His people?
3. What promise did Jacob extend to his son Judah?
4. What was Joseph's last request concerning his bones?
5. What is the difference between Genesis 1-11 and the rest of the book?
6. Why do we have to be on guard against recent books written about Genesis?