

Genesis Chapter Forty Seven

Genesis 47:1-6

Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen." And he took five men from among his brothers, and presented them to Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" So they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers." And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock."

- The brothers do not hide their vocation though it is not esteemed in Egypt.
- Goshen—also known as Ramses later—one of two storage cities that the Hebrews will have to build for Pharaoh, through slave labor.
- Invites the men who are capable--to care for his own flocks. These would be significant after second year of famine.
- We are looking at possibly weeks/months since the brothers had returned to Canaan with the news
- Only five brothers are presented to Pharaoh
- Brothers request a location where they can contribute to caring for themselves
- Condition in Canaan—given as reason for the move—no longer any pasture

Genesis 47:7-10

Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many years have you lived?" So Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning." And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from his presence.

- Jacob has an accurate understanding of himself before Pharaoh. He is the blessed one—so he blesses Pharaoh. His status is not dependent on circumstances.
- As Jacob compares his life with his ancestors—it is an answer filled with lament.

Genesis 47:11-12

So Joseph settled his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered. And Joseph provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to their little ones.

- Joseph is supplying the needs of his family—they are not forfeiting money or livestock in order to eat.
- Joseph is settling/establishing his family in a location that is considered to be the best in Egypt—probably others are already dwelling in/near this location. Perhaps Joseph's authority is necessary to accomplish this settling.

Genesis 47:13-19

Now there was no food in all the land, because the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. And Joseph gathered all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For our money is gone." Then Joseph said, "Give up your livestock, and I will give you food for your livestock, since your money is gone." So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and the flocks and the herds and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. And when that year was ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent, and the cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left for my lord except our bodies and our lands. Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. So give us seed, that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate."

- Description of a complete transfer of wealth—not only from the world—but from the very ones who contributed the 20% they are all surviving on.
- Perhaps due to this level of oppression of the Egyptians (which they submit to due to hunger)—the Hebrews will later be treated as slaves.
- All the money from both Canaan and Egypt is now brought under control of Pharaoh.
- Money loses it's value—food increases in value—during times of famine
- They are at the mercy of Pharaoh—and Joseph for their life.

Genesis 47:20-26

So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. Thus the land became Pharaoh's. And as for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of Egypt's border to the other. Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off the allotment which Pharaoh gave them. Therefore, they did not sell their land. Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have today bought you and your land for Pharaoh; now, here is seed for you, and you may sow the land. And at the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food and for those of your households and as food for your little ones." So they said, "You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's slaves." And Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt valid to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh's.

- This transfer of wealth results in making an entire nation dependent.
- People are all relocated—not even able to remain together in their forefather's territory.
- Priests—in keeping their land—afforded a different status than their fellow Egyptians
- Joseph—instead of giving food—gives seed. Still a period of famine—they will experience Genesis 3:17—"in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life".
- The only ownership=4/5 of crop harvested

Genesis 47:27-31

Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous. And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years; so the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years. When the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Please, if I have found favor in your sight, place now your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness. Please do not bury me in Egypt, but when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said." And he said, "Swear to me." So he swore to him. Then Israel bowed in worship at the head of the bed.

- Makes Joseph promise to bury him in the Promised land
- He knows the promises of God have to do with both people and a place.
- At 147—Israel is preparing to die—he wants his burial place to be Machpelah.
- While Egyptians are forfeiting lands—Israel is acquiring the best of the land.
- Jacob lives 17 years in the land (first five are still a part of the famine)

Genesis Chapter Forty Seven Workbook

Key Words:

Harmonize:

Consider the transfer of wealth in Genesis 30 and Luke 15:11-32. What insights are there in these passages?

Dig:

- 1) What are some of the "unpleasant" parts of Jacob's life?
- 2) How long did Abraham and Isaac live?
- 3) What does a blessing impart?
- 4) In the third year of the famine, what is left to exchange for food?
- 5) How does Joseph save the people? How does he enslave them?
- 6) How might this contribute to the conditions mentioned in the first few chapters of Exodus?

Discuss:

- 1) What happens when one people group is 'settled' in the middle of another people group (especially when this is the best land in Egypt)?
- 2) What regions in the world are currently suffering? What is behind this level of suffering?
- 3) To live in this culture—at this time—are there any similarities to chapter 47?

Point of Prayer:

Pray for a nation or region that is currently suffering.

Integrate:

What other scripture comes to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Have you ever had the opportunity to bless someone of 'great power or influence'? Explain.

- 2) Have you ever received favor that was greater than those who are around you?

- 3) What is something that you once considered valuable that no longer has the same significance to you?

- 4) Have you or your family ever experienced a 'transfer of wealth'—richer to poorer or poorer to richer?

- 5) What are the greatest assets that the Lord is entrusting to you?

- 6) What would be the hardest for you to give up—money, property, or freedom?