

# Genesis 47

Scriptures:

Notes:

Scriptures:

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said,

Notes:

“My father and my brothers, their flocks and their

herds and all that they possess, have come from

the land of Canaan; and indeed they *are* in the

land of Goshen.”

Scriptures:

<sup>2</sup> And he took five men from among his brothers

Notes:

and presented them to Pharaoh.

Scriptures:

<sup>3</sup> Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your

Notes:

occupation?”

And they said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are

shepherds, both we and also our fathers.”

<sup>4</sup> And they <sup>5</sup> said to Pharaoh, <sup>9</sup> “We <sup>5</sup> have come to

dwell in the land, because <sup>9</sup> your <sup>5</sup> servants have no

pasture for their <sup>5</sup> flocks, for the famine <sup>is</sup> severe in

the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your <sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> servants dwell in the land of Goshen.”

3427 -

Scriptures:

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh<sup>9</sup> spoke to Joseph<sup>7</sup>, saying, “Your<sup>7</sup>

Notes:

father<sup>7</sup> and your<sup>7</sup> brothers<sup>14</sup> have come to you<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>6</sup>The land of Egypt is before you. Have your

father and brothers dwell in the best of the land;

4315 -

let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you

know any competent men among them, then make

2428 - able

them chief herdsman over my livestock.”

Scriptures:  
Hebrews 7:7 - Now beyond  
all contradiction the lesser  
is blessed by the better.

<sup>7</sup> Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set

Notes:  
'Jacob blessed Pharaoh' – Our  
modern culture cannot comprehend  
the significance of this event. The  
writer to the Hebrews says something  
about how blessings flow ([Heb7:7](#)).

When we come into the presence of  
people do, we bring them a blessing?  
Do we leave behind a blessing when  
we leave?

him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

1288 -

We are King's kids – we have the  
power to bless in the name of the  
Lord.

<sup>8</sup> Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How old are you?”

<sup>9</sup> And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the

years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty

4033 -

years; few and evil have been the days of the

4592 -

7451 – adversity,  
affliction, bad,  
calamity

years of my life, and they have not attained to the

days of the years of the life of my fathers in the

days of their pilgrimage.”



Scriptures:

<sup>10</sup> So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from

Notes:

before Pharaoh.

Scriptures:

<sup>11</sup> And Joseph situated his father and his brothers,

Notes:

and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt,

272 -

in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as

Pharaoh had commanded.

Scriptures:

<sup>12</sup> Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers,

3557 -

Notes:

While the rest of Egypt had to buy food from Joseph, he was providing food for his family.

and all his father's household with bread,

according to the number in *their* families.

Scriptures:  
Amos 8:11 - "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD."

<sup>13</sup> Now *there was* no bread in all the land; for the

Notes:  
'famine' = extreme scarcity of food. A famine is a widespread scarcity of food, caused by several factors including war, inflation, crop failure, population imbalance, or government policies. This phenomenon is usually accompanied or followed by regional malnutrition, starvation, epidemic, and increased mortality.

famine *was* very severe, so that the land of Egypt

On a spiritual level God might bring an extreme scarcity into a person's life to bring that person to the point that they humble themselves before Him and repent.

and the land of Canaan languished because of the

In this account we see the Egyptians being stripped of everything they have depended upon to save themselves. The sad reality is that some people need to lose a lot and sometimes they need to lose everything before they realize they need God to save and they let Him do it.

3856 - "To be or become feeble or weakened; typically because of disease or starvation."

famine.

Scriptures:  
Matthew 19:23-24 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was

3950 -

Notes:  
The famine was so bad that the Egyptians had to use up all their money to survive. Money or the pursuit of wealth can be something that stands in the way of salvation (Matt. 19:23-24).

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.

Scriptures:

15 So when the money <sup>\$</sup> failed in the land of Egypt

Notes:

and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians <sup>E</sup> came

to Joseph <sup>J</sup> and said, “Give us <sup>K</sup> bread, for why

should we <sup>E</sup> die in your <sup>J</sup> presence? For the money <sup>\$</sup>

has failed.”

Scriptures:

1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

16 Then Joseph said, “Give your livestock, and I

will give you *bread* for your livestock, if the

money is gone.”

Notes:

After all the money was gone, the Egyptians started sacrificing their possessions to survive. Possessions or the seeking to acquire possessions can be a stumbling block keeping people from coming to the Lord (1 John 2:15-17).

God is a gracious God and loves giving His children good gifts, but we must never covet things or cling to things at the expense of our love of God. Gladly receive the good gifts that God gives but hold them with an open hand. Be okay if God, who gave the gift, also chooses to take it away or give it to someone else.

17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and

Joseph gave them bread *in exchange* for the

horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for

the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread *in*

*exchange* for all their livestock that year.

Scriptures:  
Romans 2:4 - Or do you  
despise the riches of His  
goodness, forbearance, and  
longsuffering, not knowing  
that the goodness of God  
leads you to repentance?

18 When that year had ended, they came to him the

Notes:  
All of their liquid assets are gone.  
They are at the end of themselves.  
There is nothing they can do to save  
themselves and they are willing to  
sacrifice everything to be saved.

next year and said to him, “We will not hide from

God loves us too much to leave us in  
our lost state. And so, He begins by  
showering us with His goodness in  
the hopes that we will turn to Him  
(Rom. 2:4). If that doesn't work, He  
might begin stripping things out of  
our life until we repent.

my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has

our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the

sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands.



19 Why should we die before your eyes, both we

and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and

we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give

us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land

may not be desolate.”

3456 – lie waste

Scriptures:

20 Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for

Notes:

Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his

field, because the famine was severe upon them.

So the land became Pharaoh's.

Scriptures:

<sup>21</sup> And as for the people, he moved them into the

Notes:

cities, from *one* end of the borders of Egypt to the

*other* end.

<sup>22</sup> Only the land of the priests <sup>P</sup>he <sup>S</sup>did not buy; for

the priests had rations *allotted to them* by

Pharaoh, <sup>S</sup>and <sup>P</sup>they <sup>P</sup>ate <sup>P</sup>their rations which Pharaoh <sup>S</sup>

<sup>P</sup>gave <sup>P</sup>them; therefore <sup>P</sup>they <sup>P</sup>did not sell <sup>P</sup>their lands.

Scriptures:

23 Then Joseph said to the people, “Indeed I have

Notes:

bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh.

Look, *here is* seed for you, and you shall sow the

land.

<sup>24</sup> And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you<sup>E</sup> Notes:

shall give one-fifth to <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall

be your<sup>E</sup> own, as seed for the field and for your<sup>E</sup>

food, for those of your<sup>E</sup> households and as food for

your<sup>E</sup> little ones.”

Scriptures:

25 So they said, “You have saved our lives; let us

find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be

Pharaoh's servants.”

Notes:

The people realized that apart from Joseph they would be lost forever. That is God's desire for all humanity. God wants all humanity to realize they need Jesus to save them. Until someone realizes that they will remain in their lost state. If there had not been a famine, the Egyptians would never realize their need.

There is a story (July 2021) circulating in social media that sounds strange to me but may be common in the not-too-distant future. The story is of a couple who had a baby recently. The mother is a woman who identifies as a man. She is upset because the hospital wants to list her on the birth certificate as the mother – she wants her husband to be listed as the mother. She is married to a man who identifies as a woman. He attempts to nurse the baby and is upset because the baby is not getting any milk and they resign themselves to having to ‘supplement’ with formula. They refuse to identify the gender of the baby because that is something the child will do when “it” is ready.

Our culture is encouraging people to embrace their lostness. By normalizing behaviors that God disapproves of, people will go through their lives believing that what they are doing is right and good. And they will look at anyone who thinks otherwise as unloving and bigoted. And they will go onward down a path that leads to destruction and causes pain and suffering along the way. Our prayer should be that God sends a ‘famine’ into their lives that causes them to look for someone to save them. And we, as God's people, must be prepared to lovingly bring them to their Savior Jesus.

The Egyptians were thankful for what Joseph had done to save them. Their response was to give themselves as servants to Pharaoh, whom Joseph represented. As born-again believers, this should our response to being saved. As an expression of our gratitude to Jesus saving us, we ought to offer ourselves as servants of God.

<sup>26</sup> And Joseph made it a law over the land of

Notes:  
What evidence is there of your  
gratefulness to God? Is there  
evidence in the way you handle your  
money? Or in your giving to the  
work of God? Is there evidence in the  
things you desire and strive after to  
possess? Is there evidence in your  
willingness to serve God? What do  
your answers to these questions say  
about your gratefulness?

Egypt to this day, *that* Pharaoh should have one-

fifth, except for the land of the priests only, *which*

did not become Pharaoh's.



Scriptures:

27 So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the

Notes:

This is the first time Jacob's family is referred to as Israel, the name God gave Jacob.

country of Goshen; and they had possessions there

and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

Scriptures:

28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen

Notes:

The rest of the book of Genesis focuses on the end of Jacob's life.

years. So the length of Jacob's life was one

hundred and forty-seven years.

29 When the time drew near that Israel must die,

Notes:  
'put your hand under my thigh' – like  
putting hand on the Bible to swear in  
court.

he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if

I have found favor in your sight, please put your

hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly

with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt,

Scriptures:  
John 14:1-3 - Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

<sup>30</sup> but let <sup>I</sup>me lie with my <sup>I</sup>fathers; <sup>o</sup>you shall carry

<sup>I</sup>me out of Egypt and bury <sup>I</sup>me in <sup>o</sup>their burial

place.”

And <sup>s</sup>he said, “<sup>I</sup>I will do as <sup>I</sup>you have said.”

Notes:  
For the last seventeen years of Jacob's life, he had dwelled in the carnal world of Egypt. As he nears the end of his life, he makes Joseph swear to bury him in Canaan with his father and grandfather. Jacob lived in Egypt, but Egypt did not live in him.

Egypt had been the place God used to save his family. It was the place God would use to make his family into a great nation. Egypt was never Jacob's home. His home was in the Promised Land of Canaan.

As Christians, we live in this world, but this world is not our home. We have been promised a better home — a home not built with human hands. We have been promised heaven (John 14:1-3).

That reality should influence our attitudes toward money, possessions, and our lives.

Scriptures:

31 Then <sup>I</sup>he said, “Swear to me.” And <sup>I</sup>he <sup>I</sup>swore to

Notes:

7650 -

<sup>I</sup>him. So Israel <sup>I</sup>bowed <sup>I</sup>himself on the head of the

bed.

[Top of Chapter](#)