

Genesis Bible Study Assignment

August 5, 2021

Reading: Genesis Chapters 46-50

Discussion Questions

Genesis 46:1 – 47:12

1. In verse 3, God comforts Jacob in a vision by saying, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt...” What do you think Jacob was afraid of?
2. What things did God tell Jacob to relieve his fears?
3. Why might verse 21 be out of place (i.e. inaccurate at the time of the migration to Egypt)?
4. Why were Joseph’s brothers told to inform Pharaoh of their occupation? How did Pharaoh respond?
5. Name two reasons you think Jacob said his life was hard.

Genesis 47:13-31

6. Why do you think Joseph “sold” grain to the people of Egypt and Canaan first in exchange for money, then for livestock, and finally their land and their labor (by becoming Pharaoh’s slaves)?
7. How could the Egyptians’ enslavement and the preferential treatment of Joseph’s family have affected the Israelites after the deaths of Joseph and the Pharaoh he served?
8. What did Jacob have Joseph promise before he died? Why do you think fulfilling this promise would be important for future Israelites?

Genesis 48

9. What did Jacob do when he blessed Joseph's sons? What is another example of something like this happening in Genesis? What do you think is the significance of this pattern?

Genesis 49:1-28

10. Why did Jacob "predict" that Reuben would no longer excel? (See Genesis 35:22)
11. For which of his sons did Jacob predict unfavorable futures? Name these sons and what would become of them.
12. For which of his sons did Jacob predict favorable futures? Name these sons and what would become of them.
13. In verse 28, why do you think the author used the word "tribes" instead of "sons"?

Genesis 49:29 – 50:26

14. Why do you think Joseph had Jacob's body embalmed?
15. Do you believe Joseph's brothers were being wholly truthful when they went to him for forgiveness? Why or why not?
16. What prediction did Joseph make when he spoke to them immediately before his death? How does this relate to the story of Exodus?