

Genesis Chapter 46 - Commentary By Mike Wells

Overview of Genesis 46: Jacob begins his journey to Egypt. This chapter is divided into 3 parts: (1) God's promises to Jacob in verses 1-4. (2) Jacob and his family travel to Egypt in verses 5-27. (3) Joseph meets his father and his family in verses 28-34.

Genesis 46 : 1-4 – *1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. 2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. 3 And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: 4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.*

- Jacob and his entire clan started their move to Egypt.
- They initially journeyed as far as Beersheba where he offered sacrifices to God and there God spoke to him in a vision.
- God basically gave His permission to go into Egypt. (Remember Egypt was a type of the world)
- God once again promised to make him a great nation even in Egypt.
- God promised, *“I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again.”*

Genesis 46 : 5-8 – *5 And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him: 7 His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt. 8 And these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn.*

- Jacob continued down into Egypt with his entire clan along with all their herds and possessions.

Genesis 46 : 9-25 - *9 And the sons of Reuben; Hanoch, and Phallu, and Hezron, and Carmi. 10 And the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman. 11 And the sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 And the sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Pharez, and Zerah: but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul. 13 And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron. 14 And the sons of Zebulun; Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three. 16 And the sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli. 17 And the sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah, and Serah their sister: and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel. 18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bare unto Jacob, even sixteen souls. 19 The sons of Rachel Jacob's wife; Joseph, and Benjamin. 20 And unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 21 And the sons of Benjamin were Belah, and Becher, and Ashbel, Gera,*

and Naaman, Ehi, and Rosh, Muppim, and Huppim, and Ard. 22 These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob: all the souls were fourteen. 23 And the sons of Dan; Hushim. 24 And the sons of Naphtali; Jahzeel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shillem. 24 These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and she bare these unto Jacob: all the souls were seven.

- A description of each of the children of Jacob's sons is given.
- It is noted in verse 15 in summary that those prior to verse 15 along with Dinah were the children and grandchildren of Leah which totaled 33.
- Those descended through Zilpah, totaling 16 souls.
- Those descended through Rachel, totaling 14 souls.
- Those descended through Bilhah and totaled 7 souls.

Genesis 46 : 26-27 - *26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six; 27 And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were three- score and ten.*

- So, 66 descendants of Jacob besides their wives arrived in Egypt.
- When including Jacob himself, along with Joseph and his two sons, the total was 70.

Genesis 46 : 28-30 - *28 And he sent Judah before him unto Joseph, to direct his face unto Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen. 29 And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. 30 And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive.*

- Jacob sent Judah ahead to meet with Joseph “*and they came into the land of Goshen.*”
- Goshen was east of the Nile River and in the northern portion of Egypt.
- It was a good land and closest to where they had come from.
- As they approached, Joseph went out in his chariot to meet his father for an emotional reunion.
- As far as Jacob was concerned, he could now die for he had once again seen his son Joseph.

Genesis 46 : 31-34 – *31 And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and shew Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, are come unto me; 32 And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have. 33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation? 34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians*

- The chapter concludes with Joseph ‘*briefing*’ his father on how he would soon meet with Pharaoh and how to reply to him.
- He warned his father when asked of his occupation to say that he had been about cattle and not to mention being a shepherd.
- Shepherding was not well thought of by the Egyptians.

- Joseph wanted his family to live in Goshen which if Pharaoh knew they were shepherds that might be jeopardized.
- Jacob ignored his son's advice though.