

Israel Preserved in Egypt

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The Seed: Sovereignly Preserved / Joseph (brother of Jesus); Jacob (ancestor of Jesus);
Messiah / Genesis 46; Genesis 47:1–12

In Genesis 46:1-47:12, Yahweh continues to fulfill His promises by preserving the family of Israel in Egypt.

Pre-Sermon Comments

Psalm 139:1–4 LSB

¹ O Yahweh, You have searched me and known *me*. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. ³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Yahweh, You know it all.

Luke 12:7 LSB

⁷ “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Genesis 46:3–4 LSB

³ And He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. ⁴ “I Myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I Myself will also bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes with his hand.”

Hebrews 13:5 LSB

⁵ *Make sure that your way of life is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”*

Review

Genesis 38:26 LSB

²⁶ And Judah recognized *them* and said, “She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again.

Proposition and Outline

In [Genesis 46:1-47:12](#), Yahweh continues to fulfill His promises by preserving the family of Israel in Egypt.

- Yahweh Reassures Israel ([Genesis 46:1-4](#))
- Yahweh Leads Israel to Egypt ([Genesis 46:5-27](#))
- Yahweh Reunites Israel with Joseph ([Genesis 46:28-30](#))
- Yahweh Provides for Israel through Joseph ([Genesis 46:31-47:4](#))
- Yahweh Settles Israel in Goshen ([Genesis 47:5-12](#))

Yahweh Reassures Israel ([Genesis 46:1-4](#))

Genesis 46:1 LSB

¹ So Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beersheba and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Yahweh’s Promise to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 LSB

¹ And Yahweh said to Abram, “Go forth from your land, And from your kin And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; ² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 15:13-14 LSB

¹³ Then *God* said to Abram, “Know for certain that your seed will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ¹⁴ “But I will also judge the nation to whom they are enslaved, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.

Genesis 3:15 LSB

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Yahweh’s Promise to Isaac

Genesis 46:1 LSB

¹ So Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beersheba and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Genesis 26:23–25 LSB

²³ And he went up from there to Beersheba. ²⁴ And Yahweh appeared to him that night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your seed, For the sake of My servant Abraham.” ²⁵ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of Yahweh and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug out a well.

Genesis 46:1 LSB

¹ So Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beersheba and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Genesis 46:2 LSB

² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.”

Genesis 46:3 LSB

³ And He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.

Genesis 26:24 LSB

²⁴ And Yahweh appeared to him that night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your seed, For the sake of My servant Abraham.”

Genesis 26:2 LSB

² And Yahweh appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.

Genesis 26:25 LSB

²⁵ So he built an altar there and called upon the name of Yahweh and pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug out a well.

God’s Promises Never Fail

Genesis 46:4 LSB

⁴ “I Myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I Myself will also bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes with his hand.”

Joshua 1:5–7 LSB

⁵ “No man will *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶ “Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ “Only be strong and very courageous to be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn aside from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be prosperous wherever you go.

Genesis 46:4 LSB

⁴ “I Myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I Myself will also bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes with his hand.”

Yahweh Leads Israel to Egypt ([Genesis 46:5–27](#))

Genesis 46:5–7 LSB

⁵ Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had

sent to carry him.⁶ And they took their livestock and their possessions, which they had accumulated in the land of Canaan, and they came to Egypt, Jacob and all his seed with him:⁷ his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his seed he brought with him to Egypt.

Jacob Takes Everything to Egypt

Genesis 15:16 LSB

¹⁶ “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

Leviticus 18:21 LSB

²¹ ‘And you shall not give any of your seed to pass them over to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am Yahweh.

Leviticus 18:24–25 LSB

²⁴ ‘So do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. ²⁵ ‘So the land has become defiled, and I have brought its punishment upon it. And the land has vomited out its inhabitants.

The Names

Genesis 46:8 LSB

⁸ Now these are the names of the sons of Israel—of Jacob and his sons—who were coming to Egypt: Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn.

Genesis 46:8–12 LSB

⁸ Now these are the names of the sons of Israel—of Jacob and his sons—who were coming to Egypt: Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn. ⁹ The sons of Reuben: Hanoch and Pallu and Hezron and Carmi. ¹⁰ The sons of Simeon: Jemuel and Jamin and Ohad and Jachin and Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. ¹¹ The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. ¹² The sons of Judah: Er and Onan and Shelah and Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). And the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

Genesis 46:13–15 LSB

¹³ The sons of Issachar: Tola and Puvvah and Iob and Shimron. ¹⁴ The sons of Zebulun: Sered and Elon and Jahleel. ¹⁵ These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, with his daughter Dinah; all his sons and his daughters *numbered* thirty-three.

Genesis 46:16–20 LSB

¹⁶ The sons of Gad: Ziphion and Haggi, Shuni and Ezbon, Eri and Arodi and Areli.

¹⁷ The sons of Asher: Imnah and Ishvah and Ishvi and Beriah and their sister Serah. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel. ¹⁸ These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah; and she bore to Jacob these sixteen persons. ¹⁹ The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. ²⁰ Now to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him.

Matthew 1:3 LSB

³ And Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron was the father of Ram.

Matthew 1:5 LSB

⁵ And Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed was the father of Jesse.

Matthew 1:6 LSB

⁶ And Jesse was the father of David the king. **And** David was the father of Solomon by the *wife* of Uriah.

Genesis 46:21–25 LSB

²¹ The sons of Benjamin: Bela and Becher and Ashbel, Gera and Naaman, Ehi and Rosh, Muppim and Huppim and Ard. ²² These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob; *there were* fourteen persons in all. ²³ The sons of Dan: Hushim. ²⁴ The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel and Guni and Jezer and Shillem. ²⁵ These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel, and she bore these to Jacob; *there were* seven persons in all.

The Accounting

Genesis 46:26–27 LSB

²⁶ All the persons belonging to Jacob, who came to Egypt, who came out of his loins, excluding the wives of Jacob's sons, *were* sixty-six persons in all, ²⁷ and the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt were two; all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, *were* seventy.

Acts 7:14 LSB

¹⁴ “Then Joseph sent *word* and invited Jacob his father and all his relatives to come to him, seventy-five persons *in all*.

Yahweh Reunites Israel with Joseph ([Genesis 46:28–30](#))

Genesis 46:28 LSB

²⁸ Now he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out *the way* before him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen.

The Reunion

Exodus 8:22 LSB

²² “But on that day I will make a distinction for the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, that you may know that I, Yahweh, am in the midst of the land.

Exodus 9:26 LSB

²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel *were*, there was no hail.

Genesis 46:29 LSB

²⁹ And Joseph harnessed his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared before him, he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.

Genesis 46:30 LSB

³⁰ Then Israel said to Joseph, “Now I can die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive.”

Yahweh Provides for Israel through Joseph ([Genesis 46:31–47:4](#))

Genesis 46:31–34 LSB

³¹ And Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who *were* in the land of Canaan, have come to me; ³² and the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.' ³³ "And it will be when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' ³⁴ then you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth and until now, both we and our fathers,' that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

Genesis 46:34 LSB

³⁴ then you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth and until now, both we and our fathers,' that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

The social stigma regarding the Hebrews (43:32), who were shepherds also (v. 34), played a crucial role in protecting Israel from intermingling and losing their identity in Egypt. ~ MacArthur Study Bible

Genesis 47:1–4 LSB

¹ 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." ² And he took five men from among his brothers and set them before Pharaoh. ³ Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" So they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers." ⁴ 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 heavy in the land of Canaan. So now, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen."

Yahweh Settles Israel in Goshen ([Genesis 47:5–12](#))

Genesis 47:5–6 LSB

⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. ⁶ “The land of Egypt is at your disposal; have your father and your brothers settle in the best of the land, let them settle in the land of Goshen; and if you know any excellent men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.”

Genesis 47:7 LSB

⁷ Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and stood him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Genesis 12:1–3 LSB

¹ And Yahweh said to Abram, “Go forth from your land, And from your kin And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; ² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Romans 11:12 LSB

¹² Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fullness be!

Genesis 47:8–10 LSB

⁸ And Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many are the days of the years of your life?” ⁹ So Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my sojourning are 130; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning.” ¹⁰ And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.

Genesis 47:11–12 LSB

¹¹ 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 commanded. ¹² And Joseph provided his father and his brothers and all his father’s household with food, according to their little ones.

Small Group Questions

What stood out to you most from Sunday's sermon?

In what ways do we see God's faithfulness throughout [Genesis 46-47](#)?

Why do you think Jacob was afraid to go to Egypt? What comfort did God give him?

Have you ever faced a situation where obedience required leaving something familiar or comfortable? How did God prove Himself faithful?

The sermon emphasized that God's presence, not a particular place or circumstance, is our security. Why is that an important truth for Christians today?

What does the genealogy in [Genesis 46](#) teach us about God's concern for individuals and His covenant promises?

How did God use the Egyptians' dislike of shepherds to benefit Israel? What does this teach us about God's providence?

Joseph spent many years waiting for God's purposes to unfold. What does his life teach us about trusting God during seasons of waiting?

Jacob and Joseph were reunited after more than twenty years. How does their reunion encourage believers who are experiencing grief, unanswered prayers, or difficult circumstances?

Why is it significant that Jacob blessed Pharaoh and not the other way around? What does this reveal about God's covenant promises to Abraham ([Gen 12:1-2](#))?

Looking back over Joseph's life, what events appeared tragic at the time but later proved to be part of God's good plan?

Can you think of a difficult season in your own life where you later recognized God's hand at work?

The sermon repeatedly emphasized that "God works out every detail." Which detail of Joseph's story most demonstrates that truth to you?

How does God's sovereignty give us confidence without removing our responsibility to act wisely and faithfully, as Joseph did?

The sermon concluded by comparing Joseph with Jesus. What similarities do you see between the two? In what ways is Jesus the greater Joseph?

Which application from the sermon challenged or encouraged you the most?

Is there an area of your life right now where you need to trust God's promises instead of your circumstances?

What is one specific truth from [Genesis 46–47](#) that you want to remember this week?

How can we pray for one another in light of God's faithfulness and providence?

Questions for the Children

Family Discussion Questions

Questions for 2-4 year olds