

Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

[Genesis 46:1 – 47: 31](#)

“God Will Go With You”– November 5, 2023



Introduction

Egypt and surrounding nations were experiencing a time of famine. A famine is not having enough of something. It can be emotional, physical, etc. Even in times of famine, a Christian can be fruitful. The world sees our response to trials, and they don't understand. Yet we can have hope in God who is working all things for our good.

The Big Idea: We can be fruitful in famine by the help of God's presence and the hope of God's promise.

Sermon Outline

1. Rely on God's presence. Chapter 46:1 – 47:6
2. Hope in His promise. Chapter 47:7 – 31

Read & Discuss

1. Read 46:1 – 47:6

On his way to Egypt, Jacob (Israel) stops in Beersheba. He knew that God had promised him a land and a people. He also knew how, in the past, God had told Isaac not to go down to Egypt. Would leaving the Promised Land leave God's promises in jeopardy? Jacob was anxious, but God spoke to him and assured him that this was part of His plan. Being in Egypt had been God's plan from the beginning. ([Genesis 15:13](#)) Has there been a time when you were anxious about what God may have been calling you to do? How did you receive affirmation to move forward?

God would go with them and bring them up again. God was giving Jacob His presence. God's power and authority are not limited to the boundaries of the Promised Land. His rule and authority extend to every nation.

This family that began with an old barren couple had grown to a family of seventy. ([46:8-27](#)) Jacob didn't let his fear control him. He obeyed. Faith acts in obedience. He took ALL his offspring with him. Moses repeats this point four times. He didn't leave some in the land of Canaan just in case Egypt didn't work out. He took his entire family. God said go, so they all went. Faith doesn't hedge the bets. When God commands go, faith steps out in obedience even if obedience feels risky. Our relationship with God is like this. Are you all in when it comes to following Jesus? Or are you keeping your options open? Do you have other “loves” in the shadows? You cannot serve two masters.

Jacob's family risked everything to come to Egypt. They were shepherds. What if Pharaoh sent them back because of that? If they tell the truth, what will happen? In the past, Jacob lied and schemed in difficult situations, but this time, told the truth and followed Joseph's plan until the end when they asked for the land of Goshen - the best of the land. What would happen? Pharaoh told them to settle in the best of the land and even asked that they oversee his livestock.

Why this 400-year detour into Egypt? We see in [vs. 10](#) that Simeon married a Canaanite. The Canaanites were an idol worshiping people. Egypt was an incubator to grow Israel into a great nation and keep them from the worship of detestable idols. God was with them, and He was faithful to what he promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

[Psalm 23](#) is a favorite psalm of comfort. It is full of various “what-if's” that the psalmist confronts. But [vs. 4](#) reminds us that as he went through the valley of the shadow of death, God would be with him. Do you have a list of “what-ifs?” We want to but cannot see what is before us. We must trust. Goodness and mercy will follow us all our days. No matter what comes tomorrow, God is with you. You can trust Him just like Jacob did. God would be with Jacob and his family. What do you need to trust God with today?

2. Read 47: 7 – 31

The famine was severe, lingering year after year. The people became desperate for food. Joseph had stored up plenty to keep them alive. Over time, the Egyptians ran out of money. They sold their livestock and land. They

became indentured servants to Pharaoh. They willingly became servants and were thankful because Joseph saved their lives.

As desperate as it was for the Egyptians, Jacob's family had it significantly better. They had enough food and the best of the land. God was blessing and providing for His people. Knowing about God's provision and protection, Jacob's meeting with Pharaoh in [vs. 9](#) was puzzling. He didn't extol the blessings of God. He tells Pharaoh that his days were few and evil. It was true that his life hadn't been easy; he had been the cause of some of his trouble. However, he had the presence of God and God's promise. He had his family. He had all that he needed. Yet he chose to focus on his hardship and was blind to all the good things that God had done for him? Can you relate to Jacob? Do you dwell on the things you don't want in your life? Do you focus on your mistakes? What is the result? This kind of thinking can lead to discouragement and dissatisfaction, and we discount the things that God has done. Don't misuse an opportunity to praise God for the blessings and good in your life. Slow down and see the good that God has done and is doing. Take some time today to talk with your family and friends about all the good things that God is doing. Take time to thank God and encourage each other with that.

Over time, during his stay in Egypt, Jacob's attitude changed. As they were fruitful and multiplied, God's promise fueled his hope. When he was ready to die, he made Joseph promise to bury him in the Promised Land. God had said that He would bring them back again. God had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob land, offspring, and blessing. ([Genesis 12:2](#)) God promised to bless them so that they would be a blessing to the nations. We see that here - God's people became a blessing to Egypt. God used Joseph to save their lives. God was being faithful - He was doing what He promised.

What does this have to do with us? Everything! Those of the faith - those who trust Jesus - are sons of Abraham. ([Galatians 3:7-9](#)) The Apostle Paul looks back to [Gen. 12:3](#). Through Joseph we see a partial fulfillment of that, but it is only partial. It is a signpost pointing forward to Jesus, the offspring through whom God will bless all the nations. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. Do you want to be blessed? It is what you do with Jesus that determines that. ([Galatians 3:10-12](#)) If you rely on the law, you are cursed. You cannot keep all of the law, perfectly without fail. ([Roman 3:23](#)) What is the solution? ([Galatians 3:13-14](#)) Jesus became a curse so that we might receive the promise of Abraham by faith. What will you do with Jesus?

Because of Jesus who is THE offspring of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we are those nations who are blessed. We have so much better than we deserve. We are blessed. However, we must remember that our citizenship is in heaven. We are not home yet. The best is yet to come. Press on.

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Jonah 1 "Our Great God Who Saves"
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