

# Community Bible Church

## The Book of Genesis

### Chapters 46-47

#### *Jacob Goes and the Family Grows*

**Genesis chapters 46-47** record the relocation of Jacob and his large family from Canaan to Egypt. This move was prompted by a famine in Canaan and was also affirmed by God (**46:3**). Jacob was an elderly man, 130 years old. This occurred, around 1700 BC. This journey was approximately 250 miles, and the family took with them all of their possessions, including their livestock. His son, Joseph, now in his late thirties, had become a prominent government leader in Egypt. Jacob had not seen Joseph for over twenty years. This entire venture was part of God's overall plan, as described earlier in Genesis, to form the nation of Israel in the land of Egypt before the people returned to Canaan many years later.

These two chapters (**Genesis 46-47**) describe God's encouragement to Jacob to make this trip. Jacob will remain in Egypt for seventeen more years and die there at age 147. **Chapter 46** is outlined as follows:

<b>Jacob is Encouraged by God Before His Departure</b>	<b>46:1-7.</b>
<b>Jacob's Extended Family of Seventy Persons Make the Trip</b>	<b>46:8-27</b>
<b>Jacob Enters Egypt and Is Reunited with Joseph</b>	<b>46:28-34</b>

In **chapter 47**, Jacob and his large family were warmly received by the Egyptian leaders and were given land in the fertile Nile delta region of northern Egypt. Jacob's offspring would remain in Goshen as a growing Hebrew enclave for the next four hundred years. **Chapter 47** is outlined below:

<b>Jacob Meets with Pharaoh and is Provided Land</b>	<b>47:1-12</b>
<b>Joseph Meets with the Egyptians who are Provided Food</b>	<b>47:13-19</b>
<b>Joseph meets with Pharaoh and Land Is Nationalized</b>	<b>47:20-26</b>
<b>Joseph meets with His Father, Jacob, prior to his death</b>	<b>47:27-31</b>

1. Read **46:5-7** and write a brief summary of this relocation. From **46:27** how many were in the family that made this trip? How do you think Jacob (Israel) felt about this entire adventure?
2. Read the remarkable scene of worship and dialogue with God in **46:1-4**. In this vision, God speaks words of encouragement to Jacob and briefly restated the covenant He had made with his grandfather, Abraham, many years earlier. What would have encouraged Jacob? In what ways might God be an encouragement to you as you encounter change or transition in your life?

3. A second dramatic scene in this narrative appears in **46:28-34** where Jacob meets with his son Joseph for the first time in 22 years. During much of that time, Jacob had thought Joseph was dead. Goshen was in the fertile Nile delta region of northern Egypt. Describe this emotional reunion in **46:29-30**.
  
4. A grand, God-appointed, summit meeting, of sorts, occurs in **47:1-12**. The King of a great nation meets with a founder of God's nation. In **47:1-6**, Joseph introduces five of his brothers to Pharaoh as lowly shepherds, who humbly request grazing land for their flocks during this time of famine. Summarize Pharaoh's response in **47:5-6**.
  
5. Write a brief description of the initial meeting of Jacob with Pharaoh in **47:7-10**. What do you think of Jacob's response in **verses 7 and 10**?
  
6. The brief passage in **47:11-12** gives a summary of how Jacob's family was graciously received in Egypt during a time of severe famine. This reception was clearly orchestrated by God to preserve this remnant of Hebrew alien immigrants. This was part of God's great redemptive plan and covenant to form the nation of Israel from which the Messiah would come. In your own life today, are there ways you can see God working to bring about change, growth, and righteous living?
  
7. The next section of **chapter 47** is found in **47:13-19** and deals primarily with Joseph's famine-relief plan and economic policies during this international food-shortage crisis. The narrative describes a three-part plan, including confiscation and nationalization of **(1)** the monetary-supply, **(2)** livestock, and **(3)** land resources. Recall that this is all part of God's plan in preserving the early formation of Israel and not a model for famine-relief today. The results of these policies are given in **47:20-26**. What most interested you in this entire passage in **47:13-26**?
  
8. It required 215 years from the time of Abraham for the nation of Israel to grow to seventy persons and migrate to Egypt. It will take an additional 430 years to grow to a population of two million and leave Egypt. God often works slowly, on His own time table. Can you think of examples in your own life today?