

**THE YEARS OF
JACOB'S PILGRIMAGE**
Genesis 46:1-47:10

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is truth – containing His moral code of conduct for living on earth, His involvement in mankind's affairs, His plan of salvation through Israel, and so much more. He wants our thinking to be influenced by His Word. The world's system counters His truth. So, what and how should we think of ourselves? Genesis 46:1-47:10 records Jacob's journey to Egypt. His interaction with Pharaoh reveals how Jacob sees himself. Let's hear His words and heart, as we consider **The Years Of Jacob's Pilgrimage**.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 46:1-47:10. Jacob and his entire family are moving to Egypt, as Joseph will provide for them in the years of famine ahead. Pharaoh meets Jacob sons and asks **"What is your occupation?"**. This is a natural question, but Jacob's answer is more complete. The better question for all of us to answer is **"What occupies your time?"** *Selah*

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Genesis 46:1-4. God's affirmation to Jacob. Joseph has all things set up for Jacob and his entire family. All signs point to going down to Egypt as the right thing to do, but Jacob stops along the way in Beersheba to seek the Lord. Let's give Jacob high marks here. It is always best to make sure – "Lord, do YOU want me to do this?" **Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 33:3**

II. Genesis 46:5-25. Jacob's family heads to Egypt. Joseph has told them the famine will last another 5 years. Having received the Lord's word, Jacob and his entire family went to Egypt. God is with you on all your journeys. **Deuteronomy 31:6**

III. Genesis 46:26-30. Joseph reunites with Jacob. After 22 years, Israel is overwhelmed at the sight of Joseph, the son who was thought to be dead. Joseph has been anxiously waiting for this day. Imagine this reunion. It is enough. **Luke 2:29-30**

IV. Genesis 46:31-34. In Egypt, but not of it. Goshen – in the NE corner of Egypt. This fertile land has storehouse cities for their provision, and separated Israel from the Egyptians. Since shepherds were an abomination to Egyptians, there would be no mixing with worship of their gods or marriage. Really, God protects and separates His people from the world's influence. Beloved, God will always provide a way to come away and be holy. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 1 Peter 1:13-19**

V. Genesis 47:1-6. What is your occupation? The world's system may identify who we are by what we do, but God's children aren't defined this way. Having work (occupation) is good and necessary, but work is not to be the consuming passion of our lives. **2 Thessalonians 4:6-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, Matthew 6:24 & 31-33, Colossians 3:2**

VI. Genesis 47:7-10. Jacob's life. Unlike Abraham, who brought a curse on Pharaoh, this Prince of God blesses the king. He is 130 years old, limping, weathered by a hard life – but Jacob knew this world was not his home. Many live foolishly, as if this life is all there is. This life is short. **Psalm 90:9-12, Psalm 39:4-5, James 4:13-15** We are sojourners on this earth.

Jacob has the correct perspective on life. Though there will be many years Israel dwells in Egypt, Jacob knows the Lord will bring the nation back to Canaan, the land chosen by God for them. He refers to life as a journey, and identifies himself as a sojourner. The Bible teaches that God's children are strangers, pilgrims, sojourners on this earth. So, have a light touch on this world.

CONSIDER -Ok pilgrim. Here are some thoughts to meditate upon as you go through each day on this journey through life...

- o Every day - Value and use the time you have for His glory. **Romans 13:11-14, 1 Peter 2:11-12**
- o Every day - Rely fully on the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 5:15-18**
- o Every day - Keep your glorious future in focus. **Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:1-4**

"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

PRAY

- o that the Lord would reveal to you this week what is occupying your time. Are there any changes that need to happen?
- o that we would keep a light touch in this world and keep our hearts set on things above.
- o that as His church we would continually seek the Lord for His direction in all areas.
- o a renewed passion to live more completely for the Lord
- o for all things concerning Sam and Beena in India, that the Lord would provide a hedge of protection of them and their children!