

## **JOSEPH SAVES THEIR LIVES**

**Genesis 47:11-26**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Throughout history, Scripture records various seasons of famine. In Genesis 47, Egypt is the only place to get food during this seven year famine. Through resourcefulness and wisdom given by God, Joseph abundantly provides bread for his family to endure (and even prosper). And even as all Egypt became more desperate and hopeless, Joseph will provide bread and seed until the famine is over. In this manner **Joseph Saves Their Lives**. Joseph is a type of our Lord Jesus.

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

Read Genesis 47:11-26. While we observe years of famine passing in Genesis 47, Joseph provides faithfully for the people. As we work through this text, reflect upon how the Lord proves His resourcefulness, when people are willing to come to Him for their needs. *Selah*

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

I. Genesis 47:11-13. Joseph's family. Jacob's family did well during the years of famine, situated in the best of the land. Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread. Jesus supplies our needs abundantly.

II. Genesis 47:14-17. Money runs out. With nothing of value left to buy any bread for another year, Joseph takes the people's livestock in payment. This may seem greedy or cruel, but actually the livestock were starving too. Joseph is in a better position to maintain their livestock until the famine ends. Times are very tough for the people right now, and they need assistance. This "government subsidy" will not take away their dignity, as when things improve the people will be able to recover their livestock and return to work. When able, work is good, not welfare. *Proverbs 12:11, Proverbs 13:11, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12*

III. Genesis 47:18-20. Desperation sets in. This next year, all that the people have left is their land. They give it to Pharaoh for more food. In these situations, history has shown a susceptibility to greed, power, mistakes, taking bribes. There is no hope in man and human government. But Joseph's character is like Jesus. He won't take advantage of the people's need, but cares for them lovingly. You can trust God with all you have in your time of greatest need. *Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 55:1*

IV. Genesis 47:21. Relocation. Brought into cities temporarily, this brought them close to the food supplies. There was not going to be any farming this year – famine is continuing. Are you willing to follow the direction of your God and provider?

V. Genesis 47:22-23. Giving seed to plant. The end of the famine is near! Joseph provides seed to sow and begin work again. No doubt, with their livestock returned, it is time to plant. Joseph is weaning them off government assistance. Their dignity intact, the people had a mind to work. There is a time to plant. *Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

VI. Genesis 47:24-26. 20% tax on yield. After the people return to work their land, when the harvest has come in, one fifth of the yield is to be given to Pharaoh. Not unfair or excessive, this replenishes the storehouses. In harvest, it is good and right to give to the One who "saved our lives". The remainder is for the people. They had no lack. *2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

Joseph is a type of Jesus Christ, but our Lord is so much more! Jesus fed the multitudes who came to see and hear Him, but He also said **"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger..."**. You are to come and feed from His life. If you come, He will not turn you away. You will not go away hungry. *John 6:32-59, 1 Peter 2:3*

**CONSIDER .....** Ok beloved, does Jesus have all you need? For everything? YES! Do you come to Him for all?

- o For your physical needs to live each day?
- o For your meaning and purpose each day?
- o For your council and direction each day?

*Matthew 6:31-34, Philippians 4:19*

*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, 2 Corinthians 5:10*

*Psalms 19:7-11, Isaiah 55:10-11, Hebrews 4:12*

***"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8***

### **PRAY .....**

- o for the Lord to show you any area of your life where you are depending on your own resourcefulness rather than the Lord's.
- o for the famine in your life, whatever it may be, that you safely trust the Lord for His provision!
- o for a divine appointment this week to share the truth about Jehovah Jireh.
- o that you would live a life reflecting Jesus being your all in all!
- o in praise and thanks giving for the Lord's provision for each of our missionary families.