

Genesis 46

Read Genesis 46:1-26: The Christian is compared to a sojourner in a strange land. Growth does not happen when we stop moving. We see a lot of culture along the way, but we feel like we cannot relate to all of the locals and their customs. God keeps us on a continuum of personal growth and holiness.

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Not too much changes when our lives are the same every day. God clearly does not want us to stagnate or stay self-focused, and follow the path of least resistance. The faith development of Jacob/Israel is the story of all believers (in a sense). He has a past; and he has lived through some set backs. We have to essentially die to our own self-image; and ask for God's heart and mind. That is not a natural desire or quest. Jacob has to reinvent himself in his new surroundings. God is invisibly working on him. God has engineered some distinct and transformative seasons. God seems to bring far-reaching paradigm shifts. Jacob's future is gradually getting brighter.... though it is not as intentional as it seems. When Jacob left for Egypt he worshipped his father's God. The idea is that we make him our God too.

God also is changing the whole family of Jacob. There were 70 people in the original group of Hebrews transplanted to Egypt, under Jacob. 430 years later, there were 2,000,000 people. Israel transformed from a fractured family into a nation. Egypt is symbolized as a brick kiln. It forces people into a uniform image.

Read Genesis 45:28-35: It seems like a picturesque end to the story. The Hebrews are given use of the best that Egypt has to offer. It seems that faith and God are not mentioned for 430 years. The Hebrews have to become enslaved and be subjected to limited childbearing for God to re-enter their conversation.

And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians,

and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (Exodus 3:7)