

Genesis 47

Read Genesis 47:1-12: We see now what Joseph's life was leading up to. He was divinely sent ahead to provide food for his family. He was chosen to go out and find a place for his people to get out of their homeland for 400 years; as the Canaanites lost all morality and any sense of what is wrong and right. That is not the way it looked in the moment at ground level. Satan was dividing a family against itself. The brothers of Joseph were full of envy and anger. They were not living in a way that would make their dad proud. In a sense, they were living up to their father's lowered expectations. Jacob is underwhelmed with his own sons. Jacob is delighted to see Joseph again; but he summarizes his life as being evil and short-lived.

Judah had split off on his own while they were back in Canaan, but now the entire clan is forced to go together to Egypt to find food. The Egyptians gave the Hebrews the best of the land to graze in. The Egyptians considered shepherds to be an abomination. They were considered to be a low class and unclean group. Sheep were considered to be disorderly and chaotic. It is true that working around sheep makes you stink.

Read Genesis 47:13-26 : The famine hit hard; and Joseph made the Pharaoh wealthier as the people got their needed food. Initially, the people used up all of their money to buy grain. When their money was gone, they exchanged their livestock for grain. Next, Joseph bought all of the land in exchange for grain. Joseph introduced share cropping; where the farmers got to keep 1/5th of the harvest for themselves.

Read Genesis 47:27-31: Jacob asked Joseph to bury him back in Canaan. The Hebrews have a connection that they keep with their ancestors. They want their families to remain intact; even in death. They believed that their current life decisions effected their afterlife. Bad kings of Judah and Israel were buried in a disrespectful way. Holiness of the body is an idea that even effects their burials. They wrapped the body in preserving cloths and spices for insects and the smell.