

ISRAEL IN EGYPT



Lesson 13
for June 25, 2022

Jacob consulted God about going to Egypt and did so. The incipient people of Israel were saved from the famine that was devastating Canaan.

Jacob's last action was to give some blessings: for Joseph's sons, and for each of Israel's twelve tribes.

Genesis ends with the death of Jacob and Joseph, but also with the expectation of God's promises being fulfilled in the future.



- **Israel in Egypt:**
 - **Jacob and Joseph meet again. Genesis 46**
 - **Israel settles in Egypt. Genesis 47**
- **Jacob's blessings:**
 - **Blessings for Joseph. Genesis 48**
 - **Blessings for the 12 tribes. Genesis 49:1-28**
- **The hope to come. Genesis 49:29-50:26**

JACOB AND JOSEPH MEET AGAIN

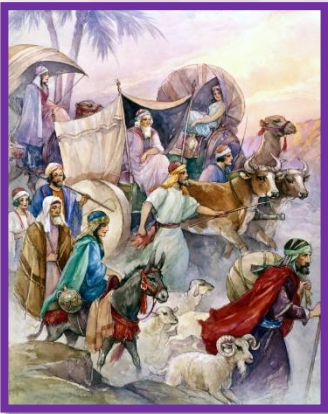
"So He said, 'I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.'" (Genesis 46:3)

When Jacob arrived at Beersheba, he sought God's guidance (Gn. 46:1). God renewed the promises he had made, and assured Jacob that Joseph would close his eyes (Gn. 46:2-4).

Seventy people settled in Egypt (46:27b). The calculation was strange; the daughters-in-law were not counted, but Joseph and his sons were although they were already there, according to Gn. 46:26-27.

This figure may be related to the seventy nations that emerged after the Flood (see Gn. 10).

After all, the blessing is not only for the people of Israel, but for all the nations. The plan of salvation covers everyone who accepts the forgiveness and eternal life that the sacrifice of Jesus brings.



ISRAEL SETTLES IN EGYPT

“So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.” (Genesis 47:10)

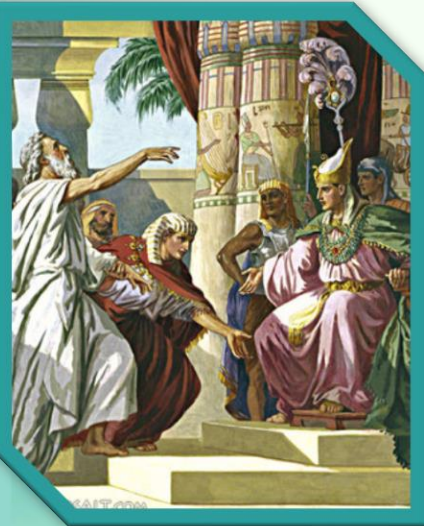
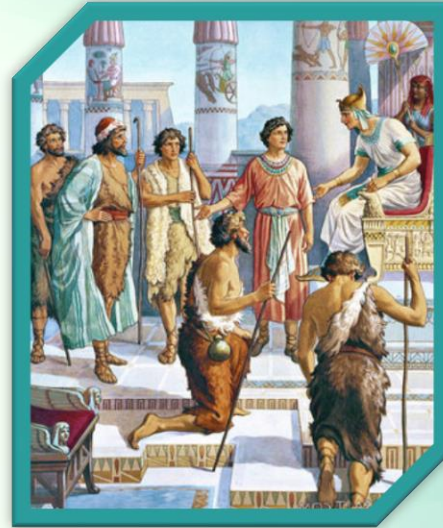
Joseph introduced his brothers to Pharaoh as shepherds (Gn. 47:2-3). It's obvious that Joseph didn't want to expose them to the temptations of the pagan court.

Pharaoh gave them Goshen, the best land for shepherding. He also offered them a job: to take care of Pharaoh's cattle (Gn. 47:6).

Then Joseph introduced his father to Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh (Gn. 47:7).

A nomadic shepherd blessed the king of the most powerful country. “Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.” (Heb. 7:7)

For God, true greatness comes from a strong relationship with Him, and not from social positions.



"The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; let my name be named upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac." (Genesis 48:16)

BLESSINGS FOR JOSEPH



Jacob adopted Joseph's sons as their own, therefore giving Joseph a double portion (i.e. the primogeniture rights) (Gn. 48:5).

In this private event, Jacob referenced some crucial events in his life and some future ones:



God's blessing at Bethel (v. 3)



The promise of the Promised Land (v. 4)



The death of Rachel at Ephrath (v. 7)



God's constant care (v. 15)



God's protection (v. 16)



The growth of the people of Israel (v. 19)



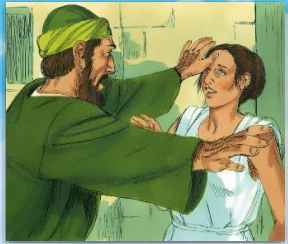
The return to Canaan (v. 21)

BLESSINGS FOR THE 12 TRIBES

"And Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days'" (Genesis 49:1)

Jacob predicted the future of each tribe (Genesis 49):

Reuben (3-4)



He lost his leadership. There were no judges, kings, or prophets from Reuben

Simeon and Levi (5-7)



Simeon was the smallest tribe and was absorbed by Judah. Levi was scattered among the other tribes and became a blessing

Judah (8-12)



The main power that governed Israel. The Messiah came from this tribe

Zebulun (13)

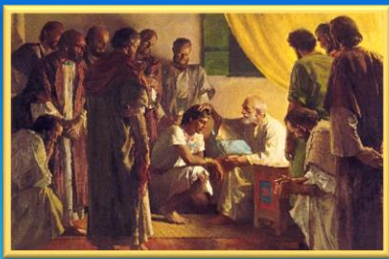


They lived at the north, near the Mediterranean Sea

Issachar (14-15)



A tribe of brave men. They contented themselves with their fate. They didn't yearn to lead or to be free



BLESSINGS FOR THE 12 TRIBES

"And Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days'" (Genesis 49:1)

Dan (16-17)



They were known for their astuteness for evil. They judged Israel through Samson

Gad (19)



They were described as lions and compared with gazelles because of their speed (1Chr. 12:8)

Asher (20)



They lived in the most fruitful part of Canaan. Solomon used their wheat to supply king Hiram of Tyre (1K. 5:11)

Naphtali (21)



Their most famous leader was Barak. He and Deborah defeated Sisera

Joseph (22-26)



They were blessed by God [Strong, Shepherd, Rock, Almighty] and always fought for their leadership until they broke away from Judah

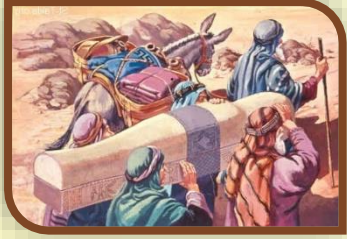
Benjamin (27)



They were brave archers and slingers. Their main men were Ehud, Saul, and Jonathan

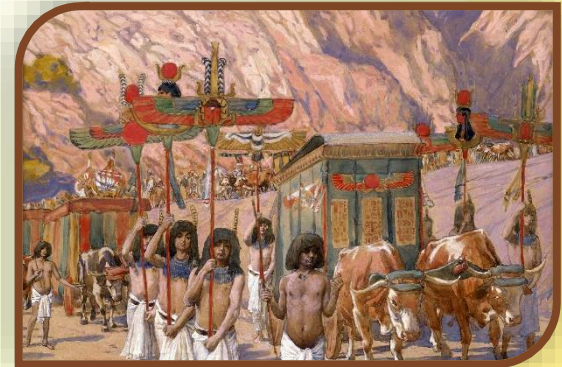
THE HOPE TO COME

"Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, 'God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.'" (Genesis 50:25)



Jacob was embalmed and buried at Canaan. A large entourage—including Israelites and Egyptians—accompanied his body (Gn. 50:7-10).

Joseph's brothers were worried that he would take revenge (Gn. 50:15). Joseph reminded them that God had turned their terrible acts in blessings, so they could live safely (Gn. 50:19-21).



Finally, Joseph thought about his death and looked at the future. He believed that God would visit Israel and take them out of Egypt. Therefore, he requested his coffin to be carried when that happened (Gn. 50:25).

The same hope is valid for us today. Jesus will soon carry us to Canaan, to the Heavenly Jerusalem.

“Let God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will ‘keep the feet of His saints.’ 1 Samuel 2:9. God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him.”