

News:

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Israel Prepares To Go Into Egypt (Gen. 46:1-4)

1 So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2 Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, “Jacob, Jacob!” And he said, “Here I am.”

3 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. 4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes.”

- Moses calls the patriarch Israel, not Jacob, as he is now in a place of faith.
- Israel has decided to leave, taking everything with him, and he comes to Beersheba, traditionally seen as the southern border of the Land of Promise.
- Isaac had built an altar there, and now Israel is worshiping there as well.
- We have a very rare “night vision,” something different from an open appearance of God or a dream.

God’s Reassurance

God reassures Jacob in four ways, all of which help him to be at peace.

- *God's protection:* Egypt was temporarily favorable to them.

- *God's permission:* Isaac had at one time been forbidden to go into Egypt. Now Israel will get God's permission. In the natural everything looked favorable, but this doesn't excuse him from the need to seek God.
- *God's presence:* God will be with him even though he is leaving the Land of Promise. Jacob also learns that God has a purpose for this time in Egypt.
- *God's Provision:* Finally, there is God's reassurance for Jacob's personal life. Joseph will put his hand on his eyes.

The Trip (Gen. 46:5-7)

5 Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him. 7 His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

- Jacob is no longer vigorous and active. He is well over 100 years old.
- Every single person is going, and every single thing is going!

Souls That Came Through Leah (Gen. 46:8-15)

8 Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn. 9 The sons of Reuben were Hanoah, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 10 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. 11 The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

13 The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron. 14 The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These were the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, were thirty-three.

- Leah had six sons, and Dinah is mentioned here separately. We don't know why.
- Reuben was always trying to impress, and so he named his first son Hanoch, which is Enoch in English, meaning "dedicated." His second son was Pallu, which comes from a word meaning "to do something wonderful." But his offspring did not necessarily distinguish themselves – perhaps because Reuben wanted preeminence, and that spirit was passed down through him!
- Simeon has a son by a Canaanite woman.
- Leah was favored: God caused her to bring forth more of Jacob's household than anyone else: 33. This is a number that is connected to ministry in the Bible.

Souls That Came Through Zilpah (Gen. 46:16-18)

16 The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. 17 The sons of Asher were Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and Serah, their sister. And the sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel. 18 These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob: sixteen persons.

- Zilpah was Leah's handmaiden.
- There is another sister here, a child of Asher, who apparently has her own house.

Souls That Came Through Rachel (Gen. 46:19-22)

19 The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin. 20 And to Joseph in

the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. 21 The sons of Benjamin were Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. 22 These were the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: fourteen persons in all.

- Rachel has a special place of honor here, being specifically called Jacob's wife.
- Benjamin is quite prolific and he has 10 sons.
- Rachel has fourteen people associated with her, which is twice seven, and speaks of the spiritual perfection of what God is doing in the family.

Souls That Came Through Bilhah (Gen. 46:23-25)

23 The son of Dan was Hushim. 24 The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. 25 These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob: seven persons in all.

- Bilhah was the handmaiden of Rachel, and like her counterpart Zilpah she was given to Rachel by her father when she left her family home with Jacob.

Seventy People: A Picture (Gen. 46:26-27)

26 All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. 27 And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.

- The number 70 is of great significance to the Israelites. We have already seen, way back in Chapter 10, that there were 70 nations of the Gentiles.
- Later on in Israel's history, there would be 70 elders under Moses.

- The Lord Jesus would also have 70 disciples who were sent out to do His works.
- 70 is the product of 7 and 10. "Ten is the number of the completed human development, seven the number of perfection in God's work; seventy, therefore, is the development of perfection and holiness in God's people." (J. P. Lange)
- The difference between the 66 people and the 70 people is difficult to determine. Perhaps it is best to see the 66 as the number who accompanied Jacob.
- Who are the missing four? Perhaps it is Joseph and his two sons, plus Jacob himself. It has also been said that that it is 70 plus 1 for Dinah, minus 2 for the sons of Judah who died, minus 3 for Joseph and his sons.
- The number 66 is interesting: six is the number of man and eleven, as we've seen, is a number of disorder. These 66 people make up an incomplete family.
- It's also quite possible that the number 70 was not literal — at least not at the exact time this story took place. There are reasons to suggest that there were not 70 at that moment.
 - Perhaps Moses is drawing a parallel between the 70 offspring of Noah who became all the Gentiles of the world, and the 70 offspring of Jacob who became the numerous people of Israel.
 - But symbolically, all these people certainly came from the loins of Jacob.
 - In Hebrews we read that "...Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him." (Hebrews 7:9-10)

Together Again (Gen. 46:28-30)

28 Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen. 29 So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and

fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. 30 And Israel said to Joseph, “Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive.”

- Again we see Judah in a leadership role. He is the delegate of Jacob.
- Joseph goes up to see his father and he “presents” himself to him in all his splendor.
- Israel feels that he can now depart this world in peace, but he was mistaken about the timing! None of us is finished here until God is finished with us!
- Jacob would live another 17 years... which sounds very familiar...

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