

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the center of the Bible.

“Headed to Egypt”

This time, with God’s blessing

Scripture text: Genesis Ch 46

By faith, Jacob left Hebron and started for Egypt, and God honored his faith by revealing Himself again and renewing His promises (46:2–4). Jacob no doubt remembered that Abraham had sinned in going to Egypt (12:10ff), and that Isaac had been forbidden to go there (26:2), so he was reassured by God's Word.

God comforted Jacob in his move to Egypt. Leaving Hebron (Gen. 37:14) his first stop was Beersheba, where he sacrificed to the God of ... Isaac. Beersheba was where Isaac had lived and where Jacob left to escape Esau's anger (Gen. 28:10).

Genesis 12:9-13 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb. **Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.** When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."

Genesis 26:1-6 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. And **the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.** Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. **I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands.** And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." So Isaac settled in Gerar.

Genesis 46:1-4 So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and **offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.** And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "**I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes.**"

Genesis 28:10-13 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. **And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth,** and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, **"I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.**

Then Jacob received a vision from the Lord in the night. **The Lord reiterated the promise that He would make his family a great nation there in Egypt**, and He also stated that **He would bring that nation back again**. God had told Isaac not to go to Egypt (26:2), but **now He told Jacob to go**. This vision, which comforted the patriarch, **would also encourage the nation of Israel when Moses would exhort them to leave the land of Egypt and return to Canaan to receive God's promises**.

Verses 8–27. Included in the account of the move to Egypt is a listing of Jacob’s descendants. In verse 26 the number of descendants is said to be 66, whereas the number in verse 27 is 70. The first number represents those who traveled with Jacob to Egypt, and the second number includes the children and grandchildren already in Egypt.

The following tabulation shows how these two figures are determined:

Leah's children and grandchildren (v. 15) = 33

Zilpah's children and grandchildren (v. 18) = 16

Rachel's children and grandchildren (v. 22) = 14

Bilhah's children and grandchildren (v. 25) = 7

Total 70

Dinah (v. 15) + 1

Sub total = 71

Er and Onan (who died in Canaan; v. 12); Joseph and his two sons, already in Egypt (v. 20) = - 5

Those who went to Egypt with Jacob (v. 26) = **66**

Joseph, Manasseh, Ephraim, Jacob (v. 27) + 4

Jacob and his progeny in Egypt (v. 27) = 70

It is **from these 70** (which included Joseph's two sons born in Egypt, vv. 20, 27; cf. 41:50–52) that **the nation of Israel would grow**. (In the early church, **Stephen referred to 75 members** in Jacob's family; **Act 7:14** And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and *all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all.*)

Another apparent discrepancy in Stephen's discourse is in Acts 7:14. Stephen stated that 75 persons were in Jacob's family, but the Hebrew text has "70" in both Genesis 46:27 and Exodus 1:5. In both places the Septuagint has 75. It is commonly said that Stephen, a Greek-speaking Jew, would have used the Septuagint and therefore was making only an "honest" mistake.

This difficulty, however, **can be resolved in other ways**. One of the most widely accepted solutions is to recognize that the Hebrew text includes Jacob, Joseph, and Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (a total of 70), but that **the Septuagint omits Jacob and Joseph but includes Joseph's seven grandchildren** (mentioned in 1 Chron. 7:14–15, 20–25). This is supported by the Hebrew in Genesis 46:8–26 which enumerates 66 names, omitting Jacob, Joseph, and Joseph's two sons. Another solution is that **the Septuagint's 75 includes the 66 plus the 9 wives of Jacob's 12 sons** (Judah's and Simeon's wives had died and Joseph's wife was in Egypt).

1 Chronicles 7:20-25 The sons of Ephraim:

Shuthelah, and Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eleadah his son, Tahath his son, Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, and Ezer and Elead, whom the men of Gath who were born in the land killed, because they came down to raid their livestock. And Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brothers came to comfort him. And Ephraim went in to his wife, and she conceived and bore a son. And he called his name Beriah, because disaster had befallen his house. His daughter was Sheerah, who built both Lower and Upper Beth-horon, and Uzen-sheerah. Rephah was his son, Resheph his son, Telah his son, Tahan his son,

1 Chronicles 7:14-15 The sons of Manasseh: Asriel, whom his Aramean concubine bore; she bore Machir the father of Gilead. And Machir took a wife for Huppim and for Shuppim. The name of his sister was Maacah. And the name of the second was Zelophehad, and Zelophehad had daughters.

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Chronology of the Patriarchs

2166 B.C. — 2066 — 2006 — 1991 — 1915 — 1898 — 1886 — 1876 — 1859 — 1805

(100 years) (60 years) (15 years) (76 years) (17 years) (12 years) (10 years) (17 years) (54 years)

Abraham
was born

Abraham
died (at
age 175;
Gen. 25:7)

Isaac was
born (when
Abraham
was 100;
Gen. 21:5)

Isaac died
(at age 180;
Gen. 35:28)

Jacob was
born (when
Isaac was
60;
Gen. 25:26)

Jacob moved
to Egypt
(at age 130;
Gen. 47:9)
when Joseph
was 39

Jacob died
(at age 147,
17 years af-
ter he moved
to Egypt;
Gen. 47:28)

Joseph
was
born

Joseph was
sold into
Egypt (at
age 17;
Gen. 37:2, 28)

Joseph died
(at age 110,
Gen. 50:26;
therefore he
was born in
1915)

Verses 28–34. Finally, after 22 years, Joseph and Jacob were reunited. Their response was one of mutual joy. Once again Joseph wept (cf. 42:24; 43:30; 45:2, 14–15) and understandably so. The last time Joseph saw his father was when Joseph was 17 (Gen. 37:2). Jacob was satisfied to see his son alive, for he was the one designated as the heir, the one whom God had chosen to rule over the family. So this was more than a family reunion; it was a confirmation that God's promised blessing was intact.

Genesis 46:33-34 When **Pharaoh** calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' you shall say, 'Your servants have been **keepers of livestock** from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, **for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.**"

Joseph encouraged them to stress before Pharaoh that they were cattle raisers, not shepherders, because **the Egyptians detested the latter.**

Joseph, as usual, was eager not to upset Egyptian custom and preference.

Genesis 43:32 They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because **the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.**

However, five of the brothers did not respond with the same diplomacy (47:3).

Genesis 47:3-6 Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "**Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were.**" They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, **for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan.** And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, **put them in charge of my livestock.**"

Verses 1–12. **Pharoah gave Jacob's family the best part of the land, namely, Goshen** (cf. 45:10), even giving some of the brothers oversight of his own livestock (47:6). Goshen is not referred to in ancient Egyptian writings, but **the name it bore in later times was the district of Rameses** (v. 11; cf. Ex. 1:11).

This, plus the fact that it was fertile and near to Joseph at court, **suggests that it was near the eastern part of the Nile Delta.**

Instead of being a place of defeat, **Egypt would be a place of blessing**, for the nation **would increase in spite of suffering**.

Revelation 2:8-11 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. "'**I know your tribulation and your poverty** (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. **Do not fear what you are about to suffer**. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that **you may be tested**, and for ten days you will have tribulation. **Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life**. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

1 Peter 4:12-17 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Matthew 5:10-12 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

When Jacob was presented before Pharaoh, the patriarch **acknowledged his troubled life of 130 years.**

To him it had been a pilgrimage. When Jacob both entered and left, **he blessed Pharaoh.** It is interesting to think of the Israelites in a foreign land, a country with a different culture, **in which the patriarch wished God's blessing on the Pharaoh!**

Colossians 3:1-6 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**

Hebrews 11:12-16 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. **These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.**