

Moving Time! Stepping Out in Faith

Genesis 45.16-46.30

God keeps His word! He told Abraham his descendants would go to a foreign land, and now they are traveling to Egypt. On the way, He reminds Jacob that He will make them a great nation, but little could Jacob have known then *how!* God's providential power is on display.

Scene 1: Going home to get dad and all the family (45.16-28)

- *They go with lavish provisions from Pharaoh (16-23)*
- *This is a time for joyful reunion, not recriminations (24-28)*

Scene 2: Remembering God's Promises on the way (46.1-7)

- *Jacob at Beersheba – a place rich with meaning for him*
- *God repeats His promise: 'I'll make you a great nation!'*

Scene 3: The Family together in Egypt

- *After a troubled life, Jacob's 'future nation' is ready to grow*
- *Jacob reunited with Joseph: A happy ending!*

Only God can turn
 a **MESS** into a
 message, a **TEST** into a
 testimony, a **TRIAL** into
 a triumph, a **VICTIM**
 into a victory.

1. In Genesis 45.16-23, the excitement is palpable! The family of Jacob is all moving to Egypt! Pharaoh gets in the act, lavishing provisions on the brothers and promising the family the best of Egypt! Why do you think Pharaoh is so accommodating? There is another aspect of 'God's economy' on display here as well; read Ecclesiastes 2.24! This will be magnified when the Israelites leave Egypt in 400 years (see Exod. 12.35-36).
2. In 45.24-28, two events invite reflection. First, in v24, Joseph tells his brothers not to "quarrel on the journey" home. What do you think they may have quarreled about? (What were they going to have to reveal to their father?) Second, when they get home and tell Jacob that Joseph is still alive, Jacob is stunned, and does not believe them. What changes his mind? What other effect does Joseph being alive have on him?
3. Genesis 46.1-7 ties this move to Egypt into the bigger scheme of God's plan to make a great nation, and ultimately, through that nation, to bless all the families of the earth. Jacob stops to worship Yahweh at Beersheba. What other events in Genesis occurred at this place (see Gen. 21, 22, 26, and 28)? Jacob left from here when he fled to Haran; now he is leaving the land of promise again, to Egypt. In Genesis 15, God made a promise to Abraham (see vv13-14); what details does God add here? With our knowledge of subsequent history, how does this affect your view of God's sovereign power? *How much can we trust Him?*
4. The final 'scene' in the move of Jacob's whole family to Egypt is the listing of all those who made the journey and the account of Jacob and Joseph meeting. The narrator emphasizes that *all the persons of the house of Jacob, who came to Egypt, were seventy in number (27)*. What is the significance of the number 70? (You'll have to look for this.) Jacob's meeting with Joseph is emotional; Jacob ends his life at peace. Despite a life filled with deceit, conflict, family disputes, and awful violence, God has brought good. *Imagine what God can do with our lives!*