

FAMILY OF JACOB SETTLES IN GOSHEN — GENESIS 47

BROTHERS ASK FOR THE LAND OF GOSHEN — v.1-4

- This was a set appointment for Pharaoh to meet Joseph's family (**Ge.46:33**).
“So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’”
- They are claiming to be sons of a shepherd, and they are just following their father's vocation. Remember Egyptians looked down on shepherds.
- This sojourn in Egypt was really a chance for them to collect themselves as a distinct national religious entity.



PHARAOH GIVES THE BEST OF THE LAND — v.5-6

- This blessing is because of Joseph. Pharaoh is fine with Joseph's family in Egypt likely because he did not want Joseph to go away.

JACOB BLESSES PHARAOH — v.7-10

- Jacob blessing of Pharaoh is unusual since it implies that Jacob was superior to Pharaoh.
- It seems that Pharaoh acknowledged Jacob was a man of God by accepting his blessing.
- In the Egyptian religion, Pharaoh himself was thought to be a god. He was considered the human embodiment of Ra (sun god).



ISRAEL TAKES THE BEST OF THE LAND — v.11-12

- Rameses” means ‘Ra has created it.’
- Goshen is not referred to in ancient Egyptian writings, but the name it bore in later times was the district of Rameses (**Ek.47:11**; **Ex.1:11**).
- The fact that it was fertile and near to Joseph at court, suggests that it was near the eastern part of the Nile Delta.



WISDOM OF JOSEPH'S RULE — v.13-26

- In the later years of the famine, Joseph arranged ways for the people to purchase food with whatever they have to give (barter system).
- Taking of the livestock, which they could not feed and which were going to die anyway, is an aspect of governmental mercy, not exploitation.
- Joseph's actions was not a crude land grab without regard for Egyptian tradition and society's welfare.

MULTIPLICATION OF THE FAMILY OF ISRAEL — v.27

- Under Joseph's administration Israel prospered and increased in number without suffering deprivation or loss of independence.



JACOB MAKES JOSEPH VOW TO BURY HIM IN CANAAN — v.28-31

- It is interesting that Jacob thought he was going to die long before he actually did, just as his father, Isaac, had done (**Ge.27:2**).
- Jacob lived 17 years in the care of Joseph who, ironically, had spent the first 17 years of his life in Jacob's care (**Ge.37:2**).
- To know God does not exempt one from the problems of aging. Death is in the hand of God, not chance or fate.