

Every  
Shepherd is an  
Abomination

## Genesis Chapter Forty-Seven



~ In our last report from our Spiritual Safari we were with Jacob as he and his family pulled out of Canaan at Beersheba. They are on their way to see Joseph in Egypt. If you have been with us for the last several reports, I think you will agree that we have seen quite a story with Joseph. Notice that Joseph didn't go to Jacob. It would seem so much easier for Joseph to just go visit Jacob and the family. Well, Joseph wants his family to come to the place that he has prepared for them – where they can live and not die. Does that sound familiar? It's another correlation between the life of Joseph and the life of Christ.

Joseph wants his newly rediscovered family to come to Goshen for a very particular reason. At this time in their lives, none of the land was very valuable. When the famine ends, Goshen will be some of the most valuable property around! You will also note that this is Jacob's best chapter so far in his life. He doesn't appear in a very good light when we first met him in Scripture. However, when we see him in Egypt he is a real man of faith; and we'll see how the Word of God reveals that as we trek on in our safari. The famine is coming to an end but it's growing much more intense. The entire civilization known as mankind was being affected by this famine, not just Canaan and Egypt. So, let's go with Joseph now as he introduces Jacob to Pharaoh....

***1 Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they are in the land of Goshen.***

***2 And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh.***

***3 And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers.***

~ Here is something quite interesting. You will recall Joseph had instructed Jacob in our last report about what to say when they came before Pharaoh; that is, to say they were raising cattle. Well, the brothers didn't get the memo that Hebrews and shepherds are an abomination to Egyptians. Shepherds certainly were an abomination to the Egyptians but keeping sheep was a job nobody wanted to do. I'm sure Pharaoh loved his lamb chop dinners – without all the hassle. They all prized the clothes made from the wool. They had to have this commodity – but no one wanted to do the dirty work; and NO ONE, particularly, wanted to be the shepherd in Egypt. Pharaoh, on the other hand, saw only business and economic opportunities....

***4 They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.***

***5 And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee:***

***6 The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.***

***7 And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.***

~ God had told Pharaoh through Joseph in his dreams that the famine was coming. It was very bad in Egypt at this time. God has now brought Jacob into Pharaoh's midst and notice that Pharaoh is blessed. Jacob doesn't do anything or say anything - yet Pharaoh is blessed simply by his presence. How about you, Christian friends? Are others blessed just to be around you? Jacob is becoming a witness for God now. The less is always blessed by the greater. Make a note.... ~

***8 And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old art thou?***

***9 And Jacob had a real opportunity to embellish unto Pharaoh, yet said Jacob, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.***

~ Since Jacob dies at one hundred forty-seven years old we know he will spend the better part of seventeen years down in Egypt. Few and evil have been the days of Jacob's life thus far. He admits he doesn't measure up to the standards of his father. I think Jacob was death kept warm at this time when he came to see what had become of his son Joseph. I think this reunion gave Jacob new hope and new resilience - in the form of about seventeen more years of life. We see a very different, very changed man here in Jacob as he is giving God the glory for his life....

***10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.***

~ Most people would have wanted to make a big impression on Pharaoh and tell him about all their accomplishments and successes; but not Jacob. He says here his days have been evil and few – that means he is recognizing that he is a sinner, my beloved. We see and hear so much applaud for certain men for what they have done in life. Many of them gauge their successes by the number of buildings that are named after them. They incessantly talk about how great the other man is. If we all told the truth we would confess to being a bunch of horrible people - sinners – saved by grace. Friends, you have NOTHING to brag about in this life except your

Savior and how wonderful and gracious and patient He has been with you throughout your years. You and I cannot say we are superior to our fathers – or to anyone else....

***11 And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.***

***12 And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and his entire father's household, with bread, according to their families.***

***13 And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine.***

***14 And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.***

~ I have heard criticism of Joseph that he took the money of all these poor people and all that. I don't think that's very fair because Joseph wasn't running around foreclosing on people's homes AND Joseph was an agent of Pharaoh! None of this was done by Joseph for himself and he benefited only very temporarily. We don't see any effort to enrich himself. There is no impropriety and Joseph didn't benefit or gain personally because of the famine. This is the law of supply and demand, and Pharaoh is the one in control here. I'm quite sure Joseph operated within the overbearing guidelines of Pharaohs strict and oppressive laws! ~

***15 And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for we can't eat the money so it faileth.***

***16 And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail.***

**17 And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.**

**18 When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands:**

**19 Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate.**

**20 And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.**

**21 And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof.**

**22 Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.**

**23 Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land.**

**24 And it shall come to pass in the increase that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones.**

**25 And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.**

**26 And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's.**

**27 And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly.**

**28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years.**

**29 And the time drew nigh that Israel must die : and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:**

**30 But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying place. And he said, I will do as thou hast said.**

**31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.**

~ Jacob was well aware that he would die there in Egypt now. I don't think Jacob could have even made it back to Canaan at this point in his life. He doesn't want to be buried in Egypt, though. Why? Remember, the Old Testament saints are promised to be raised to an earthly possession. The hope of the Old Testament saint is on this earth as promised by God. The hope of the Old Testament saint is NOT to be called in the air to meet the Lord and go to the New Jerusalem to abide eternally. That is the rapture; and it is strictly for the church. We must understand that the church and Israel are two totally and completely different things altogether.

This earth is to be Heaven for the Old Testament saints of the nation Israel. When the kingdom of God is established by Christ down here these people

will be raised IN THAT DAY to inhabit His kingdom. The first thousand years are testing that lead to an eternal kingdom – the millennium. So, Jacob doesn't want to be buried in Egypt. If Jacob was not a man of faith it would make no difference to him where he died or was buried. This request not to be buried in Egypt was an act of faith by Jacob in belief of the covenant God had made with his fathers regarding resurrection in that particular land.

Today, it makes no difference where we are buried – or not buried – or scattered in cremation because, at the time of the rapture, wherever you are – God is going to get you back together again. The living and the dead will all be caught up in the air to Christ in the rapture. The rapture is the next event in the itinerary of the Lord Jesus, too, by the way. Until then, prophecy is not being fulfilled. It's just that simple; Scripturally speaking, that is. In our next report we will see a little more faith in the life of Jacob ~

