

# Life of Joseph

Lessons in Humility, Leadership and Forgiveness

## Jacob Moves to Egypt

- Jacob and his family departed for Egypt with all of their belongings [Gen 46:1-27].
  - The trip to Egypt went via Beersheba [v. 1] which was where Isaac had lived [Gen 26:23-25].
  - Isaac had been told not to go to Egypt [Gen 26:2].
  - Jacob offered a sacrifice to God, most likely on the altar Isaac had built there.
  - God allayed any fears that Jacob may have had about going to Egypt with a series of promises.
    - ✦ God promised the He would make Jacob’s family into a great nation in Egypt [v. 3].
    - ✦ God promised that He would be with Jacob as he went into Egypt [v. 4].
    - ✦ God promised to bring the nation of Israel back up out of Egypt someday [v. 4].
    - ✦ God promised Jacob that he would be with Joseph when he died [v. 4].
  - Jacob and all of his family is said to be 70 people who went down to Egypt [v. 27].
  - This total does not include the wives of Jacob’s sons [v. 26], but does include Joseph’s family which was already in Egypt [v. 27].
  - The LXX lists the total as 75 which was the actual number of travelers – the 66 [v. 26] plus the 9 wives of Jacob’s sons (Judah’s and Simeon’s wives had died and Joseph’s wife was in Egypt).
  - In Acts 7:14 Stephen quotes this LXX total.

| <b>Chronology of the Patriarchs</b>              |                 |   |   |
|--|-----------------|---|---|
| 2166 a.c.  | 2066            | 2006  | 1915  |
| (100 years)                                      | (60 years)      | (15 years)  | (76 years)  |
|  |                 |   | 1898  |
|  |                 |   | (17 years)  |
|  |                 |   | 1886  |
|  |                 |   | (12 years)  |
|  |                 |   | 1876  |
|  |                 |   | (10 years)  |
|  |                 |   | 1859  |
|  |                 |   | (17 years)  |
|  |                 |   | 1805  |
|  |                 |   | (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 after 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)   |

## Chronology from Solomon Back to Joseph

### Years (B.C.) Events

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 971         | Beginning of Solomon's reign  |
| <u>- 4</u>  |   |
| 967         | Fourth year of Solomon's reign (1 Kings 6:1)  |
| <u>- 1</u>  | Year to adjust for the fact that the fourth year of Solomon's reign was actually the fourth <del>year</del> year of his reign (but into the fifth year of his reign calendarwise) |
| 966         | Year the temple construction began  |
| <u>+480</u> | Years from the Exodus to Solomon's beginning to build the temple (1 Kings 6:1)  |
| 1446        | Year of the Exodus from Egypt   |
| <u>+430</u> | Year the Israelites were in Egypt (Ex. 12: 40)  |
| 1876        | Year Jacob and his family moved to Egypt (after 2 years of famine; Gen. 45:6)   |
| <u>+ 2</u>  | Portion of the seven-year famine before Jacob moved to Egypt (Gen. 45:6)  |
| 1878        | Year the seven-year famine began  |
| <u>+ 7</u>  | Years of abundance (Gen. 41:47)   |
| 1885        | Year Joseph was taken out of prison and made second-in-command (at age 30; Gen. 41:46)  |
| <u>+ 13</u> | Years Joseph was in Potiphar's house and in prison  |
| 1898        | Year Joseph was sold to Egypt (at age 17; Gen. 37:2,28)   |

- Jacob and his family arrived in the land of Goshen [Gen 46:28-34].
  - After roughly 20 years, Jacob and Joseph are finally reunited.
  - The two of them were overcome with joy.
    - ✦ Joseph wept on his father's neck [v. 29].
    - ✦ Jacob did not weep, but his soul was so relieved to see Joseph that he was ready to die [v. 30].
  - Joseph indicated his intention to let Pharaoh know that his instructions [Gen 45:17-20] had been fulfilled [vv. 31-32].
  - He would tell Pharaoh all about their occupation, but he asked his family to use the term "men of livestock" when asked by Pharaoh [vv. 33-34].
  - The term "men of livestock" is more generic.
    - ✦ Men of livestock – cattle and sheep
    - ✦ Shepherds – sheep only
  - Joseph's request was due to the Egyptian dislike of shepherds and because the land of Goshen was perfect for keeping cattle and sheep.

- Jacob and his family settled in the land of Goshen [Gen 47:1-12].
  - After Joseph gave Pharaoh the news that his family had arrived in Goshen [vv. 1-2] he presented his family to Pharaoh.
    - ✦ His brothers ignored Joseph and said they were shepherds rather than “men of livestock” before pleading their case for settling in Goshen [vv. 3-4].
    - ✦ Pharaoh was gracious even beyond agreeing to let them live in Goshen by suggesting that they could care for some of his livestock [v. 6].
    - ✦ Jacob showed his respect for Pharaoh by giving him a blessing both upon arriving and before leaving [vv. 7, 10].
    - ✦ Pharaoh’s question about Jacob’s age was respectful and in keeping with the value Near Eastern cultures placed on longevity [v. 8].
    - ✦ Jacob’s response was self deprecating, likely a recognition in his own mind that he had suffered in his life for being a “trickster” [v. 9].
  - The family settled in “the land of Ramses” which was the Egyptian name for Goshen [v. 11].
  - As his family was settling in the land of Goshen, Joseph provided them with an ample supply of food [v. 12].