

Genesis 46.1-27

Extreme Make-over

Most of us SEEN one of Many MAKE-OVER Shows

Some FRUMPY Dresser is turned into a FASHIONISTA

An Old JALOPY CAR is turned into a JEWEL-Studded CRUISER

A MESSY House is Transformed into a MANSION – those LUCKY BUGS!!



4000 y Ago LIVING God

did DIVINE Makeover,

Nation & its People in Egypt

Family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

People of PROMISE got CAUGHT Up
in GLOBAL CALAMITY

FAMINE had Overtaken them & ALL
Peoples of ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

1. Hungry Tribe becomes Great Nation

SOME of us have known REAL HUNGER, even FAMINE

SOME of us come from CULTURES of OBESITY...STOP Staring at ME!

a. Death's Door

As Step into STORY – LOTS of HUNGRY People – FAMINE was SERIOUS
MIDDLE East was in SECOND Year of a SEVEN Year FAMINE

When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons,
“Why do you look at one another?” And he said, “Behold, I have heard that there
is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live
and not die.”

Genesis 42.1,2

Egyptian HIP-HOPPER wearing GOLD Chains sent them home w/ Food Saying
“you shall not die” Genesis 42.20

When they MUST go BACK for MORE Food

Judah said to Israel his father, "...we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones" Genesis 43.8

Situation SOME of us can HARDLY IMAGINE – on BRINK of STARVATION

Perhaps NOT FAMINE – Shadow of DEATH has PASSED over Us & Families

"There's a MASS in that SCAN – it may be CANCER!"

PHONE Call in MIDDLE of NIGHT – "There's been an ACCIDENT"

Unexpected EMAIL – BAD NEWS from HOME

As FAMINE Gripped the Land – Shadow of Death hung over Jacob's Family

The sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. Genesis 42.5

People of PROMISE Reduced to just ANOTHER Group HUNGRY REFUGEES

b. Garden of Goshen

Story REVEALS the PROMISES of God and PROVIDENCE of God

MANAGER at Wal-Mart Super Store in Gold Chains was BROTHER Joseph!

GUANSHI he earned with PHARAOH brought Blessings to Family

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'" Genesis 45.16-20

LEAVE All your BROKEN IKEA Furniture at Rubbish DUMP

All OLD Stuff Collected at ZGC GIVE-AWAY TABLES

COME to BEST LAND and GET EGYPTIAN EXTREME MAKE-OVER

20 yrs Earlier BROTHERS Stripped Joseph's Fancy Coat – Dipped in BLOOD

Joseph gave EACH Brother – FASHION Make-Over > NEW Sets of Clothes
 Baby Brother Ben – FIVE Cool Outfits & 22 yrs of Birthday RED ENVELOPES
 To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. Genesis 45.22

On 2nd Trip to EGYPT – Brothers AFRAID Joseph would STEAL their Donkeys
 the men were afraid because they were brought to Joseph's house, and they said,
 “It is because of the money, which was replaced in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may assault us and fall upon us to make us servants and seize our donkeys.” Genesis 43.18

NOW Joseph shows FAMILY there is NO Donkey SHORTAGE in Egypt...

To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. Genesis 45.23

So the JACOB Family WON the POWER-BALL LOTTERY in Egypt
 ONLY Person that WON'T BELIEVE it is JACOB...

2. Gloomy Patriarch to Grateful Prince

BIBLE is Very Clear – God MORE Interested in our SOULS than our STUFF
 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14.17

a. Pity Party

JACOB Example > SALVATION Not Always make you SWEET
 CONSISTENT > GLOOMY, GROUCHY, Self-Centered

One of Longest Sustained PITY-PARTIES in History > Now 130 yrs Old!
 DARK MOOD got even MORE GLOOMY at Start of this SERIES...

They took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not." And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.
Genesis 37.31-35

JACOB could have CONFIRMED the FACTS

SEARCHED for BODY of Beloved Son – Maybe Still ALIVE?

No! IMMEDIATELY Assumes WORST – STARTS his PITY PARTY

ONLY Person who MATTERED in his LIFE Gone – Forget Rest of FAMILY!

20 yrs LATER Jacob still PLUCKING SAME STRING on his UKULELE

Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me."
Genesis 42.36

WHEN Jacob meets PHARAOH of Egypt – Great Opportunity to Testify

About FAITHFULNESS and MERCY of True and Living COVENANT God

NO – Jacob Sings Another VERSE of his SAD and SELFISH Song..

Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning."
Genesis 47.9

DAYS are FEW and SHORT – Only 130 yrs Old --- Oh! PITY ME!!

So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. Genesis 45.25,26

How like people today when they first hear the gospel! This gospel is Good News; God loves you, Jesus Christ has died for your sins...But to the unsaved these sound like mere fantasies...Is that you? Are you so wrapped up in yourself, so disheartened by circumstances, that you cannot believe the good news? If so, you must turn to the Scriptures. You must pray that Jesus will himself expound them to you and reveal himself to you

James Boice

b. Proven Promises

What MOVED this Old, Gloomy SAINT to BELIEVE Good News of the SON

1) Personal Testimony

But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Genesis 45.27.28

11 of his SONS full of STORIES about his FAVORITE SON, ALIVE & WELL
 Many things about JOSEPH did NOT KNOW Yet – Wife, Sons, Potiphar, Prison
 MOST Important TRUTH – They had ALL MET Joseph & Knew was ALIVE

2) Honest Confession

"they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them"

Only Way to TELL ALL meant they NOW had to TELL the TRUTH

Admit to DECADES of DECEIT – LAYERS upon LAYERS of LIES to Father

Goes AGAINST Human Nature – Not Natural to Confess Sin – Hide, Excuses

Powerful Men in USA getting Caught for SEXUAL Attacks on Unwilling People

CRYING TEARS on TELEVISION because CAUGHT – Want Power BACK!

BROTHERS making CONFESSION because CHANGED by SAVING GRACE

"Those words of Joseph were remarkable words, for he traced God's providence in all that had happened... Would not Jacob say to himself, 'There is something convincing about this. These words are very much like Joseph'... If you are not

yet a full believer in Jesus Christ, you may have noticed that the followers of Christ are often quoting his words...Have you never asked yourself whether words like that are not likely to be true?"

Charles Spurgeon

3) Many Blessings

“and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived”

When I THINK of CARTS I think of Trikes and Trucks Clogging BIKE Lanes
Mountain of RECYCLED JUNK moving SLOWLY in MY WAY!

WRONG Picture – Think JUMBO CARGO JETS landing Barren DESSERT
OR FLEET of BLACK SUV’s w/ TINTED WINDOWS full of GIFTS

So IMPRESSIVE Wagons of BLESSINGS mentioned 4 X’s in our STORY...

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers...take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.”

Genesis 45.19

Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh Genesis 45.21

when he (Jacob) saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

Genesis 45.27

v. 5 Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

CARTS – SUV’s – JUMBO JETS – What’s God used to Carry Blessing to You?

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1.17

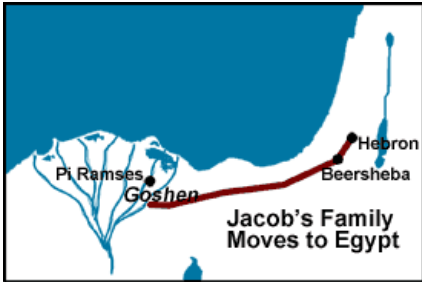
God has STEADILY DELIVERED the BLESSINGS of Life to ALL of Us

Have we THANKED Him – Or are we just GRUBBY and UNGRATEFUL?

Gifts of God NOT cause we’re GOOD or DESERVING > For Repentance!

c. Prayer for Protection

When he FOOLISHLY FIGHTS w/ God > JACOB // Humbled > ISRAEL



Israel said, “It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.” So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Genesis 45.28 - 46.1

36 kms – Hebron to Beersheba

BEERSHEBA Southern Boundary PROMISED LAND

Jacob NEVER been BEYOND Beersheba – Furthest South he TRAVELED

130 yrs Old – Now Seeks God of FATHERS for HELP and ADVICE

Offers SACRIFICES – Give THANKS, and PURGE Household of SIN

God PROMISED JACOB Blessing in this LAND OF PROMISE @ BETHEL

“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. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

Genesis 28.12-15

God met JACOB in VISION at BETHEL

God TRANSFORMED him to ISRAEL when FOUGHT @ RIVER Jabbok
CONFRONTED with CHANGE – Wants to Consult GOD who Never Changes

WASTED Many YEARS of Life Going OFF in OWN DIRECTION

Knows NOT Much LIFE REMAINING – Wants go in GOD’S DIRECTION

Egypt known as POWERFUL and EVIL Nation

WARNING Given to GRANDFATHER Abraham

The LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.”

Genesis 15.13

The NEXT Pharaoh will NOT KNOW Joseph!

As we SEE in the LIST of Names in Ch 46 – GOD can be TRUSTED in Travel -
v. 8 Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt,
Jacob and his sons....

LIST of Family NAMES NOT like Passenger Manifest on Commercial Flight

SOME of Names Not Yet BORN before Travel – Some Already IN Egypt

Not like Reading PHONE BOOK of Names – Our FAMILY HISTORY in X

TESTIMONY to Faithfulness and Protection of their COVENANT LORD

What God denies one saint he may permit for another, God commanded Isaac not to leave the land, but he promises his presence with Jacob out of the land. The interpreter must distinguish between God's universal commands to all saints and his personal commands to a particular saint. Bruce Waltke

CONFIRMATION Not ONLY Encouraged Family of JACOB

But also GENERATION of MOSES – had been SLAVES in EGYPT

1000 yrs LATER NEHEMIAH would Pray...

You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous. Nehemiah 9.6-8

d. Possessing the Promises

vs. 2-4 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."

JACOB Worships the GOD of his FATHER and GRANDFATHER

Offers SACRIFICES on ALTAR built by his FATHER ISAAC

RARE “Theophany” – VISION of God – 3rd & FINAL Time for JACOB

NONE of 12 Sons will Have One – Next Recorded in Bible BURNING BUSH

VISION marks END of PATRIARCHAL Period – Begins History of NATION

Previous Visions God calls Self – Yahweh, El Shaddai > God of your FATHER

God calls him by NAME “Jacob, Jacob”

God often calls Name TWICE in Scripture

When Grandfather was about to Slay ISAAC - God >> “Abraham, Abraham”

When young Son of Hannah sleeping in Holy Place >> “Samuel, Samuel”

When he was on MISSION of Murder “Saul, Saul, why do you Persecute ME?”

Jesus: “The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”
John 10.3

v. 3 Reaffirmed COVENANT – FAITHFUL God of ISAAC & ABRAHAM

PROMISE “great nation” // v. 4 PROMISE to GO WITH Jacob

Without God should NOT take SINGLE STEP > With Him DO ALL Things!

ANE Custom – Eldest Son would Gently Close Eyes of DECEASED Father

1988 Bishop of NAMIREMEBE Diocese, Uganda, Misaeri KAWUMA

Asked me to be PREACHER for Diocesan Conference

THEME TEXT Seemed Strange to me at First – Till I thought about Situation...

UGANDA passed Thru AMIN – Other Terrible Leaders – Stability of Musevini

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, “The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him.” So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.
Ezra 8.21-23

EZRA learned well from FATHER ISRAEL – Trust God in JOURNEY

We learn well TOO when our TRUST Not in Machines & Schedules but GOD

JACOB found BLESSING at ALTAR of Fathers

Like the REFORMERS found it in SCRIPTURES hidden by Medieval Church

“The Reformation was a time when men went blind, staggering drunk because they had discovered, in the dusty basement of late medievalism, a whole cellar of fifteen-hundred-year-old, two-hundred proof Grace—bottle after bottle of pure distillate of Scripture, one sip of which would convince anyone that God saves us singlehandedly.”
Robert Capon

Jacob had 3 VISIONS from GOD to keep his Following God for 130 years

God is ABLE to give VISIONS and WORDS

Next Recorded VISION to ISRAEL Not until MOSES at Burning BUSH

Notice > VISIONS to LEADERS of Nations – GUIDE Covenant People

Not What kind of Phone to Buy – Who to Date – or What to Major In

But we have MORE Regular Words from God – As OFTEN as OPEN Bible

NOT Need MODERN Prophets > Words of Prophecy Recorded in BIBLE

Not Need Spend Weekend in PROPHECY Conference > Need STUDY Scripture

When YOU have EXHAUSTED the 66 Books of Bible – Then, Need More...

Been READING Bible over 40 years and ONLY Know how Much Don't Know

Apostles to the Jews (Peter) and Gentiles (Paul)

Both ended their lives testifying to the sufficiency of the Bible.

SEEN MIRACLES – HEARD PROPHECIES – HAD VISIONS

What do they URGE Believers who FOLLOW them to Do? READ BIBLE!

Letter Apostle Paul wrote shortly BEFORE his Execution...

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3.14-16

CONFIDENT Timothy, Ministry, Church be STRONG if Stand on SCRIPTURE

Apostle PETER also wrote Shortly before his DEATH...

REMEMBERS Glorious Day on Mt. Transfiguration, Moses, Elijah, Jesus Glory
For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1.16-21

SOMETHING MORE SURE than Visions and Experiences

66 Books CLEAR WORDS from God for our SALVATION & SERVICE

"Competent, equipped, more sure" ...Paul & Peter thot Bible more than enough!

Great Theme of Bible – OT & NT...

SALVATION by GRACE thru FAITH

JACOB received his Son back from DEAD > RESURRECTED JOSEPH!

SON Risen to THRONE of Egypt to Pour Out Blessings all who Call his NAME

How Much MORE Should we Call on NAME of LORD JESUS CHRIST

AUTHOR of Scripture, ACCOMPLISHED Salvation, Ascended to give SPIRIT!
May you have UNSPEAKABLE Joy of JACOB to See TRUE RISEN SON!

Genesis 46:¹ So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ²And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here am I.” ³Then 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. ⁴I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes.”

⁵Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

⁸Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, ⁹and the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. ¹⁰The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. ¹¹The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. ¹²The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan); and the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. ¹³The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Yob, and Shimron. ¹⁴The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. ¹⁵These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, together with his daughter Dinah; altogether his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three. ¹⁶The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. ¹⁷The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, with Serah their sister. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel. ¹⁸These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob—sixteen persons. ¹⁹The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife: Joseph and Benjamin. ²⁰And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera the priest of On, bore to him. ²¹And the sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. ²²These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob—fourteen persons in all. ²³The sons of Dan: Hushim. ²⁴The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. ²⁵These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob—seven persons in all. ²⁶All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. ²⁷And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

