

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #92

Genesis 46:1-30

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE ARE WONDERING WHAT GOD'S WILL IS FOR THEIR LIVES, THEY NEED TO GO TO GOD IN PRAYER AND PURPOSE TO OBEY HIS WORD.

REALITY #1 - Those who purpose to do God's will, will pray. 46:1-4

Jacob is a changed man for prior to this God appeared to him, now he goes looking for God. Israel went to Beersheba, the southern most town in the land of Canaan, a very sacred spot for the Abrahamic family (21:33), and it was there where he communed with God. It is no small matter that he offered sacrifices to God (46:1). The noun "sacrifices" is plural, which indicates many animals were offered. These sacrifices would be for his sin and his family's sin, and also sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving and to seek God concerning this move. These sacrifices would certainly set the stage for communication with God, which would reveal His perfect will.

If we desire to know God's will, we must come before God personally and admit our sin and our failures and we must praise Him and thank Him for who He is and for what He has accomplished. Those who refuse to bow before God will **NEVER** know the will of God. Those who refuse to confess sin before God, will **NEVER** know the will of God. Psalm 66:18 says: "If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear." As Israel communed with God, God revealed five facts to him:

(Fact #1) – Jacob need not be afraid. 46:3a

Jacob was probably afraid for five reasons: 1) His age - to make a move at any age is traumatic, but even more so when you are 130 years old (47:9); 2) Egypt was a pagan country; 3) Egypt produced bad memories for Jacob's family such as his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac; 4) God had one time warned against going to Egypt - (Genesis 26:2); 5) Israel is relocating to Egypt and is getting the best of everything, something the national Egyptians don't get. But no matter what the age, or how intimidating it may seem, one need not fear because God is sovereign and God is with you.

(Fact #2) - Jacob would become a great nation. 46:3b

The conjunction "for" explains the reason why Jacob was afraid - he thought going to Egypt would mean the end of his family. God does not move His faithful people to places for extermination, but to places for production.

(Fact #3) - Jacob would not be alone. 46:4a

God promises to Personally go with Jacob to Egypt. **The move for a faithful believer may be lonely, but the faithful believer never moves alone.**

(Fact #4) - Jacob would return to Canaan. 46:4b

God would not leave Israel in Egypt forever, but He would bring her back to their land.

(Fact #5) - Jacob would die in Egypt. 46:4c

Israel interpreted what God said literally and when Israel first saw Joseph, he thought he would immediately die (46:30). Truth is, he would live another 17 years (47:28), but eventually he did die in Egypt just as God said.

REALITY #2 - Those who purpose to do God's will, will obey. 46:5-27

What these names show us is that individuals are very important to God. He cares about you. When Jacob knew this was God's will, he packed up his whole family and moved. In all a total of 70 Israelites were moved to Egypt (46:27), and specifically 66 Israelites came into Egypt with Jacob (46:26). The lineage list is broken down into four groups - 1) Jacob's family through Leah (46:15); 2) Jacob's family through Zilpah (46:18); 3) Jacob's family through Rachel (46:19) and 4) Jacob's family through Bilhah (46:25). If we break Jacob's family down, we may observe:

- A) 33 children came through Leah (46:15);
- B) 16 children came through Zilpah (46:18);
- C) 14 children came through Rachel (46:22);
- D) 7 children came through Bilhah (46:25).

If we total these numbers we arrive at a sum of 70, which is precisely what is stated in verse 27. However, how do We explain the number 66 found in verse 26? Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim (46:20) were already in Egypt. Er and Onan died in Canaan (46:12). If we subtract these five names from the 70, we are left with 65. If we add the one daughter Dinah (46:15), who is not included in the 33 (46:15), we come to a total of 66.

REALITY #3 - Those who purpose to do God's will, will be blessed. 46:28-30

1) Judah was singled out to pave the way for the move to Goshen. 46:28

It would be One from Judah who would pave the way for sinners to relate to Holy God (Micah 5:2).

2) Israel was reunited to Joseph. 46:29

Israel had thought Joseph was dead, but now after about 30 years of emptiness and hurt, he could hold his son once again. He could now die a happy man (46:30).

Lessons:

- 1) If we want to know God's will, we must present ourselves a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).
- 2) If we want to know God's will, we must pray.
- 3) If we want to do God's will, we must obey God's Word.
- 4) If we do God's will, we will get God's blessings.
- 5) If we do God's will, our entire family benefits.